

Celebrating 77th Independence Day of INDIA



President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka meets President Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, 21 July 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi on, 21 July 2023



Our ties are as ancient and extensive as our civilisations...Sri Lanka has an important place in both, India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and 'SAGAR' vision.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
during the visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India



Today, in this 75th year of our bilateral diplomatic relations, our Vision will propel us towards a more secure future through mutually beneficial interactions, to bring tangible benefits and greater opportunities for our future generations in the coming decades.

President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe
during his visit to India



PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY, CATALYSING PROSPERITY INDIA-SRI LANKA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP VISION FOCUS AREAS



Maritime Connectivity

- ▶ Ports and logistics infrastructure at Colombo, Trincomalee and Kankesanthurai
- ▶ Passenger ferry services



Air Connectivity

- ▶ Air connectivity with Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa
- ▶ Investment in aviation infrastructure in Sri Lanka



Energy and Power Connectivity

- ▶ High capacity power grid interconnection
- ▶ Trincomalee as a national and regional hub of industry, energy and economic activity
- ▶ Multi-product petroleum pipeline from Southern India to Sri Lanka
- ▶ Cooperation in solar, wind, green hydrogen, green ammonia



Trade, Economic & Financial Connectivity

- ▶ UPI based digital payments
- ▶ Facilitate Indian investments in Sri Lanka
- ▶ Discussions on broad-basing trade agreements
- ▶ Digital Economy



People-to-People Connectivity

- ▶ Higher education, research & skilling
- ▶ Land connectivity corridor
- ▶ Linkages with India's Buddhist Circuit and Sri Lanka's Ramayana trail



EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar meets Prime Minister Dinesh Gunwardena, 20 January 2023



EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar meets Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabry, 19 January 2023

Official Visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India: Outcomes

- ▶ Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) in the field of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- ▶ MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy
- ▶ Memorandum of Cooperation for economic development projects in Trincomalee district of Sri Lanka
- ▶ Network to Network Agreement between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI application acceptance in Sri Lanka
- ▶ Energy Permit for Sampur Solar Power Project

Message from High Commissioner



Ayubowan, Vanakkam, Namaskar!

Warm greetings to all Indians in Sri Lanka and to my Sri Lankan brothers and sisters on the occasion of India's 77th Independence Day.

As Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav culminates this year, India stands poised to bring in the Amrit Kaal - the next 25 years of a transformative growth story with a technology-driven and knowledge-based economy that will deliver prosperity for all.

Our policies of Neighbourhood First and SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) reflect India's commitment to prosperity for all - as we continue to stand with the people of Sri Lanka through their hour of need.

Now as Sri Lanka is poised to turn the corner, India-Sri Lanka friendship also heads towards new milestones. We complete 75 years of diplomatic relations this year, and are planning ahead for the next 25 years for forging a closer economic partnership.

Vision Statement 'Promoting Connectivity, Catalysing Prosperity' of our leaders is a long-term roadmap centred on enhancing connectivity in all its dimensions.

Various announcements and outcomes during the visit of President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe to India in July 2023-related to energy, dairying, increased air and maritime

connectivity, UPI linkage, and several others which bring the people of the two countries closer have lent significant momentum to this vision.

Friends, the future will be technology-centric. As Sri Lanka embarks on its journey of DigiEcon 2030, we are working closely to share India's experiences of inclusive growth steered by our Digital Public Infrastructure.

This year is also special as it marks 200 years of the arrival of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka. Government of India has announced a SLR 3 billion comprehensive grant package for overall welfare of the community. A similar package has been extended to the people of Eastern Province as well.

Building further on the foundations of civilisational connect, shared heritage and abiding bonds between our peoples, we enter the next phase of India-Sri Lanka ties with a joint vision for prosperity and progress of the people. I am confident that in the coming Amrit Kaal, India-Sri Lanka partnership is all set to grow in depth and breadth in equal measure!

- Gopal Baglay

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75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Prospering Together A Partnership for the Future

Air and Maritime Connectivity



- ▶ Increased frequency of Chennai-Jaffna flights from 4 times a week to daily
- ▶ Resumption of ferry services between India and Sri Lanka



100th flight of the recommenced Chennai – Jaffna link arrived in Jaffna on 07 June 2023



India's first international cruise from Chennai to Sri Lanka flagged off on 05 June 2023

Energy and Power Connectivity



Energy permit for Sampur Solar Power Project handed over on 21 July 2023 during the visit of President of Sri Lanka to India



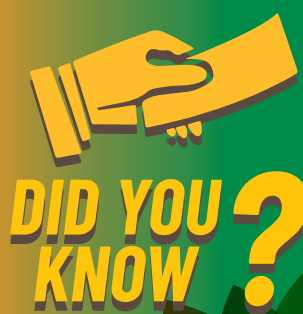
- ▶ During the recent visit, both sides signed an MoU for cooperation in renewable energy and for intergrid connection
- ▶ Agreed to cooperate for construction of a multi-product petroleum pipeline, and explore cooperation in green hydrogen and green ammonia
- ▶ Agreed to further develop Trincomalee as a national and regional hub of industry, energy and economic activity



Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India calls on President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe, 26 March 2023



Energy Dialogue held in Colombo on 24 March 2023



DID YOU KNOW?

Since August 2022, INR has been authorised by CBSL as a designated foreign currency for foreign trade settlement.



A discussion on utilization of INR- denominated trade settlements for economic transactions between India and Sri Lanka held in Colombo on 2 March 2023



Network to Network Agreement between NIPL and Lanka Pay for UPI-application acceptance in Sri Lanka was also signed during the recent visit

A Dependable Partner



500 Made in India Mahindra SUVs handed over for Sri Lanka Police under the USD 100 mn defence Line of Credit



500 buses under the USD 15 mn LoC supplied to Sri Lanka towards strengthening public transport infrastructure



Anuradhapura-Omanthai section of the Northern Railway Line formally reopened after renovations by IRCON worth USD 91.27 mn



Various integrated water supply projects such as in Dambulla have been completed, and similar projects are ongoing in Polgahawela and Aluthgama under a total cost of over USD 315 mn

India's multipronged support of **USD 4 Billion** in 2022



USD 700 million assistance for petroleum products



USD 800 million concessional credit for essential items



USD 55 million Line of Credit for fertilizer



USD 2 billion payment liabilities under ACU deferred by RBI



USD 400 million currency swap in January 2022 between CBSL and RBI

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INDIA ON THE WORLD STAGE

India is moving ahead
with the principle of
'Think Big,
Dream Big,
Act Big'

Prime Minister
Narendra Modi



India's G20 Presidency

India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023 with its theme being "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", or "One Earth, One Family, One Future." Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and microorganisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

#G20India's priorities are

- Green Development, Climate Finance & LIFE
- Accelerating Progress on SDGs
- Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth
- Women-led Development
- Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure
- Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century



Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) – the venue for the upcoming G20 Summit, on 26 July 2023. With a campus area of 123 acres and top-notch facilities, it is India's largest Meetings, Incentives Conferences and Exhibition destination.



A key element of India's G20 Presidency has been taking the G20 closer to the public and making it truly a 'People's G20. India included over 200 G20-related meetings hosted in around 60 cities across India, the widest geographical spread in any G20 Presidency.

Voice of Global South Summit, 2023

President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe participated in the Voice of Global South Summit 2023 hosted virtually on 12-13 January 2023. With 10 sessions in total, the Summit saw the participation of Leaders and Ministers from 125 countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform.



Global Buddhist Summit 2023



The first-ever Global Buddhist Summit 2023 concluded successfully in New Delhi with the New Delhi Declaration emphasising that peace is the foundation for human happiness and well-being. The theme of the two-day Summit organised from 20-21 April 2023 was "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis".

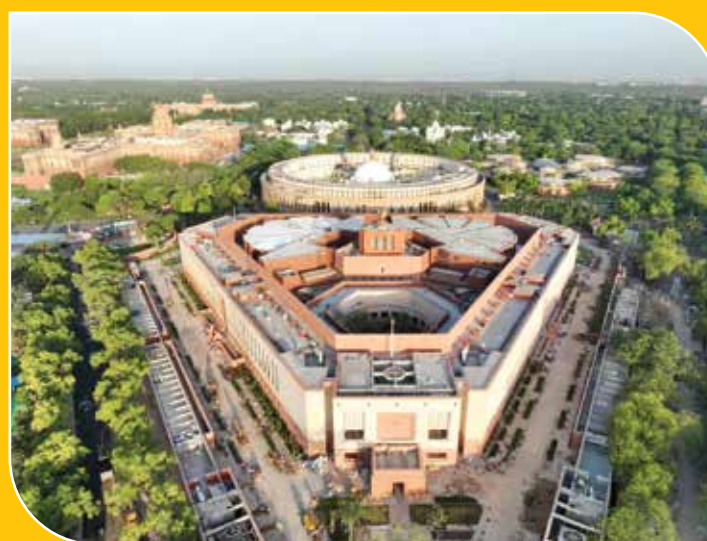
Indian economy has zero chances of slipping into recession, even amidst persisting global challenges.

- Bloomberg Survey, 2022



Chandrayaan-3 India's Third Lunar Mission launched on July 14, 2023 carrying the nation's hopes and aspirations

India's New Parliament: A Reflection of the Aspirations of 1.4 bn Indians



Dedicated to the nation on 28 May 2023

At the inauguration ceremony Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the new Parliament building is a temple of our democracy that gives a message of India's resolve to the world. It reflects the energy, enthusiasm and new thinking that characterizes New India.

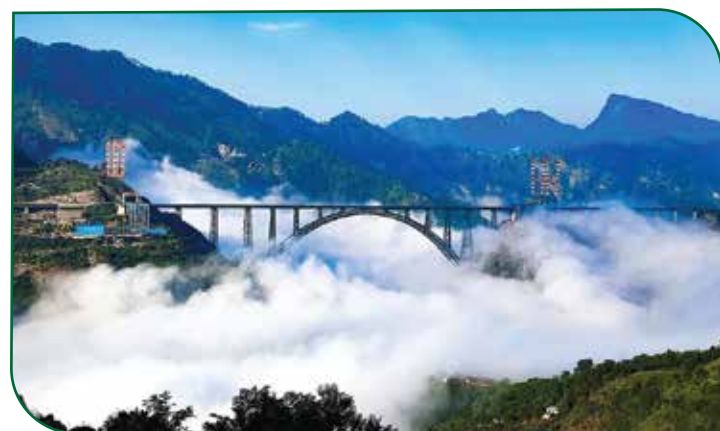


India chairs the 23rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State



We do not see this area as an "extended neighborhood", but as an "extended family".

- PM Modi's Remarks at the 23rd SCO Summit, 04 July 2023



Indian Railways achieves new heights with world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir



"Vande Bharat Express" is an indigenous high-speed train service operated by the Indian Railways, known for its modern amenities and faster travel times.

IndiaStack Empowering Inclusive Digital Transformation

India Stack demonstrates the potential of foundational digital public infrastructure to drive inclusive growth and economic transformation, offering valuable lessons for other countries in their digital journey.

Technology for 1.4 billion Indians

Over 67 billion: Total number of digital identity verifications

More than 14.05 trillion: INR total value of monthly real-time mobile payments
8.6 billion: Total volume of monthly real-time mobile payments

Over 10: Operational Account Aggregators

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For the People Development Cooperation



...India's continued support and investment... will benefit all segments of Sri Lankan society in all parts of the country..."

India - Sri Lanka Economic Partnership Vision



...the Tamil community of Indian origin is completing 200 years of their arrival in Sri Lanka. I am happy to say, that on this occasion, various projects worth Rs 75 crore will be implemented for Indian origin Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. In addition, India will also contribute to the development programs in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the visit of the President of Sri Lanka to India 21 July 2023



The iconic **Jaffna Cultural Center (JCC)**, which was built with grant assistance of Government of India was declared open on 11 February 2023 by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, in the presence of Indian Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Information & Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan.

Currently, close to 20 projects are ongoing under High Impact Community Development Projects in Sri Lanka.



Under Model Village Housing program, two model villages in Anuradhapura and Badulla consisting of 24 houses in each village were handed over in Jan 2023.



India is assisting in the renovation of 27 schools in Northern Province, with works in 23 such schools already completed.

Around 65 grant projects have been completed.



The Kandyan Dancing Academy was built to facilitate training courses in Kandyan dance, music, lacquer painting, preservation of ancient paintings and frescos, mahout training and sculpture making.



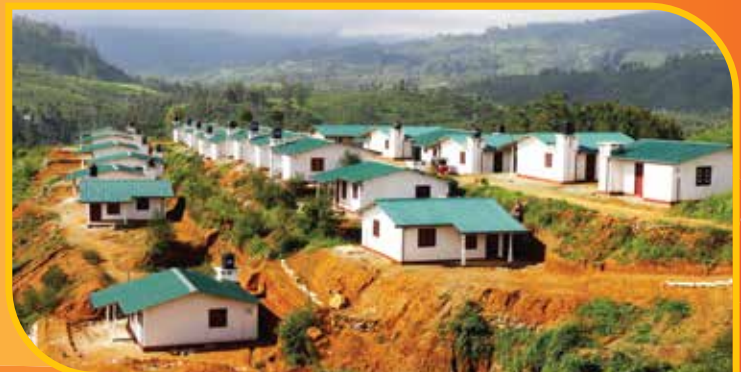
Thiruketheeswaram Temple in Mannar

At a total portfolio of USD 5 billion, India's development cooperation partnership is driven by the short-term and long-term needs of the people of Sri Lanka. Spread across all the 25 Districts, the projects implemented by Government of India in Sri Lanka cuts across areas such as infrastructure, housing, education, health, livelihood and industrial development, sports and culture, among others.

The commitment towards grant projects stands at USD 600 million. Attesting to the dynamic nature of these projects, include the landmark Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Project, construction of Hybrid Power Projects in three islands of Delft, Analaitivu and Nainativu and USD 15 million grant assistance from India to promote Buddhist ties.



High Commissioner handed over a cheque of INR 450 mn to State Minister Hon. Kanaka Herath in the presence of Hon. Sagala Ratnayaka for SLUDI project, implemented through grant assistance by GOI. The Project will usher in digital connectivity in place of digital divide.



300 Houses under the Indian Housing Project Phase III in Galle, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya were handed over to the people of Sri Lanka on 20 January 2023.



Multi-speciality hospital in Dickoya

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PEOPLE'S SUBMARINE



Aero India 2023 and SPEED - Defence Ministers' Conclave was conducted at Bengaluru, India from 12-16 Feb 2023. State Minister for Defence of Sri Lanka, Mr. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon along with AVM RAUP Rajapaksa, Commander of SL Air Force (then Chief of Staff) participated in the event.



INS Vagir (Indian Navy Submarine) undertook port call at Colombo from 19-22 Jun 2023 towards commemorating the 9th International Day of Yoga under the theme 'Global Ocean Ring of Yoga'. A unique opportunity to visit the submarine was also provided to about 1200 Sri Lankan nationals.



Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari called on President H.E. Ranil Wickremesinghe during his visit to Sri Lanka, 2-6 May 2023



High Commission of India organized the first Seminar cum Exhibition on Defence on 7 June 2023 in Colombo. Mr. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence was the Chief Guest of the event.

SECURE TOGETHER DEFENCE COOPERATION

India and Sri Lanka enjoy strong defence relationship pillared on close linkages between our militaries. The commonality of security concerns and challenges guide our bilateral defence exchanges.

Defence cooperation with Sri Lanka encompasses myriad activities in numerous domains including training, joint exercises, supply of military equipment, high level bilateral visits and annual dialogues.



7th Annual Defence Dialogue co-chaired by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and his Sri Lankan counterpart General Kamal Gunaratne held in New Delhi on 23 February 2023.



Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari donated AN-32 propellers to Commander Sri Lanka Air Force at Katunayake Air Base on behalf of Government of India during his visit to Sri Lanka.



The 10th Edition of annual Indian Navy (IN)-Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-2023 was conducted at Colombo in April 2023 with participation of INS Kiltan (Advanced Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette), INS Savitri (Offshore Patrol Vessel), SLNS Vijayabahu (Advance Offshore Patrol Vessel) and SLNS Samudura (Offshore Patrol Vessel).



Instructors from Indian Navy imparted a two-week Maritime Law Enforcement Training Course (VBSS) at SLCG base Kirinda. The Course, organized by UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was attended by 20 personnel from Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Coast Guard.



Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari laid the foundation stone for India - Sri Lanka Friendship Auditorium at Sri Lanka Air Force Academy, Trincomalee under LKR 250 Million Grant assistance by Government of India.



IN Dornier Aircraft has been operating from Sri Lanka Air Force Base, Trincomalee since 29 Aug 2022, successfully completing extensive flying for maritime surveillance.



To foster spirit of sportsmanship Indian Air Force cycling team participated in the 24th Sri Lanka Air Force Annual Cycling Race.



Indian Naval Ships have been regularly visiting Sri Lanka including INS Sukanya (Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Navy), INS Batti Malv (Fast Patrol Vessel) and INS Khanjar (Missile Corvette).

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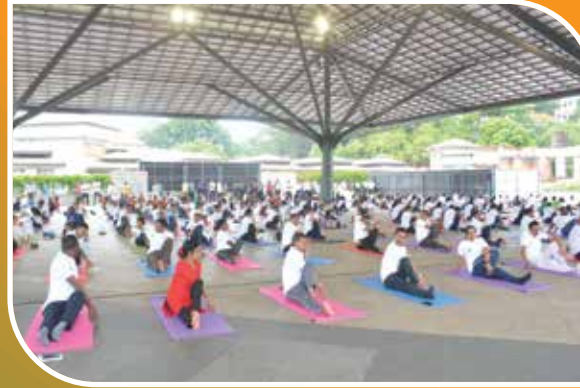


For the People Cultural Linkages

9th International Day of Yoga



9th International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Colombo



Yoga Day Celebrations in Kandy



Yoga Day Celebrations in Hambantota



Yoga Day Celebrations in Jaffna



Indian submarine INS Vagir in Colombo as part of IDY 2023

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC)



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) is the cultural arm of the High Commission of India, playing a vital role in strengthening the cultural connect between India and Sri Lanka. SVCC organizes diverse activities like music, dance, cultural festivals, workshops and exhibitions involving people from both countries. It also provides a wide range of classes such as Hindi, Yoga, Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Carnatic vocal music.



'Rhythm of Harmony' Rock Band concert in collaboration with Indian band UDX and Sri Lankan band Stigmata



Annual Carnatic Music Festival 'Tyagaraja Aradhana'



President of ICCR on an official visit to Sri Lanka in March 2023



Indian Cinema Workshop and Kannada Film Festival

Island-wide highlights



Exhibition on India's Buddhist Heritage at The Seema Malaka, Gangaramaya Temple



G20 logo lantern showcased for Vesak in Kandy



Special Indian Food Dansela held in Kandy for Vesak



Sri Lankan students at the Hindi Vishva Yatra of ICCR



Poson exhibition and a lantern with India's G20 theme at Homagama Poson Zone



Indian Food and Millet Corner at the International Food and Cultural Festival in Hambantota



Bharatanatyam Workshops at Hambantota and Monaragala districts



A Special Commemorative Cover was issued for Sita Temple (Seetha Eliya) in Nuwara Eliya, 23 April 2023



India's rich Buddhist Heritage showcased at the sacred Gangaramaya Temple



Indian Carnatic performance at Jaffna Cultural Center



Indian Cultural Festival at Jaffna Cultural Center



The 100th episode of Mann Ki Baat was broadcast live, followed by a Special Panel Discussion

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For the People Education, Research and Skilling

Government of India Scholarship Schemes for Sri Lankan Students

The Government of India offers scholarships to Sri Lankan students for Undergraduate, Masters, and Research in diverse subjects. The scholarships are offered under the categories of:

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme

120 annual scholarships for higher studies in India, covering various disciplines

Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme

25 scholarships for IT/BE/B Tech studies in top-ranked Indian institutes.

Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme

50 scholarships for Masters Level Courses, with preference given to Agriculture, MSc, and M Tech.

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme

05 ICCR Scholarships for PhD courses.

Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship

150 scholarships to Sri Lankan students chosen on basis of performance in O' Level examination and merit-cum-means criteria. Selected scholars receive financial assistance to complete A' Level studies.

Study in India Program

100,000+ seats and tuition fee waivers for Sri Lankan students in 160+ premier institutes

AYUSH Scholarships

10-12 annual scholarships for Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha, and Unani studies to Undergraduate, Masters, and Research degrees.

Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust (CEWET)

350 Scholarships to Sri Lankan students pursuing A/L and University studies. Stipend for A/L students for two years or until completion of studies, and for University students until graduation.

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)

75% coverage of Institutional Economic Cost (IEC) up to US\$ 4,000 per annum for Undergraduate scholarships to NRIs/PIOs/OCIs in Sri Lanka and globally.

Highly Subsidized Self-Financed Slots

1 to 2 slots for Sri Lankan students in reputed government institutions for Undergraduate courses in MBBS, (B. Pharm.), etc. under self-financing arrangements

Please visit our website: www.hcicolombo.gov.in for more details



ITEC

ITEC, a bilateral assistance program of India since 1964, has trained 200,000+ officials from 160+ countries. Last year, 218 participants from Sri Lanka attended ITEC and e-ITEC programs, benefiting from diverse areas. Four Sri Lankan professionals joined the St. Stephen's Young Leaders' Neighbourhood - First Fellowship Programme, while four others benefited from an ITEC training program on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances conducted by National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat.

Fully funded slots under ITEC: 402 per year



ITEC Day 2022.



Training Program on Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances



2nd edition of Young Leader's Neighborhood First Fellowship Programme organized by St. Stephen's College

Easing Travel



242 fresh OCI cards issued during this year.

45,702 visas were issued in the period of 01 Jan 2023 - 15 Aug 2023 for Sri Lankans travelling to India.

India continues to be the **largest source of tourists** for Sri Lanka.



Exchange Programme and a workshop for the victims of deafblindness



Since its establishment in 1998, the India-Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF) has strengthened economic, educational, scientific, technical, and cultural ties between the two nations. It encourages people-to-people contacts and supports creative initiatives, particularly involving youth and civil societies. ISLF has funded over 300 projects and currently has 22 ongoing projects in research, art & culture, social work, science, and technology.