



High Commissioner met with Shri Kiren Rijju Minister of State for Home Affairs on 27th December 2018 at the Ministry of Home Affairs. Minister was assisted by Mr. Dinesh Patnaik, Joint Secretary (IOR) of the Ministry of External Affairs and other officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Cordially welcoming the High Commissioner, Minister emphasized the need to develop closer relations in the areas of religion, culture, economic activities, especially in “Spiritual Tourism” that can benefit both countries positively.

In response, High Commissioner appreciated the special attention given by the Government of India in maintaining Buddhists places of worship in India. Furthermore, High Commissioner mentioned that he will personally pursue Indian Credit Line projects to move forward from where it is slow. He further noted that there are around 1400 defence officials who are undergoing training in India and thanked the Government of India for the opportunities granted. High Commissioner also briefed the Minister that arrangements are being made by the High Commission to organize a meeting with the participation of Tour Agents, hoteliers and officials dealing with tourism between India and Sri Lanka. Considering the adept knowledge that Minister Rijju holds in this subject area, High Commissioner invited the State Minister to grace this proposed meeting to be held in February 2019 to coincide with the Economic Diplomacy programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka.