



News & Views



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HIGH COMMISSIONER WAGISWARA ADDRESSED CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

The High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Canada Mrs. Chitrangenee Wagiswara addressed a gathering of the Members of the House of Commons at a breakfast meeting convened by Joe Daniel, M.P, for Don Valley East constituency, held in the Canadian

Parliament on March 13, 2012. The meeting was Chaired by Brad Butt, M.P, for Mississauga-Streetville constituency.

In her address, High Commissioner Wagiswara briefed the parliamentarians on the historical perspective of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and the resort to terrorism by the LTTE. She spoke of the ruthless terrorist campaign waged by the LTTE in Sri Lanka and abroad over the last three decades, which ended with their defeat in May 2009.



She also spoke of the measures taken by the Government of Sri Lanka to address post conflict challenges. She emphasised the commitment of the Government to consolidate peace and reconciliation and to further develop the economy for the benefit of the people of all communities in Sri Lanka.

On the political front, while speaking of the difficulties faced by multi-cultural societies in a democratic setting, she spoke of the domestic mechanisms in place in Sri Lanka to address such issues. In the international context and specifically Canada, she spoke of the threats posed by the Tamil Tiger elements who are continuing the illegal activities such as fund raising, human smuggling etc; and political



propaganda. It was emphasized that leaders of their front organizations under the guise of political activities and charities have the network to carry out such operations.

In response to a question raised by the Chair on what Canadian Parliamentarians could offer to Sri Lanka in its reconciliation and rebuilding efforts, the High Commissioner said that Canada could support the on-going reconstruction and rebuilding efforts and to add their voice and support for reconciliation efforts in Canada and in Sri Lanka.



Joe Daniel M.P who visited Sri Lanka in January this year spoke of what he has seen and the efforts being initiated in Sri Lanka to rebuild the areas devastated by the conflict. He also spoke of the specific needs in the country which could be looked at for assistance.

Finally, the High Commissioner invited the Parliamentarians to visit Sri Lanka and see for themselves the developments in the country and also requested them to join the Canada Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Association.



SLHC AT THE OTTAWA TRAVEL AND VACATION SHOW

The Sri Lanka High Commission participated at the 18th Travel & Vacation Show at the Ottawa Convention Centre on 10&11th March 2012. The SriLankan Airlines was also associated with the High Commission.

Sri Lanka High Commission, Ottawa, Canada.

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According to the organizers, there were approximately 18,000 visitors at the event where 200 exhibitors including Tourism Boards of various countries, Tour operators, embassies participated at the event. Deputy High Commissioner Mr Lionel Premasiri made a DVD presentation at the special country segment. High Commissioner Ms Chitranganee Wagiswara and Manager Canada for SriLankan Airlines Mr Lalith Wickremasinghe welcomed the visitors. SriLankan Airlines handed over its own complimentary 'Tea' packets to the visitors. Members from the Sri Lankan community assisted in the efforts of the High Commission.



HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATIONS



Members of the University Students Associations in Ottawa were invited for an informal meeting and dinner by the High Commissioner on 24th March 2012.

The University of Ottawa Sri Lanka Students Alliance, Carleton University Students Alliance, Sri Lanka Ottawa Youth Alliance and students from Algonquin Collage participated at the event. The discussion centered on the activities carried out by these associations, the High Commissioner in her address requested the students to be in touch with the High Commission and offered to assist the associations in their activities, where necessary and it was also an opportunity for the students themselves get to know other members of other Students Associations and also the officials of the High Commission.



PROFESSOR KITTNAR GOVINDRAJ AS VICE CHANCELLOR OF EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Professor Kitnan Govindaraj, residing in Canada assumed duties as the 7th Vice Chancellor of the University of Eastern Province, Sri Lanka.



Governor of the Eastern Province C.Chandrankanthan, Secretary to the Ministry of

Sri Lanka High Commission, Ottawa, Canada.

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Higher Education Sunil Jayantha Navaratne, Advisor of the Ministry of Higher Education Professor Nimal Gunatilake and several other officials were present at this occasion



SRILANKAN AIRLINES ON THE 'SILK ROUTE'

The 'Silk Route' experience, is the latest addition to SriLankan Airlines premium Business class product, commencing 15th March, 2012.



Arrangements have been made by the SriLankan Airlines to escort its Business Class passengers to its Silk Route Lounge at the Departure entrance while all travel formalities are finalized and the Boarding Pass is handed to the passenger.

Passengers can then look forward to be pampered at SriLankan Airlines' Business Class lounge - Serendib, which offers a unique and serene atmosphere with an exclusive 24-hour buffet which includes starters, main courses, salads, fruits, juices, snacks, desserts, alcoholic beverages and a choice of cocktails, smoothies and mocktails; Ayurvedic Spa treatment; sleepers for a quiet nap; shower rooms; smokers room; and an Internet Café complete with WiFi Zone, movies, Cable TV and 3D Games.

The Silk Route Lounge located at the Departure area of the BIA, is managed by Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd. For more details visit www.srilankanusa.com



5400 ATTEND KACHCHATIVE FEAST OF ST ANTHONY



The feast of St Anthony at Kachathive was attended by approximately 5400 devotees from Sri Lanka and India. The Northern naval command of provided all infrastructure facilities, including development of all by-roads and installation of sanitary and drinking water facilities in the Kachchathive island located in Sri Lanka's northern waters.

Jetties were made ready for people to secure their boats conveniently. Special SLN life saving and medical teams were deployed to ensure the safety of the devotees attending the annual festival. The Navy also supplied breakfast to the devotees on Sunday morning.

The festival also served as a meeting point for fisher families from both countries, selecting brides and grooms and also the bartering of various articles.

Further, the annual feast of the St. Anthony's Church in Palaitheevu was also held from 9th to 11th March 2012, which was attended by over 14,000 devotees.



EX-LTTE COMBATANTS RELEASED

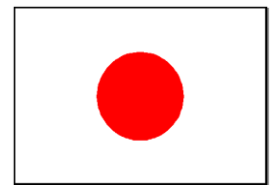


384 ex-LTTE combatants were released to their next of kin by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms in March 2012. To date, 10,490 ex- LTTE combatants, including 2,170 females have been reintegrated into the society since May 2009.

Further 105 Ex-LTTE combatants who had successfully followed a training course in masonry sponsored by HOLCIM Lanka Ltd were also given certificates at the function.



JAPAN GIVES RS 66 B LOAN PACKAGE



The Japanese government extended the 42nd Yen Loan Package amounting to Japanese Yen 42,477 million (Rs 66 billion) to Sri Lanka towards three key projects aimed at facilitating the social and economic development initiatives in the country.

The details of the projects financed under the loan scheme are as follows:



Yen 28,969 million (Rs 45 billion) will be provided to improve and modernize the facilities of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) and construct a second passenger terminal to cope with the increased air traffic and transform the airport as a main commercial and business hub in the region. 3,935 million Yen (approximately Rs. 6 billion) will be provided for improving health facilities and Yen 9,573 million (Rs 15 billion) will be provided for the construction of the 220 KV Transmission Line from Habarana to Veyangoda.

This year Japan and Sri Lanka commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and these projects are symbolic in terms of Japan's long-term cooperation in Sri Lanka's overall development process and strengthening the bonds of goodwill between the two countries



HOMESTAY WEB PORTAL

The web portal www.srilankanhomestay.com launched in November 2011 with the collaboration of Sri Lanka Tourist Board, provides an opportunity to international visitor to access Sri Lankan homes which are ready with clean and comfortable rooms at an affordable price. The homes provide the tourist to have an opportunity to engage and experience Sri Lankan customs, traditions, authentic cuisine and other attractions of the location, while staying with the local host, thus giving them a memorable experience during their holiday. The web page also provides information on rental of bungalows, houses and apartments.



AROGYA 2012- INTERNATIONAL HEALTHCARE EXHIBITION & SYMPOSIUM

The National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka together with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health will hold "Arogya 2012" International Healthcare Exhibition & Symposium, 17-19 August 2012, at the BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The main purpose of this exhibition is to expose the high standards and expertise, opportunities for import, export and investment in the healthcare sector. This is also a good opportunity for overseas business community to exhibit their products and services to the Sri Lankan population and foreign delegates who will visit the exhibition. More information could be obtained from :www.arogya-2012.com. You may also contact Mr. H M B Herath, Deputy Consul General/Toronto on Tel 416 323 2159



BENTOTA BEACH FEST 2012



The "Bentota Beach Fest 2012" was successfully organized by the Regimental Centre MIC together with Bentota Sports Club and Bentota Sunshine Water Sports Centre was held on March 30 and 31, 2012 in Bentota.

The festival comprised of many beach and water sport events along with adventure sports, and social and cultural events. The main aim of the event was to promote beach and water sports in the country. A musical show and a colorful cultural pageant was staged at the end of both days with the participation of international DJs from Bali and New Zealand.

