

The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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**The Third SAARC Interiors Ministers Meeting successfully ends with Regional Brotherhood**



**SAARC Interior Ministers agreed to fight against regional terrorism**

The SAARC Interior Ministers meeting successfully concluded with a fruitful agenda among the SAARC nations to fight against the main challenge of the region ; Regional Terrorism.

As invitation given by the Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Malik, Interior Ministers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan participated at the Meeting held in Islamabad from 23 to 26 June 2010.

**Sri Lanka-Pakistan Friendship**

At a ceremony held at Pakistan High Commission in Colombo, the first ever website of the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Friendship Association (SLPFA) [www.slpafa.org](http://www.slpafa.org) was launched by the Pakistani Acting High Commissioner, Mrs Maryam Saeed. The ceremony was also attended by the President and other office-bearers of the SLPFA, Embassy officials, diplomats and representatives of various media organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Acting High Commissioner applauded the management and members of the Association for the successful launch of the website.

SLPFA President, Mr Ifthikhar Aziz said the Sri Lanka-Pakistan Friendship Association has launched this site with the aim to completely revamp and enhance the image of the association, so that its members could have a sense of belonging and a passion to promote the aims and objectives of the SLPFA.

**Pakistan, Sri Lanka annual bilateral trade reaches over \$1 billion soon**

The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is currently \$300 million per annum and it will reach soon \$1 billion, says Sri Lanka High Commissioner Air Chief Marshall (R) Jayalath Weerakkody at the Reception Dinner on My Karachi Exhibition hosted by the Consul General of Karachi.



High Commissioner Weerakkody highly appreciated Pakistan's prominent role in ushering peace in Sri Lanka. Citizens of Sri Lanka hold Pakistan in high esteem and consider Pakistanis more than brothers."

He felt time has come when Ceylon Tea should make a big impact on Pakistani people. Pakistani rice, cement and other commodities have found acceptance in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka Consul General, Mr Sidath Kumar, Chairman, Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Forum, Mr Majyd Aziz highlighted trade relations between the two countries.



## Sri Lanka Pakistan Trade Doubles due to FTA

Pakistan is the second largest trading partner of Sri Lanka within the South Asian region. Sri Lanka is the first country to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Pakistan.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has doubled within a short period of time from US\$ 150 million to US\$ 300 million during the last three years, which is a direct outcome by FTA, since its operation in 2005. Recently a 27-member Pakistan-Sri Lanka Business Forum (PSLBF)

delegation led by Abdul Rauf Tabani, visited Sri Lanka.

They participated in the INTRAD-EXPO 2010, organized by the National Chamber of Commerce, Sri Lanka.

They were accompanied by Consul General of Sri Lanka in Karachi, Mr V. Sidath Kumar. This was the third business delegation of the PSLBF during the last few years. The business delegation also explored opportunities for investments and joint ventures in Sri Lanka.



The delegation consisted of Heads/CEOs of leading Pakistani companies in textiles, fertilizer, sugar industry, service industry, IT, fresh fruits and vegetables, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, leisure and tourism, construction, light engineering goods, rice, apparel, gems/jewellery, sports goods and commodities sectors. The delegation also participated in an investment conference

arranged by the National Chamber of Commerce.

Meetings were also held with the BOI Chairman and Sri Lanka Export Development Board Chairman. The meetings focused on increasing the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries.

(Image) : Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa with the Pakistan business delegation.

## Government of Pakistan offered Scholarships for Sri Lanka Students



The Government of Pakistan has offered Scholarships to pursue the subjects of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Engineering for Sri Lanka Students for the academic year 2010-11. The Scholarship was granted under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme.

In addition to above placements, more than 100 Sri Lankan students are presently studying in various Universities in Pakistan under the self finance basis. The popular subjects among Sri Lankan students are medicine, engineering, homeopathy and Islamic studies.



## 'The Knuckles' Mountain Range

### Biodiversity Heartland in Central Hills of Sri Lanka



The Knuckles is situated in the Districts of Kandy and Matale, which extends from Laggala to Urugala a distance about 19 Km, covers an area of 160 Km<sup>2</sup>. The term Knuckles is used in three senses, namely, as the Knuckles massif, the Knuckles Range, and the Knuckles Peaks. The Knuckles massif about 90 square miles in extent, is a detached block of the Central Highlands, separated from the main highlands by the Dumbara Valley. A group of five peaks that took like the Knuckles of a clenched fist. The

highest point on the range is Gombaniya (1906m). The next highest point in the Knuckles range is the Knuckles (1864m). There are several other peaks in the range that rise over 5000 ft. including Kirigalpotta (1648m), Dotugala (1575m) and Kobonigala (1555m)

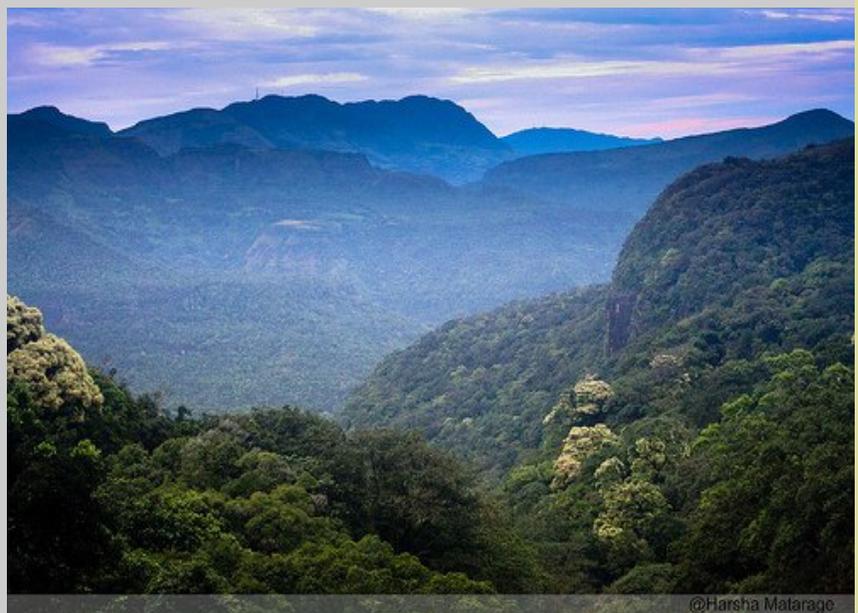
#### View points

Inner part of the massif you can see two view points;

1. Laggala pathana (northern flank) – Rattota via Matale
2. Corbert's Gap along Hunasgiriya – Loolwatte road

#### Importance of the Knuckles

The Knuckles is the source of several rivers, including the Heen Ganga, Kalu Ganga and Hulu Ganga. The western and southern slopes and eastern and central slopes of this range are catchments for the Mahaweli river.



@Harsha Matarage



## Vegetation

The 1829 Km<sup>2</sup> of forest lying above 970m (3500ft) in the Knuckles massif are considered to be a unique ecosystem not found anywhere else in the world. The main vegetation types are;

1. Tropical semi - evergreen forest
2. Sub montane evergreen forest
3. Mid elevation evergreen montane forest
4. Montane evergreen forest (cloud forest)
5. Montane grasslands (pathana)



**Binara (Exacum trinervium)**

## Flora of Knuckles.

Due to differentiation of climate the Knuckles has become a swatch of Sri Lankan biological population. In this case every one especially Sri Lankans has the responsibility to protect this precious heritage of the nature. In accordance with the records, there are about 1033 flowering plants of 141 families discovered within the acreage of 62 square miles. Among them 255 species are trees and others are small herbs and bushes. 160 species



of whole flora considered as endemic species and more than 330 species are locally imperiled. More than 25 orchid species are recorded in the Knuckles.

## Fauna of Knuckles.

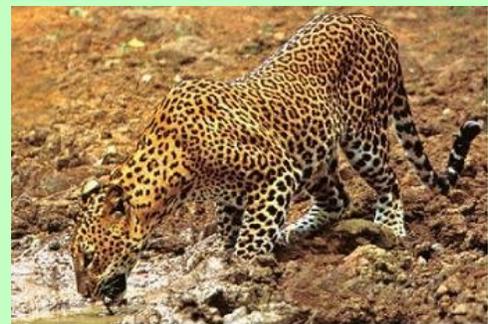
Just like Flora, the Knuckles plays an important character on Sri Lankan Fauna. In accordance with the records 247 vertebrate species have been discovered and 26% of them considered as endemic species including 14 bird species and 9 fish species 5 of the endemic species are confined to Knuckles Range. Among the large mammals Leopard, Sambar, Elephant, giant squirrel, spotted deer, barking deer, wild boar and mouse deer are well known.



**Spotted Deer**



**Mouse Deer**



**Leopard**