



November 2016

## PRIME MINISTER UNVEILS ECONOMIC VISION



Mr Speaker,

With regard to the current state of the economy and the Way Ahead, I would like to recall the speech I made in the House on the 5th of November 2015.

We can once again become the resplendent nation we were under Manawamma and Parakramabahu. But it is a path that must be pursued with determination, commitment and patience. Only then can we create the country that we can confidently pass on to the future generations.

At the time I made the statement last year, I affirmed that our collective economic journey requires revolutionary thinking, bold policies and initiatives that would transform Sri Lanka into a vibrant and prosperous nation. The National Government started work on a sound footing - by increasing the actual wages of the public sector including those of general workers. This process stimulated domestic demand and addressed the imbalance in income levels, the economic legacy inherited from the previous regime. *More*

## REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTER MANGALA SAMARAWEERA AT 71<sup>ST</sup> UNITED NATIONS DAY



Ms. Una McCauley, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative in Sri Lanka, Staff of the UN Country Team in Sri Lanka, UN Volunteers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to join all of you here today, in your office to mark the 71st anniversary of the United Nations. As the UN turns 71 today, Sri Lanka's formal relationship with the UN turns 61 this year.

On the 26th of June 1945, following two devastating world wars, members of the international community came together in San Francisco, to sign the Charter of the United Nations. The promise made in the Charter that came into effect on the 24th of October 1945 to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and uphold instead, respect for dialogue, diplomacy, international cooperation and an international rules based system is what we celebrate and recommit to, today. *More*

## SRI LANKA CONGRATULATES U.S. PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD J. TRUMP

### Message from President Maithripala Sirisena

The Honourable Donald J. Trump  
The President-elect of the United States of America

Dear Mr. Trump,

The Government and the people of Sri Lanka join me in congratulating you on your victory on November 8, 2016 in a historic Presidential Election that received wide global attention.

The United States is the adopted home for a significant number of Sri Lankans. They serve as important agents to forge stronger people-to-people bonds, contributing in no small measure to the bilateral relationship between our two countries.

Sri Lanka and the United States are bound by deeply rooted and longstanding democratic traditions and common values. Relations between our two countries have been strengthened since my election as President in January 2015 and the formation of a National Unity Government in Sri Lanka. My Government and I take pride that the bonds between our two countries have grown stronger, and I am confident that your election will help build on this existing close partnership to further expand our cooperation. *More*

### Message from Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe

The Honourable Donald J. Trump  
The President-elect of the United States of America

Dear Mr. Trump,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your victory at the historic election held on November 8th, to become the 45th President of the United States of America.

Despite geographic distance, the bilateral relationship between Sri Lanka and the United States of America span approximately 70 years of formal diplomatic relations, and over 200 years of close people-to-people ties. Today, our partnership is stronger and more robust than it has ever been in history and we value deeply, our engagement and longstanding friendship with the United States of America.

I am confident that under your leadership and guidance, the United States of America and Sri Lanka will expand and deepen engagement between our two countries and our peoples, exploring progressive avenues for cooperation for mutual benefit. I look forward very much to working with you and your administration towards this objective, in the years ahead. *More*

## SRI LANKA CONGRATULATES UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL-DESIGNATE ANTONIO GUTERRES



President Maithripala Sirisena congratulated Antonio Guterres on October 13 following the former Prime Minister of Portugal's appointment by the UN General Assembly, as the next UN Secretary General. The President in his message noted that Mr. Guterres had received over-

whelming support from the international community owing to the confidence placed in his ability and able leadership to steer and guide the United Nations to better serve the global challenges in the 21st Century.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe in his message said he was confident Mr. Guterres' extensive experience both as the Prime Minister of Portugal and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, would serve him well to lead the United Nations on a path that will ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the world.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mangala Samaraweera noted that Sri Lanka had a long-standing partnership with the UN, even prior to obtaining membership in 1955. "As the Government and the people of Sri Lanka make the historic journey to achieve sustainable peace, reconciliation and development, we look forward to the continued support and assistance of the UN, under your able leadership", he said.

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## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION OF UPARATANA THERO, CHIEF INCUMBENT OF MARYLAND BUDDHIST VIHARA



A celebration was held to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Most Venerable Katugastota Uparatana Thero, Chief Judiciary Sanganayake of the United States and the Chief Incumbent of the Maryland Buddhist Vihara in Wheaton, on Sunday, October 30, 2016 at Vihara Premises.

More than sixty Buddhist Priests representing several Buddhist Temples across the United States were among those attending this meritorious event, including, The Most Ven. Dr. Henepola Gunaratna Nayaka Thero of West Virginia Bhavana Society ; The Most Ven. Maharagama Dhammasiri Nayaka Thero, Chief Prelate of Norther America and Chief Incumbent of Washington Buddhist Vihara; The Most Ven. Walpola Piyananda Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Dharmavijaya Buddhist Vihara Inc. in Los Angeles, California; Ven. Hungampola Siriratana Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the New Jersey Buddhist Vihara; Ven. Heenbunne Kondanna Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of Staten Island Buddhist Vihara, New York; Ven. Siyambalagoda Ananda Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of Arizona Buddhist Vihara;

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## MINE DETECTION DOG TEAM OF THE SRI LANKA ARMY SELECTED 2016 TEAM OF THE YEAR

At the Annual "Clearing the Path" Gala 2016 organized by The Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) of Washington D.C., Mine Detection Dog (MDD) Alvin and its handler Lance Corporal Nawarathne of the Sri Lanka Army Engineers Humanitarian Demining Unit, were selected as the MDD team of the year.

The Marshall Legacy Institute, an organization dedicated to "removing landmines and promoting stability" has been assisting the Sri Lanka Army Humanitarian Demining Unit in their humanitarian effort to clear landmines and explosive devices from affected regions in Sri Lanka. Over the years, MLI has provided 26 Mine Detection Dogs and training with the assistance of private donors and the U.S. Department of State.



At the gala event to celebrate the work of demining canines worldwide and to seek contributions for this purpose, the Sri Lankan Mine Detection Team led by Brigadier Amith Senevirathna, Brigade Commander of Sri Lanka Army Engineers Humanitarian Demining Unit, together with the mine detection dog Alvin and its handler were recognized for their contribution to the suc-

cessful demining efforts in Sri Lanka.

Ambassador Susan Rice, National Security Advisor of the United States, was the keynote speaker at this event, which was graced, among other dignitaries, by Senator Mike Enzi and General Gordon Russell Sullivan, manifesting commitment of the United States for mine clearing efforts.

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## SRI LANKAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN “UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNOLOGY BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT” WORKSHOP

A 13-member delegation consisting of senior officials from several Sri Lankan institutions were in the United States from October 26 to November 4 to participate in a workshop on “Universities and Technology Based Economic Development” conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the General Counsel under their Commercial Law Development Program. The institutions represented were the Sri Lankan Ministry of Science and Technology, Sri Lanka Inventors Commission, University Grant Commission, National Intellectual Property Office, Nano Technology Institute, and the Universities of Colombo, Moratuwa and Peradeniya.

Speaking at the Interagency Welcome organized at the Department of Commerce to receive the delegation,

Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam, highlighted the timeliness of the workshop, given that “Sri Lanka had embarked on a development drive to usher a knowledge based economy.” The Ambassador noted that to achieve this, “Sri Lanka’s growth path will need to rely on knowledge-intensive state of the art programs on information technology, engineering, industrial processing, financial services and teaching capacity to train a class of excellent technocrats and scientists.”

Ambassador Kariyawasam expressed confidence, that the expanding U.S. – Sri Lanka partnership and the growing economic ties between the two countries, would help Sri Lanka “reach new heights in technology related development.”

*Ambassador’s full statement*

## SRI LANKAN-AMERICAN RESEARCHER AWARDED INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR GROUNDWATER RESEARCH



Sri Lankan-American Dr. Tissa H. Illangasekare who is the AMAX Endowed Chairman of the Environmental Sciences and Engineering department and professor of Civil Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines was honoured at a United Nations event on November 2 for the development of a breakthrough solution to identify groundwater contamination. Joining seven other recipients, Dr. Illangasekare received the 7th Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW). PSIPW is a leading, global scientific award focusing on

cutting-edge innovation in water research.

Dr. Illangasekare’s identification method monitors hazardous chemicals that seep into groundwater systems. Applied globally, the approach, which reliably predicts the long-term fate of bacteria on water sources, can save millions of human lives around the world.

Dr. Illangasekare said, “As professionals and citizens, we have the responsibility and moral obligation to help sustain this critical resource we share. Prestigious prizes like this will motivate creative people to pursue research to develop innovations and solve the pressing problems with the Earth’s water.”

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## EMBASSY FELICITATES SRI LANKA CRICKET CLUB’S CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN



Felicitation dinner hosted by the Ambassador at the Sri Lanka Residence to celebrate Sri Lanka Cricket Club (SLCC) of the DMV Region winning Division I Washington Cricket League Championship. Several Embassy officials and team sponsors were present.