

ජාතික නිදහස් දිනය
தேசிய சுதந்திர தினம்
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

4th February 2021

Consulate General of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
Sydney - Australia




1948 - 2021

73 years of Island Pride



Forward march of 73 years
Amidst prosperity, adversity
Challenges and victories.
Here we are today, united as ever
Taking off to a boundless sky
Celebrating freedom,

**Happy Independence day Sri Lanka, our island home!
We are proud to be SriLankan.**

 srilankan.com



World's Leading Airline to
the Indian Ocean 2020

 SriLankan Airlines





The other important task will be to create a progressive national economy and a pluralistic society; we have to create an environment that provides our youth and local entrepreneurs with new opportunities, gives everyone new hope and a sense of pride, where people can use their skills, talents and business acumen to be the world leaders in any field of their choice. It is only by empowering our people that we can strengthen and expand the national economy. Our responsibility is to create an enabling environment for a citizen to be prosperous and contented, leading to a happy family, and a law abiding society in Sri Lanka.

All over the world, environmental degradation has brought about havoc, and parts of our country have experienced severe drought and floods, simultaneously. It is therefore our responsibility to make our country, an example of sustainable development. At a time when nobody in the world thought it would be possible to bring peace to this country, we brought peace. Similarly, we will make Sri Lanka prosperous and beautiful. I have great faith in our collective ability to do so.

“ Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour ”

Gotabaya Rajapaksa
President
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

With Compliments
From

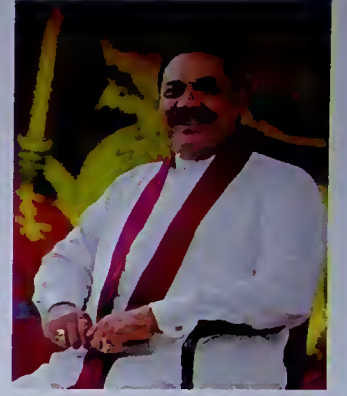
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Dr. Lakshman Jayaweera & Ramani Jayaweera



ශ්‍රී ලංකා අග්‍රාමාත්‍ය
இலங்கையின் பிரதம மந்திரி
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



4th February 2021

Independence Day message

It is with immense pride that we celebrate our 73rd Independence Day today. It is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the unfaltering spirit and commitment of our people in the fight for freedom.

Sri Lankans have stood the test of time, fighting many a battle, gallantly, in the long struggle to gain political, religious and cultural independence. Today, we are at a point in our journey where we must work collectively to ensure that the freedom we won, not once but twice, is a meaningful one for all Sri Lankans.

Despite the many challenges we faced as a nation last year, we have embarked on a journey and adopted policies that focus on the growth of the economy by giving preference to locally produced items. The 'Vistas of Prosperity' Manifesto has carefully studied and identified areas in each sector that need reform, to better serve Sri Lankans, not limiting, 'working towards a better tomorrow to achieve a prosperous Sri Lanka', to mere words, but a reality that is tangible and meaningful to all.

History tells the story of a nation and its people who have always stood resolute in battles against any local, foreign and terrorist outfits that threatened the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. Our people's dedication and patriotism to protect our beautiful motherland reflect how we, as a nation, have stood against numerous challenges and continue to do so in these trying times.

The biggest challenge the world faces today is the COVID-19 global pandemic. As we work collectively towards our shared quest to overcome these perilous times, I believe that the unfaltering Sri Lankan spirit will unite and stand strong in defeating this pandemic and emerge victorious.

In celebrating our Independence, we remember all those who have paid with life and limb to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our nation, time and time again. We also take a moment today, to remember those men and women who are the frontline soldiers battling this current pandemic we are facing, giving selflessly of their skills and time to protect Sri Lanka and her people.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all Sri Lankans for their contribution towards the success of our motherland. Happy 73rd Independence Day.

Mahinda Rajapaksa

Mahinda Rajapaksa
Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka





SLCS

SRI LANKA CRICKET SYDNEY INC:

10

YEARS IN THE SERVICE – 2010-2020

SYDNEY CRICKET CARNIVAL 2010



Spawned over 800 Sydney based cricket loving community Hosted the Sri Lankan national squad touring Australia.

CRICKETERS DINNER 2010



SLCS customary dinner and handing over of \$8,000 cheque to SLC chairman DS De Silva for outstation cricket development in Sri Lanka.

DR. SIRI KANNANGARA FELICITATION DINNER



Organize to felicitate renowned physician.

PRESENTATION OF CRICKETING GOODS



Presentation of Cricketing goods to outstation cricket development in Sri Lanka (SLC project) worth over \$40,000.

CRICKET WORLD CUP – 2015 AUS-NZ



This event raised funds of \$15,000 and donated cricket goods worth of \$12,000 for the outstation cricket development in Sri Lanka.

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF WINNING THE 1996 CRICKET WORLD CUP – 2016 -SYDNEY



This event raised donated \$ 22,000.00 to the "Former Cricket Players Association.

EVENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Bottom Row. **Left to Right:** Manjula Don Arachchige (Vice President) Chanaka Senanayake (President), Channa Atukorala (Vice President)

Top Row. **Left to Right:** Thushan Nadeeraka (Assistant Secretary), Hasitha Mahanama (General Secretary), Russell Arnold (Cricket Advisor), Roshan Wickramanayake (Committee Member)

THE LONGEST SERVED COMMITTEE



Bottom Row. **Left to Right:** Dr.Siri Kanangara (Patron - SLCS), Chanaka Senanayake (President -SLCS), Sunil De Silva (Legal Advisor- SLCS)

Top Row. **Left to Right:** Dr. Hasitha Mahanama (General Secretary- SLCS), Senanie De Silva (Event Coordinator - SLCS), Thanuja Jayakody (Treasurer - SLCS), Manjula Don Arachchige (Event Coordinator - SLCS), Russell Arnold(Cricket Advisor)

www.slcricketsydney.com.au



දිනේෂ් ගුණවර්ධන (පා.ම.) - විදේශ අමාත්‍ය
 தினேஷ் குணவர்த்தன (பா.உ.) - வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சர்
 Dinesh Gunawardena (M.P.) - Foreign Minister



අභියෝග ජය ගන්නට කැප වෙමු

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවට නිදහස ලබා ගෙන 73 වසරක් පිරීම නිමිත්තෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවාසී සියලු දෙනාටත් ලොවවටා සියලු ශ්‍රී ලාංකිකයන්ටත් සුඛ පැනීමට ලැබීම ගැන සතුටු වෙමි.

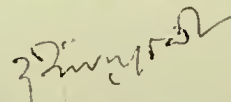
බටහිර විදේශ ආක්‍රමණ විසින් මෙරට වසර භාරසිය පනහක් පමණ යටත් විජිතයක් බවට පත් කොට ශ්‍රී ලාංකිකයන් සමාජ ආර්ථික හා දේශපාලන වශයෙන් පීඩාවට පත් කිරීමට එරෙහිව ලෝකයේ ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨ හා පොළොව ජාතියක් ලෙස ජාතික විමුක්ති අරගල රැසක් මෙහෙයවමින් නිදහස, ස්වාධීනත්වය හා ස්වෛරීත්වය උදෙසා අපේ අතීත ජාතික විරුවන් හා රණවිරුවන් කටයුතු කර ඇති ආකාරය අභිමානයෙන් සමරමු. පෘතුගීසි, ලන්දේසි හා ඉංග්‍රීසි ජාතීන්ගෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව නිදහස් කර ගැනීමේ දී සියලු හේද වලින් තොරව ශ්‍රී ලාංකිකයින් ලෙස එකමුතුව කටයුතු කර අපේ මාතෘ භූමිය නිදහස් කර ගැනීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් ඔවුන් තුළ තිබූ කැපවීම හා අධිෂ්ඨානය අප සිහිපත් කරන්නේ ගෞරවයෙනි. එසේ 1948 පෙබරවාරි 04 වන දා ලබා ගත් නිදහසේ හැත්තෑතුන් වන සංවත්සරය අද දින සමරනු ලබන්නේ මහත් වූ අභිමානයෙනි.

1948 පෙබරවාරි 04 වන දා අප දිනා ගත් නිදහස 1972 මැයි 22 දින ශ්‍රී ලංකාව ජනරජයක් බවට ප්‍රකාශ කිරීමෙන් බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය කිරීටයෙන් සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම ගැළවීමට අපට හැකි විය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ජනාධිපති අතිගරු ගෝඨාභය රාජපක්ෂ මැතිතුමා ගේ සෞභාග්‍යයේ දැක්ම ප්‍රතිපත්ති ප්‍රකාශනය යතාර්ථයක් බවට පත්කර ගෙන නිදහස්, ස්වාධීන, ස්වෛරී, සෞභාග්‍යමත් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවක් ගොඩනැගීමට අප සියලු දෙනා අද දිනයේ ද සපයා කරන්නේ හැත්තෑතුන් වසරක විවිධ අභියෝග ජයගනිමින් බව ද සිහිපතා ගනිමු.

මෙරටේ ස්වෛරීභාවය, ස්වාධීනත්වය හා භෞමික අඛණ්ඩතාවයට එරෙහිව ජාතික හා ජාත්‍යන්තරව ගොඩ නැගුණු අභියෝග ද අප සිහියේ තබා ගත යුතුය. වසර 30 ක් පුරාවට පැවැති බෙදුම්වාදී මිලේච්ඡ ක්‍රමෝපාදිය පරාජය කර ලෝකයේ රටවල් සමඟ මිත්‍ර සබඳතා පවත්වාගෙන ශ්‍රී ලංකාව සෞභාග්‍යමත් දේශයක් කරන්නට අධිෂ්ඨානාරඹිලි ගමනක යෙදී සිටිමු. ඒ අතර අද අප හා ලොව අනපේක්ෂිත ලෝක වසංගතයකට මුහුණ දී සිටින්නෙමු. ලෝකයම ගොදුරු කර ගෙන සිටින කොවිඩ් .19 වසංගතයෙන් ද අපට ජයගත හැකිය. ලෝකයේ දියුණු තාක්ෂණය හා දේශීය පාරම්පාරික අත්දැකීම් පාදක කර ගනිමින් මෙම වසංගතය පරාජය කරන්නට රජය ගෙන යන වැඩ පිළිවෙල සාර්ථක කර ගැනීමට සහය දීම අප සියලු දෙනා ගේ වගකීමකි.

අප දිනාගෙන ඇති නිදහස අඛණ්ඩව ස්වාධීන ස්වෛරී ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදී ඒකීය රාජ්‍යයක් ලෙස මධ්‍යස්ථ හා නොබැඳුණු විදේශ ප්‍රතිපත්තියට මුල් තැන දෙමින් සියලු රාජ්‍යයන් සමඟ මිත්‍රත්වයෙන් සහයෝගීතාව පවත්වා ගනිමින් ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ගෞරවය හා අභිමානය අනන්‍යතාවය රැකගෙන අපි ඉදිරියටම යමු.


 දිනේෂ් ගුණවර්ධන
 විදේශ අමාත්‍ය



HOPE

MEDICAL PRACTICE

For Continuity of Care for the Whole Family

Dr. Nilmini Rajadurai

MD, FRACGP, Diploma in Child Health (Syd), Diploma in Obstetrics & Gynaecology (DRANZCOG), Grad. Diploma in Family Medicine (Monash),
Diploma in Dermatology

(GP-Lady Doctor)

BULK BILLING

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Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri	8.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday	8.30 am - 3.30 pm
Saturday	9.30 am - 2.30 pm

Sundays & Public Holidays Closed



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(Opposite Bowman Hall, Blacktown)

5 minutes walk to Blacktown Railway Station

Council car parking available within 100 metres





GOVERNMENT HOUSE
SYDNEY



Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales**

Warm congratulations to the people of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan community in New South Wales on this 73rd Anniversary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Last year, I was honoured to join the Consul-General and the Sri Lankan community on the occasion of the Independence Day celebration. On that day, the University of Sydney's Great Hall was resplendent with the voices of Sri Lankan community leaders, families, traditional music and dance and the lighting of the traditional oil lamp which filled the Great Hall with warmth and colour.

Our two nations share a strong and continuing friendship. Each a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, we enjoy close and cooperative ties in trade and investment, in education, and in cultural and sporting exchange, including through our national love of cricket.

Our New South Wales Sri Lankan community is 42,000 people-strong and their contributions have been significant across all sectors of our community.

On behalf of the community of New South Wales, and personally, I am delighted to convey my congratulations on this 73rd Anniversary celebration.

Margaret Beazley

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC
Governor of New South Wales**



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Sri Lanka National Day

I am delighted to wish all residents of NSW of Sri Lankan heritage a wonderful 73rd National Day.

On this important day we acknowledge the many contributions of Sri Lankans residing in our great state.

Australia and Sri Lanka are bound by a strong historical past and share a commitment to strengthen our ties through arts and culture, sport and commerce.

Of course, National Day will be celebrated differently this year due to COVID-19 and I would like to thank your community for supporting the measures put in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The NSW Government is proud of the diversity of our people and thanks Australians of Sri Lankan heritage for their steadfast support for our thriving multicultural society.

I wish everyone celebrating this occasion a happy, healthy and safe Sri Lankan National Day.



**Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of NSW**

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Consul General of Sri Lanka
Sydney, New South Wales & Queensland, Australia



Independence Day Message from the Consul General of Sri Lanka in Sydney

Today all Sri Lankans come together to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of our independence. This is an ideal occasion to take stock of the progress that Sri Lanka has made as a nation since gaining independence and to pay our respects to the fallen heroes for their sacrifices in safeguarding the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of our motherland.

During the last 73 years, Sri Lanka has made tremendous progress in many fields including education, healthcare, eradication of poverty and generation of employment while wiping out ruthless terrorism in the country. The Present government led by the President His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa has made all efforts to further improve the livelihood of all Sri Lankans ensuring that the benefits of the country's development trickles down to all its citizens.

However, we too have had to face a number of challenges due to the Covid-19 global pandemic which has slowed down economic development activities in the entire world. Hence, we have had to undergo unprecedented difficulties due to the current situation. Despite the chaos created by the pandemic, Sri Lanka has been successful in containing the Covid-19 situation in the country and continuing to move forward.

The common enemies of progress of any nation are poverty and corruption. The present Sri Lankan government has been fighting to eradicate this menace completely from our society and to build a new era for the future generation.

I am confident that on this important occasion, all Sri Lankans together with the current Sri Lankan Government under the leadership of the President His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Prime Minister Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa will be able to march forward with courage and peace towards accomplishing the ultimate goals of real independence.

Lakshman Hulugalle
Consul General of Sri Lanka for New South Wales & Queensland



Consul General is with His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the President of Sri Lanka



Consul General is with Hon Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



Consul General is with Hon Basil Rajapaksa, former Minister of Economic Development of Sri Lanka



Consul General is receiving his letter of appointment from Hon Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka



Consul General was the chief guest at the Christmas Carols organized by the Sri Lanka Catholic Community in Sydney



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle is assuming duties in the Office



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle with the members of Jaffna University Alumna



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle is with Desmond de Silva, Sri Lankan Singer and Entertainer



Members of Austra – Lanka Muslim Association met Mr Lakshman Hulugalle, Consul General of Sri Lanka



Consul-General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Margaret Beazley, the Governor of New South Wales



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle paid a courtesy call on Hon. Dr. Geoffrey Lee, Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education of New South Wales



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle presents his letter of appointment to Ms Trudy Witbreuk, Director/DFAT NSW Office



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle met with Indian Consul General Mr Manish Gupta



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle was with Hon Dr Geoff Lee, Minister of Skills and Tertiary Education of NSW, at the 'Book and launching function of Mr Paul McKenzie and Mrs Nim Gholkar.



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle paid a visit to Mahamevna Buddhist Temple and met Ven. Katugastota Soma Thero



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle at the Sydney Airport for repatriation of Sri Lankans from Australia during Covid 19 in 2020



Mr Lakshman Hulugalle, Consul General of Sri Lanka in Sydney had a meeting with Ms. Shemara Wickramanayake, CEO of Macquarie Group



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle visited the Australian Buddhist Temple in Katoomba and met Ven. Kovidia Thero.



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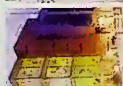
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APRIL	19.04.2021	26.05.2021
MAY	17.05.2021	24.06.2021
JUNE	21.06.2021	28.07.2021
JULY	19.07.2021	26.08.2021
AUGUST	23.08.2021	30.09.2021
SEPTEMBER	20.09.2021	27.10.2021
OCTOBER	18.10.2021	25.11.2021
NOVEMBER (1)	01.11.2021	08.12.2021
NOVEMBER (2)	08.11.2021	15.12.2021
NOVEMBER (3)	15.11.2021	22.12.2021
NOVEMBER (4)	22.11.2021	29.12.2021
DECEMBER	13.12.2021	20.01.2022



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CONSULATE GENERAL OF SRI LANKA IN SYDNEY

The Members of Staff Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Sydney January 2021

Seated L to R:

Ms. D M Duleeka Jayathilake, Mr. Lakshman Hulugalle,
Mr. M M Abdul Raheem, Ms. Hemamali Gunawardena.

Standing L to R:

Mr. Chaminda Priyajanka, Mr. Surendra Jayalath,
Ms. Nimali Perera, Ms. Shayameera G, Mr Kedsew Kumlign

Consulate General of Sri Lanka
Level 11, No. 48, Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Tel : (02) 92238742 / 92238729 • **Fax :** (02) 92238750

Website : <http://slcgsydney.org>



Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/SriLankaConsulateSydney> • **Twitter :** <https://twitter.com/SLinSydney>

Office Hours : 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. • **Consular Hours :** 9.30 a.m. - 2.30 p.m.

The Sri Lanka Consulate Office in Sydney was established in November 1968, and the Government of Sri Lanka in January 1999, upgraded the Sydney Mission to a Consulate General Office as a fully-fledged Sri Lankan Diplomatic Mission.

Over 60,000 Sri Lankans and Sri Lankan origin people are living in New South Wales and over 20,000 Sri Lankans and Sri Lankan origin people are living in Queensland. The Consulate General Office provides consular assistance including issuance of new passports, temporary travel documents, attestation of documents, police clearance, verification and renewal of the Driving Licence, Registration of Birth, Marriage and Death, Dual Citizenship, issuance of both visit and entry visas.

The Consulate General Office has also been handling trade, tourism and investment promotional activities in the New South Wales and the Queensland States as well as trade related matters in Australia.

In addition, the Consulate General office has been coordinating activities with Sri Lankan communities including Religious organisation, Cultural, Charity. Alumni and Sinhala language schools to promote public centric diplomacy and the welfare of Sri Lankan students and community members in New South Wales and Queensland.

Name of the Consul Generals assigned in Sydney.

Designation	Name of the Officer	Duration of the Service
Consul General	Mr. Lakshman Hulugalle	24.08.2020 – Upto date
Consul General	Mr. M H M N Bandara	16.10.2019 - 23.08.2020
Consul General	Mr. Lal Wickrematunge	16.10.2015 - 14.10.2019
Consul General	Mr. Bandula P Jayasekara	14.11.2012 - 08.01.2015
Consul General	Mr. P.D. Fernando	24.09.2009 - 30.12.2011
Acting Consul General	Ms. Gothami Indikadahena	15.01.2006 - 02.10.2009
Acting Consul General	Mr. S.A.M.A.W.R. Senanayake	07.07.2004 - 19.01.2006
Consul General	Mr. S. Abeywarna	01.06.1999 - 23.10.2002



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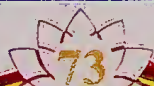
73rd Sri Lankan National Day Celebrations

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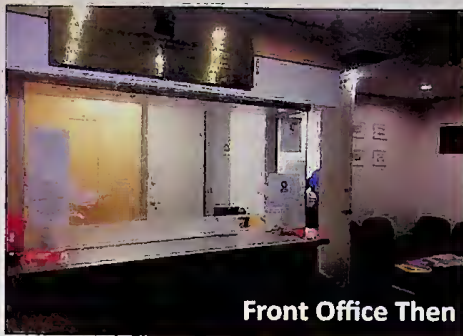
For more details Contact

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SYDNEY



Modernisation of customer service facilities at the Sri Lanka Consulate Sydney



Front Office Then



Board Room Then

At the request of
Mr. Lakshman Hulugalle,
Consul General of Sri Lanka in Sydney,
M/s Coombes Property Group in Sydney
refurbished the front office, Conference Hall,
Consul General's Room,
and part of the office premises and
presented to the Consulate General Office
as a Complementary.



Front Office Now



Board Room Now

The Consulate has been in operation in Sydney since 1999. During this period, no steps were taken to update and modernise the facilities in the Consulate. However, one of the first projects undertaken by the current Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle was to upgrade and modernise the Consulate, including the improvement of the reception area, conference hall, main office and the Consul General's office in the premises.



CG Office Now

A special mention must be made of the fact that the cost of these upgrades amounting to over AUD45,000 is being borne by the Management of the building and not the Government of Sri Lanka. This was as a result of the successful negotiations carried out by the new Consul General Mr Hulugalle with the management. In addition, for the first time since the inception of the Consulate in Sydney the Consul General has been successful in negotiating a reduction of the rent for the Consulate premises for the next five years resulting in a huge saving in costs for the Government of Sri Lanka. The negotiations undertaken by Mr Hulugalle has saved the Government of Sri Lanka over AUD250,000.

Steps have been taken to modernise not only the facilities but also the services provided by the Sri Lanka Consulate, Sydney Australia to enable a more efficient and speedy service to its customers.

The modernisation of the customer services at the Consulate was undertaken by the current Consul General as a result of feedback received from Sri Lankan expatriates and local members of the public.

As part of the new changes, the Consulate has extended its hours of service by 1.5 hours from the previous service hours of 9:30 am – 1:30 pm to 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

The previous practice of accepting cash only for its services by the consulate, was considered an inconvenience by many as majority shifted to cashless payments in Australia. The Consulate has now discontinued this outdated practice in favour of accepting EFT and Credit Card payments for its services.

The Consulate also now provides all necessary forms and documents for its services to the customers within its premises, thus eliminating the inconvenience caused to its customers who previously had to make copies of these documents outside the Consulate.



Abdul Raheem, Consul Commercial,
SLCG/Sydney

Sri Lanka – An Emerging Economy in South Asia

Sri Lanka has always enjoyed the benefit of its strategic location, being at the crossroads of the major global shipping lanes and the fast growing economies. Sri Lanka is at the epicentre of a substantial portion of the next 20 years' of world economic growth.

While the investment opportunities in various sectors are open, Sri Lanka has also put in place high-quality infrastructure to facilitate investment in the areas of specific investor interest. Moreover, specific investment zones, in the form of a mega industrial zone linked to the Hambantota port, the Colombo International Financial City (660 acres of reclaimed land, adjacent to the Colombo port), and specific new industrial parks targeting agricultural, manufacturing and IT exports represent the necessary backbone infrastructure for high-return generating investment projects.

On IT/BPM sector, Sri Lanka continues to build out a quality talent pool and a skilled workforce. Sri Lanka is ranked number one in South Asia in the 'Human Capital-Skills' criteria in the Global Competitiveness Index 2019.

Sri Lanka continues to develop more FTAs with large global economic blocs to provide investors with large market access. Sri Lanka is committed to open trade, which provides global investors with large market access through their operations in the country. There has been significant momentum on this front, with the FTA with Singapore in 2018 opening up the broader ASEAN market of 650 Million, while a lucrative FTA with China is also in the advanced stages. Sri Lanka also has in place the EU GSP (450 Million market), and notably is the only country to have FTAs with both India and Pakistan (duty free access to 1.6 Billion consumers). The unique and combined market opportunity available for businesses via these Trade Agreements is unmatched anywhere in South Asia.

International investors are also encouraged by the unprecedented political stability that Sri Lanka enjoys today, which paves the path to an environment of policy consistency over the medium to long term. The recently passed 2021 budget provides meaningful tax concessions and incentives to foreign investors across sectors and investment sizes, while also emphasizing a commitment to simplify regulations and improve investor protections.

Sri Lanka's Trade and Economic Relations with Australia

The bilateral trade and economic relations continues to grow despite of challenging times created by Covid 19 pandemic in the world. Two way trades between Sri Lanka and Australia stood at USD 352 Million in 2019 and the balance of trade was in favour of Sri Lanka to an amount of USD 47 Million. Sri

Lanka's merchandise exports to Australia were USD 200 Million in 2019 and the top ten exports from Sri Lanka include Apparel, Tea, rubber tyres & rubber gloves, Coconut products, Virgin Coconut oil, Spices, Ethnic food items, Seafood etc.

Covid 19 pandemic has hit Sri Lanka's exports to Australia at the beginning of the coronavirus spreading in early 2020. It went below USD 5 Million monthly exports in April 2020. However, exports from Sri Lanka to Australia had the V shape recovery and reached to a satisfactory level of USD 20.76 Million in December 2020. Total Sri Lanka's exports to Australia reached to USD 178 Million compared to USD 200 Million in 2019 registering slight decrease of 12.9% due to unrepresented crises of Covid 19 pandemic.

Sri Lanka Consulate General Office in Sydney continues to work with relevant stakeholders in Australia and Sri Lanka to enhance Sri Lanka's exports into Australia and organized series of webinars with the Export Development Board, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka, Victorian Chamber of Commerce and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to interact with Sri Lankan manufacturers and exporters to understand the Australian market conditions and requirements during the Covid 19 crisis that affected a number of economies in the world.

Due to Covid 19 Pandemic, tourist arrivals from Australia was affected significantly as there has been a ban on Australian travel overseas and the Australian international borders are closed until further notice. Opening the international borders would be the last to ease by the Australian Federal Government.

Australia was Sri Lanka's 5th largest source of market for Sri Lanka tourism in 2019 and received 92,674 tourists from Australia. However 20,283 Australian tourists visited Sri Lanka from January to March 2020 before international borders closed due to coronavirus pandemic.

In order to keep the destination presence among the Australian travellers, Sri Lankan Missions in Australia continue to organise Webinars and publicities in promoting Sri Lanka Tourism. It is a considered view that travel a bubble could be reached between the two countries as Sri Lanka has already opened its airports for international tourists' arrivals from 21st January 2020. Since all safety Covid 19 protocol guidelines are followed, it is expected that Australian travellers could also resume their holidays in Sri Lanka soon.

Sri Lanka and Australia signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) in 2017 with an aim to deepen economic cooperation between the two countries through establishment of the Joint Trade and Investment Committee. Next Senior Officials' talks to be held in Australia when both countries agree on a mutual convenient time.



Consul General Mr Lakshman Hulugalle is meeting with Business Community in Sydney

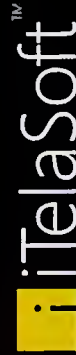


Consul General is meeting with The Chairman and CEO of Seafood Importers Association of Australia



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- ▶ Setting up SMSF
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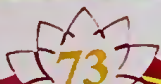
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Happy Sri Lankan Independent Day!"

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