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Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to Sri Lanka to attend the International Vesak Day Celebration.

The Prime Minister of India visited Sri Lanka to participate in the International Vesak Celebration held from 11-12th May 2017. He attended the main event as the Chief guest.

PM Modi called on President Maithripala Sirisena.

The Indian Prime Minister also attended the event at the Gangaramaya temple to light the evening illuminations of "Gangarama Vesak Kalapaya".

In his statement at the International Vesak Day Celebration Prime Minister Modi said that "Lord Buddha's message is as relevant in the 21st century as it was two and half millennia ago". "The biggest challenge to sustainable world peace today" he said "is not necessarily from conflict between the nation states but it was from the mindsets, thought streams, entities and instruments rooted in hate and violence".

During the visit the Prime Minister paid homage to the Temple of the tooth relic in Kandy.

Prime Minister of India opened a multi-specialty hospital at Dickoya, donated by the Government of India and also addressed a public event at Dickoya.

PM Modi announced the operation of direct Air India flights from Colombo to Varanasi from August this year.

This is the Second visit of the Indian Prime Minister of India to Sri Lanka after he became the Prime Minister. The first visit was in March 2015.

The Sri Lanka High Commission celebrates Vesak in New Delhi.

The Sri Lanka High Commission celebrated Vesak in New Delhi on 15th May 2017 by inaugurating a 40 feet high Pandal overlooking a park along the Shanti Path which is also known as the Ceremonial Route in the diplomatic enclave in New Delhi.



Special Guests at the opening ceremony were Hon. Akila Viraj Kariyawasam, Minister of Education of Sri Lanka Hon. Kiran Rijju Minister of State for Home Affairs of India, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment of India Rajesh Athawale, the New Delhi Municipal Council Chairman Naresh Kumar and the Joint Secretary of the Indian Ocean Region Division of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Sanjay Panda.

The Ceremony commenced with the Maha Sangha led by the Chief Incumbent of the Varanasi Centre of the Mahabodhi Society of India Ven K. Medhankara Thero and the Chief Incumbent of the New Delhi Centre of the Mahabodhi Society of India Ven R. Sumiththananda Thero, blessing the event. The Staff of the High Commission, and their family members joined by a group of Sri Lankan expatriates sang Bhakti Gee. (Devotional songs)

High Commissioner Chitrangenee Wagiswara welcomed the gathering and outlined the importance of Vesak and spoke of the initiative taken by Sri Lanka to obtain UN recognition for Vesak.

The pandal outlined the story of Angulimala which explained the humanity and compassion of lord Buddha

A special 16 member team from the Engineering Services Corps of the Sri Lanka Army erected the Pandal which was brought from Sri Lanka while the necessary facilities and assistance was secured in India.

Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake's first visit to India



Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake undertook an official visit to New Delhi India from 6th – 7th June 2017. During this visit he met the Indian Prime Minister Naredra Modi and the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. He also had separate meetings with the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar.

The meeting between Minister Karunanayake and the Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, held at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Bhawan of the Ministry of External Affairs focussed on the new initiatives taken to enhance bilateral relations. The meeting was followed by a working dinner hosted in honour of Minister Karunanayake by Minister Swaraj.

At the end of the official programme Minister Karunananyake conducted a press briefing organised by the High Commission of Sri Lanka for a select group of New Delhi based journalists. Minister Karunanayake also made a brief visit to the Sri Lanka High Commission.

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in India Chitrangenee Wagiswara, Senior Director General of the South Asia and SAARC Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Asoka Giriagama, Deputy High Commissioner M.R.K Lenagala and the Media Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs W M S Kumara were associated with Minister Karunanayake at the meetings.

Indian flood relief assistance to Sri Lanka

The Government of India sent flood relief material and rescue teams to Sri Lanka as the first responder to the appeal of H.E the President of Sri Lanka for assistance from foreign countries for the affected communities.

The vessel INS Kirch which was diverted to Colombo to render immediate assistance in flood relief operations, arrived in Colombo Port on 27th May 2017. The Indian High Commissioner Taranjit Singh Sandhu handed over the relief items brought by INS Kirch to Foreign Minister Ravi Karunanayake. Subsequently, two Indian Navy ships INS Shardul and INS Jalashwa also brought relief material including food, medicines and water.

Medical and diving teams along with boats and helicopters were also sent on board INS Jalashwa to assist Sri Lanka in rescuing people from flood-hit area.

Visit to Sri Lanka by a Mongolian Delegation headed by the Chairman of the Cabinet Secretariat of Mongolia.

A 25 member Mongolian delegation headed by Hon. J.Munkabath, Chairman of Cabinet secretariat of Mongolia paid a visit to Sri Lanka from 15th to 19th May 2017 which was coordinated by the High

Commission in New Delhi. The twenty five member delegation comprised dignitaries of the cabinet secretariat and Governors of Mongolia.

The familiarizing trip of the Mongolian delegation under the framework on Open Government Networking was aimed at learning the Sri Lankan experiences on the Open Data Programme. They exchanged views on issues such as policy documents, Legal environment and overall implementation of these programs at national and local Government levels and on the empowerment of the local government human resource capacity.

The Mongolian delegation also visited the parliament of Sri Lanka, ICTA and the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Council.

Sri Lanka's participation at the First India Commonwealth SME Trade Summit.



The Sri Lankan Delegation headed by Ms. Jeewani Siriwardhane, Director General of Export Development Board, and ten Sri Lankan Businessmen and 03 inventors participated at the first India Commonwealth Small and Medium Scale Entrepreneur Trade Summit held in New Delhi on 30th and 31st May 2017.

The two day Trade Summit provided a platform for MSMEs from Commonwealth countries to exchange views on Technology and Innovation. Dr. Saman Kelegama, Managing Director of the Agency for International Trade made a presentation at the event. The Commonwealth Secretariat, London, facilitated the launch of ICSA in June 2016.

Over three hundred business delegations from India and from across the Commonwealth countries

participated in the event to explore and expand trade and investment relations.

The Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi Organized a networking event at the Sri Lanka High Commission on 01st June for the visiting delegation, with the Indian businessmen who are potential buyers.

The Sri Lankan Delegation visited a Software Technology Park in Noida located in Uttar Pradesh of India, on 02nd June.

Meeting of the Sri Lankan and Indian Naval officers at the IMBL

The 28th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between the Sri Lanka Navy and Indian Navy took place on board the Sri Lankan Navy ship on 19th May 2017.

The issue of poaching by Indian fishing trawlers in Sri Lanka waters, adverse effects on Bottom trawling, proposed regulations on banning bottom trawling, amendments to the law on poaching by foreign vessels and the imposition of a heavy fines had been discussed at this meeting.

The Naval officers of both countries also discussed the issue of Identity cards for Indian fishermen and complaints on aggressive manoeuvres by the fishermen.

The Sri Lanka delegation for the IMBL talks was headed by the Commander of Northern Naval Area and the delegation included Director, Naval Operation of Sri Lanka Navy, Deputy Area Commander of North Central Naval Area, the Defence advisor of SLHC and other Senior officials of Sri Lanka Navy.

Commander of the Navy visits India to attend the passing out Parade at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala.

The Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy, Vice Admiral Ravindra C Wijegunaratne, visited India as the Chief Guest at the passing Out Parade of the Spring Term 17 at the Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala on 27th May 2017 on the invitation of the Chief of the Naval Staff India, Admiral Sunil Lamba.

Hon. Harin Fernando visit India for discussions with the Unique Identification Authority of India Head Quartered New Delhi.



A 06 member delegation led by Hon. Harin Fernando Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure and Dr. Harsha De Silva Deputy Minister of Policy Planning and Economic Development visited India on 29th -30th June 2017 to conduct discussions on the implementation of Adhaar Card initiative in India. This new scheme is an initiative launched by Government of India at Unique Identification Authority of India.

MMBL Path Finder and ITC India sign a MoU to establish large and Mid-market Hotels in Sri Lanka.

An MoU was signed between Mr. Bernard Goonetilleke Chairmaan of the MMBL Leisure Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd., and Managing Director of Welcome Hotels Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., Arun Pathak to develop a mid-market hotel chains in Sri Lanka.

The MMBL Leisure Holdings (Pvt.) Ltd is a subsidiary of the MMBL-Pathfinder Group and Welcome Hotels Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd., a subsidiary of ITC Limited, India,

The two sides will collaborate to initially explore opportunities to develop hotels in popular tourist destinations such as Trincomalee, Katunayake, Galle, Matara and Kandy. The first development is expected to be a city hotel in Trincomalee, the first of its kind in the East coast.

Inter- Sessional negotiations on SPS/TBT under ETCA

Inter sessional negotiations on Sanitary and Phyto Sanitary and technical barriers to Trade under Economic & Technological Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) was held in New Delhi on 30th - 31st May. A five member Sri Lanka Delegation headed by Dr. Ravi Ratnayake , Adviser to the Agency for International Trade included senior officials from Health Ministry, Standard Institute, EDB and the Minister Counsellor(Commercial) attended the meeting.

Courtesy calls on Indian Dignitaries.

The High Commissioner Chitranganee Wagiswara, called on Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs and Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry on 27 and 29th June respectively to discuss issues of mutual interest.

She also met with Dr. Karan Singh, (Rajya Sabha/Congress) Shri D.P Tripathi member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha/Congress) Shri Sharad Tripathi (BJP) and had a breakfast meeting with Shri Amar Singh (Rajya Sabha/Samajawadhi Party).At these meetings she discussed the need for closer interaction between the parliamentarians of the two countries including the necessity to have a Sri Lanka-India Parliamentary Friendship Association.

Ms. Jayathma Wikramanayake of Sri Lanka appointed as UNSG's Envoy on Youth

Ms. Jayathma Wikramanayake, who is presently working as an officer of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, has been appointed as United Nation Secretary General's Envoy on Youth.

Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appointed Ms. Jayathma as his next envoy on Youth succeeding Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan. United Nations Secretary- General's office announced her appointment on 20th June.

In this role Ms. Wickramanayake is expected to expand UN's Youth engagement and advocacy efforts on sustainable Developments, Human Rights, Peace and Security and Humanitarian action.