



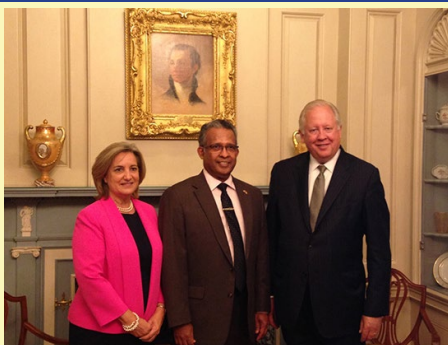
August 2017

FAREWELL FOR AMBASSADOR PRASAD KARIYAWASAM IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Though I wind up as Ambassador to the USA, I want to say that I will forever remain an Ambassador for 'U.S.-Sri Lanka relations.' I believe there is so much that our two countries, though geographically distant, can achieve for mutual benefit", Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam said addressing a distinguished gathering at a farewell reception hosted by the U.S. State Department on August 9.

The State Department hosted the reception for a select group of well wishers of Sri Lanka, including U.S. government representatives, Washington-based foreign diplomats, and representatives from business establishments, civil society and non-governmental organizations, in honour of the Sri Lankan Ambassador who leaves the U.S. capital to take up a new assignment as the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Assistant Chief of Pro-



ocol Gladys Boluda recalled the Ambassador's close association with the State Department in the past three years and remarked that the turnout at the reception was a statement to his accessibility to his peers and interlocutors at all times. Echoing a long-held view in the State Department that governments send their best to serve in Washington D.C., she said this was certainly justified in the case of Ambassador Kariyawasam, whose next

assignment in Colombo further strengthened this claim.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador Thomas Shannon observed that Ambassador Kariyawasam was witness to two transitions in administration during his tenure – one in Sri Lanka in 2015, the other in the U.S. in 2017 – and was able to navigate both skillfully for the benefit of both countries. *More*

SRI LANKA SHARES EXPERIENCES AT UNITED STATES HOUSE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP EVENT

Sri Lanka was accorded the privilege of sharing the podium with distinguished U.S. statesmen and government officials at a public event organized



share Sri Lanka's experiences of how strong legislatures create stable governments and the critical role of the Parliament in the evolution of Sri Lanka's democratic practice and re-

forms. In his remarks Ambassador briefed on the developments since the 2015 presidential and parliamentary elections and as to how the democratic political transformation set in motion in the country has contributed to strengthening Sri Lanka's relations with the international community, including the United States. *More*

Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam was invited to

share Sri Lanka's experiences of how strong legislatures create stable governments and the critical role of the Parliament in the evolution of Sri Lanka's democratic practice and re-

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS ON SRI LANKA RENEWED FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

The Congressional country caucuses in the U.S. Caucus on Sri Lanka Congress. under the leadership of its co-chairs Representative Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Representative Dina Titus (D-NV) recently renewed its registration as a Congressional Member Organization of the 115th U.S. Congress.

The Caucus comprises House Representatives from both the Republican and Democratic parties. Former House Representative Chris Van Hollen was the democratic co-chair of the Caucus until his election to the Senate at the beginning of this year.

The Sri Lanka Caucus has been active for over a decade and is one of over 50

country caucuses in the U.S. Congress.

The Caucus serves as an informal group of congressional members dedicated to issues related to Sri Lanka and educating other members on the subject. The Caucus is a manifestation of the close bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and the United States. It also reflects the interest of congressional members, supported in particular by the Sri Lankan-American community and other well wishers, in promoting Sri Lanka – United States relations, especially people to people contacts both within the United States and between Sri Lanka and the United States. *More*

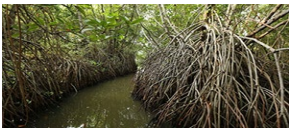
TRAVEL GOODS FROM SRI LANKA TO ENJOY DUTY FREE ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES

Export of travel goods from Sri Lanka will enjoy duty free entry to the United States following a decision by the United States administration to approve the inclusion of travel goods from all GSP beneficiary countries, including Sri Lanka, in the expanded US General System of Preferences (GSP) scheme on July 1, 2017. This would enable the duty-free entry of products such as bags, wallets and backpacks in to the US market after being previously charged 6 to 20 percent of tariff.

Following this concession, Sri Lanka's travel goods exports to the United States will have the potential to regain the market share previously enjoyed by Sri Lanka by placing the country among top 10 suppliers to the US market, once again. The inclusion of travel goods in the GSP is expected to help US travel goods brands and retailers to broaden sourcing options for these products.

Production of travel goods in Sri Lanka continues to remain a Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) industry, which provides livelihood to a considerable number of men and women at the grassroots level and this development would bolster the local manufacturing industry and investments in this industry. *More*

CNN TRAVEL: EXPLORE THE UNEXPECTED BEAUTY OF SRI LANKA'S MANGROVES



Tourism in Sri Lanka -- the tropical island nation just a stone's throw from the tip of southern India -- is on an upswing, thanks to thousands of miles of sugar-sand coastline, lush interiors dotted with tea plantations and the mystique of a place that's still relatively undiscovered.

And while the country's pristine beaches, not yet overrun with tourists or towering condos, draw budget and luxury travelers alike from around the world, a different kind of coastal tableau -- shallow, shore-hugging waters where mangrove forests grow -- is not only worth

exploring, but a matter of national attention.

At Negombo, a laid-back beach town roughly 20 miles north of the country's capital, Colombo, tours of the area's wetlands start across the street from the Muthurajawela Visitor Centre, in the gray-green waters of the Dutch Canal.

More

U.S. MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION, ANNOUNCES LKR 1.1 BILLION TO ADVANCE PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF COMPACT



A delegation from the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) led by Fatema Z. Sumar, Regional Deputy Vice President for Europe, Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America, visited Colombo to advance progress on the development of the MCC compact—a five-year grant program—with the Government of Sri Lanka that aims to reduce poverty and promote economic opportunity for Sri Lankans.

“We are pleased to announce LKR 1.1 billion (\$7.4 million) in funding that the Millennium Challenge Corporation is providing now to support the development of a compact, including identifying and analyzing specific projects for potential investment,” Sumar said.

Because the compact is still in development,

the total compact funding amount has not yet been determined. The \$7.4 million in funding is in addition to the total MCC compact funding amount.

Based on an analysis of the constraints to economic growth, MCC and the Government of Sri Lanka are now conducting due diligence on potential projects in the transport and land sectors.

The Sri Lankan Government has established a project management unit—the Sri Lankan Compact Development Team—within the Prime Minister's office to work with MCC on the compact. The goal is to develop a high-quality, evidence-based and sustainable compact aimed at addressing these economic challenges in a way that drives growth and reduces poverty. *More*

CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF THE ARMED CONFLICT

The Ministry of Justice of Sri Lanka informs that pursuant to Section 4 of the Prescription (Special Provisions) Act No. 5 of 2016, disadvantaged persons who were unable to pursue their rights for the recovery of any immovable property, including land, during the armed conflict in Sri Lanka, are entitled to institute action to avail of the benefits conferred by the Act within two years of its operationalization. The Act came into effect on April 26, 2016.

In line with this provision, any person/s

interested in reclaiming his/her/their property through the provisions of the Act, should bring such claim before April 26, 2018.

The Prescription (Special Provisions) Act No. 5 of 2016 was brought into operation to provide special legal provisions for persons who were unable to institute court proceedings to recover their immovable property, including land, due to the terrorist activities in Sri Lanka during the period from May 1, 1983 to May 18, 2009. *More*

AMBASSADOR KARIYAWASAM WELCOMES EDUCATE LANKA STUDENTS



On July 18, four Educate Lanka Foundation students from Sri Lanka, together with a group of Educate Lanka benefactors and well-wishers from the Sri Lankan American community, were hosted to a welcome reception and dinner at the Sri Lanka Residence by Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam. The event

was part of the delegation's visit to the Annual Global Citizenship Institute in Massachusetts and the celebration of Educate Lanka's 10th anniversary. The visit also exemplified a case of strengthened ties between the U.S. and Sri Lanka through promotion of global citizenship and inter-institutional collaboration. *More*

THE NEW YORKER: A SRI LANKAN MUSEUM ON STATEN ISLAND



Julia Wijesinghe has spent all eighteen years of her life on two islands: Staten Island and Sri Lanka. Her parents, both Sri Lanka-born, met on the Staten Island Ferry. They started a Sri Lankan restaurant called Lakruwana (which is also her father's first name), on Forty-fourth Street, in Manhattan, and moved it to Bay Street, on Staten Island, thirteen years ago. It seats forty, received a good review in the Times, in 2013, and sometimes has a line waiting in front. Julia, an only child, has helped in the restaurant since she was little. At fifteen, she had

an idea: start a Sri Lankan museum in the restaurant's basement. Her parents said she could do that when she was eighteen, and, a few months ago, she did. Hers, she claims, is the only Sri Lankan museum in the world outside Sri Lanka.

Not long ago, as she gave a tour of the museum to a wanderer of Staten Island, she wore her school uniform: light-brown shoes, blue pleated skirt, gray hoodie with "Notre Dame" on it, and a black button-up sweater with "Wijesinghe" in white script on the left pocket. "I was going to put my first name, but there are a lot of Julias in my school, so I used my last name instead," she said. During her four years at the Catholic all-girl school—she graduated in June—she was the only Buddhist. *More*

SL NAVY RESCUES TWO MORE JUMBOS IN THE SEAS OFF TRINCOMALEE



A group of naval personnel attached to the Eastern Naval Command managed to rescue 2 elephants that were swept out to the sea, in between Round Island and Foul Point, Trincomalee on July 23.

The jumbos in troubled waters were first noticed by an Inshore Patrol Craft on routine sea patrol. A combined rescue mission was launched by the Navy and

Wildlife officials to save these 2 wild elephants. Responding promptly to the situation, the Navy augmented the rescue mission by deploying 3 more Fast Attack Craft, on patrol and a team of Navy Divers.

The mammoth effort of the rescue teams saw the two jumbos being carefully directed to the shore without causing any harm to the animals.

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FIRST INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS OLYMPIAD FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



The world's First International Robotics Olympiad for high school students organized by First Global was held at the DAR Constitution Hall, Washington D.C. from July 16 - 18.

The Olympiad provided an opportunity

for students around the world to learn robotics and built team spirit. Teams from more than 160 nations participated in the event.

Four students from Sri Lanka took part in the Olympiad.