



PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE - November, 2009



The High Commission of Sri Lanka in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
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Sri Lanka begins construction of second International Airport

Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa ceremoniously initiated the construction on the country's second International Airport at Maththala in Hambantota. The new Airport will be constructed on a plot of 2,000 hectares in Hambantota at a cost of US\$200 million. The Government of China provides financial assistance for this project. President Rajapaksa said people today are enjoying the benefits of the results without bowing down to the powerful forces of the world.

He pledged not to change the decisions taken in the interest of the motherland and



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the people. According to the Ports and Aviation Ministry, the construction of the Airport will be completed in two phases. All basic facilities including runways, taxiways and parking facilities will be completed in the first phase by 2011. All other airport and aviation related facilities will be completed in the second phase. These include servicing and repairing centre for aircraft, hotels, pilot training centre, maintenance hub, private jet parking, and technical training centers. By both the new Airport and new Harbour in Hambantota, will place the country as a transit point of South Asia.

Public Relations Bureau opened to Assistant Sri Lankans abroad



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has opened a Public Relations Bureau under the concept of "innovative people-centered diplomacy" to promote and foster greater public relations with the general public and to attend to the immediate needs of Sri Lankans both in the country and resident abroad. Emphasis will be on consular assistance to Sri Lankans.

The Bureau will essentially play a coordinating role between the general public, various divisions of the Ministry, line Ministries and State Institutions and Sri Lanka Missions abroad on matters that require immediate action. This will be carried out under the direct supervision of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs., Rohitha Bogollagama. The contact details of the Bureau are

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A PAGE FROM HISTORY



Late Hon Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited Pakistan on 4 to 9 September 1974 during the era of late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

During her state visit in Pakistan she addressed a joint session of the Senate and National Assembly of Pakistan. She visited Buddhist Museum in Taxila and Ter-baila dam in Karachi.



Sri Lanka High Commissioner in Pakistan, Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody participated at the Graduation Ceremony for the students of the Institute of Rural Management in Pakistan on 18 November, 2009. The Ceremony was organized at Iqra University Islamabad and 18 graduated students received their certificates by H.E the High Commissioner. The delegation had visited Sri Lanka from 8 to 15 October 2009, for their foreign country assignment.



Sri Lanka cooperation to Pakistan On bilateral & Multilateral Issues - Sri Lanka Prime Minister

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickramanayake has offered help, assistance and expertise to Pakistan for eliminating terrorism. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the Third SAARC Business Leaders Conclave under the theme "Regional Cooperation: A Catalyst for Socioeconomic Growth in South Asia" on 22 November 2009. The two-day meeting is being organised by SAARC Chambers of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) in collaboration with the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry Sri Lanka (FCCISL).

On a comment by the Media that a strategy or the way out to get rid of terrorism in Pakistan in the light of its own experience of ending the two-decade-long civil war in Sri Lanka, Wickramanayake responded that this was Pakistan's internal matter and he would recommend nothing to its friend Pakistan in this particular regard.

The Prime Minister, however, offered his country's full support to Pakistan in dismantling the terrorists' network. Whenever Pakistan and any other country would ask us to play our role in ending terrorism, we will be there to help them with expertise, stated the Sri Lankan Prime Minister. He urged upon the business leaders of SAARC countries to play their due role in strengthening the roots of regionalism in South Asia, in particular fields of trade, business and investment. "This is the time to realise the business potential available there in the region and to help this region get out of great social, financial and monetary problems like inflation, hunger, poverty, food crisis, fuel crisis and unemployment."

Pakistan Minister of Science & Technology, Hon Mr Mohammad Azam Khan Swati visited Sri Lanka



Hon. Minister of Science & Technology of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Swati visited Sri Lanka from 23 to 25 November, 2009, on invitation extended by the Hon. Minister of Science & Technology of Sri Lanka, Prof. Tissa Vitharana.

During his visit the Minister met with several senior government officials to discuss bilateral issues on science & technology related to both countries. The Minister also addressed a session in the SAARC Business Leaders Conclave held in Hotel Hilton, Colombo on 22 November 2009

Congratulations! from Sri Lanka



Voice of moderation: The former Editor-in-Chief of the Friday Times and Daily Times in Pakistan, Najam Sethi (left), receives the 'Golden Pen of Freedom' prize from World Editors' Forum President Xavier Vidal Folch at the inauguration of the 62nd World Newspaper Congress and 16th World Editors' Forum in Hyderabad on Tuesday, 1 December 2009. The High Commission of Sri Lanka congratulates Mr Najam Sethi on his achievement.

19 MEMBERS OF WOMEN GROUP VISITED SRI LANKA TO STUDY SRI LANKA'S WOMEN

19 members of women delegation from "Institute of Rural Management" visited Sri Lanka from 8 to 14 November 2009, to study Youth and Women activities in Sri Lanka.

During the visit they met senior officials and field officers of Ministry of Youth and Women Development of Sri Lanka. After their visit a member of the delegation *Irnum Malik, NRSP-Head Office* summarized their experience as follows.

Quote -

As Sri Lanka has faced a civil war for thirty years but yet the pace of the development and their investment in the education and the health sector is very remarkable and impressive.

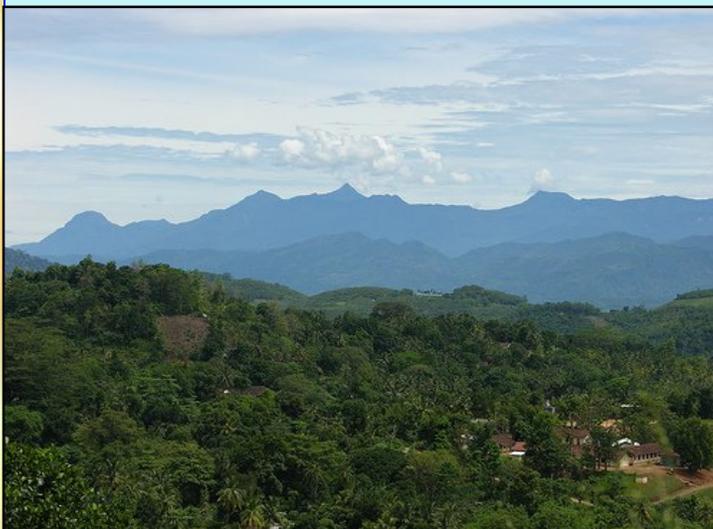
Government of Sri Lanka fully understands the power of the youth and they are investing in huge terms of money, time and resources in the youth that is a clear indication how much they are worth it and how much they are concerned about it, which will give them a great reward in the form of the skillful and energetic youth in the near future which will bring prosperity to the country. Their programmes and the ways by which they have supported their youth will help us to design and formulate such policies and the activities which will help in the improvement of the youth capital of our country when we will reach at the policy making positions. Unquote.



Sinharaja

The virgin rain forest of Sri Lanka

Sinharaja forest reserve is one of the least disturbed and biologically unique lowland rain forest in Sri Lanka. This forest covers an extent of about 11187 hectares from east to



west. The length of the forest is about 21km and width from North to South is about 3.7km. It was declared a Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) in 1978, as representative of tropical humid evergreen forest Eco system in Sri Lanka and has been recognized by UNESCO as part of its International Network of Biosphere reserves. It was declared a National wilderness area in 1988 and lately a world heritage site in 1989. It is situated in the southwest lowland wet zone of the country in the districts of Ratnapura, Galle and Matara. The average annual temperature of Sinharaja is 23.6 C. Annual rainfall is more than 2500mm. The rain fall is well distributed during two monsoons, May to July and October to December.

Flora of Sinharaja

The vegetation of Sinharaja may be described either as a tropical lowland rain forest or tropical wet evergreen forest. Some striking characteristics of the forest are the loftiness of the dominant trees, the straightness of their bole, the abundance of regeneration and the diversity of species. Average height of the trees varies between 35m - 40m. Some individuals rise even upto 50m. The vegetation of Sinharaja is that of humid wet evergreen forest type with a high degree of endemism. In fact some families such as Dipterocarpaceae show an endemism more than 90%. The untapped genetic potential of Sinharaja flora is enormous.

Out of the 211 woody trees and lianas so far identified within the reserve 139(66%) are endemic. Similarly, high levels of endemism are perhaps true for the lower plants like ferns, epiphytes as well. Out of 25 general endemic in Sri Lanka 13 are present in Sinharaja. The Total vegetation density, including trees, shrubs, herbs and seedlings has been estimated to be around 240,000 individuals per hectare, of which 95% comprise individuals of the ground layer below 1m in height. The density of trees, lianas above 30 cm girth at Breast height, Ranges between 600 to 700 individuals per hectare while the number of merchantable individuals of trees of girth greater than 150 cm ranges between 45-55 individuals per Hectare.

Fauna of Sinharaja

Studies on the fauna of Sinharaja have revealed that there is a high degree of endemism among the butterflies, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals are greater than 50%. There have been reports of sightings of a few animals in the eastern sector.



The most common deer species is the Sambhur, The Monk Deer and Barking

Deer are also found within the reserve. Leopards are very seldom sighted, but their frequent presence has been confirmed by tracks and other signs. Badger Mongoose and the Golden Palm Civet have been occasionally sighted. The most commonly seen primate is the Purple - faced Leaf Monkey. Although the elephants are said to be common in the past, there have not been reports of sightings during the last 15 years.



Out of the Birds recorded in the western sector of the reserve, 72% were resident non-endemic and 13% migrants. One of the most interesting and colorful spectacles to be found in the Sinharaja is the presence of mixed species of foraging bird flocks, a phenomenon commonly found in rain forests total of 100 such flocks were systematically observed, and studies have revealed that some flocks contained 48 species including 12 endemic species. The rare endemic birds to be seen in Sinharaja are the Red-faced Malkoha, the Sri Lanka Blue Magpie, the Ashy-headed Barbler, and the White-headed Starling and the Green-billed Coucal the rarest of Sri Lankan birds. The Agamids are the best represented group of reptiles, the most common being the Green Garden Lizard. Of special significance are the sightings of Calotes Lioplepis an arboreal species, the rarest of all agamids found in the island. The only Tortoise recorded in the reserve is the



Hard-shelled Terrapin, while of the species of skinks, the spotted skink can be seen often. Among the snakes The Green Pit Viper and Hump-nosed Viper are commonly found in this forest and are endemic to Sri Lanka. The amphibians are fairly well represented in the reserve and nine endemic species have been identified, the endemic Torrent toad and the common house toad.



In most streams and marshes, the Wrinkled frog and The Sri Lankan Reed frog is also found in Sinharaja. Ramanella palmataa rare endemic species is the only microhylid recorded so far while the yellow-banded Caecilian is the only apodan recorded.

It is desirable that you, who visit the forest, be sensitive to the need to conserve forests such as Sinharaja. Contrary to the chaos and congestion prevailing in urban areas, it is in forests that the quality of life is best expressed.

In addition man finds peace and tranquillity in forest. Allow yourself sufficient time to roam about within this nature's green cathedral and enjoy its beauty and majesty whether you be a photographer, artist, scientist or a nature lover.

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