

74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



Hon'ble. Droupadi Murmu
President of India



EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar called on H.E. President Ranil Wickremesinghe and reaffirmed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Neighbourhood First policy.



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



EAM discussed bilateral cooperation with particular emphasis on transport and education sectors with H.E. Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

“ I would like to underline that India is a reliable neighbour, a trustworthy partner, one who is prepared to go the extra mile when Sri Lanka feels the need. ”

Dr. S. Jaishankar
- External Affairs Minister of India



Ministerial delegation led by Hon'ble Foreign Minister Ali Sabry met EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar to discuss India-Sri Lanka cooperation in infrastructure, connectivity, energy, industry, and health.

Message from High Commissioner



Ayubowan, Vanakkam, Namaskar!!

Greetings to all Indians in Sri Lanka and to my Sri Lankan brothers and sisters on the occasion of India's 74th Republic Day.

This year, Sri Lanka also celebrates 75 years of its Independence and India and Sri Lanka mark 75 years of establishment of diplomatic ties. India celebrated 75 years of her Independence last year. Both India and Sri Lanka, close neighbours and friends, now look forward to the next 25 years for enhanced cooperation for progress and prosperity as well as peace.

Over the past year, India rendered unprecedented financial assistance of around USD 4 billion for the people of Sri Lanka. This year, India became the first bilateral creditor of Sri Lanka to convey financing assurance to International Monetary Fund and support restructuring of Sri Lanka's debt.

These steps have reinforced India's commitment for the well-being of Sri Lanka in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Neighbourhood First policy.

The recent visit of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to Sri Lanka has opened avenues for further cooperation through investment in infrastructure, manufacturing and promoting connectivity. India was Sri Lanka's largest trading partner in 2021. Sri Lanka's exports to India have also grown. Use of Rupees for trade settlement is further helping Sri Lanka's economy. These are concrete steps to help Sri Lanka's economic recovery and growth.

I am glad to note that India was once again the largest source of tourists for Sri Lanka last year. Resumption of Chennai-Jaffna flights is yet another step in bringing the people of the two countries closer. Ferry services between the two countries will bolster this further.

Recent developments in India-Sri Lanka ties have strengthened our friendship and all-round cooperation. At the same time, the two countries also remain vigilant to address common challenges, especially in maritime security domain.

As Sri Lanka celebrates a momentous day on 4 February 2023, I wish the people of this beautiful country a very happy 75th Independence Day, and convey that India will continue to stand with Sri Lanka.

- Gopal Baglay



H.E. President Ranil Wickremesinghe attended the Voice of Global South Summit's Concluding Leaders' Session hosted by PM Narendra Modi.

India's multipronged support of USD 4 billion in 2022

- USD 2.4 Billion Forex assistance
- USD 55 Million for fertilizer
- USD 800 Million for food and essentials
- USD 700 Million for Fuel
- Donation of > 125 tons of medicine
- Kerosene for fishermen
- Dry rations for the needy

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ACCELERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN SRI LANKA

Financing assurance

India is the first creditor nation to convey written financing assurance to IMF in order to clear the way forward for Sri Lanka and pave way for the IMF programme.



India decided not to wait on others but to do what we believe is right. We extended financing assurances to the IMF to clear the way for Sri Lanka to move forward.

— External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar in Sri Lanka, January 2023

Force multiplier: INR Trade

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided in July 2022 to permit international trade settlement in INR through Vostro/Nostro accounts.
- CBSL has included INR as a 'Designated Foreign Currency'.
- Applications of five Sri Lankan banks have been approved by RBI for trade settlement in INR
- Such settlements have already commenced.



Investing in next generation: Higher Education

- Launch of IIT Madras' Masters courses in Sri Lanka.
- Agreement signed between SLTC and IIT Madras in October 2022.



Generating employment and boosting local economy

- India is a lead investor in Sri Lanka.
- Overall investment of about US\$ 2.2 billion.
- Largest source of FDI to Sri Lanka in 2021.
- Indian investments continued despite recent economic challenges.



- HCL Technologies generated about 2000 jobs in Sri Lanka with more than 90% for locals.
- Colombo West International Terminal Pvt. Ltd. at the Colombo port would involve an investment of more than US\$ 650 million.
- Investments in real estate and pharma continues.

Enabler: Connectivity

- The airlink between Chennai and Jaffna resumed.
- First flight from Chennai to Jaffna on 12 December 2022.
- Deepening interactions between the people of India and Sri Lanka.
- Enhancing economic prosperity.



Boosting exports

15% increase in Sri Lankan Exports to India

Year-on-year increase from USD 512 million to USD 588 million (April to September)



Source: <https://commerce.gov.in/trade-statistics/export-import-data-bank-annual/>

Shared priorities

India and Sri Lanka have an in-principle agreement for a bilateral renewable energy framework



Joint Venture & Shareholders' Agreement signed for Development of a Solar Power Plant at Sampur.



India was Sri Lanka's largest trading partner in 2021.

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JANUARY 26, 2023



INDIA

A bright spot on the global stage!



“ The IMF sees India as a bright spot in the global economy. OECD has said that India will be among the fastest-growing economies in the G20 groups this year. Institutions and credible voices that track the global economy have unprecedented confidence in India. The same optimism is also shared by global investors. Today, India is receiving record-breaking FDI. ”

Prime Minister Modi
at Global Investors Summit 2023.

“ India better positioned to navigate Global headwinds than other major emerging economies. ”
- World Bank

“ This is not only India's decade but India's century ”
- McKinsey

PRESIDENCY OF THE G20

(from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.)

“ India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive. Let us join together to make India's G20 Presidency a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope. Let us work together to shape a new paradigm - of human-centric globalisation. ”

Prime Minister
Narendra Modi



India takes over SCO rotating presidency for 2023



SECURE SCO
SECURITY | ECONOMY | CONNECTIVITY | UNITY | RESPECT | ENVIRONMENT

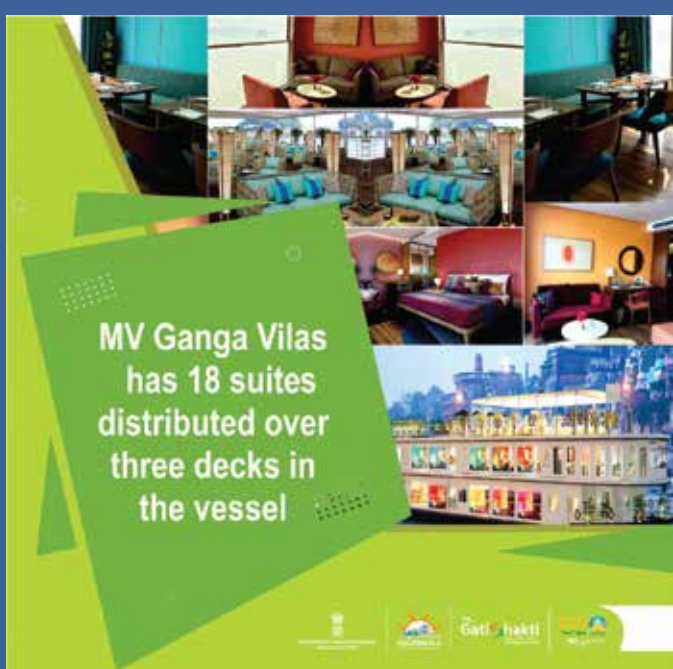
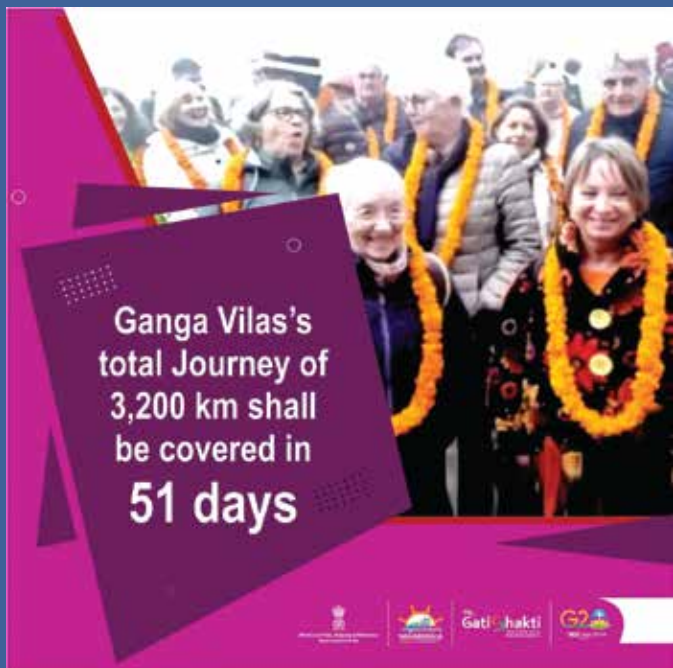
A Leader

- First in smartphone data consumption.
- First in Global FinTech.
- First in IT-BPM outsourcing distribution.
- Third largest aviation market.
- Third largest auto market.

“ India is moving towards becoming the world's third largest economy in the next 4 to 5 years. ”
- Morgan Stanley

Ganga Vilas - World's Longest River Cruise

- The cruise travels from Varanasi on River Ganga to Dibrugarh on River Brahmaputra.
- It covers several historical destinations such as Bodh Gaya, Kashi, Vikramshila, Patna Sahib and Majuli, among others.



74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



A people-centric partnership: **DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

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, ongoing projects include the landmark Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity Project. Ceilings prescribed in the guiding framework governing grant projects were doubled in January 2023, during the visit of External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar.



Catering to diverse needs - Medicine, dry rations and more.



Ceilings for grant projects were doubled in January 2023.

Three projects were virtually inaugurated in January 2023



- Kandyan Dance Academy.
- 300 houses under Indian Housing Project.
- Model village Housing in Badulla and Anuradhapura districts.



125 state-of-the-art SUVs were handed over for use by Sri Lankan police in December 2022.

ICONIC LANDMARKS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



Commencement of track rehabilitation work from Maho to Omanthai in January 2023.



50 buses were ceremonially handed over to Sri Lanka Transport Board by EAM in January 2023.

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CAMARADERIE BEYOND BOUNDARIES: DEFENCE COOPERATION

The hallmark of strong defence relations between India and Sri Lanka is the bonding between the Armed Forces. This key pillar of bilateral cooperation encompasses myriad activities in diverse domains spanning from capacity building and joint exercises to supply of military equipment, high-level visits and structured bilateral mechanisms like annual dialogues, among others.

MEN IN ACTION



- ▶ Ocean sailing training/ experience for Sri Lanka Navy in March 2022 by five Indian Navy vessels.
- ▶ INS Sharda with Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) onboard, provided specialized training in March 2022.
- ▶ INS Sharda also carried Sri Lanka Navy manufactured 10 Tonnes Wave Rider Boat for transshipment to Seychelles for their Defence Forces.
- ▶ Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship Suraksha took part in the Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VIII) in April 2022 in Goa.
- ▶ Visit of four ships of Indian Navy's Western Fleet in March 2022.

VISITS



▶ Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar in December 2022.



▶ Hon'ble State Minister for Defence, Mr Premitha Bandara Tennakoon took part in DefExpo 2022 in October 2022.

GUIDING FRAMEWORKS



▶ Colombo Security Conclave: 6th Deputy NSA-level meeting in July 2022 in Kochi.



▶ 32nd IMBL meeting between Navies and Coastguards on 4 November 2022 onboard SLNS Sayura.

THE HUMANE TOUCH



▶ Deployment of Indian Naval Ship Gharial in April and June 2022 for expeditious delivery of medical supplies to Sri Lanka.



▶ Close to 1000 tons of Oxygen were provided by India to Sri Lanka during the peak of COVID-19



▶ Artificial Limb Camps organized in different parts of Sri Lanka have catered to more than 2500 persons in 2022.

CAPACITY BUILDING



- ▶ India is largest provider of foreign training assistance to Sri Lanka Armed Forces.
- ▶ Training for personnel across levels;
- ▶ National Defence College - imparting training to Sri Lanka for half a century

POWERING THEM FORWARD



▶ Gifting life-saving equipment and training aids in December 2022.



▶ Handing over of SLNS Sagara spares on grant basis in March 2022.

FUTURISTIC PARTNERSHIP



▶ India has committed to provide 4000 T Floating Dock and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.



▶ India gifts Dornier aircrafts for strengthening maritime security.

74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



People to people exchanges



Congratulations!



Mr. Kumar Nadesan was conferred the coveted Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award by Hon'ble President of India Droupadi Murmu.

THANK YOU INDIA



We would have been done and dusted if not for Indian help. We are deeply grateful for it.

— Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Ali Sabry at Thank You India event, August 2022.



Tour of the Indian Women's cricket team to Sri Lanka, 2022



People of Sri Lanka from all walks of life came together to express the nation's gratitude for India's unprecedented support in 2022.

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



- Almost one fifth of tourists in 2022 have been from India
- 123,004 arrivals from India
- Contributes to economic recovery



72,309 visas

were issued in 2022 for Sri Lankans travelling to India

74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES FOR SRI LANKAN STUDENTS

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme

- 120 scholarships offered annually for higher studies in India.
- Students can pursue undergraduate courses in most disciplines.
- Engineering, Science, Business, Economics, Commerce, Humanities, Arts and more.

Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme

- 25 scholarships every year.
- IT/BE/B. Tech
- Top-ranked institutes in India.

Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme

- 50 scholarships every year.
- Masters Level Courses.
- Preference given to Agriculture, MSc, M Tech.

Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme

- 05 ICCR Scholarships.
- PhD Courses.

AYUSH Scholarships

- About 10-12 scholarships offered every year.
- Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha and Unani.
- Undergraduate, Masters and Research programmes.

Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust (CEWET)

- Scholarships are awarded to GCE Advance Level (A Level) and University students.
- Stipend for A level students for two years or till completion of studies.
- University students are provided stipend till they finish their graduation.

Highly Subsidized Self-Financed Slots

- 4 to 5 slots for Medicine.
- Reputed Government institutions.
- Undergraduate courses in Medicine (MBBS), Pharmacy (B. Pharm.) etc.

Study in India Program

- Diverse domains.
- 100,000 plus seats available.

Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)

- Available for children of both PIOs and OCIs.
- Undergraduate courses.

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

74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



ENHANCING COOPERATION IN CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT



ITEC Day Celebration-2022



St. Stephen's Young Leaders' Fellowship Programme, 2022.



Training Programme on Investigation of Allegations of Bribery & Corruption for CIABOC officers of Sri Lanka



Textile Testing & Quality Control at South India Textile Research Association

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by Government of India in 1964 as an assistance programme. This fully funded Programme, covering airfare, accommodation, study tours, course fee and other allowances, has grown considerably over the years and along with its sister program SCAAP (Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme), 161 countries across the globe are invited to gain from sharing of the Indian developmental experience. Under capacity building, which is an important pillar of ITEC, professionals from these countries are offered tailor-made training courses in both civilian and defence spheres across 24 different streams in reputed institutions in India.

Sri Lanka is among the most important ITEC partner countries and 402 fully-funded slots are offered every year to Sri Lankan Government personnel and other nationals for short-term training programs towards enhancing their skill-set. The courses are spread over a multitude of sectors such as Management & Leadership, International Trade, Tourism, Textiles, Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Hydrocarbon, IT, English language etc. The Programme draws an enthusiastic response in Sri Lanka every year.

On the request of the Government of Sri Lanka, customized capacity building training courses were organized for Ministry of Education, Police Department and Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption. 420 Sri Lankan officials benefited from these customized courses.

ITEC was modified into e-ITEC during COVID-19 in order to ensure continuity. Taken together, 422 participants from Sri Lanka attended various ITEC programs virtually and physically during 2021-22.

Prestigious St. Stephen's College started their Young Leaders' Neighbourhood-First Fellowship Programme in 2022. Largest number of participants (seven) in the Programme were from Sri Lanka.

Strengthening people to people connect: INDIA-SRI LANKA FOUNDATION

Since its inception in 1998 as an inter-governmental initiative, the India - Sri Lanka Foundation (ISLF) has been continuously fostering ties between the two countries through economic, education, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation. As a result, the ISLF has been instrumental in establishing greater people to people contacts. The specific focus of the ISLF pivots around supporting creative initiatives and bringing together the youth and the civil societies of the two countries. Till date, the Foundation has funded more than 300 projects and currently 25 projects in the areas of research, art & culture, social work, science and technology etc. are in progress. The ISLF has supported youth exchange programmes and has also promoted the pursuit of higher studies as well as research, besides supporting a variety of cultural programmes.

Recently, ISLF has provided a financial assistance to Mr. Sujith Yamasinghe, Senior Lecturer, Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management to conduct workshops and field visits to enhance the standards of National and Chauffeur tourist guides under the "Explore Ramayana in Southern Sri Lanka" project, in the aim of strengthening the Sri Lankan tourism industry. Furthermore, the foundation also extended support of SLR.500,000/- to Sri Palee Campus of University of Colombo for setting up the "Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Gold Medal" for the best student as well as extended assistance to the Sinidu Foundation in support of their efforts to meet sanitary needs of underprivileged women in Sri Lanka.

ISLF has also funded many social events such as donation of 300 white canes, scholarships for 50 students and 100 radios to visually impaired citizens through Welfare Organization of Visually Impaired Women and Student Exchange Programmes. It is the constant endeavor of ISLF to collaborate continuously with the people of Sri Lanka to further strengthen people to people linkages between the two countries.



H.E Mr. Gopal Baglay, Co-Chairperson of ISLF handing over Cheque of SLR.500,000/- to Sinidu Foundation (2021).



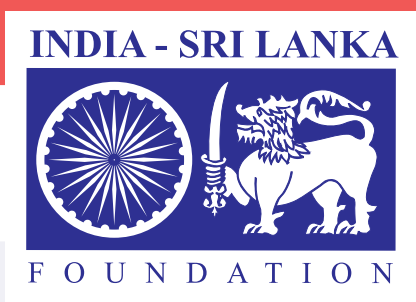
A dance theatre, "Parama Padam - Life's Game of Snakes and Ladders" by MohanapriyanThavarajah (2022)



Chain of workshops and field visits under the "Explore Ramayana in Southern Sri Lanka" project to enhance the skills of tourist guides (2022)



Online sign language course to train parents of deaf children by ESCO Rehab (2022)



74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



Bonds cutting across generations- cultural linkages

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), cultural arm of the High Commission of India has been reinforcing linkages in cultural, linguistic and multiple other spheres between the people of India and Sri Lanka for close to 25 years through unique initiatives. The cultural centre has emerged to be a hub of cultural activities through its wide-ranging out-reach and in-house initiatives, which includes cultural performances, festivals, seminars, workshops, lectures, and exhibitions, among several others.

Commitment to the next generation

- Provides scholarships to talented Sri Lankan students for pursuing their studies in India in Dance, Music, Fine Arts and Hindi.

Honing talent



- Classes in Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Hindustani and Carnatic vocal, Violin, Sitar, Tabla, Hindi and Yoga.
- SVCC continued to impart these lessons even during COVID-19 through virtual and hybrid modes.
- Taking these classes to rural pockets in collaboration with educational institutions and Pirivenas.



Country-wide art competition



- Around 200 students.
- Exhibition and workshops.
- Creating beautiful environment-friendly art works from waste material.



International Day of Yoga

At the iconic Independence Square on 21 June 2022 in the gracious presence of H.E Ranil Wickremesinghe.

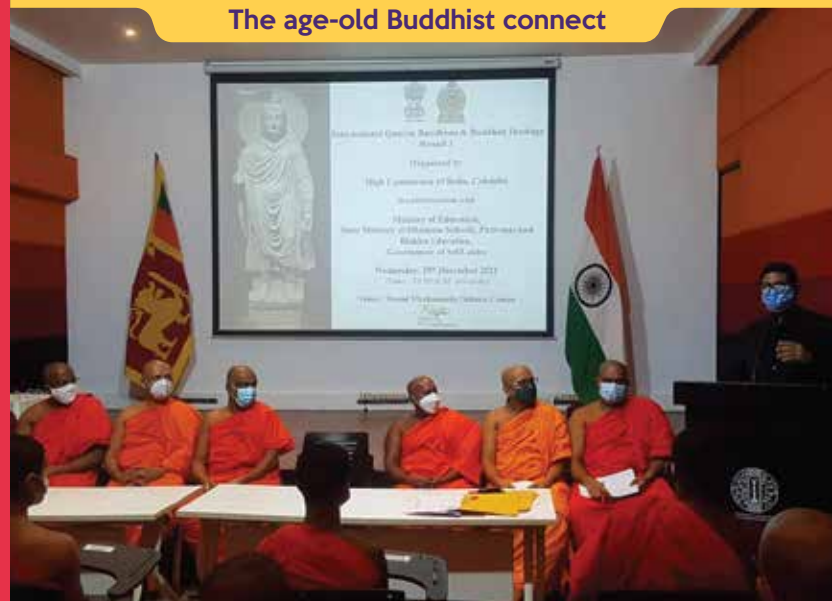


Jataka Tales Audio Book in Sinhala



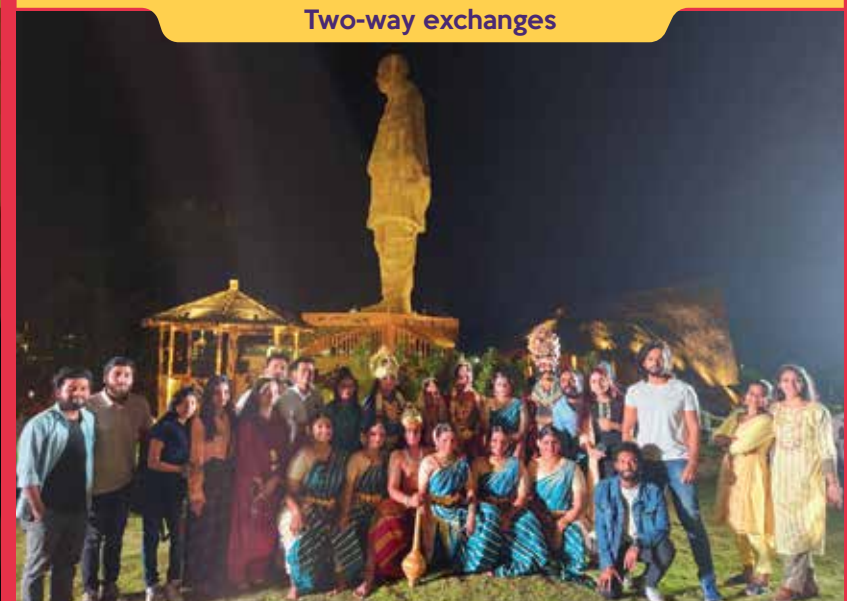
for the visually impaired under the theme 'Good Advice' with 50 Jataka Tales; second volume launched on 02 December, 2022; first volume was released on Posen Poya day.

The age-old Buddhist connect



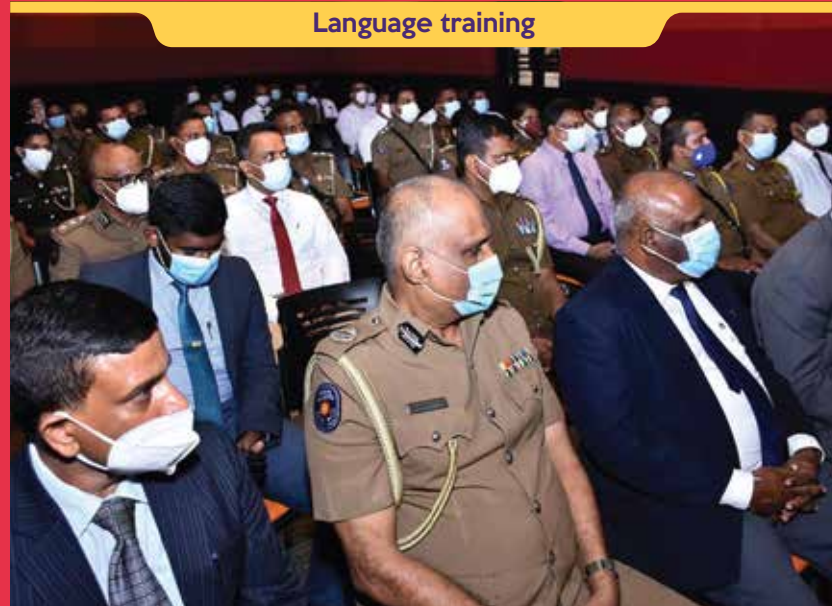
-Monthly Dharma discourses; the quiz on Buddhism attracted 6000 participants from Pirivenas across the country.

Two-way exchanges



Natya Kala Mandhir performed at Vishva Van, Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat on 26 October, 2022.

Language training



Conversation Proficiency Certificate Course in Hindi for Sri Lanka Police.



Dance group of Sri Sathya Sai Kalalayam from Kandy participated in the National Tribal Dance Festival - 2019 held in Chhattisgarh state of India.

74th Republic day of INDIA

JANUARY 26, 2023



OUR Activities AROUND Sri Lanka

