

# Sri Lanka Independence Day Special

## Policy for achieving national stability, peace

"Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour," the policy statement of the president has placed before the people as the right vision and plan for Sri Lanka. The primary purpose of the plan is to create a productive citizen, a happy family, a disciplined society and a prosperous nation. The main target is to make Sri Lanka a developed country. The country must be a sovereign and independent nation. It also must be a safe, and a peaceful place. Sri Lanka will be a prosperous nation only when all of these are achieved.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said in his manifesto: "What we need at this hour is correct vision and unshakeable leadership. I thank you for entrusting me with the task of overcoming the challenges our country faces and leading our motherland toward peace and prosperity. This journey is being undertaken under the guidance of a proven leader, Mahinda Rajapaksa. His wisdom and experience will be a great source of strength to us, in this national endeavour. I strongly believe



President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa

that I will be able to create the peaceful, prosperous and beautiful Sri Lanka that you aspire to."

*This manifesto was provided by the Embassy of Sri Lanka.*



Wild elephants at Minneriya National Park in Hingurakgoda. EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

## Optimism at beginning of new golden era

**MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA**  
PRIME MINISTER OF SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka marks 72 years of independence on Feb. 4. This independence, won on Feb. 4, 1948, has faced unprecedented challenges over the past few years. What we have learned from this experience is that achieving freedom and preserving it are two entirely different matters.

The freedom that we obtained in 1948 in the eyes of the law came very close to being vitiated after 2015 because of bad politics. What the result of the presidential election held last November showed was the determination of our people to safeguard Sri Lanka's status as an independent nation.

When we look back upon the 72 years that have passed since Sri Lanka gained independence, we see some cause for satisfaction.

The system of representative democracy based on universal suffrage has survived in this country even amid some serious challenges.

Sri Lanka is ahead of most countries in terms of indices relating to health and



literacy. We have a free media and our citizens are assured of their personal safety. During the period from 2006 to 2014, this country was also able to achieve a major leap forward in economic terms.

The challenge before us today is to restore to Sri Lanka any economic progress that was lost because of bad politics. Today we mark the first Independence Day of a new decade — and with a new government in power.

I can confidently state that Sri Lanka is once again on the cusp of a golden era due to patriotic enthusiasm and a desire to build a new country that has galvanized

our people, especially our youth. It is my belief and expectation that people from all ethnic groups and religions living in this country will come together as one, to participate in the task of taking Sri Lanka forward into an era of prosperity.



Ayurveda is a popular treatment in Sri Lanka. EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

### GEMSTONES FOUND IN SRI LANKA

Blue Sapphire National Gem

Star Ruby

White Sapphire

Star Sapphire

Orange Sapphire

Yellow Sapphire

Pink Sapphire

Alexandrite (in Daylight)

Alexandrite (in Artificial Light)

Padmaraga Sapphire

Chrysoberyl

Alexandrite

Ruby

Chrysoberyl

Amethyst

Aquamarine

Rhodolite

Pyrope

Topaz

Hessonite

Citrine

Almandine

Spinel

Moonstone

Spessartite

Zircon

Tourmaline

River Dredging

Gem Cutting

Gem Testing Laboratory

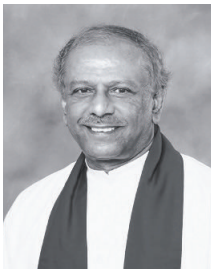
Gem Testing Report with the photo image

Assay Certificate

Various types of beautiful gemstones can be found in different parts of Sri Lanka. NATIONAL GEM & JEWELLERY AUTHORITY SRI LANKA

## Seeking a prosperous and promising vision for our future

**DINESH GUNAWARDENA**  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS OF SRI LANKA



On this day, as we celebrate 72 years of Sri Lanka's independence, I wish to convey my warm greetings to all Sri Lankans in Sri Lanka, as well as in various parts of the world. Today, as a

nation, we stand proud of the progress made toward safeguarding the freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country while strengthening the economic and political rights of all our citizens.

This year marks the commemoration of the first Independence Day under the leadership of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was elected to office on Nov. 16, 2019, to usher in an era of peace, prosperity and national reconciliation. Under his leadership, we embark on a new path of development and formulating national policies, which will focus on

national security, stability and law and order in the country, while empowering the people's economic well-being and livelihood.

As we celebrate this day, it is incumbent upon all Sri Lankans to recognize our bound duty to respect our national heroes whose leadership and commitment steered the country toward freedom from colonial rule. We must also pay tribute to the great sacrifices of our valiant war heroes who protected our sovereignty and territorial integrity in the fight against terrorism for over 30 years.

While we can be proud of the prog-

ress made thus far, much remains to be achieved. The task of nation-building is one that requires the dedication and commitment of all Sri Lankans, shedding all differences in order to build one strong nation. It is our steadfast belief that the strength of our freedom largely depends on how we are able to give Sri Lanka a global standing as an independent sovereign state. Through a people-centric economic policy and using the strategic importance of Sri Lanka in global geopolitics, we seek to embrace new technologies and harness indigenous skills and knowledge, while pro-

tecting the bedrock of cultural and social heritage of our past, to move ahead to victories in the future.

As we commemorate independence, let us dedicate ourselves to make a firm resolve to achieve the vision of prosperity for our country. I invite all Sri Lankans, living in both Sri Lanka and overseas, to join hands with the government in this endeavor.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

## Ties driven by untapped potential

**CHANDANA WEERASENA**  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF SRI LANKA

At a time, Sri Lanka celebrates its 72nd Anniversary of Independence, the embassy in Tokyo further explores innovative opportunities with Japan in many fields, including investment; trade; employment and train-

ing; education, culture, travel and tourism for the mutual benefit of our two countries. The matured relationship of our two countries would be the best platform for exploring these untapped opportunities.

The embassy at this important day, invites Japanese nationals to visit Sri Lanka, which offers amazing opportunities.



Esala Perahera, a Buddhist festival, is held in July and August in the city of Kandy. EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

### CONGRATULATIONS!

## Sri Lanka

### Anniversary of Independence

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## Congratulations and Best Wishes

### to the People of Sri Lanka on the Anniversary of Their Independence

**Sojitz Corporation**

<https://www.sojitz.com/en>

## Best Wishes to the Government and the People of Sri Lanka on the occasion of their Independence Day

### SRI LANKA BUSINESS COUNCIL OF JAPAN

c/o The Embassy of Sri Lanka, 2-1-54, Takanawa, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0074  
Tel. 03-3440-6912 Fax. 03-3440-6914 Website: [www.slbcj.com](http://www.slbcj.com)

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The Sri Lanka Business Council of Japan (SLBCJ) was established in line with the policy directions given by the Overseas Business Promotion Program launched by the Ministry of Commerce & Consumer Affairs of Sri Lanka. Its mandate is to expand, develop and encourage bilateral trade between Sri Lanka and Japan while also promoting Japanese investments in Sri Lanka. Its membership is opened to Japanese and Sri Lankan business entrepreneurs.