



# PAKISTAN SRI LANKA FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE December 2009



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

### Sri Lanka nominated as No.1 Place to go in 2010

New York Times, lists Sri Lanka as the number one destination to travel in 2010



can lounge on poolside hammocks under palm trees or snorkel in its crystal-clear waters," the writer says

It also mentions the international airport that is being built in the South along with the many resorts and inns that are springing up along the coastline in the South as well as the East.

since the war that has ended in May last year.

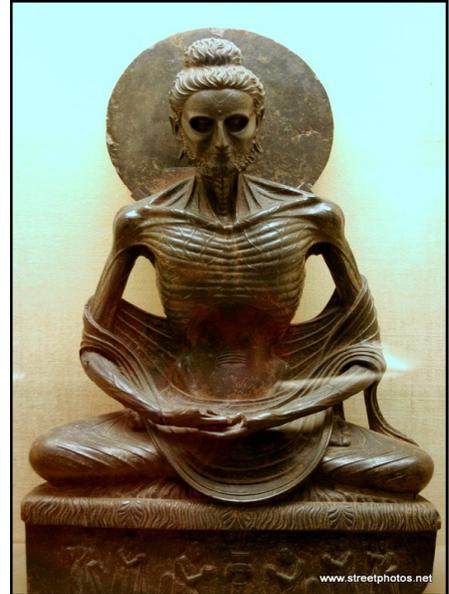
In 'The 31 Places to go in 2010' Sri Lanka is reviewed by New York Times' travel writer Lionel Beehner. He says, the conclusion of the war has opened the eyes of the world to "...this teardrop-shaped island off India's coast, rich in natural beauty and cultural splendors."

Featuring some of the most sought after natural attractions that the country boasts of, the writer also highlights some of the upcoming development projects that would add more convenience to the travellers.

"Among the most scenic, if difficult stretches to reach, is Nilaveli Beach in the North. While a few military check points remain, vacationers

"Decimated by the tsunami in 2004, the surrounding coastline is now teeming with stylish guesthouses and boutique hotels," Beehner says.

### A PAGE FROM HISTORY



The Gandhara Buddhist Statue belongs to Ancient Buddhist Civilisation and it is presently exhibited in Taxila Museum of Pakistan . The Statue was reverently taken to Sri Lanka on 12 May 2006 and it was received by Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka and the Buddhist Delegation

### Pakistan - Sri Lanka Friendship Group meeting in Karachi on 15 December 2009





## Sri Lanka Exports 4,000 Computers Monthly to Pakistan

Sri Lankan Ezy Infotech, has made public its intent to export 4,000 computers a month to Pakistan. This came on the heels of the company's announcement, some weeks back, that its first consignment of 600 units had left for Pakistan on September 9. Further, this goal would be aided by recent appointments of distributors - Decent Computers in Lahore, recipient of the initial order, and Optimum Technologies in Karachi, currently awaiting delivery of an order for 500 units - who have already "expressed an interest in marketing the entire range" of the company. This according to the company's Chief Executive for Sri Lankan operations, Shafraz Hamzadeen, who also signalled the company's desire to export locally made computers throughout Asia, 'barring India

where they already have a manufacturing plant and a very strong presence'. While indicating that the company had "a very aggressive marketing strategy", he also suggested that future exports would target the Maldives, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia, further hinting that the company had set its sight on Bangla-



desh next where it was "currently in the process of appointing a distributor".

Meanwhile, as Mr. Hamzadeen sees it, the company's 'biggest competition' would be from China because "they too manufactured low cost computers". He added: "However China has one great drawback with respect to their internal transportation, where sometimes it takes as much as three weeks for goods to reach the nearest port from the manufacturing plant while an EZY computer exported from Sri Lanka, could be sold within that particular country even before a Chinese computer leaves the Chinese port"; additionally claiming that his products 'could be sent to the country of export within 10 days of manufacture

## Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry is holding a seminar of Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Eager to reap maximum benefits from the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry is holding a seminar to discuss ways and means to give a boost to the two-way trade between both the countries. Scheduled to be held in early December of this year, the seminar would offer a good opportunity to the local businessmen to gain awareness and knowledge about the prospects for expansion of the two-way



trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has already doubled and touched \$400 million during the last three years as a result of the bilateral free trade agreement which the two countries signed on August 1, 2002, but became operative in June 2005. Under FTA, both Pakistan and Sri Lanka have granted duty free access to each other on several tariff lines, agreeing to eliminate

custom tariff on almost 90 per cent of products by June 2010. As per FTA's provisions, Sri Lanka has granted duty free access to Pakistani products on 102 tariff lines; while Pakistan has granted Sri Lanka duty free access on 206 tariff lines. By June 2010, Sri Lanka will eliminate the customs duty on 4,527 tariff lines out of 5,224 products at six digit level.

On the other hand, Pakistan has agreed to eliminate by June 2010 the customs tariff on 4,680 tariff lines at six digit levels, covering about 90 per cent of products. The elimination of customs duty will cover 69 per cent of the actually traded goods between the two countries.



# The Water falls of Sri Lanka - Splendor of Splash

Waterfalls are a delightful sight and we have a lot of them in our country. But do we really enjoy the beauty? Sirancee Gunawardena writes:

Sri Lanka is blessed with over one hundred waterfalls. The tallest is the Bambarakande Falls which cascades down 263 metres like liquid light. It is only four miles away from the Colombo-Bandarawela road in a forest glade, but it is not visited often, though well worth the trip.

Bambarakande is taller than the famous Diyaluma falls which is only 220 metres but thought to be the tallest waterfall in Sri Lanka. The Diyaluma or Diya Haluma collects its water from the Poonagala Oya in the vicinity of Koslanda and Wella-



waya. Located six miles from Koslanda and 13 miles from Wellawaya, its waters originate from the Mahakande Pass in Koslanda. You can see this waterfall if you stop a while on your way to Haputale and de-

Due to the geological formation of Sri Lanka, the central

highlands are surrounded by penneplains, plateaus and valleys. Rainfall sends a large volume of water hurtling down the precipitous edges of the high-



land mass. The up thrust millions of years ago has caused several penneplains to form, the highest being well over 6000 ft. It is in this area that the water is collected when there are showers and flows down along tributaries down the mountain slopes.

The Kirindi Oya Falls is the third largest waterfall. It cascades down 200 metres. It can be seen when you go from Ratnapura to Pelmadulla and get on to the Katupitiya road which goes by a tea factory. You have to go along a foot path just beyond the tea factory and if you do not mind the wild grass and reeds, you could go quite close to the waterfall.

Also along the Ratnapura road, on the Agalawatta crossroad which is very narrow and winding, one can see another beautiful waterfall. The Bopath Falls, a 30 metre fall which descends in three cascades, in the shape of a Bo leaf, is a spectacular sight. It can be seen from afar, from

the road opposite the falls. Bathing at the base of the waterfall is fraught with danger as many lives have been lost here. It takes only a three hours drive from Colombo to get there.

When I was in Wales, a waterfall by the exciting name of Devil's Falls was part of our tourist itinerary. After attending a concert and listening to a Welsh girl playing music on a golden harp, we set off to see the waterfall. We had to go a long way to get there and imagine our disappointment when we saw a relatively thin



trickle of water. It was nothing like our Dunhinda or Diyaluma which cascades down in torrents. If you happen to go to Venezuela, you could see the highest waterfall in the world. The waterfall is named "Angel" and it has a wonderful drop of 3,200 feet from the edge of the cliff. It comes down in a sheer drop and ends in a mist like



froth. The Kukenam waterfall also in Venezuela falls 2,000 feet. The Niagra is the best known waterfall in the world and thousands of tourists go to see it. In Sri Lanka, though we have wonderful waterfalls of rare scenic beauty, very few people bother to enjoy them.

Once, friends of mine set off early one morning to see the Duvili Ella waterfall. Most were hazy as to where exactly it was located, only that it was close to Kaltota near the Walawe Ganga. It has been described as one of the most unusual waterfalls in Sri Lanka. The fat, the short, the old, the sprightly and not so agile, all joined the expedition and alighted from the bus with great gusto at Kaltota, 28 km. off Balangoda. The organizer

time and some were fearful of the forest terrain. Everyone proceeded along a narrow path on the very edge of a precipitous incline. Breathless and frightened, they continued their journey till all of a sudden they came to a

Sinharaja forest. A not very well known waterfall is the Ellatota waterfalls near Bandarawela, where we always have a bath holding our heads to the thud of the waterfall and freezing the moment the icy water touched our warm bodies leaving us happy and refreshed.



The Dunhinda Falls is in the Uva Highlands in the Veddah country. It is connected with the romantic episode of a Princess Manik Bandara who fled with her commoner lover. They leapt from the top of this waterfall pledging their eternal love. The Dun-



place opposite the waterfall which fell from a broad rock 40 metres down in a haze of water. It was the most fantastic sight because unlike other waterfalls what you see is a misty cascade of droplets in a sheer veil of shimmering light. That is why it is called Duvili Ella - dust-like waterfall.

hinda cascades down in a beautiful stream of water which vaporises as it falls, hence its name. The Baker's Falls in the Horton Plains gets its water from the Belihul Oya. Waterfalls will never fail to delight. They are nature's jewels and a natural phenomenon of rare beauty. May they never be destroyed by man in his hurry for development. Picturesque scenic beauty is an integral part of our heritage. A beauty which touches our aesthetic sensibility and transforms our lives.

There are other waterfalls too like, Baker's Falls in Horton Plains, St. Claire's Falls which we never miss seeing each time we go upcountry by train; waterfalls in unexpected places such as the waterfall in the heart of the

of the trip had made prior arrangements and a soldier with a gun escorted the ladies as it was a politically tumultuous

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