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வெளிநாட்டு அமைச்சு
FOREIGN MINISTRY

ජනරජ මහානුරාගීය, කොළඹ 1, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව, குடியரசு கட்டிடம், கொழும்பு 1, Republic Building, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka

Media Release

Indian Foreign Secretary Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla concludes his successful visit to Sri Lanka

The Indian Foreign Secretary Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla concluded his first official visit to Sri Lanka on 5 October 2021 following productive bilateral engagements with the Sri Lankan dignitaries. During the 3 day visit, Foreign Secretary Shringla called on the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and the Foreign Minister.

The Prime Minister's meeting at the Temple Trees was followed by an inauguration ceremony to virtually hand over 4 development projects funded by the Government of India. The Foreign Minister, Minister of Education, Minister of Plantation, State Minister for Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure, Minister of Health, Minister of Labour, Minister of Fisheries were also present at the inauguration ceremony of the development projects that includes the construction of a four-storied building at Saraswathy Central College, Pussellawa, an Auditorium in Wadamaratchy Ladies College, 1,035 Gramashakthi Houses in Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, and Galle districts, and 24 houses in Menik Farm in Vavuniya district.

At the inauguration ceremony, the Foreign Minister underscored that people to people ties forms the most integral part of our relations and to that effect the first Buddhist pilgrims' flight to Kushinagar which is scheduled to take place on 20 October 2021 will be a landmark in the India-Sri Lanka relations. Foreign Secretary Shringla also emphasized that it was opportune for both countries to work on the connectivity initiatives especially through the Buddhist Corridor with the new international airport in Kushinagar, India.

The Official bilateral talks between the Indian Foreign Secretary and the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary were held at the Republic Building, Foreign Ministry on 04 October 2021 which covered a wide range of political, economic, security and cultural matters in which the two countries share an interest. The Foreign Secretaries expressed their intention to continue the process of close consultations between the governments.

Both sides acknowledged the importance of enhancing the connectivity between the two countries by all possible means, especially the sea connectivity through ferry services and increasing the air destinations, electricity grid, and digital connectivity. Among other topics, strengthening the strong cultural and civilizational bonds founded upon the Buddhist heritage was widely discussed. The two parties agreed to continue the current momentum of deep engagement that reflects readiness to bring prosperity to the peoples of both countries, importantly bringing Indian businesses to invest in Economic Zones, especially in the pharmaceutical manufacturing and IT sectors, in Sri Lanka.

Foreign Secretary Shringla also visited Kandy, Trincomalee, Jaffna, and culturally and bilaterally important places in Colombo including the Indian Peace Keeping Force Memorial during his stay in Sri Lanka.

The Foreign Secretary of India extended an invitation to the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary to pay an official visit to India at an early mutually convenient date.

Foreign Ministry
Colombo

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