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Visit of Foreign Minister Tilak Marapana to India, his first official overseas visit.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Tilak Marapana, was on a three day official visit to New Delhi from 08 September to 10 September. He was accompanied by Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, Secretary Foreign Affairs, Mr Asoka Giriagama, Director General of the South Asia and SAARC and Coordinating Secretary of the Minister.



During the visit, Minister Marapana paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed the progress on the strong bilateral ties between the two countries. Both sides re-affirmed their commitment to take the close and friendly relations to greater heights.

Minister of Foreign Affairs had bilateral talks with Minister of External Affairs of India, Sushma Swaraj.

While in New Delhi Minister Marapana paid homage to the sacred relics of Kapilawasthu, at the National Museum and also visited Swami Narayan Akshardham temple in New Delhi.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs Vasantha Senanayake Visits Kushinagar Pilgrims sites.

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Vasantha Senanayake, visited India from 23-25th September 2017. The State Minister visited Kushinagar Pilgrims sites on 24th September 2017.



The Uttar Pradesh Government made arrangements to receive the Minister on arrival, at the Gorakpur Airport. In Kushinagar he was received by Sub Divisional Magistrate of Kushinagar, Mr. Jayaprakash Shukla and was accorded a Police guard of honour.

In Kushinagar Minister Senanayake had discussions with Ven H. Assaji Thero, Chief Monk of the Sri Lanka- Japan Buddhist Center on the maintenance of the monuments and temple and on the facilities provided for the Buddhist pilgrims. He also paid homage at the sacred sites in Kushinagar.

Students Team from India visits Sri Lanka

A 12-member team of students and teachers from the St. Francis de Sales Senior Secondary School, Janakpuri, New Delhi accompanied by their Principal visited Richmond College, Galle, Sri Lanka from 28th September to 7th October 2017 under the Students' Exchange Programme of the India-Sri Lanka Foundation. The India-Sri Lanka Foundation provided support and facilitated the visit.



The Sri Lanka-India Foundation funded the previous visit of a students' team from Richmond College to Delhi which took place from 27th April to 5th May 2017.

The Sri Lanka-India Foundation has been established and funded by the Governments of Sri Lanka and India to develop and promote greater understanding between the people of India and Sri Lanka.

The team of students from India will stay with the host families in Galle and attend classes, and participate in cultural and sports activities. They will also be taken on sightseeing tours in Galle and few other cities.

Sri Lanka's participation at the third edition of International Ramayana Festival in Delhi

A fourteen member Dance Troupe from Sri Lanka participated at the third edition of Ramayana Festival Organized by the Indian Council for Cultural relations in New Delhi.

The festival was held from 11-13th September 2017 at the Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi. The Sri Lankan performance was well received by the audience.

The Sri Lankan dance and drama was presented by Aru Sri Art Theatre, produced by Dr Arunthathy Sri Ranganathan. During the festival, arrangements were made to screen a documentary video on the Ramayana Trail attraction sites in Sri Lanka, produced by the Tourist Board of Sri Lanka.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Cultural Division of the Sri Lanka High Commission together with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau Coordinated the participation of the Sri Lankan dance troupe.

Other countries that participated at the Ramayana Festival were Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius and Nepal.

Decommissioned ship "Waruna" handed over to Sri Lanka by the Indian Coast Guard.

A ceremony took place on the 5th of September 2017 at the Naval shipyard in Kochi, India to mark the handing over of an Indian coast guard ship "Waruna" to Sri Lanka Coast guard as a goodwill gesture.



The Chief of staff of Sri Lanka Navy, Rear Admiral SS Ranasinghe, the Director General of Sri Lanka Coast Guard, Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalatunga and the Defence Advisor of the Sri Lanka High Commission Commodore Prasanna Hewage were present at the ceremony.

International Conference on Buddhism: Traditions, Ideologies and Dissent organized by the Gautama Buddha University in Noida.

Sri Lanka participated at the International conference on Buddhism which was held from 7-9 September 2017, at the Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.



The India-Sri Lanka Foundation supported the event by providing airfare for 20 academics from Sri Lanka which was attended by more than 150 participants from 20 countries.

Yoga and Sri Lanka Luxury Spa & Wellness Evening at the High Commission

Under the patronage of the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi, the Indian Importers Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the "Yog Mahotsav and Sri Lanka Luxury Spa & Wellness evening" at the High Commission premises on 26th September 2017.

The theme of the event was "Yoga & Spa". The event focused on the fusion of yoga and on traditional natural healing and wellness practices of Sri Lanka and India.

There was a presentation by the Mumbai based Spa Ceylon Luxury Ayurveda, demonstrating Sri Lanka's indigenous medicines and traditional natural healing practices and its benefits, while Global Yoga Alliance demonstrated the spiritual disciplines of Yoga, which focusses on harmony between mind, body and soul.



During the event, invitees had the opportunity to experience, natural healing practices of Spa Ceylon Luxury Ayurveda and Global Yoga Alliance.

Over two hundred participants including members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives from trade chambers, travel and tourism, businessman and journalists participated at the event.

Visit to Sri Lanka by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

The High Commission in New Delhi coordinated the visit of David Jalagania, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia to Sri Lanka from 15th - 18th September 2017.

Deputy Minister Jalagania met with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Vasantha Senanayake, and held talks with Sri Lankan officials of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Actg. Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Adde. Sec. EU & West of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18th September 2017.

Visit of the Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka to India

The Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka Karu Jayasuriya visited India to attend the 153rd birth anniversary commemoration of Bodhisattva Anagarika Dharmapala, organized by the Mahabodhi Society of India in Bodhgaya, Bihar.

In Bodh Gaya the Speaker was received by the Magistrate of Bihar state. Most Ven. Napana Pemasiri Mahanayaka Thero, Chief of Ramangna Mahanikaya, Most Ven. W.D Sri Pannananda Gnanarathana Mahanayaka thero Chief of Asgiriya Chapter, Most Ven. N.D Sangharakshitha Vijithasiri Thero, Deputy Chief of Malwatta Chapter, Most Ven.T. Ananda Mahanayake Maha Thero ,Chief of Amarapura Maha Nikaya /Dhamma Rakshithe nikaya and Wijedasa Rajapaksha former Minister of Buddhasasana High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagiswara were present at the event.

During his transit in Mumbai, the Speaker visited the Consulate General of Mumbai, and declared open the renovated premises of Consulate General on 16 September 2017. The official ceremony was presided over by the Consul General Ms. Saroja Sirisena.

During his visit in Mumbai the Hon. Speaker was met by Shri Jaykumar Rawal, Minister of Tourism of the Maharashtra Government.

Sri Lanka to host the second South Asian Youth Summit

Sri Lanka announced that the second South Asian Youth Summit will be hosted in Colombo in 2018. This announcement was made by the Ministry of Youth Affairs at the recently held South Asian Youth Summit in Bhubaneswar City, India from 17-20th September 2017. The Sri Lanka Youth Delegation was awarded the best Action Plan for 2017. The summit was organized to bring

together young people in the region in order to address issues that impact youth in South Asia and to strengthen the existing relationship amongst the South-Asian nations.

The Bhubaneswar Youth Declaration identified the common issues and problems of the regions to empower the youth and to facilitate effective partnerships with youth, youth-led organizations and youth movements to further strengthen inclusive youth participation in the decision-making processes and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IORA Workshop on 'Women's Entrepreneurship and Skill Development' held in New Delhi.

IORA Innovation Exposition held two conferences under the themes "Crafting a Blueprint for Shared and Sustainable Growth through Innovation" and "Women's Entrepreneurship and skills Development" from 28-29 September, 2017 in New Delhi. IORA Business Secretariat in India, and FICCI coordinated the flagship initiatives – on "women" and "innovation", jointly with the Ministry of External Affairs and IORA Secretariat to deepen engagement with Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

This is the first in a series of interactions planned by FICCI to bring together women entrepreneurs from IORA and to create a sustainable system for developing womens' entrepreneurship in the region. High Commission officials attended the event together with Ms. Ranatunga , Director of Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs.

Staff changes at the High Commission

Captain Suresh De Silva has assumed duties as the Defence Advisor of the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi. He succeeds Commodore Prasanna Hewage, former Defence Advisor, who completed his tour of duty at the High Commission.