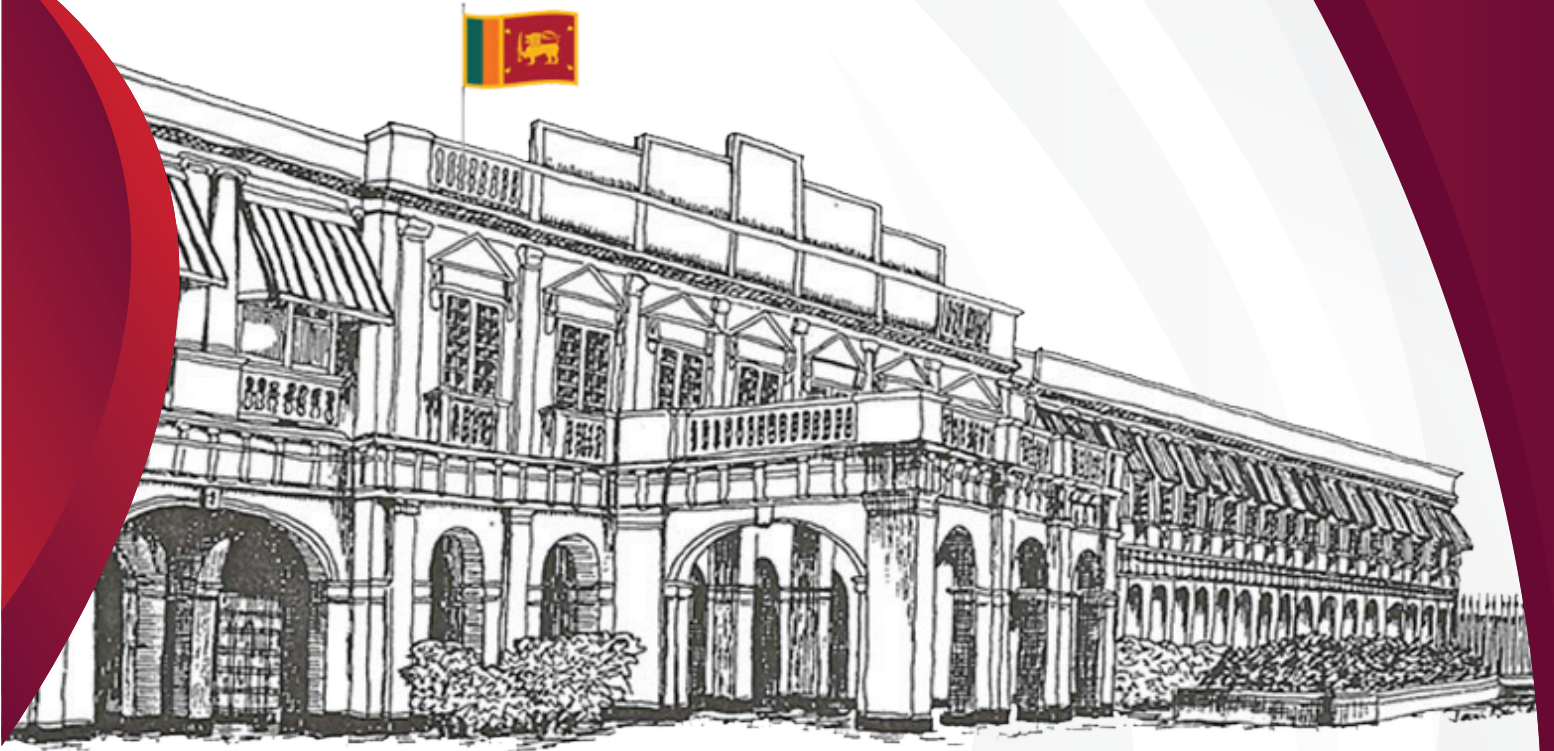




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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள், வெளிநாட்டு வேலைவாய்ப்பு மற்றும்
சுற்றுலாத்துறை அமைச்சு

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM







ප්‍රගති වාර්තාව
முன்னேற்ற அறிக்கை
Progress Report
(2025.01.01 - 2025.09.30)

අයවැය කාරක සභා අවස්ථා විවාදය - 2026
வரவுசெலவுத் திட்ட குழந்தை விவாதம் - 2026
Committee Stage of the Budget Debate - 2026



විදේශ කටයුතු, විදේශ රැකියා සහ සංචාරක අමාත්‍යාංශය
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM

විදේශ කටයුතු Foreign Affairs வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள்	විදේශ රැකියා Foreign Employment வெளிநாட்டு வேலைவாய்ப்பு	සංචාරක Tourism சுற்றுலாத்துறை
 <p>ජනරජ ගොඩනැගිල්ල, ශ්‍රීමත් බාරෝන් ජයතිලක මාවත, කොළඹ 01 Republic Building, Sir Baron Jayathilake Mawatha, Colombo 01</p> <p>குடியரசுக் கட்டிடம் சேர் பாரொன் ஜயதிலக்க மாவத்தை கொழும்பு 01</p>	<p>17 වන මහල "මෙහෙවර පියස" නාරාහේන්පිට, කොළඹ 05 17th Floor, "Mehewara Piyesa" Narahenpita, Colombo 05</p> <p>17 ம் மாடி "மெஹேவர பியேசு" நாரஹேன்பிட்ட கொழும்பு 05</p>	<p>අංක 03, ටයිම්ස් ගොඩනැගිල්ල, බ්‍රිස්ටල් වීදිය (සර් රාසික් ෆරීඩ් මාවත), කොළඹ 01 No:03, Times Building, Bristol Street, (Sir Razik Fareed Mw), Colombo 01.</p> <p>இல: 03, டைம்ஸ் கட்டிடம், பிரிஸ்டல் வீதி (சர் ராசீக் பஃரீட் மாவத்தை) கொழும்பு 01</p>
 <p>0112 325 373/5 0112 207 200/7</p>	<p>0112 331 200</p>	<p>0112 381 798 0112 321 222</p>
 <p>0112 446 091</p>	<p>0112 330 594</p>	<p>0112 436 672</p>
 <p>cypher@mfa.gov.lk</p>	<p>info@mfe.gov.lk</p>	<p>secretary@tourismmin.gov.lk</p>
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DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT AND TOURISM

Part 1: Sec (I) –Extraordinary Gazette No: 2412/08 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka- 25 November 2024

Subjects and Functions	Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations	Laws, Acts and Ordinances to be Implemented
<p>1. Formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects, in relation to the subject of foreign affairs, foreign employment and tourism, and those subjects that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations listed in Column II based on the national policies implemented by the government</p> <p>2. Provision of public services under the purview of the Ministry in an efficient and people friendly manner</p> <p>3. Reforming all systems and procedures using modern management techniques and technology, thus ensuring that the functions of the Ministry are fulfilled while eliminating corruption and waste.</p> <p>4. Maintenance of diplomatic relations with foreign countries broadening the cooperation of Sri Lanka as an active member internationally thereby stabilizing the good image of Sri Lanka abroad</p> <p>5. Adoption of necessary measures to widen international cooperation in accordance With national policies and; coordination and</p>	<p>1. Diplomatic Missions in abroad</p> <p>2. National Oceanic Affairs Committee Secretariat</p> <p>3. Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies</p> <p>4. Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau</p> <p>5. Foreign Employment Agency of Sri Lanka (Pvt.) Ltd</p> <p>6. Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau</p> <p>7. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority</p> <p>8. Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management</p> <p>9. Sri Lanka Convention Bureau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consular Functions Act No. 4 of 1981 • Diplomatic Privileges Act No. 9 of 1996 • Sri Lanka Institute of Strategic Studies Act No. 45 of 2000 • Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005 • Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act No. 21 of 1985 • Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Act No. 37 of 1956 • All other legislations pertaining to the subjects specified in Column I and II, and not specifically brought under the purview of any other Minister

<p>provision of necessary advice to the government.</p> <p>6. Responding appropriately to counteract adverse propaganda affecting the good image of Sri Lanka and stabilizing the image of Sri Lanka</p> <p>7. Active engagement with international and regional associations of political, economic, environmental, social and cultural cooperation</p> <p>8. Maintaining of diplomatic relations with foreign countries, and conducting negotiations in relation to treaties, agreements and conventions.</p> <p>9. Provision of diplomatic immunities and privileges</p> <p>10. Provision of necessary assistance to relevant Ministries and Institutions for the promotion of external trade, investment, tourism, employment and external financial relations</p> <p>11. Consolidating foreign relations required for the protection of territorial integrity and maritime rights of Sri Lanka</p> <p>12. Adoption of necessary measures related to the welfare of Sri Lankan residents in foreign countries</p> <p>13. Provision of consular services</p> <p>14. Administration of personnel in Sri Lanka</p>		
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<p>Foreign Service and those attached to overseas diplomatic missions and take measures to enhance their professional skills</p> <p>15. Studying geo-political trends and advising the government on strategies to be adopted in the management of such trends in a manner beneficial to the interest of Sri Lanka</p> <p>16. Taking appropriate measures to fulfil the new foreign policy objectives including restructuring the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>17. Evaluating the economically developing, emerging countries and areas and issuing recommendations for opening missions in order to widen international cooperation for economic development</p> <p>18. Facilitating the efforts on right sizing and quality enhancement of the overseas missions of Sri Lanka to ensure improved trade enhancement, tourism promotion, professional and vocational training and employment opportunities</p> <p>19. Simplifying and streamlining diplomatic processes to make them more efficient and responsive to the needs of the citizen and the State</p> <p>20. Empowerment of foreign Embassies to take necessary initiatives in accordance with the overall foreign policy framework of Sri Lanka</p>		
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<p>while ensuring accountability through regular oversight</p> <p>21. Establishing Sri Lanka Directorate of Cultural Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for promoting Sri Lankan culture abroad to build “soft power” and foster mutual understanding</p> <p>22. Restructuring and strengthening of the Diplomatic Training Institute and the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI)</p> <p>23. Establishment of a robust monitoring and reporting mechanism to review and evaluate the performance of Sri Lankan diplomats, on regular basis</p> <p>24. Establishing a Consultative body with the Sri Lankan diaspora in every country where considerable number of Sri Lankans are present, with a mandate to engage with the respective Sri Lankan foreign mission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p>25. Collaborating with relevant institutes to increase and promote foreign employment opportunities and improve the skills required for such employments</p> <p>26. Introducing legal and regulatory measures required to ensure the security of migrant</p>	
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workers		
<p>27. Providing special facilities for expatriate workers and Sri Lankans living abroad to save and invest foreign exchange in Sri Lanka</p> <p>28. Implementing special projects to enable those who return to Sri Lanka after foreign employment to commence enterprises</p> <p>29. Implementing programmes to ensure the protection and welfare of housemaids working in Middle East and other countries.</p> <p>30. Providing remedies for employment issues of migrant workers and maintaining welfare</p> <p>31. Introducing legal reforms to strengthen the process of obtaining compensation entitled to persons who meet with accidents in foreign countries</p> <p>32. Regulation of foreign employment agencies</p> <p>33. Regulation of levy of fees by employment agencies</p> <p>34. Providing career guidance for foreign employment and adopting measures to ensure welfare of those engaged in foreign employment when they are directed to workplaces by foreign employment agencies</p>		

<p>35. Undertaking necessary measures to send skilled and trained workers abroad instead of untrained workers</p> <p>36. Development of the tourism industry and promotion of high standards in line with the national policy while promoting Sri Lanka's image</p> <p>37. Registration and regulation of travel agencies and those involved in the tourism industry</p> <p>38. Popularizing Sri Lanka as a unique tourist Island among domestic and foreign tourists highlighting Sri Lanka's biodiversity, historic heritage, environment, climate diversity, oceanic resources etc</p> <p>39. Promotion of holiday resorts, internationally recognized centres related to conferences, exhibition and entertainment facilities, hotel facilities, air and sea travel for tourists</p> <p>40. Provision of required facilities to encourage those engaged in the tourism trade and related entrepreneurs</p> <p>41. Ensuring safety of tourists</p> <p>42. Preparation of time bound action plans for sustainable usage of natural and cultural resources, developing human resources for the tourist industry, development and standardizing new tourist services, strategic destination</p>	
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<p>promotion etc</p> <p>43. Facilitating to enhance medical tourism by providing a whole range of medical care and treatments including Ayurvedic therapy</p> <p>44. Promotion of sports-tourism industry</p> <p>45. Integration of tourism industry with national and international markets for the visual arts</p> <p>46. Facilitating to make cultural heritage a significant part of the tourism industry</p> <p>47. Supervising all Institutions referred to in Column II and matters relating to all subjects assigned to such Institutions</p> <p>48. Supervision of all Institutions listed in Column II</p>		
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வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள்
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

ජනරජ ගොඩනැගිල්ල, කොළඹ 1, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
குடியரசு கட்டிடம், கொழும்பு 1
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Vision

To be a responsible nation within the international community and to maintain friendly relations with all countries.

Mission

The promotion, projection, and protection of Sri Lanka's national interests internationally, in accordance with the foreign policy of the Government and to advise the Government on managing foreign relations in keeping with Sri Lanka's national interests.


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graph TD
    Minister[Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism] --> DeputyMinister1[Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Employment]
    Minister --> DeputyMinister2[Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism]
    DeputyMinister1 --> Secretary1[Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism]
    Secretary1 --> AS1[Additional Secretary (Ocean Affairs, Environment & Climate Change and Consular Affairs)]
    Secretary1 --> AS2[Additional Secretary (Bilateral Political Affairs - East)]
    Secretary1 --> AS3[Additional Secretary (Bilateral Political Affairs - West)]
    Secretary1 --> AS4[Additional Secretary (Economic Affairs)]
    Secretary1 --> AS5[Additional Secretary (Multilateral Affairs)]
    Secretary1 --> AS6[Additional Secretary (Overseas Administration)]
    Secretary1 --> AS7[Additional Secretary (Administration)]
    Secretary1 --> AS8[Additional Secretary (Finance)]
    Secretary1 --> AS9[Additional Secretary (Legal Adviser)]
    AS1 --> DG1[Director General (Ocean Affairs, Environment & Climate Change)]
    AS1 --> DG2[Director General (Consular Affairs)]
    AS2 --> DG3[Director General (East Asia & Oceania)]
    AS2 --> DG4[Director General (Southeast Asia & Central Asia)]
    AS2 --> DG5[Director General (South Asia & SAARC)]
    AS2 --> DG6[Director General (Europe & North America)]
    AS2 --> DG7[Director General (Latin America & Caribbean)]
    AS2 --> DG8[Director General (Economic Affairs - Bilateral)]
    AS2 --> DG9[Director General (Economic Affairs - Multilateral & Technical Cooperation)]
    AS2 --> DG10[Director General (UN & HR)]
    AS2 --> DG11[Director General (HR & M/M, HRD, R & T and PR & I)]
    AS2 --> DG12[Director General (OAM & D)]
    AS2 --> DG13[Director General (Middle East)]
    AS2 --> DG14[Director General (Africa)]
    AS2 --> DG15[Director General (PD & International Security Cooperation)]
    AS2 --> DG16[Director General (Administration)]
    AS2 --> DG17[Director General (Accountant)]
    AS2 --> DG18[Deputy Legal Adviser]
    AS2 --> DG19[Chief Internal Auditor]
    AS3 --> DG20[Director General (Diplomatic Training Institute)]
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Progress Report of 2025 outlines the progress achieved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism during the period from 1 January to 30 September 2025 incorporating the authority granted to the Ministry through the Extraordinary Gazette notification no: 2412/08 dated 25 November 2024. It may be noted that the areas of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism were amalgamated via the aforementioned Gazette Notification and prior to that functioned as three separate ministries. The Ministry carried out its work in line with the commitments outlined in the National Policy Framework adopted by the Cabinet Decision No. 25/0389/804/046 dated 03 March 2025.

This section of the Progress Report covers the work related to the Foreign Affairs portfolio of the Ministry.

The Foreign Affairs portfolio under the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism primarily deals with the promotion and protection of Sri Lanka's interests overseas, with the aim of ensuring the security and prosperity of the country. The conduct of international relations, maintenance of diplomatic ties with foreign nations, projecting and promoting Sri Lanka's image overseas in line with the national interests of the country, advancing Sri Lanka's interests and supporting Sri Lankans overseas are the main areas of responsibility under this portfolio.

This Progress Report highlights the performance of sixty-three (63) Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad and twenty-three (23) Divisions of the Ministry in accordance with the Action Plan of 2025. The network of Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad is depicted in **Figure-I**, while **Figure-II** sketches the Division Architecture of the Ministry which is categorized into three main pillars i.e. (i) Divisions with Cross-cutting areas, (ii) Territorial Divisions, and (iii) Operational Divisions.

This report also contains the progress of the National Ocean Affairs Committee Secretariat (NOAC) and the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute (LKI), a statutory Institution, both coming under the Ministry in terms of the extraordinary gazette no. 2412/08 of 25 November 2024.

In the discharge of its functions, the Ministry engaged with a network of sixty-three (63) Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad, forty-two (42) Foreign Diplomatic Missions based in Sri Lanka and thirty (30) International Organizations, including the United Nations and its affiliated agencies based in Sri Lanka in advancing Sri Lanka's interests.

During the year under review, Sri Lanka continued the process of expanding its diplomatic presence overseas with the aim of opening up new areas of cooperation and new markets for our exports. Given the large number of Sri Lankans working in Cyprus, the Ministry reopened a resident diplomatic presence in Nicosia, Cyprus at the level of Consulate General on 30 July 2025.

The work of the Ministry and Missions overseas is executed by a team of dedicated professionals who have endeavored and enabled to deliver on its purpose. Our team demonstrated their professionalism and dedication to service in demanding and sometimes dangerous circumstance. Ministry is led by the officers of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service numbering 186 officers and is supported by officers from allied services. In 2025, new batches of 16 SLFS officers were recruited subsequent to the recruitment in 2024. The Ministry over the last decade surpassed gender parity with over 60% of our officers being women. Many of our heads of mission, heads of post and senior executive roles are also held by women.

All sixty-three (63) Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad have efficiently discharged their duties with a minimum availability of human resources, demonstrating their commitment towards the national efforts to reduce public expenditure.

This annual progress report reviews the overall progress made by the Ministry including Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism sectors across various spectrums, including bilateral, regional, and multilateral engagements, economic diplomacy, climate change and environmental protection, connecting with the overseas Sri Lankan community, and promoting people-to-people contacts. Hence, the objective of the progress report is to evaluate the achievement of the overall performance of the mandate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, its priorities and targets outlined in the Ministry's Action Plan for 2025.

1. Navigating a challenging external environment

The Ministry in 2025 had to navigate an increasingly complex global environment characterized by escalating geopolitical tensions, the rise of trade protectionism including changes in US tariff policies, resurgence of latent and open conflict, threats to multilateralism and the growing impact of climate change. Challenges in the external environment also meant that the Ministry and Missions/Posts overseas had to support Sri Lankans in distress including those that were caught up in conflict zones and others who became victims of smuggling and trafficking. The countries in which support was augmented included Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand.

Through our engagements, Sri Lanka demonstrated keenness and agility in pursuing neutrality and Non-Alignment whilst actively contributing to the maintenance of regional and global peace and security. Sri Lanka continued to advocate for respect for sovereignty and the rule of law which governs interactions between states. As a small country with a significant geo-strategic location in the Indian Ocean region emphasis was placed on building strong, friendly relations bilaterally, regionally and globally.

Sri Lanka also actively supported the rules- based multilateral system, which provides a level playing field in international relations for small states such as Sri Lanka. We advocated for the voices of the Global South to be acknowledged and for multilateral systems to adapt and be

more inclusive in our regional and multilateral engagements. Sri Lanka endeavored to support an inclusive international system which incorporates the political, economic, social and climate change mitigation aspirations of the Global South.

2. Supporting Sri Lanka's Economic Recovery

Foremost among the Ministry's efforts in 2025 was the revitalization of the national economy amidst prevailing economic challenges and the pursuit of long-term stability. The Ministry provided substantive policy guidance and strategic perspectives, while facilitating trade, investment, and technology partnerships to advance Sri Lanka's key economic objectives. Efforts remained focused on supporting national goals to overcome economic constraints and to foster pathways toward sustainable prosperity, as identified by the Government.

The Ministry worked closely with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, and facilitated high-level discussions at the Foreign Minister level with major international financial institutions, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The Ministry conducted sustained discussions and negotiations with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to address the Reciprocal Tariff on Sri Lankan imports, facilitating over 20 in-person and online meetings between Sri Lankan delegations and USTR since 2 April 2025. These efforts successfully secured a reduction in the tariff from 44% to 20%, reflecting the positive trajectory of current Sri Lanka–United States bilateral and trade relations.

The Ministry also coordinated with the Republic of Korea (ROK) authorities to finalize the Agreement of Cooperation on Climate Change between Sri Lanka and the ROK, and completed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the Official Creditor Committee on Sri Lanka's official debt restructuring.

Significant outcomes facilitated by the Ministry include the organization of an Investor Roundtable during the State Visit of H.E. the President to China in January, engaging 10 potential investors and leading to the signing of an EOI between Sinopec and the Government of Sri Lanka for a US\$ 3.7 billion refinery project in Hambantota. One-on-one meetings were arranged between H.E. the President and five companies to discuss potential investments, while outreach efforts reached 50 potential investors, resulting in 30 companies expressing concrete interest. Additionally, an investment exceeding US\$ 2.0 million was realized for the establishment of a janitorial brush production facility with imported machinery. The Ministry also facilitated five investor awareness presentations in Beijing and other provinces, including participation in the South Asia and Southeast Asia Investment Promotion Conference.

High-level engagements with the UAE included H.E. the President's participation in the World Government Summit, resulting in the signing of an Investment Protection Agreement, followed by the UAE Foreign Minister's visit to Sri Lanka, during which a MoU establishing the UAE-Sri Lanka Joint Business Council was concluded.

During H.E. the President's official visit to Germany in June 2025, the Ministry facilitated, in collaboration with DIHK and OAV, a business forum highlighting investor-friendly reforms and opportunities in Sri Lanka. H.E. the President, together with the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, also engaged German tourism industry representatives to promote Sri Lanka's tourism potential. As a result, several new investment proposals are under discussion, including a youth hostel, a retirement village, and the expansion of existing German businesses in Sri Lanka.

During the official Visit of H.E. the President to Japan, the Ministry coordinated key engagements with the Japanese Minister of Finance, the President of JICA, and the Founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, as well as H.E. the President's participation in a high-level Roundtable discussion with JETRO.

The Ministry organized, a Business Forum to coincide with H.E. the President's State Visit to the Maldives. The forum was attended by 26 high net-worth Maldivian business leaders, during which H.E. the President highlighted investment opportunities in Sri Lanka. The Ministry facilitated 4,328 job contracts, creating employment opportunities for Sri Lankans in the Maldives, during the period under review.

The Ministry facilitated the EU GSP+ Monitoring Mission (29 April–7 May 2025), which included meetings with H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism, and key institutions such as the Office of the Missing Persons, Office of National Unity and Reconciliation, Office of Reparation, Election Commission, CIABOC, and Human Rights Commission. This has been a fruitful visit to Sri Lanka. The Ministry followed up on Sri Lanka's submission on flexible Rules of Origin (ROOs) for apparel under the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), resulting in the UK's announcement on 11 July 2025 of more flexible ROOs, to be implemented in early 2026.

Further, in its efforts to advance trade and investment, the Ministry provided strategic guidance and support to safeguard and promote Sri Lanka's economic interests internationally.

The Ministry advanced its investment agenda in 2025 through a combination of a modernized digital investment brief, high-level investor delegations, and strategic initiatives. Through these initiatives, the Ministry played a pivotal role in enhancing Sri Lanka's profile as a competitive destination for trade and investment. Economic diplomacy continued to be a central focus for both the Ministry and its overseas Missions, with concerted efforts throughout 2025 to promote exports, identify new markets, participate in international exhibitions, and foster business-to-business engagement. The Economic Diplomacy programme, under which Missions are entrusted with specific economic objectives, is implemented in close collaboration with public and private sector institutions, as well as key industry stakeholders.

The "Ready to Invest", the investment brief was transformed into a user friendly digital format, shared across Colombo and Sri Lanka's 63 overseas missions, reaching over 720 entities including business chambers, corporate organizations, and high-net-worth individuals to showcase key investment opportunities. The Ministry hosted C-suite-level delegations from

France, India, the United States, Viet Nam, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Türkiye, and Japan, engaging in discussions across sectors including real estate, renewable energy, manufacturing, shipping and logistics, tourism, health infrastructure, and Colombo Port City development.

The Ministry through the Embassy in Beijing, has facilitated the establishment of a government-to-government framework to ensure the uninterrupted supply of fertilizer for the Yala and Maha seasons.

Sri Lanka's business event calendar has garnered significant interest both locally and internationally. In this regard, the Ministry, in collaboration with relevant line agencies and Sri Lankan Missions, has promoted key events to encourage active participation, including FACETS, which attracted over 500 participants from more than 35 countries; Disrupt Asia, with 700 participants including 45 foreign investors from 18 countries; Voyage Sri Lanka 2025, hosting 10 foreign delegates from 4 countries; and Gem City Ratnapura, which welcomed 3 foreign delegations. Looking ahead, the Ministry currently coordinates the promotion of upcoming events such as the Economic and Investment Summit, Boat Show, EXPO 2026, Invest in Sri Lanka (BOI), and the Prathibhabhisheka Women Entrepreneur Awards.

In 2025, five MoUs were signed to expand trade and investment between Sri Lanka and China, and five market access registrations were coordinated for Ceylon cinnamon, spices, ornamental fish, and live fisheries. Two market access protocols for wheat bran and poultry products were also signed in January 2025. These efforts led to the execution of export orders totaling 8,000 MT of wheat and bran and USD 144,000 worth of cinnamon and pepper.

Strategic business engagements were conducted with leading Japanese corporations including Toppan Group, AEON Mall, Mitsui Consultants, Sanko Marketing Foods, and Aoyagi Corporation to advance feasibility studies, explore market-entry opportunities, and create overseas employment pathways for Sri Lankan youth.

The Ministry advanced strategic diplomatic and economic engagement across the Middle East, achieving notable progress in trade, investment, and tourism. Key highlights included strengthening commercial and investment ties with Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman, settling \$135 million of the \$251 million tea-for-oil barter debt with Iran and promoting high-level economic cooperation; facilitating LNG sector and Port City investment initiatives; and boosting the gem and jewellery sector, contributing to 15,417 tourist arrivals in Israel despite regional challenges.

Sri Lanka also remains committed to the framework of rules and agreements that promote and protect the open global trading system through the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Despite being a valuable tool to drive economic growth and development, the multilateral trading system needs reform to address current challenges and deliver on the promises made through the Doha Development Agenda. On 25 September, the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism held a bilateral discussion with Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-

General of the WTO, at the United Nations Headquarters, marking an important step in advancing multilateral trade-related dialogue.

3. Strengthening Relations and Advancing Interests

In the year under review, concerted efforts were undertaken to deepen and expand Sri Lanka's engagement with bilateral, regional, and multilateral partners. Relations with India were notably strengthened, culminating in the landmark State Visit of the Prime Minister of India to Sri Lanka (4–6 April), during which seven MoUs were signed across defence, energy, health, digital infrastructure, and infrastructure development.

The Ministry also facilitated another significant diplomatic engagement, the State Visit of H.E. the President to the Maldives (28–30 July) which resulted in the signing of two MoUs on mutual legal assistance and training/capacity building, further consolidating Sri Lanka's strategic and cooperative ties in the region.

Sri Lanka's longstanding and friendly relations with the People's Republic of China were further strengthened with the official visit of His Excellency the President to China in January 2025, coordinated by the Division in collaboration with SLEMB/Beijing. During the visit, H.E. the President held constructive bilateral discussions with H.E. President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qian, and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, H.E. Zhao Leji. The visit culminated in the exchange of 15 MoUs, including a significant grant of RMB 500 million from the Chinese Government, underscoring the deepening strategic partnership between the two countries. Further, during the State Visit the Ministry facilitated the exchange of the Certificate of Handover on the Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Project to Sri Lanka.

The Ministry coordinated the official visit of H.E. the President to Japan, during which he paid a courtesy call on His Majesty the Emperor and held bilateral discussions with key Japanese leaders, including the Prime Minister and Ministers of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Economy, Trade, and Industry. Addressing the Sri Lankan community, the President highlighted the country's efforts to maintain balanced diplomatic relations, promote national unity, and achieve economic stability, while encouraging diaspora investment. The visit strengthened political, economic, and cultural ties with Japan and reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to sound diplomacy, the rule of law, and sustainable development.

The Ministry facilitated the Hon. Prime Minister's participation in the UNESCO Expert Conference in France (31 March–2 April 2025) on the excavation and conservation of the World Heritage Site and Sacred City of Anuradhapura, a significant event for Sri Lanka, which also included sideline meetings of importance to Sri Lanka with the former Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Education, Higher Education, and Research, Hon. Élisabeth Borne, as well as attendance at the concluding segment of the SOS Ocean Conference organized by the French Government in partnership with the Oceano Azul Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

In addition, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Employment and Tourism and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment undertook visits of bilateral, regional and multilateral nature in 2025 with a view to enhancing Sri Lanka's interests. These included among others visits to China, UAE, OMAN, Switzerland, Holly See, Vietnam, Germany, Malaysia, Maldives, The USA, Japan, Thailand, South Korea.

The Ministry facilitated a key visit by Hon. Catherine West, UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific, to Sri Lanka (26–28 January 2025), enhancing diplomatic ties between the two countries. The visit included meetings with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism, participation in an education event at the British Council, the launch of two export handbooks, a briefing on a demining program, and a review of the UK-funded Climate Adaptation Project in Jaffna under the CARA program.

The Ministry facilitated several high-level inward visits and engagements that significantly strengthened Sri Lanka's foreign relations. Key among these were three important visits from Australia: Hon. Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence; H.E. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia; and H.E. Ms. Samantha Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia. The Ministry also coordinated high-level ministerial and parliamentary meetings, including discussions with the Chinese Foreign Ministry on economic, political, and strategic matters, engagements with Australian parliamentarians such as Ms. Cassandra Fernando M.P., Chair of the Sri Lanka-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group and Special Envoy of the Australian Prime Minister for the Indian Ocean, and meetings with senior New Zealand leaders, including the Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament, and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. Additionally, the Ministry initiated steps to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands.

Key bilateral political consultations held in the year under review included 3rd round of Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Philippines, 3rd round of Japan Sri Lanka Policy Dialogue and 6th round of Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Thailand, 2nd round of bilateral political consultations between Sri Lanka and Bhutan, 4th round of foreign office consultation between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

Between May and September 2025, the Ministry secured Cabinet approval for signing key diplomatic instruments to enhance our foreign relations : the MoU between the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute and Brazil's Rio Branco Institute (19 May); the MoU on the Political Consultations Mechanism with Guatemala (2 June); the Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations with Belize (11 August); and the Agreement establishing diplomatic relations with Antigua and Barbuda (3 September).

In the sphere of public diplomacy, the Ministry continued to play a pivotal role in strengthening Sri Lanka's international outreach and media cooperation. During the State Visit of His Excellency the President to China in January 2025, the Ministry facilitated the signing of several agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing information exchange, media collaboration, and cultural engagement. These included the Cooperation Agreement between the Xinhua News Agency and the Department of Government Information,

three MoUs between the China Media Group and the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, as well as an MoU between the National Radio and Television Administration of China and the Ministry of Health and Mass Media of Sri Lanka. In addition, a News Cooperation MoU between Xinhua News Agency and Lake House (Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited) was also concluded.

The Ministry facilitated several defence-related engagements during the period, including meetings with international defence authorities and defence industry representatives, as well as the coordination of major bilateral dialogues such as Defence Policy Talks and Maritime Dialogues. It also supported a number of high-level official visits and international defence forums, further enhancing cooperation with partner nations. In addition, the Ministry coordinated overseas training opportunities and study programmes for members of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces, thereby strengthening professional development and capacity building. Ongoing defence procurement initiatives and assistance programmes were also facilitated, including the acquisition of naval assets, technical equipment, and logistical support from partner governments. These included key initiatives such as coordination with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China to secure an additional 21 training vacancies for Sri Lankan Armed Forces personnel for the year 2025–2026, and the facilitation of major official visits, including the participation of the Ministry of Defence delegation at the 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, where productive discussions were held on Tri-Forces procurement and bonded warehouse matters.

Proactive diplomacy enabled Sri Lanka's inaugural participation in the 21st Manama Dialogue Regional Security Summit and participation in the 55th Regular session of the General Assembly of Organization of American States (OAS) held from 25-27 June in Antigua and Barbuda.

In achieving climate targets, the Ministry continued active cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) during the reporting period, further advancing Sri Lanka's climate and sustainable development objectives.

Through close collaboration with international counterparts, particularly in maritime security, the Ministry contributed to maintaining effective joint operations, resulting in the prevention of human smuggling activities and the continued enhancement of regional security cooperation.

4. Expanding Regional and Multilateral cooperation

The Ministry coordinated the H.E President's visit to the 80th Session of the UNGA accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism. H.E the President addressed the General Assembly on 24 September 2025, underscoring Sri Lanka's priorities in eradicating poverty and combatting corruption, highlighted education as a decisive factor shaping the future of individuals and nations, and drew attention to the global drug crisis as a complex issue requiring urgent, collective international action. Further, the President during his speech drew special attention to the situation in Gaza, called an

immediate ceasefire, the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid and the release of hostages by all parties, in line with agreements reached by the United Nations and other stakeholders.

On the multilateral front, one of the key challenges was the country specific resolution mooted by a group of countries at the Human Rights Council on Sri Lanka in continuation of resolutions adopted in previous years. Delivering Sri Lanka's National Statement during the Interactive Dialogue at the 60th Session of the Human Rights Council, following the presentation of the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Hon. Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to working with the international community to strengthen national efforts and urged the Council to recognize recent progress and continue its support for advancing reconciliation and the rights and well-being of all Sri Lankans through credible domestic process. Further Sri Lanka rejected the resolution tabled by the core group on Sri Lanka during the 60th session of the HRC. Delivering Sri Lanka's Statements At the Human Rights Council Sessions held in 2025 (58th, 59th, and 60th sessions) the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations reiterated the rejection of HRC Resolution 51/1 and stressed Sri Lanka's commitment to addressing matters through national processes .

The four-day official visit of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk to Sri Lanka from 23 to 26 June 2025 marked a historic milestone, being the first visit by a High Commissioner since February 2016. During his trip, High Commissioner Türk engaged extensively with key stakeholders, including HE the President, Ministers, other government representatives, religious leaders, political parties, civil society, and the general public. His visit also included a site visit to the Chemmani grave site in Jaffna, reflecting Sri Lanka's commitment to transparency and dialogue on reconciliation and human rights. Following the visit, the High Commissioner acknowledged the government's genuine openness to address issues including corruption and expressed optimism that Sri Lanka can become an example of peaceful co-existence.

Following Cabinet approval, the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee on Human Rights convened its inaugural meeting on 24 February 2025. Comprising 21 government agencies, the Committee serves as a permanent national framework to ensure effective coordination and reporting on Sri Lanka's voluntary international commitments related to human rights and reconciliation.

In 2025, Sri Lanka enhanced its participation in global environmental and ocean governance. Coordinated by the Ministry, the country signed the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) on 20 February, and ratified it on 16 September, becoming the 58th Party. The Ministry also facilitated securing funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to support the ratification process of the BBNJ Agreement.

Sri Lanka's engagements with regional groupings were strengthened during 2025 with a particular emphasis being placed on increasing engagements within regional constructs of

importance including *inter alia* the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), BIMSTEC, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), SAARC, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Conference on Interactions and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Colombo Plan.

As Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), Sri Lanka successfully hosted and presided over the 24th Council of Ministers Meeting (21 May 2025), 27th Committee of Senior Officials (19–20 May 2025), , and the IORA Sub-Committee on Finance (22 July 2025). In addition, the 32nd Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) was hosted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, in its capacity as Chair of the Forum, on 20 January 2025. Sri Lanka also actively contributed as a member of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of the IORA Special Fund Guidelines, participating in its inaugural meeting to strengthen the mechanism's effectiveness.

The Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan visited Sri Lanka and called on the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, marking an important step in further strengthening Sri Lanka's longstanding partnership with the organization. The Hon. Minister participated as the Chief Guest at the 74th Anniversary Celebration of the Colombo Plan, underscoring Sri Lanka's pivotal role as a founding member and its continued commitment to advancing the organization's shared goals of regional cooperation and socio-economic development.

The BIMSTEC Secretary-General visited Sri Lanka and met with the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, the Hon. Minister of Health, and the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology. His second visit to Sri Lanka, undertaken to participate in the High-Level Policy Dialogue titled "*Beyond Waste: Optimizing Food, Water, and Energy for Better Nutrition in South Asia*" at the invitation of the Prime Minister's Office, helped further strengthen Sri Lanka's continued engagement with the BIMSTEC bloc.

Underscoring Sri Lanka's continuous commitment to the BIMSTEC bloc, Sri Lanka hosted the 3rd BIMSTEC Working Group on Tourism, the 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cultural Cooperation, the 2nd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development, the 2nd Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge (TMK), Genetic Resources (GR), and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the Nodal Group Meeting, and the 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation (EG-STIC). Apart from that, the Ministry, in collaboration with relevant line agencies, facilitated the hosting of several BIMSTEC initiatives, which included capacity-building workshops, high-level policy dialogues, and sectoral meetings aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and integration among member states.

As part of its efforts to seek membership in the New Development Bank, Sri Lanka initiated key preparatory steps in 2025. The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism led a high-level meeting with line ministry stakeholders on 4 July to discuss next steps. This was followed by an information session in Shanghai on 11 September, bringing

together Sri Lankan stakeholders and New Development Bank officials to facilitate informed decision-making.

5. Extending Consular Assistance & Supporting Sri Lankans overseas

The Ministry achieved a significant milestone in 2025 by delivering speedy consular services to the general public through its Regional Consular Offices in Colombo, Jaffna, Matara, Kandy, Trincomalee, and Kurunegala, and through Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. An online authentication system was introduced for GCE Ordinary Level (O/L) and Advanced Level (A/L) certificates allowing applicants to apply for online authentication for these certificates without physically visiting the Consular Division in Colombo.

The successful integration of the e-DAS (Electronic Document Attestation System) and e-BDM (Electronic Birth, Death, and Marriage Registration, Registrar General's Department) databases, represents a significant milestone in the digitalization of public services. This platform allows applicants to securely request authentication of birth, marriage, and death certificates online, eliminating the need for in-person visits. In collaboration with the Registrar General's Department, the Division extended these services to Sri Lankan Missions abroad, facilitating the issuance of certified copies of these certificates for overseas citizens. The initiative which commenced as a pilot initiative, 7 January 2025 is expected to be expanded to all Missions, by February 2026 enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of consular services through digital channels.

In addition to facilitate the recovery of compensation and legal entitlements for deceased Sri Lankan migrant workers, the Ministry has strengthened legal support for overseas workers by appointing a speedy law firm in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and granting approval to engage two additional firms in Kuwait. This initiative aims to enhance legal representation for migrant workers, particularly in cases involving death and compensation-related litigation.

In 2025, the Ministry successfully processed 378 repatriation requests, encompassing cases involving detained individuals, routine repatriations, Myanmar cybercrime centre victims, and the Sri Lankans involved in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. In close coordination with Sri Lanka Missions abroad, the Division facilitated the safe return of 771 Sri Lankans from the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Western countries, and Africa. The Ministry also managed 11 cases involving stranded fishing vessels, ensuring the repatriation of 55 crew members along with seven vessels. The Ministry also played a pivotal role in facilitating law enforcement authorities to extradite/return wanted Sri Lankan fugitives absconding in different countries.

Conclusion

A more detailed account of the progress achieved in relation to Foreign Affairs is provided in the next sections of this report.

Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions / Posts Aboard

Legend:

- High Commissions
- Embassies
- Permanent Missions to UN
- Consulates
- Deputy High Commissions
- Sri Lanka Representative Office
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Map showing the locations of Sri Lanka's diplomatic missions across the world. The map is color-coded by mission type: High Commissions (yellow), Embassies (pink), Permanent Missions to UN (purple), Consulates (green), Deputy High Commissions (red), and Sri Lanka Representative Office (light blue). The map shows missions across all continents, with a high concentration in Europe and Asia. Notable missions include the High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and the Sri Lanka Representative Office in New York City. The map also shows the locations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Figure-II- Divisions Architecture of Foreign Affairs

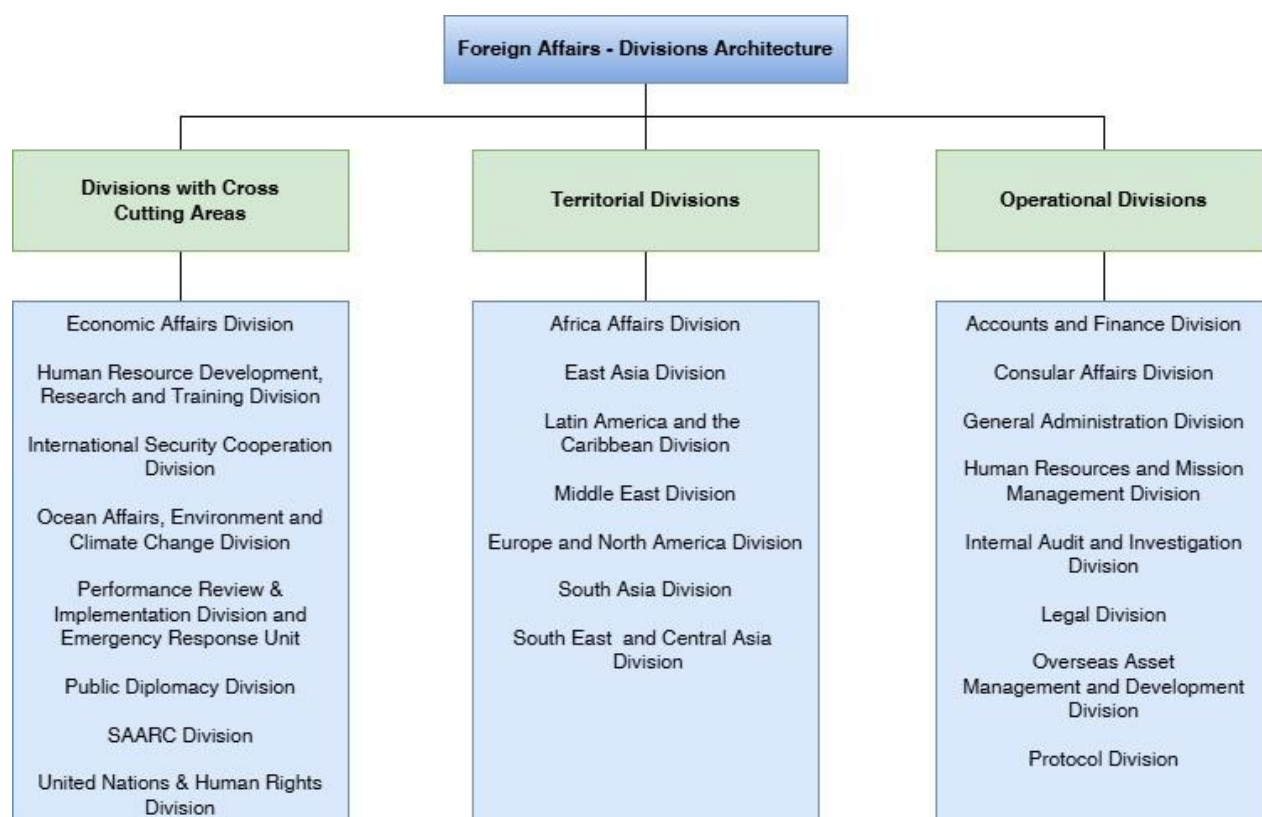


Table – I - High Level Visits: Inward

Visit of Heads of the State and Heads of Government to Sri Lanka		
1.	Visit of Hon. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India	04 - 06 April 2025
2.	Official visit of H.E. Ms. Samantha Mostyn, Governor-General of Australia	07-10 August 2025
Visit of Foreign Ministers		
1.	Transit visit of Hon. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China	05 January 2025
2.	Official visit of Hon. Abdulla Khaleel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives	18-21 February 2025
3.	Official visit of Hon. Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Qatar	20-22 February 2025
4.	Official visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates	21-22 April 2025
5.	Official visit of Hon. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand	25-28 May 2025
6.	Official visit of Hon. Radosław Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland	28-31 May 2025
Visits of Speakers of the Parliament and other Ministers		
1.	Official visit of Hon. Nakatani Gen, Minister of Defence of Japan	03-04 May 2025
2.	Official visit of Hon. Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China	27-31 May 2025
3.	Visit of Hon. Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Australia	03 June 2025
4.	Visit of Hon. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of Türkiye	22-25 July 2025

Visits of other Senior Dignitaries		
1.	Visit of Hon. Catherine West, Member of Parliament and Minister for the Indo-Pacific, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom	26-29 January 2025

2.	Visit of Ms. Ikuna Akiko, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan	03-05 February 2025
3.	Visit of Hon. Gen. Nipat Thanlek, Vice Minister, Office of the Prime Minister of Thailand	10-12 February
4.	His Holiness Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Saheb, Spiritual Leader of the International Bohra Community	03 April 2025
	Visit of Mr. Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group	07-08 May 2025
5.	Official visit of H.E. the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia	02 June 2025
6.	His Holiness Dr. Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin Saheb, Spiritual Leader of the International Bohra Community, as a State Guest	15 -24 June 2025
7.	Visit of Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	23-26 June 2025
8.	Visit of Ms. Maria Tripodi, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy – 3-5 September 2025	03-05 September 2025

Table – II - High Level visits: Outward

Visits of His Excellency the President		
1.	State Visit to the People's Republic of China	14 – 17 January 2025
2.	Visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to attend the World Government Summit 2025.	10-13 February 2025
3.	State visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	04-06 May 2025
4.	State visit to Germany	11-14 June 2025
5.	State visit to Maldives	28-30 July 2025
6.	Visit to USA to attend 80 th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York	23-26 September 2025
7.	Official visit to Japan	27-30 September 2025

Visits of Hon. Prime Minister		
1.	<p>Official visit to Hamburg, Germany to participate the 102nd Asia-Pacific Friendship Dinner and the German-Asian Foreign Forum on Vocational Training and Education</p> <p>Official visit to France to participate the Expert Conference on the Excavation and Conservation of the World Heritage Site and sacred City Anuradhapura</p> <p>Official visit to Bangkok, Thailand to attend BIMSTEC Summit</p>	<p>26 March -04 April 2025</p> <p>30th March- 2nd April 2025</p> <p>3rd-4th April 2025</p>
2.	Visit to Vancouver, Canada to participate in the Meeting of the Board of Government of the Commonwealth of Learning	26-26 June 2025
Visits of Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism		
1.	Visit to the People's Republic of China with H.E the President	14 – 17 January 2025
2.	Visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to attend the World Government Summit 2025 with H.E the President	10-13 February 2025
3.	Visit to Oman to attend the 8 th Edition of the Indian Ocean Conference	16-17 February 2025
4.	Visit to Switzerland to attend 58 th Session of the Human Rights Council	24-26 February 2025
5.	Visit to Vatican city, Holy see to attend to the funeral of His Holiness Pop Fransis	25-26 April 2025
6.	Visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with H.E. the President	04-06 May 2025
7.	Visit to Germany with H.E. the President	11-14 June 2025
8.	Visit to Malaysia to attend 32 ASEAN Forum, Kuala Lumpur	10-12 July 2025
9.	Visit to Maldives with H.E. the President	28-30 July 2025
10.	Visit to USA to attend to the UNGA	23-26 September 2025
11.	Visit to Japan with HE the President	27-30 September 2025

Visits of Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Employment		
1.	Visit to Bangkok, Thailand to attend 6 th BIMSTEC Summit	02-04 April 2025
2.	Visit to Berlin, German to attend UN Peacekeeping Summit	13-14 May 2025
3.	Visit to Seoul, South Korea to attend World Industrial Tourism Conference 2025	05-07 June 2025
4.	Visit to China to attend 9 th China South Asia Exposition	18-21 June 2025

Conferences and Meetings

1.	EU/GSP Plus Monitoring Mission and Working Group on Governance Rule of Law and Human Rights	05 May 2025
2.	The first Round of Political Consultation between Sri Lanka and Italy	04 September 2025
3.	3 rd Round of Sri Lanka-Philippines Political Consultation	12 September 2025

Social Events with the participation of the Diplomatic Corps- 2025

1.	77 th Independence Day	04 February 2025
2.	Sinhala and Tamil New Year Celebration 2025	10 April 2025
3.	Visit of Heads of Mission/Spouses and Diplomatic officers to witness the Special Exposition of the Sacred Tooth Relic	18 April 2025
4.	Buddha Rashmi National Vesak zone 2025	12-16 May 2025
5.	Visit of the Members of the Diplomatic Corps to Kandy to witness the Kandy Esala Perehera	07-09 August 2025

PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE DIVISIONS: DIVISIONS WITH CROSS CUTTING AREAS

1. Economic Affairs Division

1.1. Economic Affairs (Bilateral): The Economic Affairs (Bilateral) Division, provided substantive policy level guidance, strategic perspectives, and facilitated trade, investment and technology input to meet Sri Lanka's key economic objectives. The focus has sustained in supporting national goals to overcome the economic challenges and create paths for economic prosperity identified by the Government. The Division also leads the Ministry's support to achieve national priorities, particularly in energy, food, health security and debt restructuring.

A substantial role was played in positioning Sri Lanka as a competitive destination for trade and investment. The Division partnered with Sri Lanka based agencies to launch a focussed plan on IT sector, Trade, and Investment, enabled by hybrid forums connecting Sri Lankan exporters with Missions/Posts abroad. Industry associations from 6 key export sectors: IT/BPM, Electrical and Electronic Manufacturing, Spices, Seafood, Food Processing, and Gem & Jewellery, presented their capacities and challenges. Missions are identifying market opportunities and engaging directly with exporters to support trade promotion. The briefing sessions organized to the Missions/Posts overseas and the Diplomatic Corps in Colombo presented Sri Lanka's unique selling points and opportunities in trade and investment. The sessions were aimed to mobilise partnership and support to attract delegations for Disrupt Asia, Voyage Sri Lanka 2025, FACETS, Gem City Ratnapura, the upcoming Economic and Investment Summit and the major export event - Sri Lanka Expo 2026, next year. In collaboration with SLASSCOM, Export Development Board, and the Federation of Information Technology Industry Sri Lanka (FITIS), the Division actively promoted Sri Lanka's potential in the IT domain.

The Division facilitated visits of C-suite level business delegations to Sri Lanka from France, China, Thailand, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Turkiye, Vietnam, India, Japan, and USA with interest in sectors such as Renewable energy, Real estate; Leisure; Healthcare; and Shipping & Logistics during 2025. With Missions overseas and the BOI, the Division promoted investments using the 'Ready to Invest' dossier in sectors including Textile/Fabric, Pharmaceutical, IT, Real Estate and Tourism based Mixed Development. The Division also facilitated Tri-Ministerial Briefing session (Foreign Affairs, Industry, & Trade), along with key line agencies, Board of Investment, Export Development Board, and Department of Commerce, to share key policy directives, practical proposals, and focused ideas relating to trade and investment promotion with Sri Lanka Missions.

By facilitating negotiations/engagements on energy supply and storage with key supplier countries from multiple regions. The Division plays an active role to help strengthen and secure the country's energy security. Similarly, for strengthening food security, the Division through the Embassy in Beijing, helps to establish a G to G mechanism to facilitate the supply of fertilizer for the Yala and Maha Seasons including to avoid any shortages. Further, expediting

bilateral debt restructuring agreements with UK, France, Hungary, Japan, India, Saudi Arabia, and China, was facilitated by the Division.

The Division facilitated Missions to arrange economic engagements/Business Forums during President Anura Kumara Disanayake's State visits to China, Germany, Maldives, Vietnam, and Japan, which were focused on enhancing bilateral relations, as well as discussions on expanding trade and bringing in foreign direct investment. Additionally the Ministry is represented in the Executive Board of the Export Development Board. The Division also facilitated formation and extending of partnerships of Business Councils with UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

With Sri Lanka's economic interest in mind, the Division also facilitated high level discussions at Foreign Minister-level with global financial institutions including the World Bank and IMF, Asian Development Bank. The Division represents the Ministry in the Boards of the Export Development Board and represents the Ministry in several Cabinet Appointed Committees on exports, investment, visa regulations and tourism.

The Division remains committed to strengthening Sri Lanka's global economic partnerships through strategic engagement, and targeted promotion of trade and investment. By aligning national priorities with international opportunities, the Division will continue to play an active role in advancing sustainable economic growth and stability and thereby serve Sri Lanka's key national interests.

1.2. Economic Affairs (Multilateral)

1.2.1. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA): The Division serves as the focal point in Sri Lanka for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) which Sri Lanka currently chairs. From 1st January to 30 September, the Division participated in/facilitated 37 IORA related meetings, Workshops, and Training Programmes in coordination with the relevant line ministries/agencies and the IORA Secretariat in Mauritius.

As the IORA Chair, Sri Lanka hosted and chaired the 27th IORA Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), 19-20 May, the 24th IORA Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting, 21 May and chaired IORA Sub Committee on Finance on 22 July 2025. In addition, the 32nd Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum (IORBF) was hosted by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) as a Chair of the IORBF, on 20 January 2025.

Sri Lanka, as a member of the IORA Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of the Special Fund Guideline, participated in the first meeting to review the IORA Special Fund Guideline on 27 August 2025 in virtual format.

The Division, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, is initiating the development of standard guidelines for shipwreck diving, with the support of the IORA Special Fund. The first

stakeholders' meeting on the development of Guidelines for Shipwreck Diving was held on 07 July 2025. The Division is also finalizing the IORA funding application for Promoting Seaweed Farming in Sri Lanka as a sustainable livelihood option and the Seagrass Blue Economy Concept for the sustainability of small-scale fisheries in Sri Lanka, together with the Ministry of Science and Technology.

1.2.2. New Development Bank (NDB): The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism convened a meeting on 4 July 2025 to discuss next steps, including estimating the costs of joining the New Development Bank with line ministry stakeholders. Subsequently, the Division held an information session for SL stakeholders with officials from the New Development Bank in Shanghai on 11 September 2025.

1.2.3. BIMSTEC: The Division facilitated the hosting of the following meetings in Sri Lanka with line agencies: the 1st STI Forum and Boot Camp (virtual), 29 January; the BIMSTEC Digital Conclave 2025, 7–8 February; the 3rd BIMSTEC Working Group on Tourism, 18 March; the 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cultural Cooperation, 24 April (virtual); the Workshop on finalizing the BIMSTEC Human Resource Development Implementation Plan, 16 July; the 2nd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Human Resource Development, 16 July; the 2nd Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge (TMK), Genetic Resources (GR), and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and the Nodal Group Meeting, 27 August (virtual); and the 3rd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation (EG-STIC), 11–12 September (hybrid).

Other BIMSTEC-related matters: facilitated the participation of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, 3–4 April, Bangkok, Thailand.

The BIMSTEC Secretary-General visited Sri Lanka from 5–7 February and met with the Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, Hon. Minister of Health, and Hon. Minister of Science and Technology. During his second visit, 17–19 June, he participated in the High-Level Policy Dialogue titled “Beyond Waste: Optimizing Food, Water, and Energy for Better Nutrition in South Asia” on the invitation of the Prime Minister’s Office. On the sidelines, he called on the Minister of Science and Technology and Deputy Minister of Health.

1.2.4. Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD): Division officials participated in the 1st session of the Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM) on 6 February (virtually) and in the 2nd session on 18 June in Bangkok, Thailand. In preparation for the 20th ACD Ministerial Meeting, several ACD Working Group meetings were conducted virtually to negotiate the draft Bangkok Declaration, which was later postponed along with the 3rd session of the SOM and the ACD High-Level Conference on Global Fiscal and Financial Architecture.

Since the 1st ACD Ministerial Meeting on Sports is scheduled for 5–7 November 2025 in Samara, Russia, several virtual discussions were held in preparation, including negotiations on the Samara Declaration.

The 5th Working Group Meeting on Connectivity was held virtually in January 2025.

1.2.5. Colombo Plan; The Division facilitated the participation of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment at the Special Session of the Colombo Plan Council on 7 May.

The Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism on 14 July.

The Division coordinated and facilitated the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism as Chief Guest at the 74th Anniversary of the Colombo Plan on 17 July at Sangam Ballroom 1, ITC Ratnadipa.

The Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan also paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Prime Minister on 28 August at the Prime Minister's Office.

Sri Lanka submitted its nomination to the Standing Committee of the Colombo Plan Council on Administrative and Financial Matters for FY 2025/2026 and became a member under the South Asia/Sub region of Southwest Asia. The Division participated in the first meeting of the Committee on 17 September and attended the 310th Session of the Colombo Plan Council on 23 September, representing Sri Lanka.

1.2.6. World Economic Forum: The Division coordinated the participation of the Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development in the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2025 (AMNC25), 23–26 June, Tianjin, China.

1.2.7. African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): The Division coordinated and facilitated scholarships, training offered by AARDO, and WIPO meetings in collaboration with the focal points, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, and the National Intellectual Property Office, respectively.

1.2.8. World Trade Organization: The Division and the Sri Lanka Mission in Pretoria assisted the Chairman/CEO of the Export Development Board (EDB) at the First Global SME Ministerial Meeting and the Trade Promotion Organizations Leadership Dialogue organized by the International Trade Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, 22–25 July.

The Division coordinated the ratification and deposit of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (FSA).

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism met Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO, for a bilateral discussion at the United Nations Headquarters on 25 September.

The Director-General of Multilateral Affairs and Deputy Legal Advisor represent the Ministry at the Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Act No. 2 of 2018, Department of Commerce.

1.3. Economic Affairs Division (Technical Cooperation): The Division verified and recommended 99 short-term entry visas, 41 long-term entry visas, and 81 resident visas for International Organization employees on specific assignments in Sri Lanka. It facilitated 232 visas for workshop and trade exhibition participants and streamlined visa issuance for other workshop and seminar attendees. The Division also facilitated the dissemination of 123 Procurement Notices from line agencies via Sri Lanka Missions, Ministry webpage, and Missions in Sri Lanka, and conducted 9 verifications of international companies through Sri Lanka Missions overseas.

2. Human Resource Development, Research and Training Division

The Human Resource Development, Research and Training (HRD, R & T) Division coordinates and facilitates matters related to career development of the officers who are working at the Ministry including the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) officers. The progress made by the Division in line with the scope of the Division, during the period under review is as follows:

2.1. Reports and Publications: Published the Directory of Diplomatic, Consular, and Other Representation Abroad as of 31 December 2024, in January 2025.

2.2. Examinations: Facilitated officers of the Ministry from various categories in coordination with the respective entities to conduct following examinations/tests for ensuring smooth recruitment of officers to the Ministry and Sri Lanka Missions abroad:

Steps were taken to get the approval from Public service Commission to publish the gazette notification for the Open Competitive examination for recruitment to Grade III of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in 2025.

The First and Second Efficiency Bar Examinations and Foreign Language Test for the Officers of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service –2020 (2024) examination was held in March 2025. Initial steps were taken to publish gazette for First and Second Efficiency Bar Examinations and Foreign Language Test for the Officers of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service –2025.

The gazette notification for the Limited Competitive Examination for filling vacancies in the Home Based Management Service Officers Cadre in the Sri Lanka Missions / Posts abroad 2024(2025) was Publish in 17 January 2025 and the examination was held in 14 June 2025.

Initial steps were taken to publish gazette notification for the Limited Competitive Examination for filling vacancies in the Home Based Personal Assistants' 'Posts in Sri Lanka Missions/Posts Abroad held in 2025.

2.3. Trainings: During the period under consideration; 63 foreign training programmes and 03 local training programmes for the SLFS officers in the Ministry were facilitated with a view to enhancing their knowledge, skills and capacity. Conducted Diplomatic Training Programme for the newly recruited sixteen (16) Sri Lanka Foreign Service officers from March to May 2025 and two (02) orientation programmes for Heads of Missions (HOMs) in April and August 2025. Two (02) orientation programmes were conducted in September at the Ministry for the qualified Office Employment Service Assistants and drivers who were appointed to serve in the Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad.

2.4. Future Outlook: The Human Resource Development, Research and Training (HRD, R&T) Division has played a key role in supporting the career development of Ministry staff, including Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) officers. The Division will continue to facilitate various upcoming examinations and training initiatives reflecting its ongoing commitment to strengthening the Ministry's human resource capacity.

3. International Security Cooperation Division

3.1. Interagency coordination and compiling information for the National Security Council meeting: International Security Cooperation Division is the main focal point at technical level in coordination official matters with the office of Chief of National Intelligence, Director General /State Intelligence Services, Office of the Inspector General of Police, Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs. Also, the Division is closely working with the Defence Counsellors, Defence attachés of the Colombo base diplomatic Missions regarding the subject matters related to International Security Cooperation and training.

The Division coordinates with the respective ministries, departments, Colombo based diplomatic missions and, Sri Lankan diplomatic missions overseas. Further the Division contributes with inputs for the joint commission meetings and political consultations covering the area of security cooperation.

Also, ISC Division is working as a member of the committee appointed for formulation of the National Defence Strategy and the reforming of National Defence Studies Institute.

Proactive engagement with the moderated Tamil organizations and personnel to strengthen the support of the overseas Sri Lankan community for the ongoing reconciliation efforts of the country. Engagement of certain diaspora groups with moderated approach are constantly engaged through the engagement and communication.

3.2. Conducting research work related to National Security: The Division engages in research work on different thematic areas related to the National Security. The Regional Defence formation and collation, human trafficking, terrorism related activities and emerging conventional (A state against another state on military offences) and non-conventional security

threats which included terrorism, climate change, pandemics, cyber-attacks, food security, social discontent etc.

3.3. LTTE-related matters: The Division provided the necessary inputs and coordinated with relevant Missions regarding the continued proscription of the LTTE in the European Union. It prepared the biannual submissions to the EU, which were submitted on 31 March 2025 and 29 September 2025, respectively. Subsequently, the EU announced on 30 July 2025 the retention of the LTTE on its list for a six-month period.

The Division has also submitted information to support the retention of the LTTE listing in Australia in coordination in Mission in Canberra, to be extended for a further period of three years with effect from 16 September 2025, for counter terrorism financing sanctions under Part 4 of the Charter of the United Nations Act 1945.

The Division conducts regular monitoring of LTTE-affiliated individuals, groups, and organizations abroad, while actively engaging with domestic law enforcement agencies, the Ministry of Defence, the Attorney General's Department, the State Intelligence Service, and the Police to exchange information. It also coordinates with Sri Lanka Missions overseas to track LTTE-linked activities in host countries and collaborates with international partners, including INTERPOL and foreign governments, on related cases. Additionally, the Division provides inputs and assessments to support discussions at the National Security Council.

3.4. Capacity Development of Ministry's officials, Local Defence, Security, and Legal Agencies : The Division is coordinating participation of Government agencies in health, education, justice, Universities, International organizations civil society organizations in the 3rd International Symposium on drug-related studies 2025 organized by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) from 9th to 11th December 2025 in Colombo.

The officials of this Division joined the workshop on "Advancing integrated solutions to confront the rising threat of extremism leading to terrorism jointly organized by the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence building measures in Asia (CICA) and the Embassy of Egypt in Colombo on 19th August 2025 online.

3.5. Support Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism Efforts: The Division continued with the support strengthening cooperation between the relevant agencies in countering and preventing violent extremism.

Further enhance cooperation and timely exchange of intelligence among national agencies and with Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

The Division is coordinating with the Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs, INTERPOL – Colombo, and Sri Lanka Missions abroad, assisting in the issuance of 75 Red Notices for Sri Lankan organized crime figures and drug traffickers operating from offshore locations, while liaising with foreign missions in Colombo.

3.6. Countering Terror Financing: Together with the Assistant Legal Adviser, the Director General represented the Foreign Ministry in the Officials' workshop on 'Strengthening the capacity of Sri Lanka to prevent the financing of terrorism through effective implementation of UNSCR 1267' convened by the Chief of National Intelligence to review the Designated List of Persons and Entities under UN Regulation No.1 of 2012 to promulgate UNSCR 1373.

Together with the Assistant Legal Adviser, the Director General represented the Foreign Ministry in the Officials' Committee convened by the Chief of National Intelligence to review the Designated List of Persons and Entities under UN Regulation No.1 of 2012 to promulgate UNSCR 1373 on 23 April 2025.

The officials attended the workshop on the current procedures of UN regulations, targeted financial sanctions and standard procedures for listing/delisting in preparation for the mutual evaluation on 18 July 2025.

The Director General attended an awareness programme on proliferation financing risk assessment session organized by the Financial Intelligence Unit on 15 August 2025.

3.7. Support other aspects of addressing threats to national security/image: This Division monitors and gathers information from Missions abroad and law enforcement authorities regarding LTTE activities and other security matters, and prepares biweekly briefs for the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to be presented at the National Security Council meeting chaired by H.E. the President.

The Division has been coordinating with the relevant political Divisions and SL missions to combat the false propaganda on Sri Lanka through monitoring statements, events, social media, and political activity by pro-LTTE elements and providing recommendations and input for countermeasures. Providing inputs and observations on defense matters related to the appointment of defence attachés, and supplying regular defence and security inputs for speaking notes during official high-level visits.

3.8. Participation and arranging in Meetings/Conferences: This Division provided observations and coordinating, the official visit by Hon. MFA to Munich Security Conference in Germany, from 13-16 February 2026.

In addition, the Division coordinated the Sri Lanka's participation in the 22nd International Exhibition of Police, Security and Safety Equipment from 13-16 October 2025 in Tehran, Iran. This Division convened a meeting with Narcotics Bureau, and the Royal Thai Embassy in Colombo and discussed establishing a joint mechanism to curb large-scale drug trafficking from Bangkok to Colombo and enhance cooperation against transnational scam syndicates on 30 June 2025.

Represents the Ministry in the Committee meetings at the Attorney General's Department on the proposed Anti-Terrorism Bill.

4. Ocean Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Division

The Ocean Affairs, Environment & Climate Change Division is responsible for promoting, coordinating, and ensuring coherence in Sri Lanka's international engagements related to ocean affairs, environment, and climate change, while providing foreign policy insights to relevant government ministries and agencies. Additionally, the Division works to strengthen Sri Lanka's role in international, regional, and sub-regional organizations in these areas, positioning the country as a bridge builder to advance both organizational objectives and Sri Lanka's national interests.

4.1. Political Diplomacy: This Division coordinated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sri Lanka Navy Hydrography Office (SLNHO) and the United Kingdom Hydrography Office (UKHO) on 14 February 2025 at the Ministry of Defence premises. This MoU aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of hydrography, contributing to improved maritime safety, data sharing, and capacity building.

4.2. Multilateral Diplomacy: In 2025, Sri Lanka strengthened its engagement in global environmental and ocean governance. The country signed the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) on 20 February and ratified it on 16 September, 2025 becoming the 58th Party. Further, Sri Lanka secured funding support from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for the ratification process of the BBNJ agreement.

Sri Lanka also participated in major international forums, including the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France where it joined initiatives on Ocean Accounts and an ambitious plastics treaty. During the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Sri Lanka was elected Vice-President of the ISA Standing Committee for the Asia-Pacific Group and Chair of the Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific for 2025–2026. The Division further supported the organization of the 7th Regional Committee Meeting in Colombo and contributed to shaping Sri Lanka's national positions at the 5.2 session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the plastics treaty in Geneva.

Division was also represented at the 6th IORA Blue Carbon Think Tank Symposium organized by IORA–Indian Ocean Blue Carbon Hub (Australia), held in Negombo, Sri Lanka, from 9 to 11 September 2025. The event brought together experts and scientists from all IORA Member States to share knowledge and best practices. In addition, the Division organized a webinar in partnership with the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership on Ocean Accounts on 04 September 2025 for national and international stakeholders, which significantly enhanced Sri Lanka's visibility within IORA during its Chairmanship.

In addition, the Division supported the following national activities and international participation:

- The 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) was held from 16–17 February 2025 in Muscat, Oman, organized by the India Foundation in collaboration with the Government of Oman.
- The National Event to commemorate the 3rd World Seagrass Day on 01 March 2025 at the Port City, Colombo.
- Coordination of participation of the Ministry of Environment in the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, namely, held in Geneva from 30 April to 1 May 2025.
- Representation of the National Ocean Affairs Committee (NOAC) at the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 23 to 27 June 2025.
- The 30th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) was held from 21 to 25 July 2025 in Kingston, Jamaica.
- Ministry of Environment to the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) of the RAMSAR convention, scheduled from 23rd to 31st July 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

4.3. Future outlook: Given the significance of the Division's role in multilateral fora and advancing national interests, the Division has taken steps to enhance engagement and strengthen relations with several key organizations, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). These efforts include proposals to establish a Regional Office of the IMO in Sri Lanka, the establishment of a Country Office of CVF, in Sri Lanka and the accreditation of a Permanent Representative to the ISA. In addition, the Division is coordinating with multilateral partners in drafting national legislation for the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

Division also envisages to assist especially government entities, on oceans, climate change and environment related projects/activities to have access to foreign collaborations, for the development of technical and human resources in order to move forward on their respective mandates.

5. Performance Review and Implementation Division and Emergency Response Unit

5.1. Performance Review and Implementation Division: The Performance Review and Implementation Division which was established in January 2023, has been mandated with functions of Preparation of Ministry Action Plan, evaluating the implementation of the Ministry Action Plans and Reforms , Preparation of all annual & quarterly reports of the Ministry and obtaining reports from all Divisions and thereafter assisting the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the targets identified, Preparation of Quarterly Progress Report that relating to the Capital Budget Allocations, Handling the functions of the Emergency Response Unit. In addition, the Division monitors the performance of the Government Manifesto – “A Thriving and Beautiful Life” – and has been mandated to prepare the Action Plan and Strategic Plan for the sectors of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism, as per the instructions of the Presidential Secretariat.

Accordingly, the progress made by the Division during the period under review is as follows:

5.1.1. Annual Action Plan of the Ministry: Prepared the Annual Action Plan-2025 of the Ministry and shared with the respective entities.

5.1.2. Annual Performance Report of the Ministry: Prepared the Annual Performance Report-2024 of the Ministry and submitted to the Parliament of Sri Lanka and other respective government entities.

5.1.3. Monitoring the Performance of the Government Manifesto - A Thriving a beautiful Life: Prepared the Action Plan for the year 2025 of the Ministry, incorporating the commitments assigned to the Ministry under the Government Manifesto.

5.1.4. Organizational results Framework (ORF): During the period under review, the Division closely coordinated with all divisions and worked towards finalizing the Organizational Results Framework of the Foreign Affairs.

5.1.5. Other Reports: Prepared several quarterly reports as per the instructions provided by the Presidential Secretariat, including reports related to Capital Budget Allocations and other related matters.

5.2. Emergency Response Unit: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs established an Emergency Response Unit since January 2023 to handle all types of Emergency Responses Activities. Accordingly, this Unit cooperated with several government institutions like Presidential Secretariat, Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Health, National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA), Disaster Management Centre (Ministry of Defence) and other institutions like Sri Lanka Tea Board, Board of Investments and Sri Lankan Airlines, Ceylon Shipping Corporation as well as Sri Lanka Missions abroad and Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka in such emergency operation activities.

During the period under review, the Unit worked closely with the Disaster Management Centre and the Ministry of Defence to facilitate the final dispatch of a 47-ton consignment to the communities affected by the recent earthquake in Myanmar. This consignment represented a donation from the people of Sri Lanka to the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in support of those impacted by the disaster.

6. Public Diplomacy Division

The Public Diplomacy (PD) Division is responsible for managing all media and public communication activities of the Ministry. This includes engagements involving the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, the Ministry Secretary, and Sri Lanka's Missions and Posts overseas. The Division handles communications related to significant meetings, events, briefings, and the articulation of policy decisions and official positions of the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly from a foreign policy standpoint.

The Public Diplomacy (PD) Division closely monitors significant news coverage related to the Ministry and Sri Lanka across local and international media platforms, including web-based sources. It ensures that the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, the Secretary of the Ministry, relevant officials, and Sri Lanka's Missions and Posts abroad are kept informed. News items that may negatively impact the image of the Ministry or the country are highlighted in daily updates to the Foreign Secretary, and rebuttals are issued when deemed necessary.

6.1. During the period under review, the Public Diplomacy (PD) Division organized the following media briefings:

1. Official Launch of the initiative to issue certified copies of Birth, Marriage, and Death certificates retrieved from the e-BMD Database by Sri Lanka Missions and Posts abroad.
2. Joint Press Briefing featuring the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, and Rt.Hon. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.
3. Press Conference for the artists of Mango TV, China, held at the Ministry's main conference hall, jointly organized by the PD Division and the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

6.2. During the period under review, the Public Diplomacy (PD) Division coordinated media coverage for the following high-level visits and events:

1. 18 February 2025 – Official Visit of Hon. Abdulla Khaleel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives
2. 04 April 2025 – Official Visit of Hon. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
3. 21 April 2025 – Official Visit of His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates
4. 03 May 2025 – Official Visit of Hon. Nakatani Gen, Minister of Defence of Japan
5. 24–28 May 2025 – Official Visit of Rt. Hon. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand
6. 28 May 2025 – Visit of Hon. Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China
7. 28–31 May 2025 – Visit of Hon. Radoslaw Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, accompanied by high-level representatives from the European Union
8. 01–04 June 2025 – Visit of a delegation led by Comrade Nguyen Trong Nghia, Politburo Member, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, and Chairman of the Publicity Education and Mass Mobilization Commission of Viet Nam

9. 03 June 2025 – Official Visit of Hon. Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence of Australia
10. 23–26 June 2025 – Visit of Officials from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR)
11. 26–29 June 2025 – Visit of Hon. Thabo Mbeki, Former President of the Republic of South Africa
12. 05–10 August 2025 – Visit of H.E. Samantha Mostyn, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
13. 03–05 September 2025 – Visit of Ms. Maria Tripodi, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy

A total of 174 local news items, identified as adverse and potentially harmful to the image of the Ministry and Sri Lanka, were brought to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, and the Secretary of the Ministry. Additionally, 174 daily local news reports were collated and disseminated to the Hon. Minister, the Secretary, and all relevant officers of the Ministry and Missions/Posts abroad to ensure timely awareness and informed response.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, the Public Diplomacy (PD) Division disseminated a total of 130 Ministry Media Releases, 494 Mission Releases, and 146 Notices to local print, online, and electronic media, as well as to foreign correspondents based in Colombo.

The Division engages daily on social media platforms to further strengthen public relations through X- 268 msgs, Facebook – 216 Posts, Instagram-128 posts, and Youtube – (05 Posts). The Division has facilitated 132 Media accreditations for foreign journalists visiting Sri Lanka and coordinated the clearance of media equipment of 21 media crews.

It also managed the distribution of key circulars issued by the Presidential Media Division (PMD) related to VVIP visits among media personnel.

The Division played a significant role in media coordination during the 2025 Independence Day celebrations, and provided coverage for various cultural and religious events held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism throughout the review period. The map detailing the overseas Missions and Posts of the Ministry has been updated by the Public Diplomacy Division in consultation with the Overseas Assets Management and Development Division (OAM&D). A soft copy of the updated map is attached herewith for reference.

6.3. Future outlook: The Public Diplomacy Division will broaden its outreach by undertaking a comprehensive modernization of the Ministry website and migrating both Ministry and Mission sites onto a single, standardized platform enhanced with AI-driven tools for improved content management and user experience. Preparatory work for this transition is already in progress, covering technical planning, compatibility assessments, and content alignment. The Division will also deepen collaboration with Sri Lanka's Missions abroad to ensure timely,

concise, and reader-friendly dissemination of news and updates, supported by streamlined workflows and consistent presentation across all sites.

7. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Division

SAARC Division coordinates the activities conducted by the Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), its Regional Centers (05), Specialized Bodies (04), Apex Bodies (06) and Recognized Bodies (18).

7.1. Enhancement of cooperation between Sri Lanka and the Member States of SAARC through the Secretariat of SAARC: The 60th Session of the Programming Committee of SAARC (DG-Level) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 28-30 April 2025. National focal points of all Member States participated in the meeting. Director General of the SAARC Division participated in the meeting representing Sri Lanka.

The Division coordinated the payment of the annual share contribution of the GoSL for the SAARC Secretariat for the year 2025.

7.2. SAARC Visas – Number of SAARC Visas issued under SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES): As of 30th September 2025, on the requests made by Members of Parliament/ government officials participating in SAARC related meetings, 39 letters were issued by the Division to the Department of Immigration & Emigration for the issuance of SAARC Visas for 84 applicants (Ministers/Members of Parliament and dependents, Other Officials)

7.3. Enhancement of cooperation between Sri Lanka and the SAARC Regional Centers: The Division is actively coordinating with the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Cultural and Religious Affairs and the SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC). Discussions are in progress with the aim of identifying a suitable location for the permanent establishment of the SCC in Colombo. The Division participated in the events organized by the SCC in Colombo and facilitated the recruitment process of General Service Staff of the SCC. The 13th Meeting of the Governing Board of South Asian University (SAU) was held in August 2025 in Colombo with the participation of all Member States. The Division assisted the UGC to obtain information from SAU to resolve issues with regard to non- payment of GoSL contributions, which the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers will be sought. The 18th Governing Board Meeting of SAARC Energy Centre held in Sept. 2025 and Sri Lanka was represented by Ministry of Energy, virtually. Conveyed GoSL concurrence to the draft MoU on SAARC Agriculture Centre and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre in July 2025.

The Division coordinated with the relevant line ministries, agencies in obtaining concurrence/ participation for meetings/trainings/ workshops organized by the SAARC Regional Centers and coordinated GoSL participation at the meetings.

7.4. Enhancement of cooperation between Sri Lanka and the SAARC Specialized Bodies: The Division coordinated with the relevant line Ministries/ agencies in obtaining concurrence/ participation for the meetings/ trainings/workshops organized by the SAARC specialized

bodies. SDF Aqua livelihood Project, a project for the livelihood enhancement of the small-scale fish farmers and nutrition security of rural masses in SAARC Region, was launched in August 2025 in Colombo.

7.5. Enhancement of cooperation between Sri Lanka and SAARC Apex and Recognized Bodies:

The Division facilitated the visit of Secretary General of SAARC to attend the Regional Conference on Nourishing South Asia: Reducing Anemia in Adolescent Girls and Women of South Asia in July 2025. During the visit, SG paid a courtesy calls on Hon. Deputy Minister and the Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Foreign employment and Tourism.

The Division coordinated participation of the Deputy Minister of Economic Development at the 8th Meeting of Governing Council of the SAARC Development Fund in May 2025.

7.6. Enhancement of Sri Lanka's engagement with SAARC observers: The Division coordinated the participation from the Ceylon Electricity Board at the RoK-SAARC Partnership Seminar held in Seoul in July 2025. The event is organized annually by the Republic of Korea and this year the Seminar was to discuss enhancing supply chain connectivity between the RoK and SAARC in logistics, energy and minerals.

8. United Nations and Human Rights Division

Sri Lanka's Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, Geneva, and the Embassies/Permanent Delegations accredited to the affiliated agencies of the UN in Vienna, Paris, The Hague, Rome, Nairobi and Bangkok come under the purview of this Division in the context of Sri Lanka's engagement with the UN and its affiliated agencies.

8.1. 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), New York: The UN&HR Division provided substantive inputs/guidance for Sri Lanka's participation at the 80th session UNGA.

The Division coordinated H.E the President's visit to the 80th Session of the UNGA accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism. H.E the President addressed the General Assembly on 24 September 2025, underscoring Sri Lanka's priorities in eradicating poverty and combatting corruption, highlighted education as a decisive factor shaping the future of individuals and nations, and drew attention to the global drug crisis as a complex issue requiring urgent, collective international action.

H.E the President engaged in high-level bilateral engagements during the UNGA, including the Evening Reception hosted by President Donald Trump of the United States and First Lady Melania Trump. The President also participated at an event led by President Emmanuel Macron of France and President Rodrigo Chaves of Costa Rica, celebrating the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement (Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction), following its 60th ratification. President held bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia,

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Portugal, and President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa. The President also held discussions with the UN Secretary General (UNSG) António Guterres, and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk.

During the visit, Hon. Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath addressed several fora, including the High-Level Meeting of the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the 49th Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G77 and China and the CICA Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The Minister also engaged in high-level bilateral engagements with the Minister for External Affairs of India Dr. K. Jaishankar, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives Dr. Abdulla Khaleel, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Espen Barth Eide, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland Elina Maria Valtonen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela Yván Eduardo Gil Pinto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Maxim Ryzhenkov, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir, and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Serap Güler, on issues of mutual interest and global challenges. The Minister also held a discussion with the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker. In addition, Minister Herath met with the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Li Junhua, and UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

The UN & HR Division coordinated the above engagements and facilitated the fruitful discussions.

Facilitations were made for further engagements through the PRUN/New York at the UNGA and statements were delivered at High-Level forums, enhancing Sri Lanka's visibility and position in the multilateral fora.

8.2. Reconciliation and Human Rights

- I. Sri Lanka participated at the 58th, 59th and 60th Sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) held in March, June and September 2025 respectively. Sri Lanka Missions overseas were continuously apprised of steps taken locally with regard to reconciliation and human rights in order for them to apprise their interlocutors on the progress being made in the country and seek support for national mechanisms to advance reconciliation and human rights.
- II. All the 60th Session of the HRC, the High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a report on Sri Lanka followed by an Interactive Dialogue (ID) on 8th September 2025. Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism attended the session and delivered Sri Lanka's statement at the ID. Forty-three countries spoke during the ID.
- III. A resolution was tabled by the core group on Sri Lanka during the 60th session of the HRC. While rejecting the resolution, Sri Lanka reiterated the government's commitment and action already taken to address matters through credible national processes.

- IV. The Division organized a four-day official visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk to Sri Lanka from 23 to 26 June 2025. During his travel to various parts of the country, the High Commissioner met with a broad range of stakeholders as well as the public. He also visited the Chemmani grave site in Jaffna. The visit of High Commissioner Türk to Sri Lanka marks the first by a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights since February 2016.
- V. The Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee on Human Rights established following cabinet approval held its first meeting on 24 February 2025. This Committee, comprising 21 government agencies, is envisaged as a standing national framework to ensure efficient coordination and reporting on Sri Lanka's voluntary international commitments regarding human rights and reconciliation.
- VI. In 2025, Sri Lanka engaged constructively with the UN Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and International Convention for the prohibition of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Sri Lanka's 9th Periodic Review under the CEDAW was held on 13 February 2025. Meetings were coordinated by this division with the participation of relevant officials from the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and other line agencies in preparation for the review.
- VII. With regard to Sri Lanka's 1st review by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) held on 26 September 2025, the Division coordinated several of meetings were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Ministry of Justice and National Integration with the participation of line agencies.
- VIII. The Division coordinated with line agencies and finalized and submitted Sri Lanka's 7th Periodic Report under CRC.

8.3. Disarmament: The Division has facilitated Sri Lanka's participation at major meetings, which enhanced Sri Lanka's visibility and position in the disarmament fora:

- I. Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism participated and delivered a statement at the High-Level Segment of the Conference on Disarmament held in Geneva from 24-28 February 2025.
- II. The Third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) convened from March 3 to 7, 2025 in New York.
- III. 2025 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was held from April 28 to May 9, 2025, in New York.

- IV. General Conference of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held from 15 – 19 September 2025, Vienna.
- V. 14th Article XIV Conference on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was held on 26 September 2025 in New York.

8.4. Candidatures

- I. The Division continued to coordinate Sri Lanka's efforts towards forging meaningful partnerships within multilateral fora by supporting candidatures proposed by other States to various bodies in the UN and other International Organizations.
- II. This Division successfully carried out the election campaign relating to the election held in 2025, by guiding Sri Lanka's Missions abroad to lobby with their respective counterparts and engaging with Colombo-based diplomatic Missions. Through intense lobbying, Sri Lanka succeeded in getting elected to the below International Organizations:
- III. The Division has provided inputs on Candidature details for 91 request received from Territorial Divisions of the Ministry, relating to 129 countries in 2025, to be used for bilateral discussions, negotiations and meetings
 - a) Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanism (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) for the term 2025-2028, on 22 April 2025.
 - Sri Lanka's candidature Dr. E.R.S.P Edirimamanna, Director General of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture, was elected to the Center for Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanism (CSAM), at the 81st Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for South Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) held on 22 April 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - b) In addition, Sri Lanka subsisted its candidatures to the following multilateral bodies/fora
 - I. Re-election of Prof. Rangita De Silva De Alwis of Sri Lanka to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women (CEDAW) for the term 2027-2030.
 - II. Re-election to the UNESCO-Executive Board for the term 2027-2031
 - III. Nomination of the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to the SDG 4 Education 2030 High Level Steering Committee for the term 2026-2027
 - IV. Sri Lanka's candidature for re-election to the Headquarters Committee of the UNESCO for the term 2025-2029.
 - V. Sri Lanka's candidature for election to the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication for the term 2025-2029

8.5. Credentials: No. of credentials issued during 1 January to 30 September 2025 : 37

8.6. Visas: No. of visas facilitated during 1 January to 30 September 2025: 265

8.7. Peacekeeping: A Meeting was held with the Political Affairs Officer of the Office of the Under-Secretary- General for Peace Operations in Sri Lanka from 16-18 April 2025.

UN & HR Division facilitated the engagement of Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arun Hemachandra, at the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial 2025 in Berlin from 13-14 May 2025.

The United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting was held from 13 to 14 May 2025 in Berlin, Germany. The Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment, led the Sri Lanka delegation, which comprised Major General A. H. L. G. Amarapala of the Sri Lanka Army, Brigadier Sumal Wickramasekara, Military Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in New York, and Mr. R. M. Wimalarathna, Superintendent of Police, Special Task Force.

8.8. Multilateral engagement in Socio-Economic spheres

- I. Eighty First Session of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 21 –25 April 2025. Eighty First Session brought together ministers from across Asia and the Pacific and other key stakeholders to exchange views on current and emerging policy issues for inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

UN & HR Division facilitated and coordinated Sri Lankan delegation's successful participation at the following sessions with the engagement of officials in following ministries and Institutions.

- I. Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development
- II. Ministry of Urban Development, Construction & Housing
- III. Sustainable Development Council

- II. Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific was held in Bangkok on 25 June 2025 and UN ESCAP invited to speak at the ministerial roundtable on "Harnessing the Health Sector to Close Birth and Death Registration Gaps".

UN & HR Division facilitated and coordinated Sri Lankan delegation's successful participation at the following Conference with the engagement of officials in following ministries and Departments.

- I. Ministry of Public Administration
- II. Department of Register General
- III. Department of Census and Statistics

PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE DIVISIONS: TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS

9. Africa Affairs Division

9.1. Political Diplomacy: The Africa Affairs Division is dedicated to enhancing diplomatic engagement across the African continent. With a focus on building and strengthening relations with all 54 African nations, the Division actively works towards establishing new diplomatic ties, facilitating high-level political interactions, and enhancing cooperation in various sectors including defense, trade, and cultural exchanges.

In alignment with the Government of Sri Lanka's "Look Africa" policy, the Division provided comprehensive briefings to His Excellency the President and Hon Minister of Foreign Affairs for their discussions with the counterparts and accredited ambassadors from the African region. Bilateral meetings at different and various levels were conducted exploring the ways to further strengthening of bilateral ties between the African countries and Sri Lanka. These discussions aimed at strengthening and deepening political ties, enhancing bilateral cooperation, and exploring new avenues for collaboration between Sri Lanka and these African nations. The engagements reflect the Government's ongoing commitment to the "Look Africa" policy and fostering mutually beneficial relationships across the continent.

9.2. Economic Diplomacy: Sri Lanka's Missions in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Egypt, actively promoted trade, investment, and tourism through strategic diplomatic engagements, business matchmaking, and participation in key trade fairs such as the Africa Food Show and North West International Market Access. Notable initiatives included support for Disrupt Asia 2025, Gem City Rathnapura, Sri Lanka Expo 2026, and facilitating partnerships across sectors like aquaculture, textiles, IT, and tourism. The Missions organized B2B meetings for Sri Lankan companies, engaged in resolving trade grievances, and promoted market intelligence sharing with local and Sri Lankan stakeholders. Tourism promotion efforts included awareness sessions and influencer visits, while economic diplomacy was strengthened through high-level meetings with trade authorities, chambers, and investment bodies in host countries.

9.3. Multilateral Diplomacy: Sri Lanka's 05 Missions in Africa continued to actively engage in multilateral and regional diplomacy, with the Head of Mission in Ethiopia representing the country at the UNFSS+4, AU Summits, Africa Climate Summit, and the CARICOM-Africa Summit, while also facilitating the EDB Chairman's visit to the Global SME Ministerial Meeting. In South Africa, the High Commission sought support for Sri Lanka's positions at the UNHRC and CEDAW, and hosted the Asian Regional Ambassadors Group Meeting alongside a tourism promotion event marking Sri Lanka's cultural month. Additionally, the Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat delivered Sri Lanka's Country Statement at the 171st Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting in Nairobi and submitted a concept note proposing a draft resolution to enhance youth participation in environmental and climate action.

9.4. Defence & Security cooperation: The Sri Lankan High Commission in Pretoria facilitated defense cooperation by forwarding an invitation for the South African Navy to attend the Galle Dialogue. Additionally, the Sri Lankan Embassy supported bilateral defense ties with Egypt and Ethiopia through sharing defense materials, organizing a study tour for Sri Lankan defense personnel.

9.5. Public Diplomacy: With the Division's facilitation, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ethiopia and the High Commission in South Africa actively strengthened Sri Lanka's diplomatic and community engagement by hosting national celebrations, promoting bilateral relations through media and cultural events, briefing Honorary Consuls on key government initiatives, creating a database of Sri Lankans abroad, fostering interfaith harmony, and supporting plans to establish a Sri Lankan society for ongoing community outreach.

9.6. Consular Assistance and Migrant Employment Welfare: With the Division's facilitation, the Missions provided vital consular assistance including repatriations, visa and passport services, coordination on seafarers' issues, issuance of vital records, financial aid support.

9.7. Cultural diplomacy and People to People Relations: The Division facilitated the Mission's efforts to promote Sri Lanka's tourism and cultural heritage through media and partnerships, gain scholarships for top GCE A/L achievers, and plan the formation of a Sri Lankan society to enhance community engagement and cultural outreach.

In conclusion, the Africa Affairs Division has made substantial progress in strengthening Sri Lanka's diplomatic relations with African nations, aligning closely with the country's "Look Africa" policy. By facilitating high-level diplomatic meetings, promoting defense cooperation, and supporting cultural and educational exchanges, the Division has successfully advanced Sri Lanka's interests in Africa. Moving forward, the Division remains committed to further enhancing these ties and exploring new avenues for collaboration across the continent.

10. East Asia & Oceania Division

The Division is entrusted with the responsibilities of monitoring geo-political and socio-economic developments and directing Sri Lanka's foreign policy in various spheres within the region. The Division also facilitates technical cooperation and development assistance through bilateral, regional and multilateral engagements. The Countries namely, China (Hong Kong, Taiwan), Mongolia, Japan, Republic of Korea, DPRK, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Island, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu and Organizations namely, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Bali Process, Indo-Pacific Endeavour organizations come under the purview of this Division.

Main functions of this Division include formulating policies related to East Asia in enhancing Sri Lanka's relations within the region, holding regular bi-lateral political consultations, implementing and following up of all forms of visits, negotiating and reviewing the process of

MoUs/Agreements, supervising Sri Lanka Missions in the region and representing Sri Lanka and strengthening of relations with the region.

10.1. Economic Diplomacy

10.1.1. Trade Promotion: Organized exhibitions, trade fairs, B2Bs, product promotions and other related initiatives with a view to promote Sri Lankan export commodities and tourism.

In China, six trade affairs were held, including the “Beijing Gem & Jewelry”, “Beijing Supply Chain Expo”, “Kunming South Asian Expo”, “Nanning China – ASEAN Expo” and “CIFTIS”. This resulted in over US\$ 8.0 Mn in sales, over RMB 2.0 Mn spot sales and several orders under negotiation.

Three inward and two outward delegations took place, with over 60 related B2Bs. Inward delegations including leading chambers in China in the Agriculture, Textile, Electrical and Machinery sector and the Chamber of private sector and a delegation from Gem & Jewelry Association and Guilds Lapidary. The CCPIT Yunnan delegation also held progressive meetings in Sri Lanka.

As the outward delegations, a 25-member delegation promoting Ceylon Spices visited the Chinese spice city of Yulin, where 20 companies participated in matchmaking and 10 MoUs were signed. A delegation comprising Federation and Chamber representatives participated at the South and Southeast Asia Forum in Chengdu in September.

Coordinated two Ministerial delegations including visit of Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development to South Asia Expo in Kunming and Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development to South Asia and Southeast Asia Business Development Conference in Chengdu.

Participated in key trade exhibitions to promote Ceylon tea including HOTELEX and SIAL in Shanghai, FHC in Guangzhou, South Asia Expo in Kunming, Supply Chain Expo in Beijing and SIAL in Shenzhen.

Four awareness webinars were held on creating market intelligence on market access (with the total participation of around 300 companies covering agricultural, electrical and Ceylon tea sectors) 10 country promotions were held via presentations and panel discussions. Signed five MoUs on trade and investment expansion between Sri Lanka and China and coordinated five market access registrations for Ceylon cinnamon, spices, ornamental fish and live fisheries. Further, two market access protocols on wheat bran and poultry products were signed in January 2025. Export orders worth 8000 MTs (on wheat and bran) and 144000 USD (on cinnamon and pepper) have been executed.

Promoted three Sri Lankan events including Invest Sri Lanka, Disrupt Asia and Voyage Sri Lanka and coordinated 8th Joint Economic Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JETC) in Sri Lanka with MOC and DOC. One country exhibition featuring Made in Sri Lanka 8 products 8 themes was also conducted in Beijing with the participation of 25 companies from Sri Lanka.

Organized a Sri Lanka booth at the “K – Tea Expo 2025” in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tea Board focusing on promoting 7 regional Ceylon teas in the Korean market. Sri Lankan tea, spices and handicrafts were also promoted at the Seoul Friendship Festival, in Seoul. With a view to introduce Sri Lankan exports (in the sectors of f&b, tea, spices and allied products) to the potential buyers in the Republic of Korea, 05 online B2Bs were organized. Facilitated the re-registration of two Sri Lankan food manufacturing companies with the Ministry of Food and Drugs Safety of the Republic of Korea. Made over 30 trade introductions of buyers for Sri Lankan products.

With a view to identify avenues to enhance Sri Lankan exports to New Zealand, conducted a series of meetings with several officials in New Zealand, including the Chairperson of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Senior Market Access Counsellor at the Ministry of Primary industries, CEO of three largest trade chambers in New Zealand including, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Chambers of Commerce and several other representatives from prominent business chambers.

In coordination with SLEMB- Tokyo, Strategic business engagements were carried out with leading Japanese cooperations including Toppan Group, AEON Mall, Mitsui Consultants, Sanko Marketing Foods and Aoyagi Cooperation which will further facilitate the initiation of feasibility studies, identification of market-entry opportunities and the creation of overseas employment offers for Sri Lankan youth.

Organized the Sri Lanka Pavilion at Expo 2025 in Osaka, where Sri Lanka’s core economic commodities like Ceylon Tea, gem and jewelry, spices and tourism sector were directly promoted to Japanese visitors.

Hosted a number of major events to promote Ceylon Tea including at JTA, FOODEX 2025, , Tea Seminar event with Japan Tea Association, Iced Tea Promotion 2025 in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tea Board & Japan Tea Association, Sri Lanka Coffee Introduction event with UCC, CAFERES Japan 2025. Hosted the Sri Lanka Charity Tea Auction jointly with Sri Lanka Tea Board, where 70 international buyers participated, which set a Guinness World Record for the highest price ever recorded globally for tea.

Hosted Japan-Sri Lanka IT Business Networking Event, IT Event and Networking and IT Spring Week 2025 with a view to enhance the IT partnership with Japan. In addition, promotional activities including business seminars, B2B sessions, product displays and tea seminars were held.

10.1.2. Investment Promotion: Four delegations from China visited Sri Lanka and met with BOI and potential parties on Renewable energy, Colombo Port City and other hospitality sectors. During the State visit of H.E. the President in January, Investor Roundtable was organized with 10 potential investors and signed an EOI for refinery project in Hambantota for US\$ 3.7 Bn between Sinopec and the Government of Sri Lanka. One to one meetings were organized with 5 companies and H.E the President for potential investments, 50 potential investors reached and 30 companies expressed specific interest. Investment worth over US\$ 2.0 Mn was made in the production of Janitorial brushes production factory importing

machinery. Five more investor awareness presentations conducted at forums in Beijing and other provinces including at South Asia and Southeast Investment Promotion Conference.

During the recent Official Visit of H.E. the President to Japan, meetings with the Minister of Finance, JICA President and Founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation were held. H.E. the President could also participate in a Roundtable discussion with JETRO.

Initiated high-level progressive meetings with Australian Trade and Investment Commission, The Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Canberra Chamber of Commerce, Invest New South Wales and Australian Business Summit Council.

10.1.3. Tourism Promotion: Initiated tourism promotional activities through events briefing travel agents, media companies and introducing visa free policy of attracting tourists to Sri Lanka. Tourism promotional events were organized including Sri Lanka National Pavilion in Kunming Expo, CIFTIS Global Tourism Conference and One Country Exhibition. Further, submitted comprehensive roadmap to Sri Lankan authorities presenting tourism promotional strategies for Chinese market, held meetings with leading travel companies to educate on visa free entry policy and tour packages to Sri Lanka. Organized a country pavilion at the 'International Day of Norwuz' (which was officially inaugurated by the Secretary General of SCO) promoting culture and tourism.

In collaboration with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), organized a booth at the Seoul International Travel Fair 2025 which won the best booth design for 2nd consecutive year. Facilitated the participation of 20 travel and tourism companies from Sri Lanka at this event. Organized two 'Tourism Roadshows' in Seoul and Busan. Organized Sri Lanka booths at the Seoul Friendship Festival and the Korea International Tourism Show (KITS), aiming to promote tourist attractions of Sri Lanka, rich cultural heritage, cuisine and handicrafts.

Coordinated the participation of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism at the 4th World Tourism Industry Conference in COEX, Seoul. Facilitated the visit of one of Korea's top actresses to Sri Lanka for a promotional photo shoot featuring the clothing of award-winning Korean designer. Coordinated the participation of a group of Korean pilgrim tourists in a meditation programme at the Temple of the Sacred Tooth and a group of Korean professors to attend to an architectural seminar at the University of Visual and Performing Arts.

With a view to promote tourism in New Zealand, disseminated the information related to tourist attractions in Sri Lanka, visa processes and travel facilitation. Participated in a radio interview on ABC Radio Canberra Mornings with Saskia Mabin, promoting tourism to Sri Lanka.

10.2. Political Diplomacy: The Division coordinated the official visit of His Excellency the President to China in January 2025, in coordination with SLEMB/Beijing. During this visit H.E. the President had constructive bilateral discussions with the H.E. the President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qian and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress,

H.E. Zhao Leji. During this visit, 15 MoUs were exchanged by the two sides, including a grant of RMB 500 Mn. from the Chinese Government.

This Division facilitated the visit of Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment to participate in the 9th China-South Asia Exposition and the 6th China- South Asia Cooperation Forum in June 2025, in coordination with SLEMB-Beijing. Facilitated the high-level visit of Hon. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand the delegation to Sri Lanka in May 2025. in coordination with SLHC/ Wellington.

Coordinated the three high level visits from Australia to Sri Lanka including, visit of Hon. Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Australia, visit of H.E. Frances Adamson AC, the Governor of South Australia, the official visit of H.E. Ms. Samantha Mostyn AC, the Governor-General of Australia.

In co-ordination with SLEMB Tokyo, facilitated the official visit of Hon. Deputy Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and as the most recent visit, this Division coordinated the official visit of H.E. the President to Japan. During this visit, H.E the President paid courtesy call on His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Coordinated some other major meetings with Japan - Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship League and Hon. Minister of Defence, focusing wide range of issues of mutual interest.

Coordinated visit of the Deputy Minister of Finance to attend the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Annual General Meeting in Beijing, where he met with the Vice President of EXIM Bank of China and finalized the loan agreement for Central Expressway, Phase 1. Coordinated visit of Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development to attend World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting of New Champions 2025 in Tianjin, China In addition, facilitated visit of Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government to Korea, the visit of Deputy Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development to Australia to attend Special Visitor Programme organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australian Government.

In addition, several ministerial meetings including, a meeting with Foreign Ministry of China focusing on economic, political & strategic matters, meetings with several Parliamentarians including Ms. Cassandra Fernando M.P, Chair of the Sri Lanka-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group and a special Envoy of Australian Prime Minister for Indian Ocean, meetings with few key political leaders and government officials in New Zealand including Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of the Parliament and Chief Executive of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. Initiated further steps to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Cook Islands.

10.3.Multilateral Diplomacy: Coordinated several meetings to request support for Sri Lanka at International and Regional fora including discussions with Chinese authorities and South Korean Foreign Ministry requesting support at UNHRC. Sought the support of Australia and other countries in the East Asia region for re-election of Sri Lanka's candidate to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for the term 2027 – 2030

Facilitated several events organized by SCO, including, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development forum, China- SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Conference and SCO Media and Think Tank Summit. Also participated in the 6th ROK-IORA Partnership Seminar and KOFIH Diplomatic Round Table (organized by the Ministry of Health of ROK and KOFIH) and presented Sri Lanka's proposals on healthcare sector for assistance from Korean side.

Coordinated with ROK authorities to finalize the Agreement of Cooperation on Climate Change between Sri Lanka and ROK and finalized the MoU of the Official Creditor Committee on the official debt restructuring of Sri Lanka. SLEMB- Seoul also continued cooperation with the Global Green Growth Institute and Green Climate Fund under the period of review. Also, coordinated with Australian authorities regarding participation in IORA COM + SOM.

Extended the support for the Japanese candidates for the following candidatures including, Re-election of Human Rights Committee for the term 2027-2030, Re-election of the International Civil Service Commission for the term 2026-2029, Re-election to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the term 2026-2028, Committee Against Torture for the term 2026-2029, Election of the Members of the Audit Body, The post of Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union for the term 2023-2026, The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the election to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Also, extended the reciprocal support for the candidatures including, The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for the term 2023-2032, The United Nation Commission on International Trade and the Re-election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for the term 2027-2030.

10.4. Defence and Security Cooperation: Conducted some major defence related meetings including, meeting with International Military Cooperation of the Ministry of National Defence China and meeting with representatives of Poly Technologies INC with regard to the matter of ammunitions (which were received by SL Army). Co-ordinated another two major Defence Dialogues including the senior official talks and Maritime Dialogue between Sri Lanka and Australia and Second Iteration of Defence Policy Talks between Sri Lanka and Australia.

Facilitated major visits including, visit of Secretary of the Ministry of Defence to attend 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, (held fruitful discussions on the Tri forces tenders and bonded warehouse matters), visit of Air Vice Marshal N.H.D.N. Dias and Wing Commander T. Silva to attend Avalon 2025 in Melbourne, visit of Captain K.B.G.S. Madutharanga (Director Naval Intelligence) to attend Law Enforcement Joint Management Group (JMG) on People Smuggling in Brisbane.

Upon the request made by Ministry of Defence, coordinated with People's Liberation Army (PLA)-China and provided extra 21 training vacancies for the year 2025-2026 to Military personnel of Sri Lanka Armed Forces. Coordinated and organized a 10-days overseas study for 15-member Defence Delegation from the Defence Services Command and Staff College of Sapugaskanda to the Republic of Korea. Coordinated 20 courses/workshops attended by the officers of Tri Forces in Australia.

Coordinated the submission of the Expression of Interest by SL Navy to acquire a Leeuwin Class Hydrographic Survey Ship and a Huon Class Minehunter Coastal Ship (discussions are in progress). Facilitated defence aids provided by the Australian Government including, fuel consignment for Sri Lanka Navy & Air Force to utilize for maritime surveillance and Shallow Water Multi- Beam Echo Sounder to Sri Lanka Navy.

No human smuggling attempts were recorded due to effective and cooperative Gold standard anti human smuggling operations enforced by both Sri Lankan and Australian law enforcement authorities

10.5.Public Diplomacy: During the State Visit of H.E the President in January 2025, signed several agreements and MoUs including, Cooperation Agreement between Xinhua News Agency and Department of Government Information, three MoUs between China Media Group and Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation and Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, an MoU between National Radio and Television Administration of China and Ministry Of Health and Mass Media of Sri Lanka and another MoU on News Cooperation between Xinhua News Agency and Lakehouse of Sri Lanka.

Engaged in electronic and print media interviews and carried out social media updates highlighting the bilateral relations, trade and investment cooperation, tourism cooperation and people to people contacts that are maintained in the region.

10.6. Consular Assistance and Migrant Employment Welfare: In coordination with Sri Lanka Missions in the East Asia region, successfully rendered the Consular assistance to the Sri Lankan communities through facilitating passport renewals, issuance of temporary travel documents, attestation of documents, registration of births, marriages, handling deaths and repatriation of human remains. Also conducted Mobile Consular services for Sri Lankan Communities, coordinated repatriation of Sri Lankan illegal migrants, and deportees, facilitated the extension of visa and other related issues and also resolved cases related to Sri Lankan labors. Also, looked after the welfare and other necessary needs of Sri Lankans who are currently in jails and detention camps. Generated 503,139,155 LKR of total revenue income through the services provided by SL Missions/ Posts in the East Asia region, during the period under the review.

Facilitated the arrival of 2839, E-9 workers to RoK including 928 of re-entry workers. Facilitated the employment welfare services to the migrant labour force in RoK including, renewing SLBFE registrations, forwarding pension worker scheme applications to SLBFE, resolving labour welfare related complaints, repatriation of workers who with illnesses, facilitating compensations and national pension benefits, conducting mobile labour welfare services organized meetings with foreign Embassies, Human Resource Development Service of Korea, attended the meetings/ programmes / events organized by the Korean authorities which are related to labour matters. Represented Sri Lanka at the 21st Anniversary of EPS and EPS conference. Also, facilitated a discussion with Samsung Heavy Industries on expansion of employment quota in shipbuilding sector. Verified and approved 04 job orders to facilitate 100 of skilled employment opportunities to Sri Lanka.

In coordination with SLEMB-Tokyo, conducted Mobile Consular Services in Tochigi, Ibaraki, Chiba Prefectures, Kansai region Osaka and Kamagaya and other nearby areas facilitating large number of Sri Lankans. Also introduced eBMD services in coordination with the Registrar General Department of Sri Lanka allowing Sri Lankan citizens in Japan to obtain birth, marriage and death certificates efficiently.

With the establishment of the High Commission in Wellington, around 40000 Sri Lankan Community in New Zealand (who had previously relied on SLHC Canberra) are benefitted to gain essential Consular services.

10.7.Cultural Diplomacy and People to People Relations: During the State visit of H.E. the President to China in January 2025, exchanged Certificate of Handover on Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Project to Sri Lanka. In coordination with SLEMB-Beijing, participated in several educational and cultural activities organized by the Chinese universities located in Beijing.

Built strong community relations through the participation in community engagement events, interacting with Sri Lankan community organizations and religious institutions. In coordination with Sri Lanka Missions/Posts in accredited destinations, celebrated Independence Day, Sinhala and Tamil New Year and various religious & cultural festivals/events including Vesak, Poson, Katina Rituals, foundation laying ceremonies, Iftar, Ramadan, Thai Pongal and Christmas together with the Sri Lankan communities. On the sidelines of these community events/ programmes, conducted Mobile Consular Services and other awareness programmes on supporting to identify vulnerable groups.

In addition, engaged in various events/ festivals organized by Sri Lankan community in Japan including, Kamagaya Sri Lanka Festival, Tochigi Sri Lanka Festival, New Year Festival 2025 in Kuki City, Bon Odori Festival at Kodosan Temple, New Year Festivals at Reiyukai, Hanamatsuri at Kodosan Temple and Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple and Performances at the Imperial Palace. In coordination with SLEMB-Tokyo, participated in the Minato International Cultural Exhibition in Tokyo, Grand Ceremony of International Buddhist Day in Hyogo and organized Sri Lanka Festival at Yoyogi Park which showcased Sri Lankan cuisine, culture and art. Facilitated and organized Sacred Pinnacle offering ceremony of the Nagoya Theravada Buddhist Cultural and Meditation Center held at the SLEMB-Mission premises. Delivered a speech for the Kakehashi, Final Pitch conducted by Sri Lankan Professionals Association in Japan and attended their Annual General Meeting.

Further, with a view to promote Sri Lankan values, culture and cuisine, organized two cultural promotion events at the SLEMB-Tokyo premises for Tokyo Women Empowerment Network and for a group of Japanese school students from E-life International School. Participated in Osaka International Art 2025 showcasing Curado Art Space and Art Gallery from Sri Lanka. Also, engaged in cultural promotion events organized by other Diplomatic Missions in Japan including, International Mother Language Day and International Yoga Day.

Also engaged in other related events including, International Mother Language Day – 2025 Jointly organized by the Embassy of the Peoples’s Republic of Bangladesh and the United

Nations University, Meeting with Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau to discuss JICA's Human resource sending project (online), Opening Ceremony Asia-Pacific Tele community Ministerial meeting -Tokyo, Meeting with Ishikawa Prefectural government officials to discuss Foreign Employment and introduction of their initiatives , JETRO online seminar – 3 years after the Economic crisis of Sri Lanka, visit to Hiroshima to attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony and Sri Lanka Business Forum with EDB, Osaka-

The decision of the Government of Sri Lanka to build a Sri Lankan style temple within the White House Temple premises in Luoyang, Henan Province, China was officially communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Government of Henan Province and Luoyang Municipal People's Government. Organized an awareness programme for 10 children from Sundukwon Welfare Home in South Korea to introduce various aspects of Sri Lanka. Felicitated a group of women volunteers in Canberra (Canberra Circle of women) who have undertaken projects in Sri Lanka and delivered Churchill lecture 2025 of English Speaking Union, Brisbane Branch.

10.8.Science and Technology Diplomacy: Coordinated and discussions with reputed universities in New Zealand, seeking future avenues for research collaboration, academic and student exchanges to further consolidate cooperation in science and technology. Engaged with partners, including the Technology Council of Australia to promote Disrupt Asia 2025 and IT connectivity between Sri Lanka and Australia.

10.9. Human Resources, Mission Management, Overseas Assets Management & Development: In SLEMB-Beijing, the MSO who handled Consular work was appointed as the Attache of the Mission as the Attache post was vacant since 31st August 2025. One Personal Assistant post has been also vacant without replacement. In SLEMB Seoul, there are 6 vacancies for home based senior/tertiary category, 3 vacancies for home based secondary category and 1 vacancy for home based primary category. In SLHC Canberra, both home based senior/tertiary and secondary category have 6 vacancies and another 3 vacancies for locally recruited primary categories.

10.10. Other

10.10.1.Education: In coordination with SLEMB-China, facilitated pre-departure arrangements for more than 250 Chinese students who were selected by Sri Lankan universities, conducted a progressive meeting with Deputy Secretary General of China Scholarship Council, focusing key aspects of educational exchanges and cooperation between China and Sri Lanka and coordinated a meeting with the Dean of the Tianjin Medical University to discuss issues related to Sri Lankan students.

In coordination with SLHC Wellington, initiated progressive discussions with several New Zealand universities to secure scholarship opportunities for Sri Lankan students.

Also, in coordination with SLEMB- Seoul, facilitated Sri Lankan students and government officials with a number of graduate and post graduate scholarship opportunities in RoK universities. Sri Lankan students in RoK were facilitated to sit for the Government

examinations and other examinations conducted by the Sri Lankan universities (the examinations were held in the Embassy).

11. Latin America and the Caribbean Division

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) comprises 33 countries and three principle sub regions: South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

The countries under the purview of the LAC division are Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The Division continues to strengthen relations through two resident Missions in the region, namely Brazil with concurrent accreditation to nine (09) Latin American countries Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay, and Cuba with concurrent accreditation to nine (09) Caribbean countries, Common Wealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Venezuela. Washington D.C. concurrently accredited to Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago and the Permanent Representative to the United Nation (PRUN) in New York concurrently accredited to the Bahamas. Furthermore the Division also engages its outreach with countries in the LAC Region through PRUN in New York and the High Commission of Sri Lanka in New Delhi.

The Division acts as the first point of communication with the Latin American and Caribbean countries based in Colombo, New Delhi and Vietnam. Brazil and Cuba have established Embassies in Colombo to manage their interests in Sri Lanka. Many other LAC countries look after their interests in Sri Lanka through Missions based in New Delhi. The Panama Embassy in Vietnam is concurrently accredited for Sri Lanka.

There are 10 Honorary Consuls from the Latin America and Caribbean Region in Colombo. (Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay) and Sri Lanka has appointed 14 Honorary Consuls to the Region. (Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Suriname.

11.1. Progress and Future Outlook

11.1.1. Economic Diplomacy

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil: The Mission organized Sri Lanka's participation at Grupo dos Cōnjudes dos Chefes de Missão (GCCM) food and culture exhibition in Brasilia in May 2025. Assisted on organizing Sri Lanka's participation at the Espacio Food and Service Exhibition held in Santiago, Chile on 30 September to 02 October 2025 to Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB).

Had meetings with Mr. Renato de Barros, Investment Promotion Agency of Sao Paulo on 13th May, Ms. Paula Leitao of the International Relation Division of the Government of Bahia on 14th

May, Ms. Rosana Cipriano, National Council of Export Processing Zone of the Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services on 15th May and Mr. Alberto Antunes Executive Secretary of International Relations of State of Ceara to obtain information related to the investment facilitation for the foreign companies by the Brazilian Government along with M/S Wichy Plantation PLC. Further, had an online meeting with President of APROCOCO, President of PROCOCO and Mr. Savio, private sector entrepreneur from Ceara region to obtain more insights on the business sector for coconut based products and raw coconuts in Brazil along with M/S Wichy Plantation PLC.

The Mission shared the information on attracting investment in IT sector in Sri Lanka with the Angle Investors in Brazil and Argentina which was received from MFA/SL. Shared the information on Sri Lanka Electronic and Electric Industry to the Households utility companies who are the members of Association of Electrical and Electronic Industry of Brazil (ABINEE) and had few online meetings.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: The economic context in Cuba presents very limited opportunities for active engagement in Economic diplomacy due to US economic blockade on Cuba. The investment opportunities are available food production and the pharmaceutical industry.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC: Mexico continues to be a primary destination for Ceylon cinnamon, and the embassy undertook initiatives to enhance trade relations. Mexico relies heavily on Sri Lanka for cinnamon, accounting for over 90% of its supply, highlighting strong niche dependence alongside opportunities to diversify trade further. Sri Lanka–Mexico trade relations are marked by a strong surplus in Sri Lanka’s favor, with exports reaching approximately US\$180 million in 2024 compared to imports of around US\$16 million. Established contacts with the Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology (COMCE).

Latin America and the Caribbean Division: The division had 3 hybrid meetings with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and relevant Line Ministries regarding the early finalization of dairy livestock and sugarcane projects with ABC in July and August 2025. The meetings were chaired by Hon. Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment on 16 June, 24 July and August 06 2025 respectively.

11.1.2. Political Diplomacy

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil: Had a meeting with Minister Paula Aguiar Barboza who is in charge of BRICS to obtain information on BRICS & NDB on 11 February 2025. Continuously participated at the discussion on the “United for our Forests” and the “Tropical Forest Forever Fund” and COP30 arrangements. Assisted the participation of Secretary, Ministry of Health & Mass Media and Consultant Community Physician, Ministry of Health & Mass Media for the 05th Global Conference on Climate and Health (ATACH) Brasilia, Brazil which was held from 27 to 31 July 2025 and Secretary, Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education and Director of Education (School Health and Nutrition), Ministry of Education, Higher

Education and Vocational Education for the 2nd Global Summit for the School Meals Coalition which was held from 18 to 19 September 2025 at Fortaleza, Brazil.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: The Ambassador presented his credentials to the Cuban President on 23 September, 2025 followed by a brief discussion. The Ambassador had courtesy meetings with ambassadors from accredited countries.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC: The Embassy has proposed a new Honorary Consul in Mexico and is awaiting final approval from the Protocol division of the Ministry. The Mission has actively engaged with the governments of Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago through continuous communication with their resident Missions in Washington D.C. on the current developments in Sri Lanka, particularly in reconciliation, economic recovery, governance, etc. The Mission is in the process for first Bilateral Consultations between Mexico and Sri Lanka in mid-2026.

The Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago has invited H.E. the Ambassador to visit the country and present his Credentials, as the country has now achieved political stability. The Embassy is also working towards appointing an Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Trinidad and Tobago.

Organization of American States, OAS: The Mission continued to collaborate with the OAS Secretariat and member states in the capacity of an observer state and participated in the 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly held from 25 to 27 June 2025 in Antigua and Barbuda. This event also provided an opportunity for Sri Lanka to engage with Antigua and Barbuda at their Foreign Minister level, which resulted in the finalization of establishing formal diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Antigua and Barbuda. A bilateral agreement on establishing diplomatic relations was signed on 03 October 2025.

Latin America and the Caribbean Division: The Division coordinated the scholarships for medical studies in Cuba with the Ministry of Higher Education and the Cuban Embassy. One Sri Lankan student was selected for the scholarship in the year 2025.

The Division prepared speaking notes and facilitated courtesy calls by the Ambassador of Guatemala to Sri Lanka in New Delhi, Omar Lisandro Solares, Ambassador of Uruguay, Alberto Antonio Guani Amarilla, Ambassador of Peru, Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde, Ambassador of Brazil to Sri Lanka Sergio Luiz Canaes, and Ambassador of Cuba to Sri Lanka, Andres Marcelo Gonzalez Garrido, with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment 04 February, 05 February, 23 May and 03 June 2025 respectively at the Foreign Ministry.

The division arranged a meeting with stakeholders to discuss the establishment of a bust statue of Cuban national hero Jose Marti in Colombo on March 28, 2025, and arranged a site visit for April 1, 2025.

The division arranged virtual courtesy call meetings between H.E. Alberto Antonio Guani Amarilla, Ambassador of Uruguay to Sri Lanka based in New Delhi, H.E. Javier Manuel Paulinich, Ambassador of Peru to Sri Lanka in New Delhi, and Mrs. C.A. Chaminda I. Colonne,

Director General of the Latin America and the Caribbean Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism on 02 April, and 23 April 2025.

The division prepared speaking notes on Brazil and Uruguay for the Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka to use on the sidelines of the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting held in Berlin, Germany, from 13 to 14 May 2025.

The Division followed up on 75 pending Bilateral Agreements/MoUs while implementation of 38 signed Agreements/MoUs of the countries in the Latin America & the Caribbean Region.

The division prepared speaking notes and facilitated a courtesy call with Mariano Agustin Caucino, the Ambassador of Argentina to Sri Lanka, who is based in New Delhi. This meeting was held with the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism, following the presentation of his credentials on May 15, 2025.

The division arranged and facilitated the meeting with Ms. Carolina Hippolito Von der Weid, Charge affairs of Embassy of Brazil in Colombo in August 2025, and Mrs. Chaminda I. Colonne, Director General of Latin America and Caribbean Division, on the projects on dairy and sugarcane with ABC, and the Global Poverty Alliance.

The division obtained cabinet approvals for signing the (1) MoU between the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute and the Rio Branco Institute of Brazil, (2) MoU on Political Consultations Mechanism between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, (3) Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Belize, and the (4) Agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Antigua and Barbuda on 19.05.2025, 02.06.2026, 11.08.2025, and 03.09.2025 respectively.

The division is in the process of obtaining the approval from the Municipal Council of Colombo for the proposed Sister City Project between Municipal Council of Colombo and Municipal Council of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

The Division prepared speaking notes, county briefs and speeches for bilateral meetings, with high dignitaries, felicitation messages for national day celebrations and felicitation messages for newly elected leaders of the region, and for bilateral meetings for H.E. the President and Hon. Foreign Minister during the 80th session of UNGA in September 2025.

The division facilitated the participation of the Secretary/Ministry of Education and the Director of Education in the 2nd Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition held in Brazil from 18 to 19 September 2025.

The division facilitated for the participation in the 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the OAS as an observer state held from 25 to 27 June 2025 in Antigua and Barbuda. During the General Assemble Sri Lanka delegation met the Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, which resulted in the finalization of establishing formal diplomatic

relations between Sri Lanka and Antigua and Barbuda. A bilateral agreement on establishing diplomatic relations signed at the SLEMB/Washington D.C. on 03 October 2025.

11.1.3. Multilateral Diplomacy

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil: The Mission requested support and the constructive intervention of the governments of Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, and Paraguay at the 60th Session of the UNHRC held on 08th September 2025, in Geneva

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: The mission lobbied for the support of the Latin America and Caribbean countries to extend their support to Sri Lanka in the HRC and other International Fora.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC: The Mission actively lobbied for the support of Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago on Sri Lanka's candidature of Professor Rangita De Silva De Alwis for re-election to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for the term 2027-2030, at the elections to be held in June 2026 in New York.

11.1.4. Defense & Security Cooperation: Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC: The Mission continued to engage with the Mexican Military Attaché staff at the Embassy of Mexico in Washington, D.C., maintaining a cordial and professional relationship to explore potential avenues of cooperation that may benefit the Sri Lankan military, particularly in training and combating drug trafficking.

11.1.5. Public Diplomacy: Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil: Participated at the media campaign of Government of District Federal (GDF) called “Minuto Do Embaixador” to promote Sri Lanka Tourism through the GDF social media.

11.1.6. Consular Assistance and Migrant Employment Welfare

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil: The Mission updated data on Overseas Sri Lankans living (less than 200) in Brazil and other concurrently accredited countries. Assisted Sri Lankans in Brazil and its accredited countries through e-DAS and e-BMD systems.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: The Mission assisted Sri Lankans who are employed in the Caribbean Islands such as Cayman Island, Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, Grenada and other Caribbean Islands travel via Istanbul and Havana in Turkish Airline to obtain the OK to Board approval from the Turkish Airline office in Havana. There are approximately 600 Sri Lankan workers are employed Cayman Islands.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Washington DC: The Embassy has nominated a Honorary Consul of Mexico and in the process of identifying a suitable individual in Trinidad and Tobago. During this period, the Embassy facilitated the deportation of 34 individuals to Sri Lanka who had illegally entered Mexico.

11.1.7. Cultural Diplomacy and people to People Relations

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: Although numerous MOUs have been signed on cultural exchange programmes between the two countries, hardly anything has been materialized to date. The Ambassador is scheduled to meet the Director of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Cuba on October 9, 2025 to explore the possibilities. In addition, the Ambassador has initiated discussions with the Cultural Ministry of Sri Lanka to organize a visit by a Sri Lankan delegation led by the cultural Minister to coincide with Independence Day, 2026. During the visit, the delegation is expected to meet the Cuban Cultural Minister and other government officials to discuss cultural exchange programmes. Minister and the delegation will also meet writers, musicians, film directors, and other artists.

11.1.8. Science and Technology Diplomacy

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: The Mission extended assistance to the Sri Lankan Students liaising with the University to settle their issues and to meet their grievances. Cuba offers full scholarships to Sri Lankan students in the Medical stream. Currently six Sri Lankan students are pursuing Medical Degrees at the Cuban Medical University. Annually scholarship is granted for one Sri Lankan Medical Student whereas, a considerable number of medical scholarships are granted to students of other Asian Countries such as Pakistan, Vietnam and Laos.

11.1.9. Human Resources, Mission Management, overseas Assets management

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Cuba: The Latin America and Caribbean Region is the least represented Region by Sri Lanka. Cuba is concurrently accredited to nine (9) Latin American and Caribbean countries. There are only three Home Based Posts in the approved carder of this Mission (HOM, Attaché and PA). At Present, there is no Foreign Service officer in the Mission. In this context, it is imperative to have filled all the Home Based posts right throughout. However, the post of PA has been vacant since May 2024 which seriously cripples the function of this Mission.

Latin America and the Caribbean Division: Since October 2023, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil has been functioning without an official website. Therefore, the Political Desk convened a meeting with the Overseas Assets Management & Development Division, General Administration, Public Diplomacy Division, and the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Brazil. The Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry is in the process of establishing a website for the Mission.

Division's Administration: As the file list of the Latin America and Caribbean division was not properly maintained, w.e.f. 30.09.2025 a proper list of files was prepared with the available information in the division.

Since, the division's Board of Survey has not been maintained properly, the division has taken initiatives to ratify the issues in consultation with the Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism.

12. Middle East Division

Sri Lanka maintains formal diplomatic relations with 14 countries in the Middle East through 11 Embassies, two Consulate General Offices, and one Representative Office. The Division collaborates with these Missions to enhance bilateral relations in economic cooperation, political engagement, tourism, labor welfare, and consular activities.

12.1. Economic Diplomacy: Sri Lankan Missions executed intensive diplomatic and economic activities across the Middle East, driving significant progress in trade, investment, and tourism. Key achievements included: strengthening Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) ties and securing market entry for Sri Lankan products in Bahrain; coordinating Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sector development and connecting Port City Management with investors in Qatar; settling \$135 million of the \$251 million tea-for-oil barter debt with Iran and urging the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) convening; prioritizing ports and logistics investment in Saudi Arabia; promoting the IT sector and advancing a Joint Business Council in Oman; and making strides in the gem and jewellery sector, resulting in 15,417 tourist arrivals to Israel despite regional challenges.

12.2. Political Diplomacy: High-level dialogues with the UAE included President Anura Kumara Disanayaka's visit to the World Government Summit, resulting in the signing of an Investment Protection Agreement. This was followed by the UAE Foreign Minister's visit to Sri Lanka, where a MoU on the UAE-Sri Lanka Joint Business Council was signed. Ministerial engagements also included the Minister of Energy and Minister of Labour visiting the UAE, the Minister of FA, FE & T attending the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Oman, and the Minister of Buddhasasana signing the Hajj Agreement in Saudi Arabia. The Israel Mission also advanced Parliamentary exchanges, with reciprocal delegations planned for 2025 and 2026.

12.3. Multilateral Diplomacy: The Missions successfully garnered crucial multilateral and bilateral support, notably for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and key international candidacies. Diplomatic successes included securing Bahrain's support for Sri Lanka's UNSC non-permanent seat (2040-2047) and establishing a reciprocal agreement with Iran for support on the UNESCO Executive Board (2027-2031) and the UPU Council of Administration. The Lebanon Mission separately engaged with the migrant community via IOM consultations.

12.4. Defence & security cooperation: Missions were instrumental in advancing defense and security cooperation. A major milestone in Bahrain saw Sri Lanka assume command of the Combined Maritime Forces Combined Task Force (CTF) 154, enabling the nation to lead multinational maritime training across the Middle East. Proactive diplomacy also secured Sri Lanka's first-ever participation at the Manama Dialogue – 21st Regional Security Summit. Concurrently, the Lebanon Mission consistently supported peacekeeping through engagement with UNIFIL operational briefings and contingent visits.

12.5. Public diplomacy: The Division and Missions successfully prioritized public diplomacy, including proactively preparing media releases in response to conflict situations across the

Middle East. . In Saudi Arabia, the Consulate concluded Sri Lanka's Chairmanship of the Asian Consuls General's Club, promoting heritage through cultural and sporting events.

12.6. Consular assistance and migrant employment welfare: Missions heavily emphasized community welfare and modernized consular services, with the Qatar Mission implementing digitalization (queue management and passport tracking) and successfully recovering over SLR 83 million in compensation. The Saudi Arabia Mission secured SAR 780,396.23 in salary dues, resolved 357 issues through the "Talk to Your Ambassador" forum, and successfully negotiated a minimum wage increase for domestic workers. Bahrain successfully repatriated 48 undocumented workers and resolved three complex medical repatriation cases. In times of crisis, Iran provided crucial support and evacuated over 20 nationals, while the Israel Embassy facilitated the G2G deployment of 8,561 workers and operated a 24-hour hotline to assist with the evacuation and repatriation of nationals during conflict escalation.

12.7. Cultural diplomacy and people to people relations: Missions actively prioritized cultural promotion, celebrating all major national, religious and cultural festivals. Special achievements included the successful religious facilitation for the Hajj Mission in Saudi Arabia and the utilization of the Muscat Festival to successfully promote trade and culture in Oman.

12.8. Science and technological diplomacy: Missions focused on educational and scientific cooperation, exemplified by the Bahrain Ambassador's meeting with the University of Bahrain President to discuss renewing the 2014 MoU with the University of Colombo.

12.9. Human resources, mission management, overseas assets management Development The Missions/Posts have reported taking measures to streamline internal processes despite ongoing staff constraints.

12.10. Future Outlook: The Division has proactively scheduled the 2nd Session of the Joint Commission between Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for November 2025. Concurrently, the Division is focused on finalizing pending Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Middle Eastern countries and collaborating with the regional Missions to further strengthen and enhance bilateral relations across the entire Middle East region.

12.11. Conclusion: Overall, Missions demonstrated active and diverse engagement across the Middle East in 2025. Key achievements include strengthening bilateral political support at multilateral forums, securing over LKR 200 million in compensation for migrant workers, and implementing digitalization to modernize consular services. Missions also maintained robust trade promotion, cultural celebrations, and essential emergency crisis support for the large Sri Lankan diaspora.

13. Europe and North America Division

The Europe and North America Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism attends to bilateral relations with the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union and its member states, which include 51 countries across Europe, including the Balkans, Caucasus, Eastern Europe, and several microstates. It also covers

engagement with the European Union and the Commonwealth, working through 16 Sri Lankan resident missions, 4 consulates, and concurrent accreditations to strengthen Sri Lanka's engagement in the region.

13.1. PROGRESS: Sri Lanka has actively strengthened its engagement with Europe and North America, fostering an environment for constructive dialogue and cooperation. Through consultations, high-level visits, and initiating new agreements/MoUs, these partnerships have enhanced mutual understanding, advanced collaboration, and delivered tangible benefits, including in the fields of education, defence cooperation and Science & Technology.

13.1.1. Economic Diplomacy: During the official visit of H.E. the President to Germany in June 2025, a business forum was organized by the Sri Lanka Embassy in Berlin in collaboration with the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) and the German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV) at the headquarters of the DIHK. H.E. the President addressed the Forum briefing about the ongoing investor-friendly developments, reforms, and opportunities in business and investment in Sri Lanka. H.E. the President, with the participation of Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism also chaired a meeting with German tourism industry representatives, on the potential of Sri Lanka tourism. As direct outcomes of these forums, new investment proposals are under discussion, including the establishment of a youth hostel and retirement village, and also expanding the existing German businesses in Sri Lanka.

Followed up on Sri Lanka's submission regarding flexible Rules of Origin (ROOs) for apparel under the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). The UK authorities announced the adoption of more flexible ROOs on 11 July 2025, with implementation scheduled for early 2026.

The Division facilitated a GSP Plus Monitoring Mission from the European Union from 29th April to 7th May 2025, led by Mr. Charles Whiteley, Head of the South Asia Division of the European External Action Service, to review Sri Lanka's progress in implementing the 27 international conventions under the Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) trade preferences program of the EU. The Report will be submitted to the EU Parliament in December 2025.

The Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington DC engaged in discussions and negotiations with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to address the reduction of the Reciprocal Tariff imposed on Sri Lanka, facilitating over 20 in-person and online discussions between the Sri Lanka delegations and USTR since 02 April 2025 paving the way to successfully negotiate a reduction in the reciprocal tariff on Sri Lankan imports from an initial 44% to 20%. This substantial tariff reduction can be interpreted as an indicator of current positive Sri Lanka-United States bilateral and trade relations.

This Division, with the Sri Lanka Embassy in France, is coordinating with relevant stakeholders to finalise the proposed Partnership Agreement on establishing an Economic and Financial Dialogue between the two Finance Ministries. Progress is ongoing on the agreement for setting

up the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Regional Office for South Asia in Colombo, which will enhance Sri Lanka's role as a regional development hub.

The 3rd Session of the Sri Lanka – Türkiye Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC) was successfully concluded in July 2025 in Colombo. Hon. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of Türkiye, led the Turkish delegation and called on Hon. PM and Hon. M/FA, FE & T during the visit.

13.1.2. Political Diplomacy: In the period under review, Sri Lanka maintained friendly ties with the countries in Europe and North America with constructive and result-oriented engagements in line with the Government priorities. High-level visits, meetings, discussions, consultations, and other engagements were conducted under political diplomacy, strengthening collaboration and rendering actionable outcomes.

13.1.2.1. Bilateral Relations

13.1.2.1.1. Bilateral Consultations: During this period, the Division convened the first round of bilateral consultations with Italy on 4th September 2025, co-chaired by Hon Arun Hemachandra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Employment and Hon (Ms.) Maria Tripodi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Political Consultations was signed between the two countries by the visiting Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Employment. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1952, this is the first structured mechanism established for the conduct of regular political dialogue between the two countries. The third meeting of experts on the Migration Partnership between Sri Lanka and Switzerland was held in Bern on 29 July 2025, co-chaired by Mr. Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Director General/Europe & North America of the Ministry, and Ambassador Hendrick Krauskopf, Director/International Affairs of the State Secretariat for Migration of the Swiss Federal Department of Justice and Police. The meeting reviewed the progress made under the Migration Partnership and discussed the future trajectory for the protection and welfare of Sri Lankan migrant workers as well as strengthening pathways for safe, orderly, and regular migration.

13.1.2.1.2. Visits, Meetings & Engagements: H.E. the President Anura Kumara Disanayaka undertook an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, from 11-13 June 2025, at the invitation of the President of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. During the visit, H.E. the President held bilateral meetings with the President of Germany. The German Foreign Minister Dr Johann Wadephul & the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Ms. Reem Alabali-Radovan called on President Disanayaka.

The Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya participated at the 102nd East Asia Friendship Dinner as the Guest of Honour at the opening session of the 'German Asia Forum on Vocational Education and Training' organized by the German Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV) and iMOVE, an Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), held in Hamburg, Germany, from 27-30 March 2025.

The Division coordinated bilateral meetings between H.E. the President Anura Kumara Dissanayaka with the President of Portugal; with Mr. Sergio Gor, US Ambassador nominated to India and the US President's nominee as Special Envoy for South & Central Asia (SCA) & current Director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office on the sidelines of the high-level segment of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), New York. The Division assisted with bilateral meetings of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism with Ms. Allison Hooker, United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Foreign Ministers of Norway and Finland, and Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Serap Güler, during the 80th UNGA Session.

Hon. Prime Minister visited France from 31 March to 2 April 2025 to participate in an Expert Conference on the "Excavation and Conservation of the World Heritage Site and Sacred City of Anuradhapura," convened by UNESCO in partnership with Sri Lanka. During the visit, Hon. Prime Minister had a meeting with the former Prime Minister and the Minister of State for National Education, Higher Education, and Research of France, Hon. Élisabeth Borne, and attended the Concluding Segment of the SOS Ocean Conference organized by the Government of France in partnership with the Oceano Azul Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies. On the margins of the Conference, the Prime Minister had a cordial exchange with French President Emmanuel Macron, interacted with and exchanged greetings with H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, and the President of the European Council, António Costa.

The Division facilitated the visit of Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism to the Holy See, to participate in the Funeral Mass for His Holiness Pope Francis on 26 April 2025 in Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City, and coordinated a bilateral meeting between Hon. MFA and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, during the ASEAN ministerial meetings in Malaysia.

The Division along with the respective Sri Lankan Embassies also coordinated the visit to St Petersburg by Hon Dr Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to attend the XI International United Cultural Forum in St Petersburg, Russia from 11-13 September 2025; the visit of Hon. Deputy Minister of Defence Major General (Retd) Aruna Jayasekara to Istanbul, Türkiye to participate in the 17th International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF 2025), held from 22 to 27 July 2025; and the Deputy Minister of Tourism Hon Prof. Ruwan Ranasinghe to visit the International Tourism Forum in Moscow from 10-15 June 2025.

Hon. Catherine West, Minister for the Indo-Pacific of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) visited Sri Lanka from 26-28 January 2025. Minister West paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and had a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism, Vijitha Herath. Minister West participated in an education event at the British Council, launched two export handbooks to support Sri Lankan businesses in effectively accessing the UK market, attended a briefing on a demining program, and visited Jaffna to review the UK Foreign Office-funded Climate Adaptation Project, which is a part of the UK's Climate Action for a Resilient Asia (CARA) program.

On 18 September 2025, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment, Arun Hemachandra, held a telephone conversation with the Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Foreign

Affairs & Head of Ukrainian National Commission for UNESCO, Mariana Betsa, reviewing cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral fora.

During the period under review, other senior bureaucrats and dignitaries undertook official visits to Sri Lanka, fostering partnerships at different levels. Indo-Pacific Trade Representative of Canada (CIPTR) Mr. Paul Thopphil, visited Sri Lanka from 01-03 April 2025. (Ms.) Maria Tripodi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, visited Sri Lanka from 3 to 5 September 2025 and participated in the First Round of Political Consultations. During her visit, she also had meetings with the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, as well as the Hon. Prime Minister. Working visit of a Romanian delegation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs – General Inspector for Immigration to Sri Lanka from 22- 25 July 2025; Admiral Samuel John Paparo Jr., Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, visited from 19-21 March 2025. Captain (Navy) Fabio CIMA, Defence Attaché of the Embassy of Italy, based in New Delhi; Visit of a Study tour from the UK Royal College of Defence Studies to Sri Lanka 17 -24 May 2025; A cross-Party UK parliamentary delegation visited Sri Lanka in 19-26 July 2025 for a programme for new members of parliaments, organised by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); Lord Hannett, UK Trade Envoy for Sri Lanka visited Sri Lanka in May 2025.

13.1.2.1.3. Parliamentary Friendship Association: The Division coordinated the establishment of Parliamentary Friendship Associations for the 10th Parliament with countries such as Türkiye, Germany, Italy, France, Romania, and Belarus.

13.1.2.1.4. Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs): The following Agreements/MoUs were signed:

- a. MoU on the Establishment of a Political Consultations Mechanism with Italy - 04 September 2025
- b. Coordinated the signing of a Partnership Agreement between the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France and the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education of Sri Lanka, related to the improvement of French Teaching in Sri Lanka.
- c. This Division, coordinated and signed, on behalf of the Ministry, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the stakeholder Government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism to establish a structured framework for: Defining the roles and responsibilities of each participating agency; Facilitating notification, consultation and coordination mechanisms; and Enhancing cooperation in monitoring, control and enforcement activities related to 'Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated' (IUU) fishing. As per the recommendations derived from the EU-IUU Mission to Sri Lanka, early this year, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka has initiated action to sign this inter-agency MoU.
- d. The Agreement on Prisoner Transfer with Latvia progressed up to the final stage for signature. The MoU will be signed between the Ambassadors of the two countries based in New Delhi in mid-October.

- e. Coordinated the signing of the Agreement for the implementation of the project on 'Fostering Sustainable Economic Recovery through Improved Biodiversity and Sustainable Waste Management' between Sri Lanka and the European Union.

In addition, the following Agreements and MoUs were facilitated by the Division during the evaluation period.

- f. Coordinated negotiation of the MoU on Establishment of Political Consultations Mechanism and Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income between Sri Lanka and Latvia.
- g. Coordinated negotiation of the MoU on the Establishment of the Political Consultations Mechanism between Sri Lanka and Lithuania
- h. Coordinated to obtain legal clearances for the MoU on connecting Antwerp Port and Colombo Port
- i. Coordinated the signing of the MoU on the Stipendium Hungarian Scholarship Programme for the year 2025-2027, and it is in the final stage of signing.
- j. Coordinated the finalization of the MoU on Bilateral Consultations between Sri Lanka and Malta, which is at the final stage.
- k. Coordinating the signing of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement(DTAA) between Sri Lanka and Austria, following the approval of the Sri Lankan Cabinet of Ministers in July 2025. The process is in the final stage.
- l. Coordinating the finalisation of the Inter-Governmental Agreement for setting up the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Regional Office for South Asia in Colombo.
- m. Coordinating the finalisation of the MoU between the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of Canada and Sri Lanka Police of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- n. Coordinated the finalisation of the MoU between Montana National Guard, the United States Coast Guard and the Ministry of Defence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- o. Coordinated the finalisation of the MoU between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Russian Federation for Cooperation in Sports

13.1.3. Multilateral Diplomacy

13.1.3.1. European Union: Sri Lanka maintained a constructive and multifaceted ongoing engagement with the European Union at different levels during the period under review.

H E Radoslaw Sikorski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (in the context of Poland's rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union) representing Her Excellency Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission undertook an official visit to Sri Lanka from 28 to 31 May 2025 leading a delegation of senior officials from the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. H E Radoslaw Sikorski met with H E the President, Hon. Prime Minister, and Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism.

The Division facilitated a GSP Plus Monitoring Mission from the European Union from 29th April to 7th May 2025. The delegation called on H E the President, Hon. Prime Minister, and Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism, and had meetings with the Office of the Missing Persons, Office of National Unity and Reconciliation, Office of Reparation, Election Commission, the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC), and Human Rights Commission. The Division facilitated/chaired cluster meetings with the participation of relevant line Ministries/organizations to review Sri Lanka's progress related to the 27 international conventions under the labor, environment, and governance sectors. The Report of the GSP plus Monitoring Mission on Sri Lanka will be submitted to the EU Parliament in December 2025.

The Europe & North America Division facilitated the 8th Session of the EU-SL Working Group on Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights on 5 May 2025 in Colombo under the EU-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. The Working Group discussed a range of matters of mutual interest, including efforts to combat corruption, upholding human rights, including labour rights, rights of persons belonging to minorities, women's rights, child rights, a conducive space for civil society, strengthening electoral processes, preventing discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation and envisaged legislative reforms. The Division is currently making arrangements to host the 27th Session of the EU-SL Joint Commission on 11th December 2025. The Joint Commission will be preceded by the Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation to be held on 13th November and the Working Group on Development Cooperation to be held on 10th December 2025.

Among the other notable engagements with the EU in the period under review are the visit of Mr Nacho Sánchez Amor, the Chief Observer of the European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) from 16-17 January 2025 to hand over the final report of the 2024 Presidential Elections; and the EU high-level Mission, led by Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), along with a technical team, to Sri Lanka from 10-14 February 2025 as part of ongoing EU-SL cooperation to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. As per the recommendations derived from this EU-IUU Mission, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of Sri Lanka, initiated action to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the stakeholder Government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism to establish a structured framework for: Defining the roles and responsibilities of each participating agency; Facilitating notification, consultation and coordination mechanisms; and Enhancing cooperation in monitoring, control and enforcement activities related to 'Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated' (IUU) fishing. In addition, a delegation from the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, which included 10 parliamentarians from the countries of the European Union and European Parliament, in partnership with the Sri Lanka Family Planning Association, undertook a study tour to Sri Lanka from 26 to 30 May 2025.

13.1.3.2. Commonwealth: As a founding member of the Commonwealth, Sri Lanka continues its close collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Member States in implementing the organization's Agenda. The Division, together with the Sri Lanka High Commission in London, coordinated Sri Lanka's participation at the 37th Commonwealth

Health Ministers Meeting (CHMM) in Geneva, Switzerland on 17 May 2025; The Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting in Namibia from 18-20 June 2025, the Hon Prime Minister's participation in her capacity as the Minister of Education and as the current Regional Representative for Asia at the 42nd Meeting of the Board of Governors – The Commonwealth of Learning (COL), from 25 - 26 June 2025; and Sri Lanka's participation at the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting on 22 September 2025 in New York.

13.1.4. Defense and Security Cooperation: The Division coordinated defence-related cooperation with the countries in the region, including Sri Lanka's participation at IDEF 2025 in Istanbul, strengthening bilateral defence relations with Turkey, and the port call of Turkish Naval ship TCG Büyükkada at Colombo from 13-16 June 2025, to further enhance bilateral military relations and ensure logistical replenishment. The Division also facilitated the visit of the Italian Navy Ship "ITS ANTONIOMARCEGLIA" with onboard HELICOPTER SH-90 to Port of Colombo from 06 – 07 February 2025 and 25 - 27 May 2025. The Division, in coordination with the Protocol Division of the Ministry, facilitated the courtesy visit of the French Navy frigate "PROVENCE" in March. The visit also included the arrival of Rear Admiral Hugues Laine, French Joint Forces Commander in the Indian Ocean, in connection with the frigate's stopover in Sri Lanka. The Division facilitated the meetings and visits of a high-level delegation from the Royal Netherlands Navy, led by the Deputy Commander, Major General Rob de Wit, who visited Sri Lanka in September in connection with the "Galle Dialogue". The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Rome participated in the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC) 2025, organized by the Italian Foreign Ministry, and also facilitated the Sri Lankan delegation's participation in the Coast Guard Global Summit. The Sri Lankan Embassy in Moscow facilitated visits of the Secretary of Defence and Commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force to Russia.

In 2025, defence and security cooperation between the United States and Sri Lanka experienced significant growth across various domains. The Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington DC facilitated a grant for the Sri Lanka Air Force to acquire a turboprop Beechcraft King Air 360 and coordination to obtain C130 aircrafts, U.S. Coast Guard training on the operation and maintenance of the MK 75 weapon system for the Sri Lanka Navy, delivery of the 4th Coast Guard Cutter and to arrange allocation of the 5th Coast Guard Cutter. The ongoing collaboration with the United States in defence and maritime security was strengthened by the visit of Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) in March 2025 and PACIFIC ANGEL 25 joint exercise between Sri Lanka and the US from 8–12 Sept 2025 on disaster response focusing on search and rescue, medical readiness, air safety and engineering cooperation.

13.1.5. Public Diplomacy : The Missions and Posts coming under the purview of this Division utilises media and social media platforms and events to promote public diplomacy, communicating the Government policies, investment and tourism initiatives; including the Consulate General in Milan initiating collaboration between the University of Kelaniya and the University of Venice, particularly on the scientific translation of the " Travel of Marco Polo" into Sinhala, the Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington DC organizing the Passport D.C. Open Door 2025 event and the Sri Lanka Embassy in Ankara organising four Sri Lankan film screenings in Ankara and Istanbul.

The Division, along with the Sri Lanka High Commission in Ottawa and the Consulate General in Toronto, continues to engage closely with Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian High Commission in Ottawa to counter misinformation and to address the false narrative of the term “genocide” by Canadian authorities. Hon Vijitha Herath, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism, met with the Canadian High Commissioner in Colombo on 14 May 2025 to reiterate the Government of Sri Lanka’s strong objections regarding the unfounded genocide allegations and the unveiling of the so-called *Tamil Genocide Memorial* in Brampton, Ontario. Hon Minister requested the Canadian High Commissioner in Colombo to transmit the request of the Government of Sri Lanka to the Canadian authorities to intervene and prevent the II Phase of the monument. The Sri Lanka High Commission made a submission to Global Affairs Canada on Sri Lanka’s position regarding the statement of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney issued on 18 May 2025, reiterating and highlighting that the allegation of so-called “genocide” is unsubstantiated by any credible authority and is based on misleading information.

13.1.6. Consular Assistance and Migrant Employment Welfare: During the period under review, this Division intervened and held several discussions with the countries of the European Union, such as Finland, Sweden, and Poland, to resolve the issues faced by the Sri Lankan students and family members of Sri Lankans residing in European countries in obtaining visas from the respective Embassies in New Delhi accredited to Sri Lanka. The Division coordinated with the Embassy of Romania in Sri Lanka on the matter of the visa backlog, which was estimated at about 10,000 pending applications at the beginning of 2025, and has since been reduced to approximately 6,000. The Division, in coordination with the Sri Lankan Mission in Vienna lobbying for the restoration of Hungarian work visas for Sri Lankan expatriate workers.

Sri Lankan Mission in Ankara facilitated the Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Ukraine to visit a Ukrainian camp where Sri Lankan prisoners of war are detained, extending vital consular support under challenging circumstances. Similarly, the Ministry is coordinating matters relevant to POWs in Ukraine and the repatriation of Sri Lanka-origin detainees in Ukraine.

The Division coordinated matters on the issues relating to the recognition of Sri Lankan driving licences in Romania, Poland, and the renewal of the Bilateral Agreement for the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licences between Sri Lanka and Italy, which is now in its final stage of approval before signing.

13.1.7. Cultural Diplomacy and People-to-People Relations: The Division, in liaison with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Colombo, is coordinating the ongoing work towards the restitution of the second batch of artefacts from the Netherlands to Sri Lanka. The Missions and Posts coming under the purview of the Division conducted events to promote cultural diplomacy including: the Sri Lanka Embassy in Moscow opening a Sri Lankan Cultural Centre at the State Medical University of Gomel in Belarus on 28 June 2025, facilitating the visit of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education to the III International Forum of Ministers of Education *Shaping the Future*, in Kazan, Russia and arranged a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education. The Consulate General in Milan participated in the Venice Carnival 2025 for the second consecutive year, strengthening Sri Lanka’s cultural visibility internationally. The

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Austria facilitated the Sri Lankan community in Austria to initiate the “Clean Sri Lanka- Austria “Association on 17 May 2025. The Sri Lanka High Commission in London, in collaboration with the International Institute of Health Sciences, Sri Lanka, organized an event celebrating the achievements of Sri Lankan healthcare professionals working in the United Kingdom on 30 August 2025.

13.1.8. Science and Technological Diplomacy: This Division took several initiatives through relevant Missions to enhance greater opportunities for relevant line ministries, universities, and institutes in the fields of science and technology. These included an Online Diplomatic Training Programme for Sri Lankan diplomats offered by the Government of Türkiye in collaboration with the Turkish Diplomatic Training Institute in February 2025; and the participation of the Sri Lanka Scout Association in the Türkiye Jamboree held from 5–15 July 2025 in Istanbul with a national contingent comprising 54 youth participants and 12 adult leaders. Government-funded scholarship opportunities were offered by Belarus, the Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, and Türkiye for Sri Lankans to pursue higher education in the academic year 2025-2026. A capacity-building programme for about 60 Sri Lankan government officials with the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) was coordinated by the Sri Lankan Embassy in the Hague.

13.1.9. Other: Coordinated the establishment of the Consulate General Office in Nicosia, Cyprus; The Division facilitated the opening of a new honorary consulate of the Republic of Malta in Colombo, marking the 25th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Malta and Sri Lanka.

13.2. Future Outlook : This Division is in the process of organizing/facilitating the following meetings/visits during the remaining period of this year :

- Visit of H.E. Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for the Holy See’s Relations with States and International Organizations on 03-08 November 2025;
- 27th Session of EU-SL Joint Commission on 11th December 2025, preceded by the Working Groups on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Working Group on Development Cooperation, which will also be held on 13th November and 10th December, respectively;
- Official visit of the Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment to Brussels to participate in the 4th EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Forum and bilateral meetings in November 2025;
- The Second Round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and the Netherlands will be held on 29 October 2025 in The Hague;
- Sri Lanka’s participation at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policies to be held from 22-23 October 2025 in Paris, France.

13.3. Conclusion: During the first nine months of 2025, the Europe and North America Division contributed to enhancing bilateral and multilateral ties in line with the Government priorities and national interests, maintaining constant and friendly engagement with the countries in the region. Building upon the achievements and progress made, the Division is focused on further deepening and strengthening cooperation with the countries in Europe and

the North American regions, and expanding linkages with the Sri Lankan communities resident in those countries.

14. South Asia Division

The South Asia and SAARC Division and the Sri Lanka Missions in South Asian countries promoted economic initiatives, fostered friendly relations, enhanced bilateral ties, and showcased Sri Lankan culture and interests. Some of the key highlights in this regard are as follows:

14.1. Economic Diplomacy: SLHC/Dhaka organized a virtual interactive discussion between the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) on 08 January 2025 to discuss the Sri Lanka–Bangladesh Trade Promotion Plan for 2025 and to arrange a visit of a Bangladeshi business delegation (20–25 companies) to Sri Lanka in June 2025. On 16 January 2025, the mission had a meeting with the President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry to discuss initiatives to enhance bilateral trade. SLHC/Dhaka promoted Ceylon Tea, Cinnamon, spices, and Sri Lankan Batik products at the BIMSTEC Day Reception on 16 June 2025 in Dhaka, organized by the BIMSTEC Secretariat. The mission organized a high-level business delegation of 22 leading Bangladeshi companies from the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) to Sri Lanka from 16–19 June 2025. The delegation participated in business forums and B2B sessions. A MoU between DCCI and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce was also signed during the visit.

SLHC/Dhaka organized a virtual meeting between the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA) and Bangladesh Association of Contact Centre and Outsourcing (BACCO) on 07 July 2025 to promote the Disrupt Asia Event held in Sri Lanka. Further, the mission organized a Diplomatic Reception and cultural/tourism promotion event on 09 February 2025 to celebrate the 77th Anniversary of Sri Lanka’s Independence. The mission also promoted Sri Lanka as a tourist destination at the BIMSTEC Day Reception on 16 June 2025.

SLHC/Malé organized a Business Forum in collaboration with the Sri Lanka-Maldives Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to coincide with the State Visit of H.E. the President of Sri Lanka to Maldives. The event was attended by 26 high net-worth business leaders of Maldives during which H.E. the President briefed them on the investment opportunities in Sri Lanka. The mission facilitated the participation of Maldivian companies in the Capital Market Invest Forum in March 2025, Industry Expo and Disrupt Asia held in September 2025. SLHC/Malé facilitated the participation of Sri Lankan companies at Vacation Expo in April 2025, Maldives Expo in May 2025 and Maldives wellness and Education Expo in June 2025. Further, the mission facilitated 4328 job contracts to provide employment opportunities for Sri Lankans in Maldives.

The mission met with the President and members of the Sri Lanka–Pakistan Business Forum regarding the organization of a pharmaceutical delegation to Sri Lanka, including

arrangements to meet with their counterparts in Sri Lanka (04 February 2025). On 13 August 2025, the High Commissioner held a meeting with the President and members of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) at the FPCCI headquarters to discuss trade and investment opportunities between the two countries. The mission had a meeting with senior executives from leading travel agencies. The discussion focused on promoting inbound tourism to Sri Lanka and developing attractive holiday travel packages for passengers with the aim of contributing to the national economy on 01 July 2025. SLHC/Islamabad facilitated discussions with the support of the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Lahore to promote Sri Lanka's tourism sector, with a focus on medical tourism. Further, the mission met with the relevant experts to introduce a new theme “Family Reunification Tourism” in Sri Lanka for Pakistani and Indian nationals. The Mission is currently preparing a concept paper, and the programme will be implemented subject to the Ministry’s guidance.

SLEMB/Kathmandu hosted a networking dinner, and facilitated the visit of Nepali businessmen to participate in Industry Expo 2025 in Sri Lanka, and coordinated registration and logistical support for the participation of Nepali IT delegates in Disrupt Asia 2025. The mission organized a Tourism Promotional Event on 28th August 2025, bringing together key Nepali travel industry stakeholders to showcase Sri Lanka's diverse tourism offerings spiritual, cultural, and leisure through presentations, promotional materials, and traditional Sri Lankan hospitality. The mission facilitated the signing of MoUs between the National Chamber of Exporters of Sri Lanka (NCE) and two Nepali chambers of commerce; the Nepal-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NSCCI) and the Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC). The mission also facilitated the collaborative initiative (MoUs) between the Federation of Computer Association Nepal (CAN) and the Sri Lanka Association for Software and Services Companies (SLASSCOM). SLEMB/Kathmandu provided strategic facilitation for the proposed establishment of a branch of the National Institute of Business Management in Nepal by initiating discussions with potential partners including Embark College and Glocal Pvt. Ltd. Further, the mission facilitated the visit of the President of the Nepal Chamber of Commerce to Sri Lanka for the “Bridging Borders, Building Futures” Round Table held in May 2025.

SLDHC/Chennai facilitated the introduction of new Sri Lankan exports to South Indian markets including Fast Moving Consumer Goods, Industrial goods, and Spices. The mission facilitated 4 South Indian FDIs to the BOI of Sri Lanka (manufacturing of rubber gloves, ethanol from sweet beet farming, tourism resort investment, and a new fertility hospital investment). Further, SLDHC/Chennai facilitated the MICE tourism promotion roadshows organized by the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau in Hyderabad and Bangalore from 1-3 July 2025, and further facilitated two high level business delegations from South India to Sri Lanka.

SLCG/Mumbai facilitated Sri Lanka’s participation in the Anuga Select 2025, a food and beverage trade fair in Mumbai from 28 to 30 August 2025: With the intervention of the Post, three 3 Sri Lankan companies exhibited at the trade fair and engaged in B2B meetings. The mission facilitated the visit of trade delegation from the Western Region of India to Industry Expo Sri Lanka from 18 to 21 September 2025. SLCG/Mumbai facilitated the participation of Sri Lanka led by the Hon Deputy Minister and Chief Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka on Digital Economy at the NASSCOM Technology & Leadership Forum (NTLF). Further, it

promoted Sri Lanka as a wedding destination and filming location: facilitated events in Mumbai and Ahmedabad to promote Sri Lanka as a wedding destination in September 2025.

SLCG/Karachi hosted an online session aimed at fostering collaboration between key stakeholders in the Information Technology (IT) sectors of Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The event was jointly organized with the Sri Lanka Association for Software and Service Companies (SLASSCOM) and the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA). The mission organized a high-level delegation from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to participate in the “Invest Sri Lanka Capital Market Investor Forum” held in Colombo. During this visit, a Tripartite MoU was signed between the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). SLCG/Karachi hosted Sri Lanka’s participation at the 20th “My Karachi – Oasis of Harmony” Exhibition, held from 1st to 3rd August 2025 at the Karachi Expo Center. Importers of Sri Lankan products in Pakistan, along with Sri Lankan Airlines, partnered with the Consulate General to showcase a range of Sri Lankan products and services.

14.2. Political Diplomacy

14.2.1. High-level visits: The State visit of Prime Minister of India to Sri Lanka took place in from 4-6 April 2025. During this visit, seven MoUs were signed in areas of defence, energy, health, digital infrastructure, and infrastructure development. The State visit of H.E the President to Maldives took place from 28-30 July 2025. During the State Visit, two MoUs (on mutual legal assistance and training/capacity building) were signed.

14.2.2. Official Visits: On 06 February 2025, the SLHC/Islamabad facilitated a six-member delegation led by Hon. (Dr.) W. M. Jagath Wickramaratne, MP and Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, to attend the 1st Joint CPA Asia and South-East Asia Regional Conference, hosted by the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Pakistan.

14.2.3. MoUs and Agreements: During the State visit of Prime Minister of India to Sri Lanka (April 2025), seven MoUs were signed: (1) MoU for Implementation of HVDC Interconnection for Import/Export of Power; (2) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation; (3) MoU for Cooperation in Development of Trincomalee as an Energy Hub; (4) MoU on Defence Cooperation; (5) MoU on Multi-sectoral Grant Assistance for Eastern Province; (6) MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Health & Medicine; and (7) MoU on Pharmacopoeial Cooperation. During the State Visit of HE the President to Maldives in July 2025, two MoUs were exchanged – (1) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, and (2) MOU on Diplomatic Training and Exchange of Information and Documentation between Sri Lanka and Maldives. The South Asia Division further facilitated the signing of MoU between India and Sri Lanka for Construction and Supply of Medical Equipment for Accident and Emergency Unit at District General Hospital, Mannar on 9 September 2025. SLHC/Dhaka continued to facilitate the finalization of the proposed MoU between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on the procurement of pharmaceuticals and medical devices for Sri Lanka through the G2G procurement process.

14.2.4. Political Consultations: The South Asia Division in cooperation with SLHC/Dhaka facilitated the Second Round of Sri Lanka–Bhutan Foreign Office Consultations on 27 May 2025 in Thimphu, Bhutan, co-chaired by the Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary and the Bhutanese Foreign Secretary.

14.2.5. Other: SLHC/Dhaka is in the process of appointing a new Sri Lanka Honorary Consul in Chittagong. SLHC/ Malé facilitated meetings of Maldives – Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship Group to discuss matters of mutual interest in May 2025. SLHC/ Malé: The Election Commission of Sri Lanka collaborated with the Elections Commission of Maldives to provide expertise on Democratic Multi-Party System and Capacity Building for the Staff of the Maldives Elections Commission. SLEMB/Kathmandu facilitated the visit of the Governor of the central Bank of Sri Lanka, Dr. P Nandalal Weerasinghe to Nepal. SLDHC/Chennai facilitated 07 official VIP visits to South India during the concerned period. SLDHC/Chennai coordinated discussions with Indian government authorities on matter pertaining to the repatriation/deportation of Sri Lankans.

14.3. Defence & Security Cooperation: The Division facilitated an international collaboration visit of delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) Pakistan to Sri Lanka, from 26 April to 06 May 2025 in collaboration with SLHC/Islamabad. The South Asia Division further facilitated visits of 06 military aircrafts, and 08 naval ships from other South Asian countries during this period¹.

SLHC/Dhaka facilitated the participation of Bangladeshi military officers in training courses in Sri Lanka. The mission facilitated the participation of Sri Lankan officers in training courses at the National Defence College and Defence Services Command & Staff College in Bangladesh.

Police Commissioner of Maldives, Mr. Ismail Naveen visited Sri Lanka in July 2025 and held meetings with the Inspector General of Police, Vice Chancellor of Kotalawala Defence University and President of CINEC Campus to discuss capacity building and training for Maldives Police Services.

SLHC/Islamabad facilitated multi-national naval exercise organized by Pakistan Navy was held from 7-11 February 2025. Additionally, inaugural AMAN Dialogue, was held from 9-10 February 2025 as an adjunct to the exercise. Sri Lankan Navy Ship SLNS Vijayabahu alongside Special Operation Forces participated the Exercise. On 18 April 2025, the mission facilitated Pakistan Army Team Spirit Exercise-2025 at Kharian Garrison. The mission facilitated the 5th Round of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Armed Forces Defence Dialogue (AFDD). The event was successfully concluded on 30 April 2025. From 28 July to 07 August 2025, the mission facilitated the Visit of a Delegation from Defence Services Command and Staff College to Pakistan. Further, the mission facilitated 90 Military personnel (Army 58, Navy 6, Air Force 26) to follow the important career courses in different military training establishments in Pakistan during the period.

The mission facilitated the proposal for the establishment of intelligence cooperation between the State Intelligence Service of Sri Lanka and the Nepal Police.

¹ India – Ships (6), Aircrafts (4); Pakistan – Ships (1), Aircrafts (1); and Bangladesh – Ships (1), Aircrafts (1)

14.4.Cultural Diplomacy and People to People Relations: South Asia Division facilitated the participation of cultural troupes from Sri Lanka to visit South Asian countries.

SLHC/Dhaka facilitated the Bangladesh–Sri Lanka Youth Exchange Program 2025, organized by HOPE'87 Bangladesh. An 18-member Sri Lankan youth delegation, along with two officials from the National Youth Services Council (NYSC), visited Bangladesh (27 August to 04 September 2025). SLHC/Dhaka continues to provide facilities and premises for the Sri Lanka School in Bangladesh, conducted by the Sri Lankan community. The school provides weekend classes in the Sinhala/Tamil languages and religious studies, educating around 35 Sri Lankan children.

SLHC/ Malé organized a meeting with the Sri Lankans community for H.E. the President during his State Visit to Maldives to discuss matters pertaining to the community.

SLEMB/Kathmandu delivered a presentation to a delegation from various Buddhist and Shakya organizations in Nepal. The presentation highlighted the ancient Buddhist connections and the historical ties between the two countries, particularly through the Shakya clan and its long-standing relationship with Sri Lanka. The mission participated in the Stakeholder Forum and Dialogue on Cultural and Creative Economy held in Kathmandu. The event was organized by UNESCO, ILO, and the British Council, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, and FCA Nepal.

SLCG/Mumbai organized a Sri Lanka Film Festival at the NFDC Mumbai in January 2025. In January 2025, SLCG/Mumbai organized a Sri Lanka cultural evening at the NFDC Mumbai prior to the Sri Lanka Film Festival. Further, the mission organized Sri Lanka's participation at the WAVES Summit on 2nd May 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre, BKC and 3rd May 2025 at the Palladium Mall, Lower Parel.

14.5.Science and Technological Diplomacy: South Asia Division facilitated MoUs related to Science and Technology with South Asian Countries

SLHC/Islamabad held a meeting with the Project Director of the Allama Iqbal Scholarship, along with senior officials from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, on 6 January 2025 at the High Commission premises. The discussion focused on various issues faced by Sri Lankan students studying in different disciplines at universities across Pakistan under the Allama Iqbal fully funded and partially funded scholarship programmes. Further, the mission held a meeting with the Professor of Capital University of Science and Technology for exploring scholarship opportunities for Sri Lankan students in various disciplines at the Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD levels, as well as the ongoing academic exchange programme.

SLEMB/Kathmandu Facilitated the survey to identify the institutional strengths and good practices of teacher training institutions in the South Asian region, launched by the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development, established as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre and operating under the Government of Sri Lanka.

The Actg. DHC/Chennai held discussions with the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Pro Vice Chancellor of the Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences in Chennai, India's top-ranked dental education institution and 26th globally according to QS rankings. The meetings

focused on the possibility of extending the duration of the dental course and increasing the number of Sri Lankan dental students from the Peradeniya University Dental Faculty who could participate in clinical practice at Saveetha's state-of-the-art dental facilities. The Deputy High Commissioner further had meetings with the management of the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) (21st in the NIRF Rankings) on 18–19 September 2025 and requested 100 scholarship opportunities for Sri Lankan students to which VIT agreed to offer a 45% cost concession.

15. South East Asia and Central Asia Division

15.1. Economic Diplomacy: A four-member Thai Gem and Jewelry Traders Association delegation participated in FACETS 2025, meeting the Minister of Industries and NGJA officials. Sri Lanka's products were showcased at Kaset Fair 2025, while the 71st and 72nd Bangkok Gems & Jewelry Fairs featured 35–48 Sri Lankan exhibitors; negotiations secured a total concession of USD 27,600.

Sri Lanka Ayurveda Week and a Tourism Promotion Event were held in Thailand with broad participation from the Thai travel trade. The "Invest Sri Lanka" Forum (April 2025), attended by Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, attracted 80 leading Thai business representatives. The visit of Maliban Manufactories Ltd. resulted in follow-up collaboration with the Thai BOI and CP Group for market entry opportunities.

In Yangon Launched cooperation on trade and investment in the coconut sector in partnership with Sri Lanka's Ministry of Plantation Industries.

During the State Visit to Viet Nam (May 2025), the Mission in consultation with the Division organized B2B engagements with major conglomerates (Vingroup, Sun Group, Rox Group, Sovico, and FPT). Rox Group subsequently sent a delegation to Colombo exploring renewable-energy and real-estate investment. Tourism promotion events in Hanoi and Hai Phong reached over 200 Vietnamese tour operators, leading to a 20-member familiarization visit to Sri Lanka.

SLEMB/Moscow launched Belavia Airlines charter flights for the 2025-26 winter season, promoted Ceylon Tea at Prodexpo 2025, and organized three tourism roadshows across major Russian cities. Participation in JUNWEX 2025 and the International Russian Travel Market supported trade and tourism diversification. Engagements by the Chairmen of SLBFE and SLFEA expanded labour-sector cooperation in seven Russian regions.

SLHC/Singapore facilitated Port City–Singapore investment dialogues, BOI/EDB follow-ups, and the Singapore Food Agency audit of Sri Lankan meat exports. Coordinated Singapore's participation in Disrupt Asia and the MICE Expo, and arranged a Gardens by the Bay horticultural exchange to explore biodiversity collaboration.

SLEMB/Kuala Lumpur Hosted a High-Level Investment, Trade and Tourism Forum, led by Hon. Vijitha Herath, with over 60 Malaysian dignitaries including members of the Royal Family. Facilitated three Port City (CHEC) promotional missions and an Investors Forum (March 2024) with Sri Lanka's Treasury and Finance Ministry. Arranged PPP-focused training for Treasury

officials and chaired regular meetings of the Malaysia–Sri Lanka Business Council (MSLBC) and key trade chambers.

15.2. Political Diplomacy: SLEMB/Bangkok commemorated 70 Years of Thailand–Sri Lanka Diplomatic Relations through a logo competition and high-level exchanges. Bilateral consultations (25 March 2025) co-chaired by both Foreign Secretaries reaffirmed strong cooperation. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka participated in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 2025) and held productive bilateral meetings. A Buddhist fundraising initiative by Thai monks supported an orthopedic project in Sri Lanka.

SLEMB/Yangon in coordination with the Division, deployed a Sri Lankan Medical Team after the 7.7-magnitude earthquake (March 2025) and prepared for Air Force Staff Talks to strengthen defence collaboration.

SLEMB/Hanoi with the guidance of the Division facilitated the signing of five key MoUs/Agreements on agriculture, trade, customs cooperation, machinery manufacturing, and diplomatic training during the Presidential Visit (May 2025).

SLHC/Singapore arranged Ministerial participation at Asia Tech X Singapore (27–29 May 2025), the Global Aviation & Maritime Symposium on 13–15 July 2025, and the Invest Sri Lanka Forum, advancing cooperation in AI governance, digital shipping, and investment.

The Division together with the SLEMB/Kuala Lumpur organized the official visit of Hon. Vijitha Herath and a bilateral meeting with H.E. Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, addressing key issues and proposing a 10,000-job quota for ex-servicemen.

The MoU on Cooperation between BIDTI (MFA Sri Lanka) and the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines was signed on 22 April 2025. Coordination and follow-up were undertaken on pending MoUs/Agreements including the MLAT and TTSP, Extradition Treaty, Defence and Labour Cooperation, MoU between PDEA and NDDCB, Executive Programme on Cultural Cooperation (2026–2031), Air Services Agreement, Postal MoU, CITEM–EDB collaboration, PCG–SLCG cooperation, Visa Exemption Agreement for Ordinary Passport holders, and MoU between OUSL and IRRI. Efforts also continued to renew the Agriculture and SLACRP–UPLB MoUs.

The Division successfully concluded the 3rd Round of Sri Lanka–Philippines Political Consultations (12 September 2025) and liaised with Department Foreign Affairs and PhilPost on a joint commemorative stamp for the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations (2026).

15.3. Multilateral Relations & Consular Affairs: SLEMB/Bangkok led Sri Lanka’s delegation to the 81st UNESCAP Session, securing election to the Governing Council of CSAM (2025–28). Held follow-up discussions with Executive Secretary Ms. Armida Alisjahbana and participated in SDG 17 Partnerships meetings.

SLEMB/Moscow with the guidance of the Division contributed virtually to the CICA Conference on transportation.

SLEMB/Kuala Lumpur represented Sri Lanka in ASEAN-related forums, including the ARF Security Conference and Senior Officials' Meeting, and gained Malaysia's backing for multiple UNESCO and ICAO candidatures.

SLEMB/Yangon in partnership with Myanmar authorities, rescued and repatriated 31 Sri Lankans trafficked for cyber-crime operations in Myawaddy.

SLHC/Singapore secured 461 jobs for Sri Lankans, promoted ethical recruitment, and conducted awareness sessions for students on visa and conduct regulations.

Representations were made at the CPSC Governing Board Meetings (118th and 119th), Special GBM, and Standing Committee Meetings, as well as at a Virtual Information Session on Philippine-hosted international organizations. The Mission coordinated with DFA Manila regarding the Philippines' support on Sri Lanka-related resolutions at the HRC's 55th and 60th Sessions, and managed candidature exchanges, including:

Sri Lanka's re-election to CEDAW (2027–2030);
Philippines' nomination for APO Secretary General (2025–2028); and
Reciprocal support for the UNSC candidature (2027–2028).

15.4.Cultural Diplomacy: During the State Visit to Viet Nam by H.E. the President, gifted a sapling of the sacred Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi to the Bai Dinh Pagoda, with a Sri Lankan-style structure built by the Central Cultural Fund. Five Sri Lankan students commenced studies in Viet Nam Universities, while five scholarships were offered to Vietnamese monks.

SLEMB/Moscow Promoted Sri Lanka's Buddhist heritage at international forums in St. Petersburg and Kalmykia, and inaugurated the Sri Lankan Cultural Centre at Gomel State Medical University, Belarus.

SLEMB/Kuala Lumpur resolved over 120 labour-related complaints, organized 22 job-promotion programs, and conducted two migrant outreach mobile services.

15.5.Defence & Security Cooperation: SLEMB/ Manila and the Division coordinated with the DFA and Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka, on KDU degree programmes (2025/26) and the MNSA Regular Course No. 62 at the National Defence College of the Philippines (January–December 2026).

15.6. Science, Technology & Education Diplomacy: SLEMB/Moscow in coordination with the Division facilitated the participation of the Secretary, Ministry of Education, at the III International Forum of Ministers of Education (Kazan) and arranged bilateral discussions with the Russian Deputy Minister of Education.

SLHC/Singapore together with the Division enabled landmark MoUs on AI collaboration between the Digital Economy Ministry and AI Singapore (28 Jul), and between NUS and the Education Ministry (5 May). Negotiated similar cooperation with Nanyang Technological University and leading Singaporean institutions (GFTN, IMDA, Temasek Foundation). Donated Sri Lankan literary works to the National Library Board and launched the "Sri Lanka Collection" (24 Sep) to deepen cultural and academic ties.

15.7. Others - Handling Agreements: During the review period, the Division initiated 21 Agreements/MoUs, while 8 pending instruments were finalized and signed within the same timeframe. In addition, the Division is following up on 134 Agreements/MoUs—some already signed and others pending—by coordinating the review, clearance, and follow-up action on bilateral instruments under negotiation or renewal with countries in the Southeast and Central Asian region. This process includes close liaison with relevant line ministries, legal authorities, and Missions to ensure procedural compliance and timely submission for inter-agency clearance.

PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE DIVISIONS: OPERATIONAL DIVISIONS

16. Consular Affairs Division

The Consular Affairs Division, together with its Regional Consular Offices (RCOs) situated in Jaffna, Matara, Kandy, Trincomalee, and Kurunegala, operates in accordance with the provisions of the Consular Functions Act No. 04 of 1981 and its subsequent amendment, Act No. 18 of 2006. The Division provides services to Sri Lankan citizens both within the national territory and abroad, functioning through Sri Lankan Diplomatic Missions and Posts internationally. The consular services offered to the public are organized into five principal categories: Document Authentication, Repatriation, Compensation, Death-related Services (pertaining to deaths occurring overseas), and Miscellaneous Matters, which encompass various other consular concerns.

16.1. Authentication of documents and digitization process

The Consular Division and its Regional Consular Offices (RCO) generated a combined revenue of LKR 412,544,600.00 from 1st of January to 30th September 2025 by authenticating 361,248 documents for 174,571 applicants. Among these Regional Consular Offices, RCO Jaffna generated LKR. 20,812,800, through the authentication of 16,982 documents for 7,479 applicants. The RCO Matara collected LKR 20,012,400.00 through the authentication of 17,140 documents for 10,348 applicants. The RCO Kandy contributed LKR 22,157,400.00 by authenticating 18,986 documents for 11,928 applicants. The RCO Trincomalee generated LKR 9,688,200.00 by authenticating 8,300 documents for 4,837 applicants. Furthermore, the RCO Kurunagala contributed LKR 31,152,000.00 through the authentication of 26,551 documents for 13,629 applicants.

As part of the ongoing digitalization of document authentication services, in partnership with the Department of Examinations, the Division has implemented an online system for the authentication of GCE O/L and A/L certificates in 2023. This innovative system allows applicants to submit requests remotely, thereby avoiding the necessity for in-person visits to Colombo. Making an advancement in the digitalization of consular services, the Division integrated the e-DAS and e-BMD (Registrar General's Department) databases on 2 September 2024. This allows applicants to apply online for the authentication of birth, marriage, and death certificates, eliminating the need for in-person visits. These innovations have consistently operated effectively, providing a streamlined and efficient service while substantially decreasing the daily workload for applicants at the Consular Division.

The Division, in collaboration with the Registrar General's Department, launched certified copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates through the e-BMD system at Sri Lankan Missions abroad. A pilot project started on January 7, 2025, to help overseas Sri Lankans obtain these certificates. Since February 7, 2025, the e-BMD system has been implemented in all Sri Lankan Missions, enhancing the provision of consular services through digital channels.

The e-DAS system continues to advance with the introduction of Branch Modules, aimed at integrating key government and professional institutions into the platform to fully digitalize

the document authentication process. Entities such as local universities, the Medical Council, Sri Lanka Police, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, and the British Council are being connected through this integration. Once completed, over 80% of documents authenticated by the Division daily are expected to be processed entirely online.

The Division implemented an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system to enhance information sharing via telephone inquiries. This system guides applicants through key services and procedures using voice recordings, allowing the public to access essential information without direct communication with officers, which helps reduce phone traffic.

16.2.Coordination of Deaths aboard: A total of 704 death cases were reported to the Ministry within the reporting period. The Ministry, in coordination with the Missions overseas, facilitated 469 dispatch of human remains, 65 cremations and 170 burials abroad. Ministry has further extended its services to 450 Next of Kins in Sri Lanka to register Consular death certificates, abroad.

16.3. Coordination of Compensation aboard: The same reporting period witnessed a significant progress in retrieving compensation and legal entitlements of deceased Sri Lankan migrants overseas from foreign employers, securing 481,413,893.78 LKR (approx. 1.589 Million \$) in total, the highest amount of compensation proceeds recorded ever for a 9 months period of any year, facilitating 141 Next of Kins (NoKs)/families in Sri Lanka. The Ministry has appointed 1 legal firm in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and given in principle approval to appoint 2 more legal firms in Kuwait, with a view to strengthen legal representation of migrant workers abroad especially in the event of death and compensation related litigation.

16.4.Repatriation Section: During the period under review, the Repatriation Section processed 378 repatriation requests (212 involving jailed individuals, 100 regular cases, 11 involving individuals in cybercrime compounds in Myanmar and 55 involving individuals in the Russian Armed Forces) made by NOKs, government authorities, and law enforcement entities. The Division in coordination with the respective Sri Lanka Missions abroad, facilitated the repatriation of 771 Sri Lankans stranded abroad for various reasons. Regionally, 156 Sri Lankans were repatriated from the Middle East, 384 from Asian countries including 38 from Myanmar cybercrime compounds, 173 from Europe and Western countries, and 20 from Africa. The Repatriation Section also managed 11 cases involving stranded fishing vessels and facilitated the repatriation of 55 crew members and 7 fishing vessels.

The Division contributed as a resource entity to awareness sessions aimed at strengthening the knowledge on awareness and response of human trafficking and safe migration organized by the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF).

16.5.Miscellaneous Section: During the review period, 1st January 2025 to 30th September 2025, the miscellaneous section of the division was engaged in issuing and distributing of 450 original birth certificates to individuals born outside of Sri Lanka. Additionally facilitated the issuance of 30 citizenship certificates and handled passport-related matters. The section also coordinated the acquisition of 65 foreign police clearance certificates for Sri Lankans domiciles in Foreign Countries. Further, it verified 350 foreign degree certificates of government officials

in coordination with Sri Lankan Missions and Posts. The section provided recommendations to conduct 20 consular mobile services by Sri Lanka Missions and Posts abroad during the corresponding period. Furthermore, the section handled more than 600 Cases related to Sri Lankan travel documents in coordination with the Department of Immigration and Emigration during the corresponding period.

The section also involved coordinating with foreign Missions based in Sri Lanka to obtain information for a range of inquiries and investigations required by law enforcement authorities of Sri Lanka. Further, it coordinated with Sri Lanka missions to locate the whereabouts of Sri Lankan nationals who lost contact with their families in Sri Lanka. The section also handled the labor related issues in coordination with the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau (SLBFE).

This Division is also in the process of clearing the long-pending passport applications submitted by Sri Lanka Missions abroad, in coordination with the Department of Immigration and Emigration. Given the context, the Division is working towards completing the implementation of the online passport application system at twenty selected Sri Lanka Missions abroad, in collaboration with the Department of Immigration and Emigration and the IOM.

16.6. Future Outlook: Looking ahead, the Consular Affairs Division aims to further streamline and modernize its services through continued digital transformation. Efforts will be focused on expanding the reach and functionality of the e-DAS systems, including further integration with government and professional institutions to ensure a seamless, digital document authentication process. A process is being undertaken to digitize other regular consular functions in order to expedite the consular procedures conducted by the Division in liaison with the Sri Lankan missions abroad. The Division also plans to enhance its legal assistance framework abroad by appointing additional legal representatives in key major receiving countries, improving assistance for migrant workers facing legal and compensation-related challenges. Additionally, ongoing collaboration with the Department of Immigration and Emigration and international partners will support the full implementation of the online passport application system across more overseas Missions, thereby improving accessibility and reducing processing times for Sri Lankans abroad.

16.7. Conclusion: During the reporting period, the Consular Affairs Division made significant strides in providing efficient and citizen-centered services across its key functional areas. With notable achievements in digitalization, revenue generation, repatriation, and compensation facilitation, the Division has strengthened its commitment to protecting the rights and welfare of Sri Lankans both at home and abroad. As it continues to tackle evolving challenges and meet public service demands, the Division remains focused on improving operational efficiency, expanding its global reach, and maintaining the highest standards of consular service delivery.

17. General Administration Division

The General Administration Division (GAD) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism plays a vital role in formulating and implementing administrative policies, overseeing operational and maintenance functions, and managing human resources for officers in the All-Island Services, Combined Services, and Departmental Services, excluding the Sri Lanka Foreign Service. In addition, this Division handles Cabinet Memoranda, coordinates responses to parliamentary questions, and provides support to Parliamentary Committees and Consultative Committees. Furthermore, GAD is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Ministry, ensuring regulatory compliance, facilitating effective communication, and contributing to strategic planning.

Outlined below is a summary of the key activities carried out by the General Administration Division during the period of January to September 2025.

17.1. Human Resource Management: The General Administration Division submitted amendments to the Scheme of Recruitment for the positions of Executive Assistant (Protocol) and Protocol Assistant to the Public Service Commission (PSC). Furthermore, the Division obtained approval for the Scheme of Recruitment for the position of Legal Advisor, and the recruitment process for the Legal Officer is currently in progress.

The planning process is currently underway to organize a 16-hour capacity-building program for Management Service Officers and Development Service Officers (30 officers), aimed at enhancing workplace performance. This program is being coordinated in collaboration with SLIDA, with an estimated cost of Rs. 180,000

17.2. Parliamentary Affairs: Coordinated the submission of 28 Cabinet Memoranda, 11 Cabinet Notes, and provided observations for Cabinet Memoranda in collaboration with the Cabinet Office. Additionally, managed the timely submission of responses to Parliamentary questions and reports to the Consultative Committee. Responsible for submitting reports to the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) through the Performance Review and Implementation Division. Furthermore, General Administration Division, liaised with Parliament regarding matters related to Sectoral Oversight Committees and the Committee on Public Enterprises (CoPE)

17.3. Procurement and Maintenance: General Administration Division managed procurement activities worth LKR 6.1 million for Sri Lankan Missions and LKR 41.94 million for local requirements between January and September 2025.

Renovation and maintenance activities are progressing steadily across several government properties. At the Republic Building, approximately 70% of the external wall painting has been completed, while key areas such as the Main Conference Hall deck and stairways, the painting and ceiling repairs of Economic Affairs Bilateral Office has been fully completed. Internal wall painting has also been finalized in the divisions namely Legal, Public Diplomacy, Police Unit, Security Mail, Former Cafeteria, the Cabinet Office Ground Floor Lobby, and the Chief of

Protocol Office. Renovations are currently ongoing in the NOAC Division and the 1st Floor Passage. Meanwhile, at the GPO Building, 80% of the South Wing roof repairs have been completed, with new plaster applied to walls following the removal of old layers; molding and window repairs are also underway. At the Official Quarters at 117 Garden, Colombo 08, rooftop waterproofing and external painting are currently on hold due to a decision made by the Ministerial Consultative Committee (MPC). As an alternative solution, a proposal has been made to construct a steel roof over the rooftop, with a BOQ already prepared and quotations to be called soon. Additionally, pantry cupboards for the housing units are planned to install, with designs and a BOQ being finalized by the Consultant. Finally, at the Summit Flats in Colombo 05, roof repairs are required for five out of the seven units and BOQ is being finalized for one block.

17.4. Logistics Services: A fleet of 83 vehicles (70 Ministry-owned and 13 leased vehicles) was efficiently managed with a corresponding number of drivers. In light of prevailing public financial constraints, the Ministry has taken prudent measures to maintain and utilize the existing fleet through appropriate investments in run-time maintenance, thereby avoiding additional expenditure associated with the procurement of new vehicles.

17.5. Common Website Platform for Missions/ Posts Abroad: Although an initial procurement process was conducted to select a suitable service provider for the development, operation, and maintenance of the Common Website Platform for Sri Lanka Missions/ Posts abroad, that process did not cover the hosting component, nor did it include the Ministry's official website within the scope of the project. As a result, the Ministry was required to initiate a separate procurement process specifically for the hosting of the Common Website Platform.

To avoid the inefficiencies of multiple parallel procurements and to ensure a fully integrated solution, the Ministry decided to consolidate all components development, operation, maintenance, and hosting into a single procurement process covering the Ministry's official website and the websites of all 63 Sri Lanka Missions/ Posts abroad.

Accordingly, the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) of the Ministry has already completed the evaluation process and recommended a suitable service provider for this project. Once the necessary approvals are obtained to award the contract to the selected service provider, the Ministry will proceed with signing the agreement. Following the execution of the contract, the development process of the Common Website Platform will be formally initiated.

17.6. IT Capacity Building and Cyber Security: To strengthen the Ministry's IT infrastructure and implement robust cyber security measures, an Information Officer and an Associate Information Officer have been appointed for the Ministry. The Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT) provides specialized cyber security training for these officers.

Detailed guidance has been issued to all officers within the Ministry and across all Missions on identifying potential threats, adopting recommended preventive measures, and taking necessary actions to mitigate risks. This includes ensuring the security of official communication channels, raising awareness about the circulation of spam and phishing emails, and encouraging the activation of two-factor authentication (2FA).

18. Human Resources and Mission Management (HR & MM) Division

The main responsibility of the HR & MM Division is to ensure the provision of adequate human resource facilities required by the Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions abroad are provided in a timely manner. Further, the division is empowered to provide necessary policy directives to all Sri Lanka diplomatic Missions abroad with the view to managing human resources and related administrative requirements of each Sri Lanka Mission abroad.

The composition of the sixty -three (63) Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad is as follows;

- | | |
|--|------|
| • Embassies | - 35 |
| • High Commissions | - 13 |
| • Permanent Missions to the United Nations | - 02 |
| • Deputy High Commissions | - 01 |
| • Consulate General Offices | - 11 |
| • Representative Offices | - 01 |

18.1. Significant Achievements

18.1.1. Establishment/re-opening of Diplomatic Missions: Sri Lanka Consulate General in Nicosia/Cyprus was reopened in 2025 and the formalities are in progress to establish the Consulate General in Chengdu.

18.1.2. Appointment of New Heads of Mission/ Heads of Post: With the directives of the Foreign Secretary processed and facilitated appointments of 13 Heads of Mission/Heads of Post for the Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

18.1.3. Transfers of Foreign Service Officers: A total of fifteen (15) officers from the Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) have been transferred out to the selected Sri Lanka Missions abroad for diplomatic appointments

The HR & MM Division facilitated security clearance and medical examinations in particular, while attending matters of their domestic assistants, payments of salary and allowance and all other matters coming under the personal files.

18.1.4. Promotion and Retirement of Foreign Service Officers: Promotions to SLFS Grade III to II are to be completed in respect of SLFS – 2015 intake in due course.

Further, necessary formalities related to the retirement processes of four (04) SLFS officers have been done.

18.1.5. Promotion of SLFS Grade I Officers to Special Grade: Seventeen (17) officers of the SLFS Grade (I) were promoted to the Special Grade.

18.1.6. Recruitment of new SLFS Officers: Facilitated the recruitment of the 2nd intake of 2024 SLFS Batch (24.03.2025) to the Ministry and their personal files are also being handled by this Division.

18.1.7. Appointment of Non-SLFS Public Sector Officers for Diplomatic Posts: Eighteen (18) non-SLFS officers in the public service representing five (05) officers from the Ministry of Defence, four (04) officers (SLAS) from the Ministry of Public Administration, and nine (09) officers from the Department of Commerce were posted to the selected SL Missions abroad.

18.1.8. Appointment of Additional Secretaries (SLFS): During the period under review, timely initiatives were taken by HR & MM Division to appoint three (03) Additional Secretaries to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

18.1.9. Technical & Administrative Staff of SL Missions abroad: Management Service Officers (MSO): Written examination (1st Segment) of the complete examination for filling vacancies in Missions/Posts have been concluded and the arrangements to conduct Practical Assessment (2nd Segment) for the qualified candidates have been started.

Further, the three (03) Home-based IT Officers have been appointed.

18.1.10. Appointment of Home Recruited Contractual (HRC) Staff: Following appointments to the Local Staff on HRC basis have been approved:

OES	- 17 posts
Drivers	- 11 posts
Clerical Staff (DOs)	- 11 posts

18.1.11. Facilitating official visits: The HR & MM Division coordinated and facilitated 66 official visits during the period.

18.1.12. Controlling Public Expenditure: The HR & MM Division has also taken proactive initiatives to effective utilization and management of public funds and curtail expenses.

Accordingly, the most viable and practical measures were taken in consultation with respective Heads of Mission/Post to recruit the only the essential staff of SL Missions abroad on local basis or casual recruitments.

18.1.13. Reporting and Monitoring Obligations: The HR & MM Division took every effort to attend in a timely manner, all requirements related to the preparation of accurate reports on the matters related to staffing in SL Missions abroad, and payment of allowances together with any clarifications related to expenditure procedures etc. of the SL Missions abroad.

The Division also responded to queries from the Presidential Secretariat, Auditor General, Bribery Commission, Secretary General/Parliament, the Hon. Attorney General, and the Presidential Commissions, etc.

Responses for RTI queries, parliamentary questions, and complaints against diplomatic and Non-diplomatic officers attached to SL Missions abroad were coordinated with relevant authorities and Heads of Mission/Heads of Post in a timely and confidential manner.

All relevant matters and ongoing activities that come under the purview of the HR & MM Division were carried out as per the directives of the Secretary/Foreign Affairs in line with the established regulations/procedures and with the consents/observations/recommendations from relevant authorities/divisions in order to ensure expected productivity of the Division.

19. Internal Audit and Investigation Division

The key responsibility of this division includes monitoring and evaluating the internal control mechanism of the Ministry, Sri Lanka Missions / Posts abroad, and other institutions coming under the ministry's purview, and adequacy of the internal checks adopted in the prevention and detection of errors and frauds.

19.1. Progress for the period of 01st January – 30th September 2025

Performance Indicators	Annual Target	Completed			Progress (%)
Audit and Management committee meetings	4 Meetings	Q1	Q2	Q3	25
		√			
Internal audit reports	26 Reports	15			60
Cumulative progress					45

Follow up actions have been taken in respect of the matters discussed at the COPA meeting held on 06th March 2019 in coordination with the respective divisions and parties. Also, actions taken to conduct the Audit and Management Committee Meetings and follow up actions were taken for its decisions and coordination for compilation of replies to the 06 General Audit Queries / Reports.

19.2. Future Outlook: This division is expected to issue 26 audit reports/ queries in 2025 based on identified high-risk areas such as; service agreements, maintenance, procurement, asset and store management, paying salary and completeness of personal files of the Ministry and Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute, attestation service and e-Das, daily collection and bookkeeping, IT assets management and compensation payments of the Consular Division and regional branches and house rent, procurement, renovation and new construction, daily collection and banking, attestation service, assets management and payments vouching of the Overseas missions / posts. Also, prepare and submit replies for audit reports issued by the National Audit Office coordinating with relevant divisions. Furthermore, this division is coordinating Audit and Management Committee Meetings of the Ministry and dealing with petitions and urgent inquiries at the direction of the Secretary to the Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism.

19.3. Conclusion: This division expects to complete above tasks according to the Annual audit plan subject to the limitations of human resources and other factors.

20. Legal Division

The main function of the Legal Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Employment and Tourism is to furnish legal advice on matters of International Law to the Minister through the Ministry's Secretary, to other Divisions of the Ministry, to the Sri Lanka Missions abroad, to the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to other Ministries/Departments. The Legal Division is also the Treaty depository of the Government of Sri Lanka. The Legal Division provides advice on legal aspects of all policy decisions and particularly international issues arising from time to time, such as territorial claims and boundaries, terrorism-related issues, recognition of treaty relations, diplomatic immunities and privileges, sanctions regime of UN and also on unilateral sanctions, migration including organized crime (human trafficking and smuggling), advice on Sri Lanka's Membership obligations under International and regional Bodies etc. Officers of the Legal Division also represent the Ministry in different expert Committees. During the time frame of 01.01.2025-30.09.2025, the Legal Division has provided legal observations/ Legal Clearance for approximately 83 MoUs/Agreements in terms of Circular No: PS/SP/SB/ Circular/06/2019 issued by the Presidential Secretariat. In addition to the above, the Legal Division has made the following significant key performances.

20.1. Law of the Sea: The work of the National Oceanic Affairs Committee (NOAC) is coordinated by the Legal Division. The Sub-Commission appointed by the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of Sri Lanka (UNCLCS) accepted that Sri Lanka has fulfilled the four criteria required to establish Sri Lanka's Continental Margin.

Sri Lanka's second submission, concerning the area around the Comorin Ridge, has been reviewed and approved by the National Ocean Affairs Committee (NOAC).

Conducted the orientation programme and provided comprehensive briefing to newly appointed Foreign Service Officers on Sri Lanka's submission to UN.

Attended the States Parties meeting of the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) held at New York from 23rd to 27th June 2025. Briefed the officers of Sri Lanka Mission the status of Sri Lanka submissions.

Relevant information regarding the Indian protest was shared for discussion with the Indian delegation during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of India to Sri Lanka.

20.2. Inter-Governmental Negotiations on the proposed Internationally Legally Binding Instrument on Marine Bio-Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ): The Legal Division represented the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) at the inception of the negotiations on the BBNJ Agreement and successfully safeguarded Sri Lanka's interests in this regard.

Sri Lanka's Instrument of Ratification of the BBNJ Agreement was deposited with the United Nations on 16 September 2025, thereby making Sri Lanka a State Party to the Convention. The Legal Division, in collaboration with the Ocean Affairs and Climate Change Division of this Ministry, accomplished this task with the assistance of the Inter-Ministerial Committee members representing the relevant stakeholders.

Following the commencement of the Preparatory Committee Meetings last year, the Legal Division has been representing the GoSL at these meetings concerning the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, with particular reference to Sri Lanka's role as a founding member of the treaty.

The Legal Division is currently in the process of drafting the necessary enabling legislations to give domestic effect to the provisions of the treaty, in conformity with the existing legal framework.

20.3. Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for Granting Diplomatic Clearance to Foreign Seaborne Vessels arriving in Sri Lanka, Foreign Military or State Aircrafts operating into Sri Lanka and Overflying Sri Lankan Territory, Clearance for Weapons, Ammunition & Communication Equipment during a VVIP/VIP Visit: SOP was finalized with the office of the Chief of National Intelligence, and approval of the Cabinet has been taken to the text. Inter-Ministerial Committee has been appointed to review the text with stakeholder institutions and 3 meetings have been conducted.

20.4. Negotiation of Free Trade Agreements (FTA): Legal Division is involved in negotiating the FTAs and also serves in the Working Groups negotiating the Investment, Legal and Trade Remedies Chapters of FTAs. All fourteen (14) chapters of the FTA was legally vetted by the Legal Division prior to signing the FTA with Thailand. ETCA negotiations with India is on-going and the Legal Division is involved in negotiating the Investment Chapter

Further the Legal Division also engage with the National Trade Negotiating Committee with regard to setting the way forward for discussions on the following;

1. FTA with China
2. Review of the Singapore FTA

20.5. Investment: Certain Articles of the IPPA with the UAE is being re-negotiated.

New Investment Model of Sri Lanka is being reviewed taking into account the on-going negotiations on FTA investment chapters.

20.6. Anti-Terrorism Bill: Legal Division represents the Ministry in the committee appointed to draft a comprehensive legislation relating to Anti- Terrorism and assisted in addressing most of the international concerns on the Bill, which is to be tabled in Parliament for approval in due course.

20.7. Immunities and Privileges: Action has been taken to gazette immunities and privileges granted to following organizations and to table same in Parliament in terms of the Diplomatic Privileges Act no. 9 of 1996.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

International Centre for Research in Argo Forestry (ICRAF)

20.8. The Trafficking in Persons (TIP): The Legal Division is one of the Ministry focal points for the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF). Report of the US Department of State placed Sri Lanka in the Tier 2, this Year.

20.9. Asia Pacific Group (APG) on Anti Money Laundering and combatting the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT): The 2025 Mutual Evaluation of Sri Lanka by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is scheduled to be held in March 2026 where an Institutional wise time bound Action Plan is given to the Ministry. Legal Division is working with the FIU to get ready for the APG Mutual Evaluation.

The Legal Division is presently involved in fulfilling the main Action Points, i.e. amending the existing regulations on UN Security Council Resolutions 1373, 1267, 1540 and the related UNSC resolutions regulated on Iran and DPRK and the promulgation of UNSCRs on Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs).-Cabinet approval was obtained on enacting legislation on FTFs. The final amendments to the Regulations on UNSCRs 1267, 1373 and DPRK sanctions are finalized to be gazetted in January 2026 and tabled in Parliament and the FTF Bill is finalized to be gazetted by January 2026, after the enactment of the ATA Act as certain provisions from the draft ATA Act are to be taken for the FTF Act.

The Legal Division actively participates on the TFS committee chaired by the Secretary Defence and liaise with the Ministry of Defence and the financial Intelligence Unit in combatting money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation financing.

The Legal Division represents the Legal Committee in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 by way of drafting a new Strategic Trade Management Act.

20.10. Readmission: Negotiations on the EU Readmission Protocols were finalized with, Italy, France and the Netherlands on behalf of the Benelux and the Protocols could be finalized for signature. Negotiations on a new Readmission Agreement was finalized with Georgia in 2018

and yet to be agreed upon on certain reformulated provisions to be signed. Readmission Agreement with Russia to be finalized.

20.11. Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation: The Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between Sri Lanka and the Slovak Republic was negotiated and finalized in April - May and September 2025; The DTAA is pending the completion of domestic legal procedures of the two countries for signing.

Cabinet approval was obtained to sign the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Austria in July 2025; The DTAA is pending for sinigang.

Dates have been proposed by Sri Lanka to commence the third round of negotiations with Maldives.

Dates have been proposed by Sri Lanka to commence the second round of negotiations with the Netherlands, in early 2026.

20.12. International Humanitarian Law Matters

- An IHL Committee meeting was convened with the participation of National IHL Committee members, chaired by the Legal Division.
- The Legal Division with financial assistance from ICRC, conducted a drafting workshop to formulate domestic legislation to give effect to the provisions of Biological Weapons Convention with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.
- Legal Division has initiated the process of obtaining the official endorsement for Sinhala and Tamil translations of the Geneva Conventions liaising with the Department of Legal Draftsman and Department of Official Languages.
- Legal Division participated in the Asia Pacific National IHL Committee meetings representing National IHL Committee of Sri Lanka in terms for dissemination of IHL.

20.13. Air Services Agreements

- Legal Division is a member of the Government Bilateral Negotiation Team for Air Services.
- New Air Services Agreement with Thailand was signed and action has been taken to bring the Air Services Agreement into force along with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation
- Protocol to the Air Services Agreement with Israel is finalized and ready for signature.
- Legal Division has initiated action for the Renewal of MoU between the National Search and Rescue Agency of Indonesia and Civil Aviation Authority of the Sri Lanka on Search and Rescue Cooperation.
- Air Services Agreement with Myanmar was negotiated by the Government Bilateral Negotiation Team for Air Services and GoSL observations have been finalized for onward transmission to the Myanmar side for their concurrence.

- Discussions have been started to initiate a new Air Services Agreements with Hungary and a draft model has been shared with Hungarian authorities
- Inter-Ministerial Bilateral Air Services negotiations were held in the Ministry of Civil Aviation to finalize the GoSL observations with regard to the Belarus Air Services agreement.

20.14. BIMSTEC

The Legal Division provided observations and cleared the following BIMSTEC Agreements/MoUs;

1. Agreement on BIMSTEC Maritime Cooperation
2. MoU between the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
3. Host Country Agreement of the BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC)
4. MoU on Cooperation between BIMSTEC and the World Bank on Strengthening Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and Health Systems Resilience among BIMSTEC member States
5. MoU between the Indian Ocean Rim Organization (IORA) and the BIMSTEC
6. MoU between the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the BIMSTEC
7. MoU between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the BIMSTEC
8. MoU between the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and BIMSTEC

20.15. IAEA Matters

- The Legal Division also represents the Committee formed to develop national legal frameworks of nuclear legislation and has provided its services to the said Committee during the year 2025

20.16. Cybersecurity and Prevention of Cyber Crimes: Legal Division actively participated in the negotiations of the UNODC Ad Hoc Committee to collaborate a Comprehensive International Convention for Countering the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Criminal Purposes.

20.17. Cabinet observations: 83 Cabinet observations of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs were prepared by the Legal Division during the period from 01.01.2025 to 30.09.2025.

20.18. Court Cases: The Legal Division forwarded 01 High Court Case, 21 Supreme Court Cases and 31 Court of Appeal Cases to the Attorney General's Department on behalf of the Ministry

20.19. Full Powers: 40 Full Power instruments have been prepared by the Legal Division and submitted for Hon. M/FA's signature during the period from 01.01.2025 to 30.09.2025.

20.20. Foreign summons

- Legal Division facilitated the Service of 129 Summons in foreign countries in coordination with the Ministry of Justice, relevant Courts and the Missions abroad.

- The Legal Division facilitated 40 Court cases to obtain testimony from the relevant Parties of the said cases who are living abroad, through Audio Visual linkage in terms of assistance to a Protection of Victims of Crime and Witness Act no. 10 of 2023.
- The Legal Division facilitated 129 No. of requests from the Foreign Countries to deliver their Summons in Sri Lanka.

20.21. Credentials: The Legal Division clear all credentials drafted by the UN Division to be signed by the Hon. M/FA

20.22. Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), Extradition and Transfer of Offenders (PTA) requests: 47 Mutual Legal Assistance requests, 11 Extradition requests and 07 Transfer of Offenders requests have been facilitated during the period from 1st January – 30th September 2025.

Virtual Negotiations on PTA with Latvia and Saudi Arabia were finalized. Negotiations with Philippines, Saudi Arabia, on MLA, PTA and Extradition were concluded. Virtual Negotiations with Poland on a draft bilateral PTA is fixed for December 2025

20.23. Signed Agreements and MoUs: 48 Agreements/MoUs were signed and deposited in the Treaty Depository of the Legal Division from 1st January to 30th September 2025.

20.24. Providing Legal Opinions: More than 260 Legal opinions have been furnished to the Foreign Secretary, to other Divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the Sri Lanka Missions abroad, to the Foreign Missions in Sri Lanka as well as to other Ministries/Departments.

20.25. The Officers of the Legal Division are appointed as Members of certain Cabinet appointed Committees and other Committees

- Committee on developing Comprehensive Counter Terrorism Legislation.
- The National Ocean Affairs Committee.
- Legal Committee on the implementation of UNSCR 1540 on Strategic Trade Control (STC) and on the process of finalizing the draft laws on STC.
- The Financial Intelligence Unit, National Coordinating Committee and carry out all Ministry work related to Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- The National Risk Assessment Committee conducted by the Financial Intelligence Unit which is a requirement for the APG mutual evaluation.
- Targeted Financial Sanctions (TFS) Committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence.
- 1373 (Regulation NO:1 of 2012) Listing Committee
- National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force
- Committee on repealing the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act No.02 of 1996
- Committee appointed by the Minister of Justice to develop national legislation on nuclear laws.
- Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Operating Procedure chaired by the CDS.
- Committee on National Hydrographic Council
- Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Act Reviewing Committee

- Inter-Ministerial Committee to expedite the process of clearing Higher Education MoUs/ Agreements with Foreign entities
- Global Action on Cybercrime Enhanced (GLACY-e) Legal Project Team
- Technical Steering Committee of National Policy and Action Plan on Migration Employment – Sri Lanka 2023-2027
- Inter Agency Committee on Tracking the Progress on Sri Lanka's Migration Related Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and assessing the contribution of Migration towards the SDGS.

20.26. Right to Information Requests : Right to Information issues – 88 RTI requests were received under the RTI Act No. 12 of 2016 during the period from 1st January 2025 to 30th September 2025. Out of the said 88 requests, 80 requests have been facilitated.

From the two appeals made to the RTI Commission both appeals were solved upon proper written submissions to the Commission.

20.27. Agreements/MoUs: During the period up to the 30th September 2025, Legal Division has cleared approximately 650 Agreements/MoUs and has provided around 160 advices on diverse fields.

The Legal Division has provided observations for 40 Agreements/MoUs in the field of “Higher Education and Research”.

As per the available records in the Treaty Depository of the Legal Division, 48 agreements/MoUs have been deposited in the areas of Defence Cooperation, Development Cooperation, Double Taxation, Visa Exemptions, Diplomatic Relations, Cultural Cooperation, Tourism, Education and Entertainment, Health Care Sector in the Legal Division.

21. Overseas Asset Management and Development Division

The Division successfully executed administrative, logistical, and operational functions in support of Sri Lanka's diplomatic missions and personnel stationed abroad.

21.1. Overseas Assets Management and Development Division: A significant milestone during the reporting period was the establishment of a new diplomatic presence through the completion of all required formalities for the Sri Lanka Consulate General Office in Cyprus. The Consulate commenced operations in August 2025.

Several renovation and maintenance activities were also undertaken at government-owned properties abroad. The Sri Lanka Embassy in Bangkok (SLEMB/Bangkok) completed the renovation of the Official Residence, while the Sri Lanka Embassy in Paris (SLEMB/Paris) finalized the partitioning of the Consular Section and implemented enhanced security measures at the Chancery premises. Similarly, the Sri Lanka High Commission in Pretoria (SLHC/Pretoria) completed the painting of the parapet walls of the Official Residence.

Ongoing projects include termite control treatment at the Chancery, Official Residence, and Staff Quarters of the Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission in Chennai (SLDHC/Chennai), as well as the partitioning of the Chancery premises at the Sri Lanka High Commission in Wellington (SLHC/Wellington). The Division continues to coordinate with other Missions that manage Government-owned properties to initiate and complete further renovation works within this financial year.

Throughout the period, the OAM&D Division extended comprehensive logistical and administrative support to 228 officers serving in Sri Lanka's Missions and Posts abroad. These services included assistance with passport and visa processing, air ticket procurement, heavy baggage arrangements, and coordination of both temporary and permanent accommodation, measures aimed at enhancing the operational capacity of Missions.

The Division also managed the return of 98 officers transferred from overseas posts to Sri Lanka, facilitating their air ticket procurement and transportation of personal effects. In addition, the Division secured the lease of nine (09) Chanceries, twelve (12) Official Residences, and ninety-two (92) residential quarters to accommodate serving officers and ensure the maintenance of diplomatic premises at overseas Missions.

During the period, the Division increased the Ministry's vehicle fleet by acquiring five flag cars, two staff cars, and two motor bicycles to enable effective official functions at Missions abroad, and by leasing one staff car for official usage.

In terms of asset management, the Division processed 135 requests from overseas Missions and Posts for new inventory items.

21.2.Travel Unit: Functioning under the OAM&D Division, the Travel Unit efficiently facilitated visa arrangements and ticketing for 75 officials of this Ministry for official purposes between 1 January and 25 September 2025. The Unit also facilitated administrative arrangements for 165 officers undertaking official assignments.

In support of intergovernmental cooperation, the Travel Unit issued 1,057 Third Party Notes (TPNs), enabling officials from various government institutions to obtain necessary travel authorizations.

21.3.Information Technology (Cypher) Division: The Information Technology Division maintained extended operational hours throughout the reporting period—8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends and public holidays—ensuring uninterrupted communication support for diplomatic operations.

During this period, the Division processed approximately 16,000 communications between Sri Lanka's Overseas Missions, Government Ministries, domestic institutions, statutory bodies, and foreign Missions based in Colombo. Demonstrating strong inter-divisional cooperation, the IT Division (Cypher Division) also supported the Consular Affairs Division by processing 40

death-related documents of Sri Lankan nationals who passed away abroad during non-working hours, weekends, and public holidays.

21.4. Security Mail Division: The Security Mail Division efficiently managed the dispatch and receipt of diplomatic correspondence through SriLankan Airlines and DHL courier services. Between 1 January and 30 September 2025, the Division dispatched 1,192 outgoing diplomatic pouches, comprising 497 bags via SriLankan Airlines and 695 bags via DHL. It also received 718 incoming pouches, consisting of 529 bags via SriLankan Airlines and 189 bags via DHL. This meticulous management ensured the secure and timely exchange of official communications between the Ministry and Sri Lanka's overseas Missions.

21.5. Conclusion: The Overseas Assets Management and Development Division and its constituent units demonstrated exemplary operational performance during the first three quarters of 2025. The Division successfully expanded Sri Lanka's diplomatic presence, provided extensive administrative support to officers abroad, facilitated official travel, maintained secure communication systems, and ensured the effective management of overseas assets. These achievements contributed significantly to the efficient functioning of Sri Lanka's diplomatic network worldwide.

22. Protocol Division

During the review period, this Division facilitated a wide range of diplomatic and protocol-related activities.

22.1. Inward Visits: In terms of inward visits, the Division coordinated a total of twenty-one (21) high-level visits to Sri Lanka. These included four (04) visits by Heads of State or Government, six (06) visits by Foreign Ministers, four (04) visits by Speakers and other Ministers, and seven (07) visits by other senior foreign dignitaries. The details of these visits are provided in Table I

22.2. Outward Visits: With regard to outward visits, the Division facilitated seven (07) visits by H.E. the President, two (02) visits by the Hon. Prime Minister, eleven (11) visits by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, and four (04) visits by the Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment. The details of these visits are presented in Table II

22.3. Conferences and meetings: The Division also played a key role in organizing and supporting various conferences and meetings during the period under review. Facilitated the EU GSP+ Monitoring Mission, as well as coordinating Joint Commissions, Political Consultations, Diplomatic Briefings, and other stakeholder engagements on various subjects.

22.3. Social Events organized by the Protocol Division: The Division organized several social events with an aim at strengthening people-to-people links and engagement with the diplomatic community. Five (05) such events were successfully held during the review period.

22.4. Appointments: In the area of diplomatic appointments, the Division facilitated three (03) Credential Ceremonies, the appointment of twenty-one (21) foreign Heads of Mission to Sri

Lanka, and the appointment of twenty-five (25) Sri Lankan Heads of Mission overseas. It also managed the appointment and tenure extensions of Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka, as well as the facilitation of appointments for Honorary Consuls of foreign countries in Sri Lanka.

22.5. Immunities and privileges: The Division continued to handle matters relating to diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The Division continued to handle matters relating to diplomatic privileges and immunities, including the issuance and extension of residence visas. During the review period, a total of 456 visas were issued or extended for embassy staff and 190 for officials of international organizations.

22.6. Visa: During the review period, a total of 456 visas were issued or extended for embassy staff and 190 for officials of international organizations.

22.7. Diplomatic clearance, Custom Clearance: The Division also granted diplomatic clearance for 143 flights, 34 ships, and 10 consignments of weapons. In addition, it managed 1,050 customs clearances and facilitated 175 export approvals.

22.8. Vehicles: Vehicle-related services were also provided, including the sale of 170 vehicles, registration of 53 vehicles, and the importation of 75 vehicles. The Division further issued 509 revenue licences, 135 driving licences, and 215 petrol coupon books.

22.9. Airport Passes, VIP lounge Permits and Identity Cards: Airport access facilitation included the issuance of 58 permanent passes and 27 temporary passes, along with 160 renewals of permanent passes and 19 renewals of temporary passes. The Division also managed the use of VIP lounges, with services extended to 1,810 foreign passengers and 226 local passengers. Issuance of 617 identity cards (DPL/UN and other organizations

22.10. National day felicitation messages: Coordination of 120 national day felicitations along with support for 22 national day receptions.

22.11. Arranging meetings, Official lunches and dinners: The Division also arranged courtesy calls for high-level dignitaries, including 18 meetings with His Excellency the President, 58 with the Hon. Prime Minister, 73 with the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, 64 with the Hon. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, 36 with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and 203 with other Ministers and senior dignitaries. Further, the Division organized 13 official lunches and 12 official dinners

22.12. Flag arrangements: The Division handled flag arrangements for 86 external events, 13 ministerial events, and 03 presidential events. Flags were also printed as required, including 06 standard flags for Poland; 350 standard, 05 table, 05 car, and 04 banner-size flags for India; and 06 standard flags for New Zealand.

22.13. Diplomatic Directory 2025: The Diplomatic Directory 2025 was also compiled and printed, with a total of 200 copies produced for official use.

HUMAN RESOURCE PROFILE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Cadre Management

Staff of the Ministry (Colombo) as at 30 September 2025

Category	Approved Cadre	Existing	Vacancies	Excess
Senior ²	105	112	9	18
Tertiary ³	9	5	4	-
Secondary ⁴	439	380	58	1
Primary ⁵	126	102	24	-

This Ministry is in the process of filling vacancies in the secondary level cadre in coordination with the Ministry Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.

Staff of the Missions as at 30 September 2025

Category	Approved Cadre	Existing	Vacancies/ Excess
Home Based			
Senior/ Tertiary ⁶	244	156	88
Secondary ⁷	251	157	94
Primary ⁸	07	06	01
Locally Recruited			
Secondary ⁹	237	190	47
Primary ¹⁰	311	241	70

² Senior – Executive Level officers including Sri Lanka Foreign Service, Sri Lanka Administrative Service, Accountants Service, Legal Officers, Auditor's Service, ICT service.

³ Officers in Super Grade of Management Service Officer's Service, Translator Service, ICT Service

⁴ Officers in Development Officers Service, Management Service Officer's Service, Librarian, Receptionist, and other Departmental Service Officers

⁵ Officers including Drivers, KKS, Sanitary Labours, Electricians, etc.

⁶ Head of the Mission, Minister Counsellor, Counsellor, First Secretary, Second Secretary, Third Secretary

⁷ Officers in Management Service Officer's Service including Development Assistant, Information Technology Officers

⁸ Officers including Drivers, KKS, Sanitary Labours

⁹ Officers including Clerks, Receptionists, Stenographers, Translators, Information Technology Officers

¹⁰ Officers including KKS, Drivers and Sanitary Labours

FINANCIAL REPORTS – FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Performance of the Utilization of Allocation (as at 30 September 2025)
LKR '000

Type of Allocation	Allocation 2025		Actual Expenditure (As at 30 Sep.2025)	Allocation Utilization as a % of Final Allocation (as at 30 Sep.2025)
	Original	Final		
Recurrent	19,407,000	19,673,000	12,103,770	62%
Capital	2,056,000	2,100,000	341,050	16%
Total	21,463,000	21,773,000	12,444,820	57%

Progress of implementing National Budget Proposals – 2025

Budget Proposal No.	Proposal (in brief)	Allocated Funds	Expected output (if relevant)	Progress	
				Physical %	Financial %
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Performance of the Reporting of Non – Financial Assets
LKR '000

Asset Code	Code Description	Balance as per Board of survey report as at 30 Sep. 2025	Balance as per Financial Position Report as at 30 Sep.2025	To be accounted	Reporting progress as a %
9151	Building and Structure		10,555,257		100%
9152	Machinery and Equipment		2,672,920		100%
9153	Land		1,010,372		100%
9154	Intangible Assets		61,532		100%
9155	Biological Assets		-		-

9160	Work in Progress		-		-
9180	Lease Assets		-		-

Performance of the Revenue Collection - 2025 (As at 30 September 2025)

LKR '000

Revenue Code	Description of the Revenue Code	Revenue Estimate 2025		Collected Revenue (As at 30 Sep. 2025)	
		Original	Final	Amount	as a % of Final Revenue Estimate
1003-07-02	Department of Registrar General's	150,000	312,000	220,347	71%
2002-01-01	Rent on Government Building & Housing	3,000	3,000	2,457	82%
2002-02-99	Other Interest	9,100	5,000	6,041	66%
2003-02-07	Fees of Passports, Visas & Dual Citizenship	3,800,000	3,980,000	2,916,598	73%
2003-02-13	Examinations & Other fees	25	25	-	0%
2003-02-14	Dept. of Motor Traffic	36,000	38,000	26,435	70%
2003-02-99	Consular Fees	2,200,000	2,200,000	1,412,293	64%
2003-99-00	Other Receipts	350,000	310,000	180,772	58%
2004-01-00	Social Security Contributions - (Central Government)	90,000	110,000	74,980	68%
2004-02-00	Social Security Contributions - (Provincial Councils)	600	1,300	842	65%
2006-02-01	Sale of Capital Assets (Vehicles)	6,000	115,000	113,340	99%
2006-02-02	Sale of Capital Assets (Other)	200	200	190	95%
Total		6,640,825	7,078,625	4,954,295	70%

LAKSHMAN KADIRGAMAR INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC STUDIES (LKIIRSS)

Mandate of the LKIIRSS: The mission of LKIIRSS is to engage in independent research of Sri Lanka's international relations and strategic interests that reflects Minister Kadirgamar's vision to internationally promote the country's intellectual profile. To this end, the LKIIRSS has sought to produce research that is current and relevant, informed by contemporary global dynamics, and drawing on the best practices and internationally accepted policy standards. The LKI plays an influential role in producing policy relevant research that would assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism and more broadly the Government of Sri Lanka, to make decisions based on facts and research. The LKIIRSS also acts as a channel through which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism could reach out to the wider Foreign Policy relevant community in Sri Lanka and abroad.

The LKIIRSS is governed by a Board of Management (BOM) chaired by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and includes 8 members. In the year under review, the BOM met on 29 August 2025.

LKIIRSS Research Programme and Publications: A revised 'LKIIRSS Research Programme' is structured under three pillars: *Global Relations, Global Governance and Global Economy* was approved by the Board of Management in July 2023. The 'Global Relations' pillar is a new addition to enable the LKI to contribute more actively in evolving an authentic 'Sri Lankan foreign policy perspective' in its work, informed by the global dynamics. Under each pillar specific priority areas of research have been identified, and Research Assistants and Research Interns have been assigned specific issue areas to focus on.

In addition to the regular news releases which are disseminated on the website, social media posts and bi-annual LKIIRSS update, its key scholarly contribution from its research is the series of '*LKIIRSS Policy Briefs*', which provides a comprehensive analysis on policy issues affecting Sri Lanka and the contemporary world. Summaries of the same are available in Sinhala and Tamil. Among the Policy Briefs published in 2025 are:

1. Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Northeast Asia: A Case studies of DPRK by Ms. Maheesha Premavansa, Research Intern.
2. Optimizing Benefits to Sri Lanka from EU GSP+ and Preparing for the Impending Reforms of the GSP Regulations by Ms. Sulochana Wijayasinghe, Research Assistant.
3. Navigating Strategic Shifts in the Belt and Road Initiative by Ms. Madhuka Rukmalgama, Research Assistant.
4. Beyond Compensation: The Office for Reparations and the Pursuit of Transitional Justice and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka by Ms. Ruwindi Mallikarachchi, Research Intern.
5. Deciphering Hedging: A Comparative Analysis of the Foreign Policy Behavior of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka by Thedini Herath, Research Intern.

6. Prospects and Challenges in Promoting Innovation in Sri Lanka: The Impact of Intellectual Property Protection by Mr. Nimuthu Nimsith, Research Intern.

LKI Flagship Programmes: *LKI Expert Roundtable*, small group consultations on specific issues based on Chatham House Rules, were held; on 27 February 2025 – on “Sri Lanka’s preparedness to Meet the Emerging Global Economic Challenges” and on 27 June 2025 – on Tensions in Middle East Due to Iran – Israel Conflict and Potential Impact.

LKIIRSS Collaborative Events, organized in collaboration with EU and Verite Research, was held on 27 February 2025. "Pathways to Transformation: Poland from Reform to Success" was held with the participation of the Foreign Minister of Poland on 28 May 2025 and "Australia and the Indian Ocean" in conversation with Australia’s Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Defence was held on 3 June 2025.

Other Activities: A closed-door discussion on Marine Science Research conducted by Admiral Y.N.Jayarathne (Retd.) a member of the BoM of LKIIRSS, was held on 31 July 2025.

For September and October 2025 LKIIRSS is hosting a weekly lecture series titled “Admiral’s Morning” conducted by Admiral Y.N.Jayarathne (Retd.), a member of the BoM of LKIIRSS.

LKIIRSS’s Contribution to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Government entities: Fulfilling its responsibility to provide policy recommendations to the government, the LKIIRSS’s research outputs are made available to the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, and to key policymakers within the Presidential Secretariat, the Prime Minister’s Office and other relevant Ministries and institutions in Sri Lanka and Embassies abroad.

LKI’s Contributions to Sri Lankan and External Educational Networks: Relations with the Departments of IR/relevant Departments in Sri Lankan state and private universities and other Research Institutions has been strengthened, and LKIIRSS’s services including its library facilities has been made available to students and other researchers. The Executive Director regularly participates as a speaker in external events, and the LKIIRSS has also commenced the practice of conducting seminars/ briefings for students from universities/ other institutions who are interested in delving deeper into the field of foreign policy and related studies. In the recent past LKIIRSS engaged University of Ruhuna undergraduates in a discussion on Sri Lanka Foreign Policy. Several sessions have been held in 2025 with visiting groups, including delegations from the University of Technology - Sydney, University of Queensland, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, University of Agder – Norway, National Defence University – Pakistan, China International Communications Group and Korean National Diplomatic Academy.

LKI Meetings and Visits: These serve as a platform for LKI to host diplomats, policymakers, academics, professionals and activists - resident and visiting Sri Lanka. Outreach meetings reflect the LKIIRSS’s proactive approach to building partnerships and sharing its research and insights with local and global audiences.

Administration: A new Board of Management has been appointed and had several BoM meetings.

An acting ED was appointed after the completion of the contract period of the Executive Director Amb. Ravinatha Aryasinha.

In September new Executive Director Dr. Nishara Mendis has been appointed.

Approved the revised cadre and SoRs requested by the LKIIRSS, numbering 26 positions by the Department of Management Services in September 2025.

BANDARANAIKE INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC TRAINING INSTITUTE (BIDTI)

The BIDTI was established in 1995, as the training institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to produce a competent diplomatic service that is well versed in diplomatic skills and conduct of foreign relations. In addition, the BIDTI conducts programmes for those who wish to acquire knowledge on Diplomatic Skills and conduct of International Relations. It also conducts Special Guest Lectures and Panel discussions relevant to the timely topics, which are relevant to the diplomacy & world affairs. Since 2006, under the Amendment Act No 32, it is vested as a unit of the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations & Strategic Affairs. The BIDTI is accommodated at the BMICH since its inception except for the period 1 January 2021 to 8 February 2023. Being a self-financing institute the cost of its accommodation had been met by its income until 31 December 2019. Since then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is meeting the cost.

Progress

1. Academic Activities

a. For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

i. Conducted the Induction Programme for the Newly Recruited Officers to the Sri Lanka Foreign Service – 2025 for 12 days from 28 April 2025 to 16 May 2025

ii. Efficiency Bar Examination: 2nd Efficiency Bar Examination for Typists in Grade II (MA Non-Tec Seg – 2 Service) was held on 1 August, 2025 at the Institute.

b. Public Programmes organized for those interested in learning diplomatic skills/practice and conduct of International Relations

Diploma in Diplomacy & World Affairs Programme

1. Completed the academic activities of the XXVIII Diploma Programme
2. Continuation of the XXIX Diploma Programme
3. Commenced the academic activities the XXX Diploma Programme 5 February 2025

Post Graduate Diploma

1. Commenced the 10 Post Graduate Diploma Programme on 4 April 2025

Examinations conducted

For the XXVIII Diploma

1 February 2025 - 5th Module Examination

For the XXIX Diploma

23 March 2025 - 2nd Module Examination

6 July 2025 - 3rd Module Examination

For the XXX Diploma

Assignments conducted

For the XXVIII Diploma

10 January 2025 - 5th Module Assignment

For the XXIX Diploma

1 June 2025 - 1st Module examination

7 January 2025 - 2nd Module Assignment (Part 1 on Bilateral Negotiations)

28 January 2025 - 2nd Module Assignment (Part 2 on Multilateral Negotiations)

9 June 2025 - 3rd Module Assignment

For the XXX Diploma

14 May 2025 - 1st Module Assignment

23 July 2025 - 2nd Module Assignment (Part 1 on Bilateral Negotiations)

14 August 2025 - 2nd Module Assignment (Part 2 on Multilateral Negotiations)

Special Programmes

30 January 2025 - Panel Discussion on 'Trump 2.0: Impact on South Asia held at the BIDTI in collaboration with the Centre for Law & Security Studies (CLASS) at the BIDTI

25 April 2025 - Special guest lecture on 'Challenging Gender Stereotypes to Reach the Top' on 25th April 2025 at the BIDTI by Ms. Jayanthi Kuru-Utumpala. first Sri Lankan to summit Mount Everest

9 July 2025 - Panel Discussion in collaboration with The International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 'A Call to Preserve

Humanity in War: The Initiative Towards making

International Humanitarian Law a Global Priority'

17 & 18 July 2025 - A Two-day Seminar on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) conducted in

collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized for the officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism, Ministries of Defence, Justice and tri forces.

22 September, 2025 - Special Guest Lecture on 'Indo-Pacific Security Challenges' by Major General (Ret.) Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies

Convocation

15 July 2025 - 26th Convocation relevant to the 9th Post Graduate Diploma Programme and XXVIII & XXIX Diploma programmes held.

Other Programmes

1. Conducted the 'Tea Serving Etiquette' for twenty-one the Office Assistants of the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB) on 25 March 2025 comprising from Head Office as well as Regional Offices of the EDB.
2. Conducted the Diplomacy Skills Training Programme for the newly recruited Judicial Officers of the Sri Lanka Judges' Institute on 4 August 2025
3. Conducted the Tea Serving Etiquette Training Programme for Five Employees of the Sisli Projects Consortium on 13 August, 2025.

Bilateral Meetings

24 April 2025 - Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) Dr. Robin Geiss visited the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) on 2 April 2025 and discussed on collaboration with each other.

24 June 2025 - Viet Nam Ambassador H. E.Trinh Thi Tam visited the BIDTI to discuss implementation of the MoU and the visit of high level dignitary to deliver a lecture at the BIDTI.

3 September 2025 - H.E. Dr. Purna Bahadur Nepali, Ambassador of Nepal accompanied by Mr. Vijay Kumar Raut, Deputy Chief of Mission visited the BIDTI to discuss about the renewal of the MoU signed between the BIDTI of Sri Lanka and the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Nepal.

11 September 2025 - A meeting was held between Ambassador Pamela J. Deen, the Director General of the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI) and Ms. Angelique Appeyroux, the ICRC Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of Sri Lanka accompanied by Ms. Prabodhini Munasinghe, Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross on 11th September, 2025.

Book Launch 13 June 2025 - Launching a Policy Paper on 'Bridging Trust Deficits: Unpacking Structural Challenges in Indo – Sri Lanka Relations' authored by Mr. Shakthi De Silva was launched at the Institute.

03. Future Outlook: Continue with the activities of the BIDTI according to its mission.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES – FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Training Programmes conducted for all officers of the Foreign Affairs

#	Programme	No. of officers trained	Duration	Total Investment (LKR)	Nature of the Programme	Output/Knowledge Gained
					(Abroad/ Local)	
1.	Master of Public Administration	01	01 year	Rs. 100,000/-	Local	Completed the service requirement and improved the knowledge
2.	Computer Networking & Security Technician Training	02	06 months	Rs. 96,400/-	Local	Improved knowledge in Computer Networking to enhance work place Performance
3.	Workshop on Cyber Security	01	01 day	Rs. 7,500/-	Local	Improved knowledge in Cyber security to enhance work place Performance
4.	Apps and AI Tools for Work place productivity	01	02 days	Rs. 15,000/-	Local	Improved knowledge in AI Tools to enhance work place Performance
5.	43 rd National Information Technology Conference (NITC) 2025	04	02 days	Rs. 108,000/-	Local	Improved knowledge in IT to enhance work place Performance

6.	Advanced AI Tools	03	01 day	Rs. 22,500/-	Local	Improved knowledge in AI Tools to enhance work place Performance
7.	Cyber Diplomacy by EU CyberNet 2025	14	03 Days (04-06 April 2025)	European Union (EU) sponsored programme and only few logistical elements handled from the ministry budget (Rs.90,416/=)	Local	Understanding of how digital technologies impact geopolitics and cyber security, identify and engage in multilateral and multitasking processes shaping global and regional.
8.	Two day seminar on disarmament for SLFS Officers by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)	40	02 Days (25 & 26 April 2025)	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) offered resource persons free of charge and only few logistical elements handled from the ministry budget	Local	Current trends and developments in disarmament and arms control, impact of new technologies on international security

					(Rs.296,696/=)				
9	Orientation Program for Ambassadors/High Commissioners and Consul Generals - Designate	22	29 Days (28 April - 23 May 2025) And (04 August - 22 August 2025)		Rs.61,927/=	Local	It was covered participant's basic knowledge of Ministry functions and all contemporary aspects of Country's Foreign Policy		
10.	Awareness Programme for SLFS officers on Mission Administration	10	05 Days (28 July - 01 August)	-	Rs.68,757/=	Local	Briefing sessions of management of mission's Human Resources , Assets and Financial Formalities and Procedures		
11.	Diplomatic Training Programme for Newly Recruited Officers of Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS) -2025	18	21 days (24 March - 16 May 2025)	Rs.454,200/=	Local	To familiarize with the duties, mandate and functions of the public service that need to be dispensed with effectively and efficiently			
12.	Orientation Programme for the newly appointed Office Employee Service and Drivers to SL	26	04 days (23-26 September)	-	Local	Overview of job/ profiles of OES, Maintenance of Chancery and Official Residence, General conduct, confidentiality, host country rules etc ,Reception/ front office duty, Overall			

	Missions/Posts Abroad		2025)			introduction of Mission's activities, Personal Skills development, Confidentiality of the job role/duty, Basic Understanding of Protocol, Reception Protocol, Briefing on grooming, etiquette, role of function, obligation and responsibilities, social/dining Administrative Responsibilities, Mandatory Legal formalities to be followed, Administrative Responsibilities, Basic Understanding of Protocol, Reception Protocol, Briefing on grooming, etiquette, role of function, obligation and responsibilities, social/dining
13.	Sufficient Economy Philosophy (SEP): The Engine towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	01	12 days (19-30 May 2025)	Funded by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand	Abroad (Thailand)	The respective officers gained knowledge and the practical experience in the respective fields in order to upgrade their capacities throughout their career in Sri Lanka Foreign Service
14.	Digital Training on "Blue Economy"	01	05 days (07- 11 April 2025)	Funded by Government of Kingdom of Netherlands	Abroad -Online (Netherland)	

15.	First Edition of the Asia - Poland Academy	01	05 days (23-27 June 2025)	Funded by the Diploma Academy and the Asia - Pacific Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland	Abroad (Poland)	
16.	Tallinn Cyber Diplomacy Summer School 2025 - Call for Applications	01	05 days (16-20 June 2025)	Funded by European Union	Abroad (Estonia)	
17.	03rd Global South Young Diplomats Forum (GSYDF) at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS)	01	14 days (08-19 September 2025)	Funded by The Government of India and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS)	Abroad (India)	
18.	The 2025 Knowledge of Diplomacy (KOD) for Future Diplomats	01	05 days (25-30 August 2025)	Funded by Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA)	Abroad (Thailand)	

19.	Capacity Building Workshop on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for the Indian Ocean Region	03		03 days (20 – 23 September 2025)	Funded by the Office of Legal Affairs Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	Abroad (Maldives)	
20.	BIMSTEC Young Leaders Summit	02		04 days (09 – 12 September 2025)	Funded by the Government of India	Abroad (India)	

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வெளிநாட்டு வேலைவாய்ப்பு
Foreign Employment

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17 ம் மாடி "மெஹேவர பியேச", நாரஹேன்பிட்ட, கொழும்பு 05
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1. VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Make Sri Lanka the best choice for competent human resources in the overseas market

Mission

To Formulate, direct and evaluate appropriate policies, programmes and projects to fulfil the expectation of all stakeholders by promoting competent human resource for foreign employment opportunities and quality of life of families of migrant workers

2. ORGANOGRAM

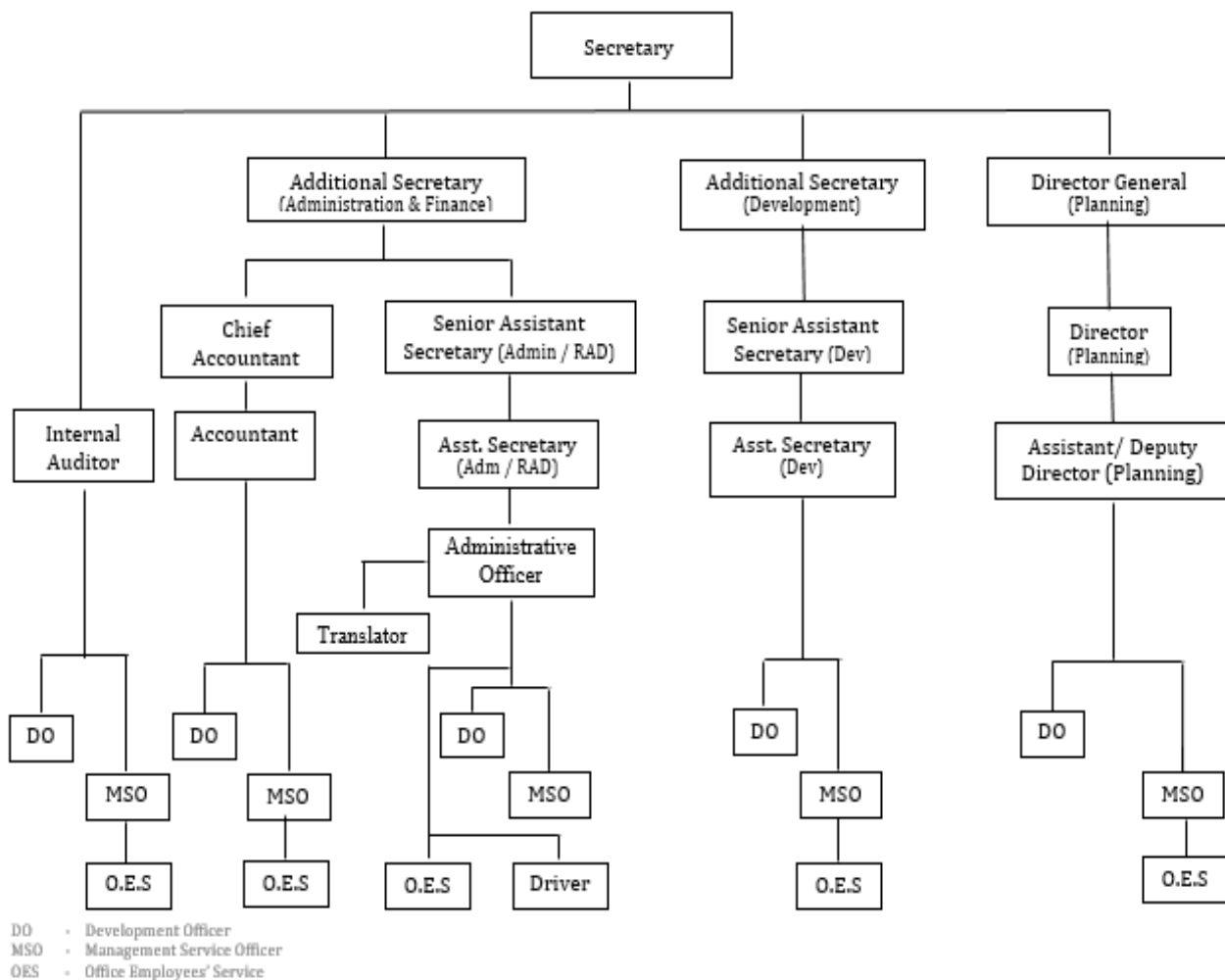


Diagram 1 - Organizational structure of the Foreign Employment Division

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Progress Report of the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism for the year 2025 is submitted for the committee stage debate of the budget in the Parliament of Sri Lanka. This submission fulfills the statutory requirement of the Parliament, as informed by the Office of the Leader of the House on 08 September 2025.

Migration for employment plays a crucial role in bringing much-needed foreign exchange to the Sri Lankan economy. Number of migrant workers has increased since the inception of migration for employment in the 1970s. In the year 2024, receipt of foreign remittances was reported to be LKR 1,983.8 billion, accounting for nearly 9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Migration for employment reduces the rate of unemployment. In 2024, a total of 313,642 persons departed for foreign employment, including 185,692 males and 127,950 females. By 30 September 2025, 236,340 individuals had gone abroad for work, comprising 144,895 men and 91,445 women. Thus, the migration for employment sector is placed firmly within the country's vision and development agenda, expanding global spaces for Sri Lankan labour.

Prime mission of the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism is to fulfill the expectations of all stakeholders by formulating, implementing and evaluating appropriate policies, programs and projects to expand employment opportunities in various employment sectors, ensure safe migration, direct skilled human resources, and promote the quality of life of migrant workers' families. In realizing this mission, the programs of the Ministry have been lined up based on the sustainable development goals, the international conventions ratified by Sri Lanka and in terms of Extraordinary Gazette No. 2412/08 dated 25.11.2024.

The National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment Sri Lanka (NP&APME) 2023–2027 has been developed in alignment with national and international legal and policy frameworks, and covers four key policy areas.

Foreign Employment Division along with two affiliated institutions i.e.; Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), established under the Act No. 21 of 1985 (amended) and Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd (SLFEA), incorporated in 1996, are being implemented projects and programmes in accordance with the National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment Sri Lanka focusing on individual migrant worker as well as members of the migrant worker families. The programmes are designed as a comprehensive package of services to ensure safe migration, prevent human trafficking, and support the wellbeing of migrant workers and their families. In addition, 904 Development Officers (Foreign Employment) attached to the District and Divisional Secretariats facilitate and coordinate developmental and welfare activities at the field level for migrant workers and their families.

The government of Sri Lanka has entered into 25 agreements/ MOUs/MOCs with 19 destination countries to achieve varied objectives including, foreign employment promotion, human capacity development, training programs and mutual relationships and of which 21 are active at present. In addition, although the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act No. 21 of 1985 is still in effect, it has become necessary to introduce a new Act due to current international employment trends, emerging forms of employment, technological developments, and new legal and policy trends related to labour protection. Accordingly, steps are being taken to draft a new Act.

Development Officers (Foreign Employment) serving Island-wide, have recommended 37,554 reports on the Care Plan of Minors of Women who wish to migrate for employment, and coordinated and facilitated for welfare, livelihood development, educational and re-integration programmes.

The SLBFE has implemented a range of activities to regulate the labour migration process, ensuring conditions of dignity, security, and equity for Sri Lankan nationals seeking employment overseas. The SLBFE has issued 48 new licenses, registered/ renewed 2,227 employment agencies and companies in foreign countries that recruit Sri Lankans during the period under review.

A total of 2,439 training programmes were conducted by the SLBFE to enhance the skills of 60,012 aspirants for foreign employment.

The SLBFE has initiated legal proceedings against licensed agencies and other unlicensed entities involved in the recruitment for foreign employment. In this regard, the SLBFE conducted 3,477 investigations for complaints received on licensed foreign employment agencies and resolved 1,667 complaints. Under the resolving of complaints received from or on behalf of migrant workers and actions against human trafficking, a total of 18,585 complaints were received. These complaints pertained to issues related to migrant workers, their businesses or human trafficking, and 15,196 of them were resolved.

The SLBFE has implemented a range of services for the protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families for the welfare of migrant workers, such as payment of insurance premia, providing food, transportation, accommodation, and medical treatment, bearing repatriation costs, providing necessary equipment/ materials to start or improve self-employment, providing school equipment, etc. 22,446 migrant workers and family members were benefitted from various types of welfare programmes and a sum of LKR 910.5078 Mn was spent in this regard. During the period under review, the SLBFE provided relief for migrant workers who passed away abroad. Meanwhile, the SLBFE conducted numerous programmes for the promotion of foreign employment, including job fairs at district and divisional level.

Further, Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd., subsidiary under the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment has facilitated 325 Sri Lankan individuals in foreign employment.

Additionally, measures have been taken to implement various grassroots-level programmes in collaboration with international agencies to ensure safe migration.

This progress report outlines the achievements of the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, along with its affiliated institutions, from January 2025 to September 2025. The report comprises seven sections.

4. INTRODUCTION

Labour migration for employment is a globally widespread phenomenon that directly contributes to a country's economic growth, builds human capital, reduces socio-economic inequalities, and facilitates interaction among diverse societies and cultures. Such migration empowers individuals and their families to turn their dreams into reality, while society benefits from the varied skills, expertise, and experiences of migrant workers. Moreover, it strengthens the entire society by fostering acceptance and respect for these diverse contributions. Most importantly, it provides an additional force for development at national, regional, and global levels.

Sri Lanka has become a recipient of myriad gains from migration for employment for the last five decades. Number of migrant workers have increased since the inception of migration for employment in the 1970s. In 2024, foreign remittances were reported at Rs. 1,983.8 billion, which is approximately 9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Further, migration for employment reduces the rate of unemployment. By September 30, 2025, a total of 236,340 persons had departed for foreign employment, including 144,895 males and 91,445 females. Thus, the migration for employment sector is placed firmly within the country's vision and development agenda, expanding global spaces for Sri Lankan labour.

Accordingly, Prime mission of the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism is to fulfil the expectations of all stakeholders by formulating, implementing and evaluating appropriate policies, programmes and projects to expand employment opportunities in various employment sectors, ensure safe migration, direct skilled human resources, and promote the quality of life of migrant workers' families. National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment Sri Lanka, (NP&APME) 2023 – 2027 has been formulated in accordance with national and international legal and policy framework, covering all stages of migrant cycle.

Foreign Employment Division along with two affiliated institutions ie; Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd are being implemented projects and programmes in accordance with the National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment Sri Lanka focusing on individual migrant worker as well as members of the migrant worker families. In addition, Development Officers (Foreign Employment), attached to the District and Divisional Secretariats facilitate and coordinate for smooth functioning of developmental and welfare activities at the field level for migrant workers and their family members.

Accordingly, the programmes of the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry have been lined up based on the sustainable development goals and the international conventions ratified by Sri Lanka and in terms of Extraordinary Gazette No. 2412/08 dated 25.11.2024 in order to make migration for employment sector effective and productive for the development of the country.

I. Main functions of the Foreign Employment Division

- a. Formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies, programmes and projects related to foreign employment
- b. Collaborating with relevant institutes to increase and promote foreign employment opportunities and improve the skills required for such employments

- c. Undertaking necessary measures to send skilled and trained workers abroad instead of untrained workers
- d. Introducing legal and regulatory measures required to ensure the security of migrant workers
- e. Providing special facilities for expatriate workers and Sri Lankans living abroad to save and invest foreign exchange in Sri Lanka
- f. Implementing programmes to ensure the protection and welfare of housemaids working in Middle East and other countries
- g. Providing remedies for employment issues of migrant workers and maintaining welfare
- h. Introducing legal reforms to strengthen the process of obtaining compensation entitled to persons who meet with accidents in foreign countries
- i. Implementing special projects to enable those who return to Sri Lanka after foreign employment to commence enterprises
- j. Regulation of foreign employment agencies
- k. Providing career guidance for foreign employment and adopting measures to ensure welfare of those engaged in foreign employment when they are directed to workplaces by foreign employment agencies

II. Sections under the Foreign Employment Division

a. Administrative Section

The responsibility of this section is to execute all establishment and administrative activities of the Foreign Employment Division with the aim of providing facilities required for the discharge of key functions relevant to the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry.

Maintaining personal files of all public officers attached to the Foreign Employment Division and establishments activities related to them and updating information on the staff.

Preparation of cabinet memoranda and taking action in respect of cabinet decisions, providing answers to referrals made by the Consultative Committees and Public Petitions Committee, parliamentary questions and refers public complaints forwarded by the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office as well as public grievances received directly from the public to the relevant institutions are carried out by this section.

Administration of vehicles of the Division, provision of necessary infrastructure facilities, training activities, management of capital goods and equipment, activities relating to overtime, holiday payments, Agrahara insurance, approval of distress loans and conducting investigations.

Holding the responsibility of carrying out establishments and administrative activities of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Limited.

b. Development Section

The Development Sections discharges its duties under two units as Foreign Relations Unit and Development Unit.

The major functions of the Foreign Relations Unit are activities pertaining to international conventions in relation to the field of migration, submission of reports and proposals as per requests made from time to time by the United Nations and other international organizations through the Foreign Affairs Division on issues relation to the field of migration, entering into memoranda of understanding/ agreements, updating agreements, following up on the implementation of agreements, conducting activities relating to joint meetings and all activities relating to regional/ global dialogues.

The other key functions of the Development Section include the formulation, enforcement and follow up of the enactments, regulations, guidelines and policies relating to the migration sector, preparation of cabinet memoranda and notes to the cabinet pertaining to the subjects of the Foreign Employment Division, training of Development Officers deployed for field work of the Division and maintaining the pool of trainers for Training of Trainers, implementing programmes at the District and Divisional Secretariat Divisions level through Development Officers and holding appeals committee regarding family background reports of female migrant workers, conveying committee decisions and following up on them.

c. Planning Section

The primary responsibility of the Planning Section is the overall planning, making plans implemented, monitoring & evaluation and reporting within the scope of the Foreign Employment Division.

The Section is also responsible for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, reviewing progress and following up of development plans and annual action plans in collaboration with institutions involved in the foreign employment Division.

Another important function of the Section is the planning, monitoring and reporting of programmes relevant to the foreign employment sector implemented at the District and Divisional Secretariat Division levels with the support and guidance of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment through the Development Officers attached to the District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats.

Among other responsibilities assigned to the Planning Section include the preparation of projects relevant to the subject of Foreign Employment and the preparation of Annual Performance Report and the Progress Report, submitted to the committee stage debate of the budget.

d. Finance Section

The main responsibility of the Accounts Section is to ensure that the financial allocations allocated to the Foreign Employment Division by the annual budget are used efficiently and effectively to achieve the relevant objectives in accordance with the Government's policies.

Further, the section maintains updated audit inquiry register and submits answers for the relevant audit queries to the Auditor General, supervises the financial matters related to the statutory institutions and foreign aid programmes operating under the Foreign Employment

Division, represents the Ministry to each of the relevant committees and submits the reports related to the financial and asset management activities to the General Treasury.

e. Internal Audit Section

The internal audit activities are carried out as per the appointment made in terms of Section 40 of the National Audit Act ensuring the responsibilities of the Chief Accounting Officer are duly discharged as set out in Sections 38(b) and (f) of the said Act and the powers vested in the Internal Audit Division in terms of FR 133 and FR 134 and requirements of Circular No. 01/2019 dated 12.01.2019 of the Department of Management Audit.

The Internal Audit Section is responsible for conducting Audit Management Committee meetings (quarterly), preparation of annual audit plan, preparation and submission of reports and the conduct of field investigations on internal audit inquiries, implementation of audit programmes and preparation of answers for audit queries.

III. Institutions under purview of Foreign Employment Division

a. Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) is the main statutory institution established by Parliament Act No.21 of 1985 as amended by Act No. 4 of 1994 and Act No. 56. focusing on Sri Lankans migrating for employment. The key responsibilities of the Bureau are the governance and regulation of the foreign employment sector, protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their family members and promotion and development of employment opportunities outside Sri Lanka for Sri Lankans.

In addition to the 32 operational divisions at the head office of the SLBFE, services are provided through 09 Provincial Migrant Resource Centres, 10 District Offices, 02 Training Centres and 03 Airport Units, with the staff of 1087.

Key functions

- Issuing licenses to run foreign employment agencies
- Conducting training programmes for those expecting foreign employment
- Registering Sri Lankan migrant workers in the Bureau/ recruiting Sri Lankans for foreign employment
- Resolving complaints lodged by migrant workers or their family members
- Providing welfare facilities for migrant workers and their family members
- Enforcement of laws applicable to foreign employment sector
- Promoting foreign employment opportunities for Sri Lankans

b. Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Limited

The Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd (SLFEA), the only state-owned recruitment agency incorporated in 1996, as a subsidiary of the “Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment”, the national regulator of the foreign employment sector of Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency, an institution, incorporated under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982, operates with a Board of Directors of between 4-7 members.

Key functions

- Conducting business activities in accordance with the rules and regulations in force from time to time by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and any other statutory law or legal framework
- To offer employment to qualified workers in all job classifications, whether professional, administrative, technical and industrial hygiene, skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled domestic and related, within Sri Lanka or abroad
- Entering into MoUs with institutions and organizations active in the provision of manpower services, such as individuals in trade, insurance, commerce or industry, as well as institutions active in providing such services
- Developing the necessary facilities to enhance the capabilities of the workforce to meet the needs of foreign employment, and managing competency building and awareness programmes

5. PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT DIVISION

I. Strengthening the necessary legal policy framework for the promotion of foreign employment

a. Implementation of National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment of Sri Lanka

The National Policy and Action Plan on Migration for Employment Sri Lanka (2023–2027) was launched on 25 October 2023. Its vision is “A globally competent labour force engaged in decent and productive work that ensures their rights, freedoms, dignity and effective contributions to development.” The vision is to be achieved through its mission of: “Effective governance of migration through collaboration and cooperation with destination countries and key stakeholders to secure migrant worker rights, strengthen and streamline skilled and semi-skilled migration in accordance with decent work standards, and ensure equitable and gender sensitive service delivery, protection and well-being of migrant worker families.”

The policy is implemented through four core areas:

1. Governance of labour migration to promote decent and productive employment
2. Secure rights and protection of migrant workers and ensure well-being of their families
3. Promotion of employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled migrant workers in local and global economies
4. Enhance benefits of migration and its nexus with national development

Through the implementation of this policy, the aim is to make Sri Lanka’s foreign employment sector safe, beneficial, and sustainable.

Accordingly, the relevant ministries and government institutions, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency, trade unions, and civil society organizations are collectively implementing this action plan.

b. Introduction of a new Act to replace the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act No. 21 of 1985

The foreign employment sector is one of the key sectors contributing to the country’s economy. In addition, although the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act No. 21 of 1985 is still in effect, it has become necessary to introduce a new Act due to current international employment trends, emerging forms of employment, technological developments, and new legal and policy trends related to labour protection.

Accordingly, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, relevant government institutions, legal authorities, foreign employment agencies, international organizations, trade unions, and civil society representatives, is undertaking the process of drafting a new Act.

The new Act is expected to regulate the foreign employment sector, clarify the legal role of agencies, strengthen the protection and rights of migrant workers, and enhance transparency and efficiency in planning foreign employment opportunities and the recruitment process.

II. Empowering migrant workers through international cooperation

a. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) / Agreements

The Government of Sri Lanka has entered into multiple agreements with various countries on promoting foreign employment sector, human resource development, international social security programmes, training programmes, legal frameworks, and mutual relations. Currently, 21 MOUs/Agreements are actively in effect.

- **Exchanging drafts related to signing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)/ agreements through the Foreign Affairs Division**

Drafts for MoUs/Agreements were exchanged with the following countries;

Romania	-	Employment and Manpower Sector
Italy	-	Migration and Mobility Partnership
South Korea	-	Deployment of seasonal workers for agriculture and fisheries (In collaboration with the Boson Provincial Administration)

- **Reviewing the existing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)/ bilateral agreements with destination countries regarding foreign employment**

Information regarding the review of the following agreements/ Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) is being forwarded to the respective states through the Foreign Affairs Division, facilitating a bilateral exchange of views.

Republic of Korea	-	Sending Workers under the Employment Permit System
Malaysia	-	Recruitment, Employment, and Repatriation of Workers

b. Global and Regional Forums

- **Abu Dhabi Dialogue**

The Ministerial Consultation of Abu Dhabi Dialogue was held online on 30 September 2025 and 01 October 2025.

The following guidelines for a collaborative thematic agenda for the upcoming two-year cycle were discussed at the session.

- The Link Between Climate Change in Asia and Labour Mobility – Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Corridor
- Labour Mobility and Skills for a transformation to a Green Economy
- Discussion on the legal, social, and professional implications of short-term overseas self-employed workers (gig workers) from member countries at the Abu Dhabi Dialogue

- Unlocking Opportunities for Skills and Diversity towards Labour Productivity in Abu Dhabi Dialogue Countries

- **Colombo Process**

The joint meeting of the Thematic Area Working Groups (TAWGs), with the participation of member countries in the Colombo process, is scheduled to be held on 4 & 5 November 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The following Thematic Area Working Group (TAWG) meetings are to be convened with the facilitation and coordination of the Colombo Process Technical Support Unit (CPTSU).

- Pre-departure Orientation and Empowerment (PDOE): The ninth TAWG meeting, chaired by the Philippines, is scheduled to be held on 04-05 October 2025
- Fair & Ethical Recruitment Practices (FERP): The twelfth TAWG meeting, chaired by Bangladesh, is scheduled to be held on 04-05 October 2025
- Skills and Qualification Recognition (S&Q): The tenth TAWG meeting, chaired by Sri Lanka, is scheduled to be held on 04-05 October 2025
- Cheaper, Faster & Safer Transfer of Remittances (CFSTR): The ninth TAWG meeting, chaired by Pakistan, is scheduled to be held on 04-05 October 2025.

- **Global Compact on Migration (GCM) for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration**

Sri Lanka is actively implementing the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and has made notable progress in advancing the GCM through several key initiatives, namely:

- **National Committee for the Implementation of GCM Objectives**

Established in 2021 and led by our Ministry, this committee monitors the 23 objectives aligned with the GCM, with the collaboration of government partners, civil society organizations, and other United Nations agencies. Sri Lanka has currently been recognized as a Champion Country.

- **National Plan for the Global Compact on Migration for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration**

Developed in 2022, this plan outlines strategic priorities for safe and regular migration, including labour mobility, migrant rights, and data collection. It is implemented with the cooperation of government partners, civil society organizations, and other UN agencies to ensure a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The plan, covering 23 current objectives, is being reviewed with stakeholders to prioritize key goals, and the final plan is scheduled for release in November 2025.

- **Migrant Resource Centre (MRC)**

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sri Lanka on 11 December 2023. Following this, the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) was established in Batticaloa on 26 April 2024. The MRC offers comprehensive migration-related services to the persons who wish to migrate for employment. The International Centre for Migration Policy Development under the New Zealand government has provided funding for its management processes. To date, LKR 103.0 million has been allocated to this project.

- **Integrated Systematic Approach for the Development of Migrant Workers and their families (InSA)**

The objective of this project is to support the economic, social, and psychological development and well-being of Sri Lankan migrant workers and their family units through an integrated systematic approach.

The project is implemented with financial support from the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) in coordination with the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), and relevant government institutions.

An integrated team composed of officials from district and divisional secretariat offices oversees the project. This includes Assistant Divisional Secretaries/Assistant Directors (Planning), Development Officers (Foreign Employment), Child Rights Promotion Officers, Child Protection Officers, Women Development Officers, Skills Development Officers, Small Business Development Officers, SLBFE District Office Officials, and District Development Officers (Foreign Employment).

Under the first phase of this pilot project, five districts with the highest foreign employment in 2025 have been targeted, and five one-day training workshops are planned for the above-mentioned officers from 25 Divisional Secretariat divisions. These workshops are expected to enhance knowledge and skills for preparing development plans for migrant worker families under an integrated systematic approach.

III. Guidance and referral system for foreign employment

- **Establishing an Integrated Guidance and Referral System (IGRS) for Enhancing Foreign and Domestic Employment Opportunities in Sri Lanka**

The Foreign Employment Division, with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), established an Integrated Guidance and Referral System (IGRS) targeting young job seekers aiming for foreign employment. The IGRS provides career guidance for foreign employment, develops a pool of skilled and experienced job seekers, and facilitates their referral for foreign employment.

This integrated guidance and referral system was officially launched on 15 July 2023, and a corresponding pilot project was implemented. Accordingly, the relevant project has been obtained from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to further develop the

software and achieve the stated objectives, with the necessary procurement activities and contractual arrangements being carried out to establish it under this ministry.

IV. Protection, welfare and empowerment of migrant workers and their family members

- **Issuance of Family Background Reports**

The Circular No. 02/2023 dated 31.03.2023 as amended by the Circular No. 02/2023(1) dated 18 April 2023 titled “Obtaining a report on the protection programme of the minor children of women expecting to migrate for employment” was issued with the objective of providing protection to minor children of female migrant workers. As per the said circular, 37,554 family background reports have been recommended at the Divisional Secretariat level in the year 2025. Recommendations were given to 11,717 reports in the first quarter, 12,650 reports in the second quarter, 13,187 reports in the third quarter and 240 family background reports were not recommended.

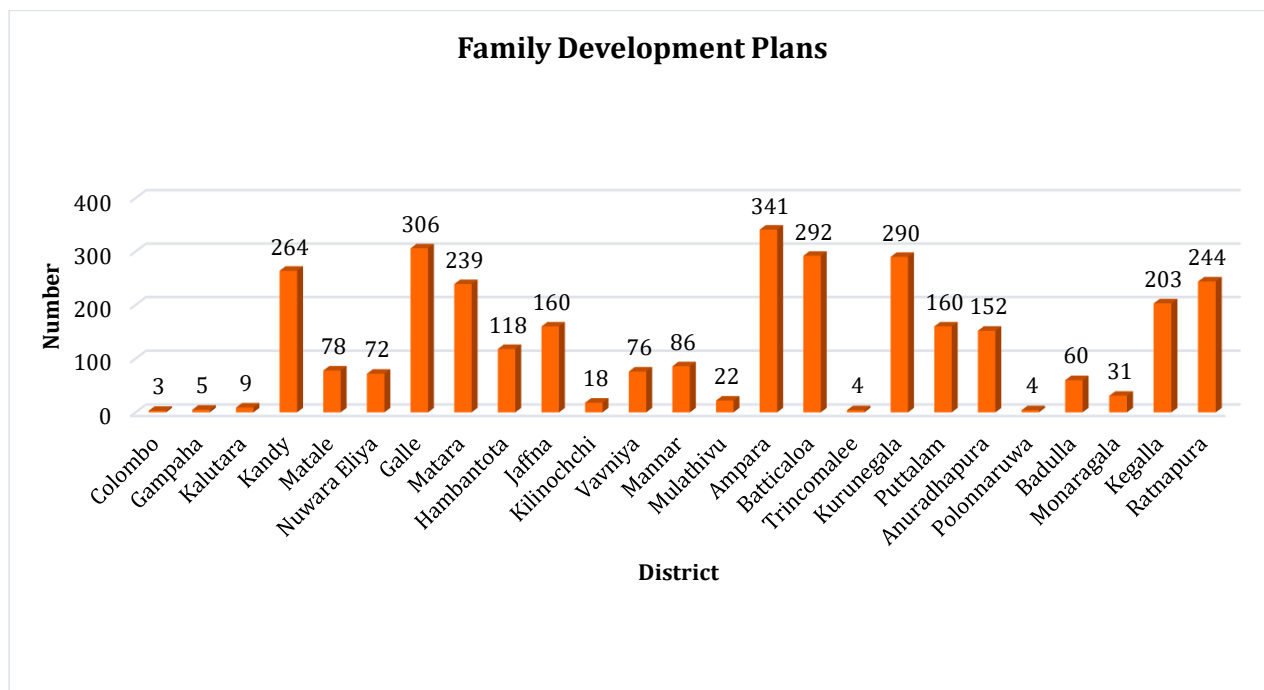
- **Appeals Committee to Review Reports on protection programme of the minor children of women expecting to migrate for employment**

If applicants are dissatisfied with the reports on the protection programme of the minor children of women expecting to migrate for employment, which are not recommended at the Divisional Secretariat level, they can submit their appeals to the Appeals Committee under the Foreign Employment Division. The Committee has convened 8 times to review the appeals, resulting in 32 recommendations and 16 appeals that were not recommended. Further action is ongoing for the remaining appeals.

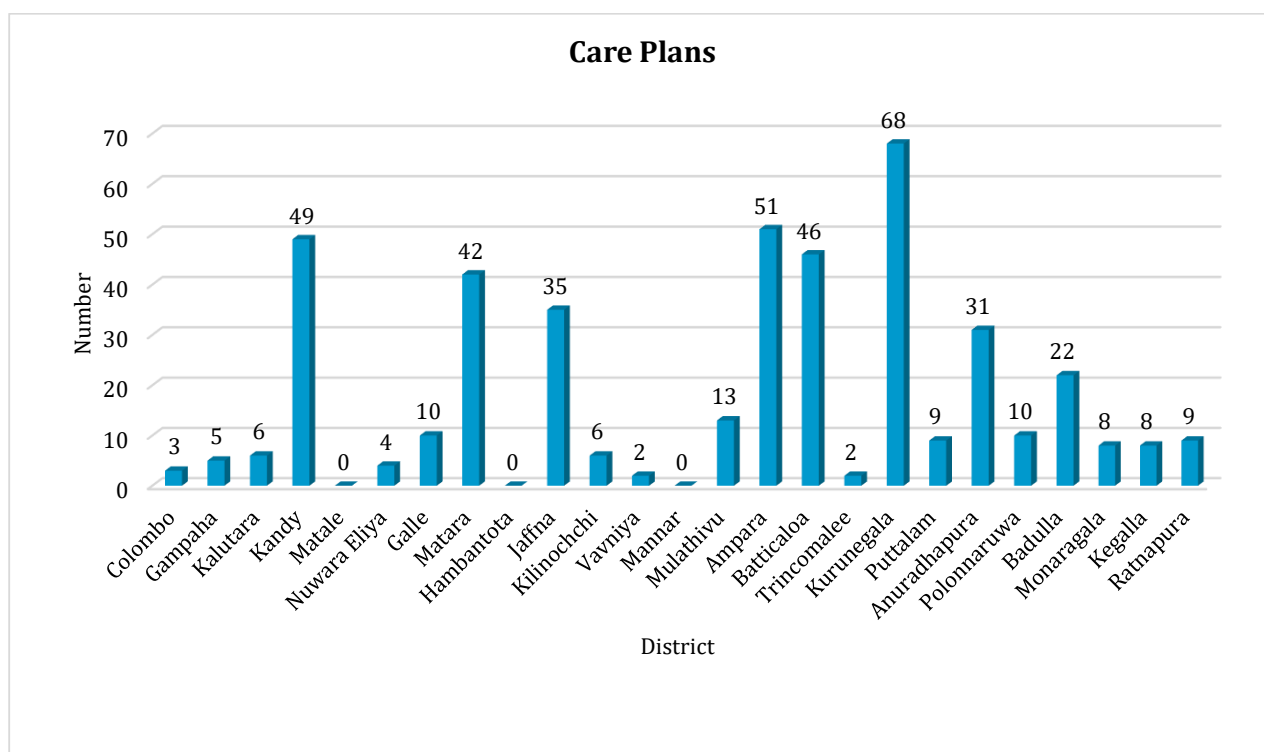
- **Preparation of Family Development Plans and Care Plans for Migrant Worker Families**

The Development Officers (Foreign Employment) attached to Divisional Secretariats by the Foreign Employment Division of the Ministry, prepare and implement “Family Development Plans” aimed at uplifting the economic status of migrant worker families registered with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, as well as “Care Plans” targeting socially vulnerable children of migrant families, focusing on the safety and welfare of migrant workers. Accordingly, 3,237 Family Development Plans and 439 Care Plans have been prepared for the period till 30 September 2025.

In addition, referrals to programmes conducted by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, such as providing educational scholarships for the children of migrant families, supplying school equipment, offering self-employment assistance for returning workers, providing self-employment and housing assistance for differently-abled individuals, referring to vocational training programmes, and conducting medical clinics, are carried out by Development Officers (Foreign Employment).



Graph 1 - Family Development Plans Prepared by Development Officers



Graph 2 - Care plans prepared by Development Officers

- **Conducting Awareness Programmes**

Development Officers attached to Divisional Secretariats by the Foreign Employment Division have been implementing awareness programmes targeting the migrant community at the divisional level. During the period until 30 September 2025 a total of 7,743 awareness programmes were conducted island-wide, focusing on the following areas.

Table 1 - Progress in Conducting Awareness Programmes for the Migrant Community

No	Programme	Number
1	Safe migration	2,579
2	The social reintegration programme	632
3	Self-Employed Skill Development and Career Guidance	622
4	Child protection	1,251
5	Drug prevention	385
6	Creating awareness on prevention of gender-based violence	271
7	Raising awareness to prevent human trafficking and protect potential victims	702
8	other	1,301
	Total	7,743

- **Progress Review Meetings to Monitor Duties of Development Officers (Foreign Employment)**

The Foreign Employment Division has conducted two meetings, physical and online, to monitor the progress of District Development Officers (Foreign Employment) assigned to the District Secretariat offices. Additionally, the District Development Officers (Foreign Employment) have held quarterly 54 district-level progress review meetings and 7 meetings with the participation of ministry officials, incurring a total expenditure of Rs. 1,171,373.94.

- **Providing training aimed at members of migrant workers' families and returning migrant workers to start self-employment or to further develop existing self-employment activities**

The purpose of this training is to improve the living standards of members of migrant workers' families and returning migrant workers, and to ensure proper investment and management of the funds sent by migrant workers to the country as well as the savings brought back by returning workers. To achieve this, training programmes were conducted at the district level in coordination with Divisional Secretariat divisions. Accordingly, by September 2025, 13 training programmes were held for 293 beneficiaries, with a total expenditure of LKR 298,945.00.

- **Training of Trainers Unit**

- **Conducting Capacity Development Programmes**

Three capacity development training programmes on new foreign employment opportunities/financial literacy and entrepreneurship development were conducted for officers of the Training of Trainers Unit, District Development Officers, and ministry officials, with financial support from the International Labour Organization.

- **Conducting awareness programmes**

With the contribution of the officers of the Training of Trainers Unit, 425 awareness programmes across the country on safe migration, new foreign employment trends, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship development have been conducted during the progress review period.

- **Conducting training programmes**

Officers of the Training of Trainers Unit conducted 11 programmes on financial literacy and entrepreneurship development for migrant communities in the Northern, Eastern, and Southern provinces, as well as in the Badulla, Kegalle, and Matale districts. Three officers from the Training of Trainers Unit also provided support for three training programmes on forced labour organized by the Ministry of Labour.

- **Capacity Development of Officers in the Foreign Employment Division**

Eight local training programmes for the capacity development of officers of the Foreign Employment Division were conducted up to 30 September 2025, incurring an expenditure of Rs. 536,794.00.

- **Administrative and Establishment functions**

The Administration and Establishment Division of the Foreign Employment Division took action to issue permits for the import of motor vehicles on a concessionary basis for one ministry official and six officers of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment. In addition, responses were provided to 17 parliamentary questions and 2 questions under Standing Order 27.2, and 8 cabinet memoranda were submitted to the Cabinet.

V. Governance and regulation in the foreign employment sector

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment is the foremost regulatory authority for labour migration in Sri Lanka. It is an entity with broad scope established under a legal framework for the regulation of labour migration process ensuring that Sri Lankans seeking employment abroad migrate under conditions of dignity, security and equality

Table 2 - Issuance of Licenses to Foreign Employment Agencies, Approval of Foreign Employment Orders, and Registrations for Foreign Employment - SLBFE

	Description		Number
01	Issuing licenses for foreign employment agencies	Number of new licenses issued	48
		Number of licenses renewed (annual renewals)	632
02	Registration of employment agencies and companies in	Number of foreign employment agencies/ companies registered (in host countries)	686

	foreign countries that recruit Sri Lankans		
		Number of registered/renewed foreign employment agencies/companies (in host countries)	909
03	Granting approval for foreign job orders and notices submitted by the Foreign Employment Agencies	Number of approved job orders	2,879
		Number of notices approved	2,040
04	Registration for foreign employment	Number of approvals granted to licensed foreign employment agencies to recruit Sri Lankans for foreign job vacancies and sending them abroad	79,541
		Number of migrant workers who were registered to leave for foreign employment through private channels	147,209
		Number of migrant workers who renewed registration to leave for foreign employment through private channels	29,026
		Number of migrant workers who registered through diplomatic missions in foreign countries	2,971
		Number of migrant workers registered to depart for foreign employment under the memoranda of understanding established with the governments of Sri Lanka, South Korea, Japan, and Israel	9,605

Table 3 - Instituting legal actions against licensed employment agencies/ other parties which are not licensees in connection with recruitment for foreign employment - SLBFE

	Description	Number
01	Number of complaints lodged	3,477
02	Number of complaints resolved	1,667
03	Number of successful raids in respect of illegal recruitments	8
04	Number of People Arrested During raids in respect of illegal recruitments	8
05	Number of cases filed in courts against licensed/ non-licensed parties for violation of laws	692
06	Number of times appeared in courts/ labour tribunal for cases filed against licensed/ non-licensed parties for violation of laws	2,583

Table 4 - Resolving Complaints Received from or on Behalf of Migrant Workers and Actions Taken Against Human Trafficking - SLBFE

	Description		Number
01	Resolving complaints received from or on behalf of migrant workers	Number of complaints received	16,532
		Number of complaints resolved	14,099
02	Resolving complaints received related to resolving business issues	Number of complaints received	2,025
		Number of complaints resolved	1,071
03	Resolving complaints related to combating human trafficking	Number of complaints received	28
		Number of complaints referred to the Criminal Investigation Department from the complaints received	26

Table 5 - Welfare programs implemented for migrant workers and their family members - SLBFE

	Description	Progress	
		Number	Amount (LKR,Mn)
01	Payment of insurance premium for migrant workers	254,860	318.308
02	Payment of insurance compensation for migrant workers (including expenditure for bringing back, medical expenses and compensation for deaths)	700	141.23
03	Providing food, transportation, accommodation, medical treatment and other welfare faculties to migrant workers in need and their family members	6,611	78.9173
04	Providing assistance under the Workers' Welfare Fund to migrant workers and their family members who are in need and have not received entitlements through insurance coverage	67	13.822
05	Providing support to migrant workers and their family members in disaster situations	163	3.005
06	Providing financial benefits to migrant workers currently in service or their family members to start or improve self-employment	14	0.7
07	Providing migrant workers and their family members with funds for medical treatment, as well as medicines, nutritious food, and other essentials	57	3.345
08	Offering low-interest multi-purpose loans through licensed commercial banks for various needs of migrant workers, with the support of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka	51	96.6
09	Providing material assistance to returned migrant workers to obtain local employment opportunities or to start or further develop self-employment	277	12.4805
10	Distributing school supplies to the children of migrant workers who are receiving formal education	2,711	34.341

11	Providing necessary support to children of migrant workers with special needs	48	0.771
12	Providing scholarships to children of migrant workers who have passed the Grade 5 scholarship exam, passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level and/or G.C.E. Advanced Level, and are pursuing higher education	1,628	50.88
13	Providing female migrant workers going abroad for the first time as domestic assistants with Sathosa vouchers worth Rs. 10,000.00.	8,599	85.99
14	Implementation of a pension scheme for migrant workers		
	i. Number of migrant workers who have applied for pension scheme	97	
	ii. Number of migrant workers who have qualified for pensions	77	
15	Providing air tickets and facilitating hospital expenses through the intervention of the bureau, based on the involvement of foreign diplomatic missions, to bring back migrant workers facing various difficulties (including the sick) to the country.		
	i. Payment of hospital fees	43	16.492
	ii. Payment for airfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Workers' Welfare Fund Through insurance coverage Through other sources (non-governmental organizations) 	345	12.612
16	The Bureau's intervention for the female migrant workers who were provided services through the safe houses available at foreign missions	1,163	73.772
17	Providing relief for migrant workers who died abroad		
	i. Assistance from the Employees' Welfare Fund for Repatriating Remains to Sri Lanka	10	9.602
	ii. Bearing expenses for Funeral Activities		
18	Organizing divisional-level fairs to sell products produced by migrant workers through self-employment.	Number of fairs held 16	

Table 6 - Progress in conducting training programs - SLBFE

	Programme	Progress	
		Number of programs	Number participated
01	Housekeeping Assistant of domestic sector - Middle East (National Vocational Qualification Level III)	834	13,362
02	Housekeeping Assistant training of domestic sector for East Asian and European countries (National Vocational Qualification Level III)	30	594
03	Attendant training (National Vocational Qualification Level III)	120	3,140

04	Training Programme Implemented for Experienced Domestic Housekeeping Assistants	38	662
05	Pre-departure awareness training for female and male migrant workers	1,245	36,345
	Five-day training programme conducted for female cleaners	30	772
06	Pre-migration training - South Korea	41	1,589
07	Pre-migration training - Japan Technical Internship Training Course (TITP)	7	114
08	Special language training (Japanese)	16	647
09	Special language training (English)	78	2,787

VI. Promotion of the foreign employment sector

a. Online Job Bank

Facilities have been made available for foreign employment aspirants to register in the online job bank maintained by the SLBFE.

Foreign employment aspirants can register personally through the website of the Bureau or through the Head Office or Provincial Offices. Such registration is valid for a maximum period of two years from the date on which the application was submitted to the job bank. The Job Bank facilitates foreign employers and licensed foreign employment agencies to find suitable candidates for foreign employment opportunities.

The number of job seekers registered through the Employment Bank during the period from 1 January 2025 to 30 September 2025 was 7,343.

In addition, 97 awareness and mobile service programmes have been conducted to promote foreign employment among aspirants and the general public, with a total of 5351 participants.

13 job fair programmes have been conducted at the district and provincial levels, with the participation from 204 employment agencies and 11,870 foreign employment aspirants.

VII. Enhancing service quality of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

a. Adopting the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) Head Office was awarded the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Certification on 6 November 2012.

To reconsider the ISO 9001:2015 quality certification for future years, an audit certified by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) was conducted at the head office and branch offices in March 2024.

Accordingly, Sri Lanka Standards Institution has extended the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Certification for the SLBFE Head Office and Branch Offices, from 26 April 2024 to 25 April 2027.

VIII. Human Resource Development at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

a. Staff training and development

A total of 372 officers participated in 15 training programs conducted for staff training and development, with an expenditure of Rs.3.494 million.

IX. Sending workers for foreign employment

Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd. plans and implements activities related to the recruitment of individuals for foreign employment. Accordingly, the following activities were carried out and a total of 325 workers migrated for foreign employment for the period until 30 September 2025.

- Finding job orders
- Obtaining preliminary approval for job orders
- Obtaining approval for advertisements related to job orders
- Finding suitable candidates
- Submitting applications for selection by employers and calling them for interviews
- Conducting interviews and quality tests to select suitable candidates
- Carrying out activities related to recruitment such as medical examinations, signing contracts, obtaining air tickets
- Preparing relevant documents for obtaining visas and forwarding them to the appropriate departments
- Obtaining final approval from the Foreign Employment Bureau and sending individuals abroad for employment

Table 7 - Referring persons for foreign employment – SLFEA

No	Country	No of Migrant Workers
01	Cyprus	168
02	Moldova	26
03	Qatar	23
04	United Arab Emirates	4
05	Uganda	5
06	Singapore	26
07	Burundi	8
08	Russia	51
09	Seychelles	14
	Total	325

6. HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE (CADRE)

Table 8 - The staff composition of the Foreign Employment Division

	Institution	Senior Level		Tertiary Level		Secondary Level		Primary Level		Total		
		Approved No.	No. employed	Approved No.	No. employed	Approved No.	No. employed	Approved No.	No. employed	Approved No.	No. employed	No. Vacancies
1	Ministry Office – Foreign Employment Division	12	10	2	2	1,024	982	21	15	1,059	1,009	50
2	Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment	140	86	199	169	690	650	234	209	1,263	1,114	149
3	Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Private)	7	3	6	5	10	4	7	6	30	18	12
	Total	159	99	207	176	1,724	1,636	262	230	2,352	2,141	211

Table 9 - Staff management (Foreign Diplomatic Missions)

	Post	Approved No.	No. employed	No. Vacancies (Excess)
1	Adviser	10	6	4
2	First Secretary	4	1	3
3	Second Secretary	4	2	2
4	Third Secretary	8	6	2
5	Probation Officer	11	0	11
6	Public Relations Officer	6	2	4
7	Translator	18	9	9
8	Clerk	44	33	11
9	Safe House Keeper	6	4	2
10	Driver	26	6	20
11	Office Assistant	3	0	3
12	Temporary Appointment (Clerk)	-	1	-
13	Temporary Appointment (Translator)	-	5	-
14	Temporary Appointment (Driver)	-	8	-
	Total	140	83	71

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS

I. Foreign Employment Division

Table 10 - Progress in the utilization of treasury allocations

Institution / Division	Foreign Employment Division	
Expenditure Head	112	
	Recurrent	Capital
Net Provision (LKR, 000')	833,000	833,000
Expenditure (LKR, 000')	39,000	39,000
Balance Provision (LKR, 000')	637,894	637,894
Expenditure Percentage (%)	16,306	16,306

II. Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

Table 11 - Income and expenditure details for the period from 2025.01.01 to 2025.09.30 – SLBFE

Details	Unaudited accounts (LKR)	Budget allocations (LKR)	Budget Achievements (%)
Income			
Recruitment Fees - Agencies	429,721,200	660,150,000	65
Recruitment Fees - Privately/Bureau	1,775,700,000	1,120,041,000	159
Recruitment Promotion Fees	74,977,227	106,749,000	70
Facility Fees	47,254,400	40,017,900	118
License Fees	88,336,673	108,000,000	82
Cess Income	351,761,500	522,809,580	67
Fees related to the Korean re-employment programme	76,336,667	59,263,350	129
Training fees	142,453,602	131,250,000	109
Receipts from the Employee Welfare Fund	1,952,768,974	2,812,500,000	69
Operating income	4,939,310,243	5,560,780,830	89

Added - other income			
Foreign exchange gains/ losses	20,438,724	375,000,000	5
Miscellaneous income	792,834,314	918,750,000	86
Total other income	813,273,038	1,293,750,000	63
Interest income on investments	835,863,573	808,500,000	103
Total Revenue	6,588,446,854	7,663,030,830	86
Less			
Staff Costs	1,864,087,097	2,393,190,000	78
Corporate Expenses	688,754,401	1,008,501,000	68
Operating Expenses	492,639,657	793,062,750	62
Advertising and Promotion Expenses	26,682,727	325,791,750	8
Business Promotion Expenses	51,972,688	337,563,000	15
Employee Welfare Fund Expenses Less	578,125,439	2,120,909,250	27
Financial Expenses	10,780,542	137,175,000	8
Total Expenses	3,713,042,551	7,116,192,750	52
Surplus/Deficit	2,875,404,303	546,838,080	

III. Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (Pvt) Ltd.

Table 12 - Income and expenditure report – SLFEA

	Description	From 01.01.2025 to 30.09.2025 - LKR
01	Income	180,620,241.00
02	Expenditure	53,143,993.00
03	Profit	127,476,248.00

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Tourism



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TOURISM SECTION

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01

TOURISM SECTION

Introduction

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism was established on 25th November 2024 under the Extraordinary Gazette No. 2412/08. The main objectives of the tourism section of this Ministry include formulating a proper policy and regulatory framework, ensuring strong infrastructure development, promoting Sri Lanka as a tourism destination, and maintaining administrative and financial analysis of the institutions under the Ministry that have been published in the Gazette.

Vision

To be recognized as the world's finest island for memorable, authentic and diverse experiences.

Mission

To be a high- value destination offering extraordinary experiences that reflect Sri Lanka's natural and cultural heritage, are socially inclusive and environmentally responsible, and provide economic benefits to communities and the country.

Subjects and Functions

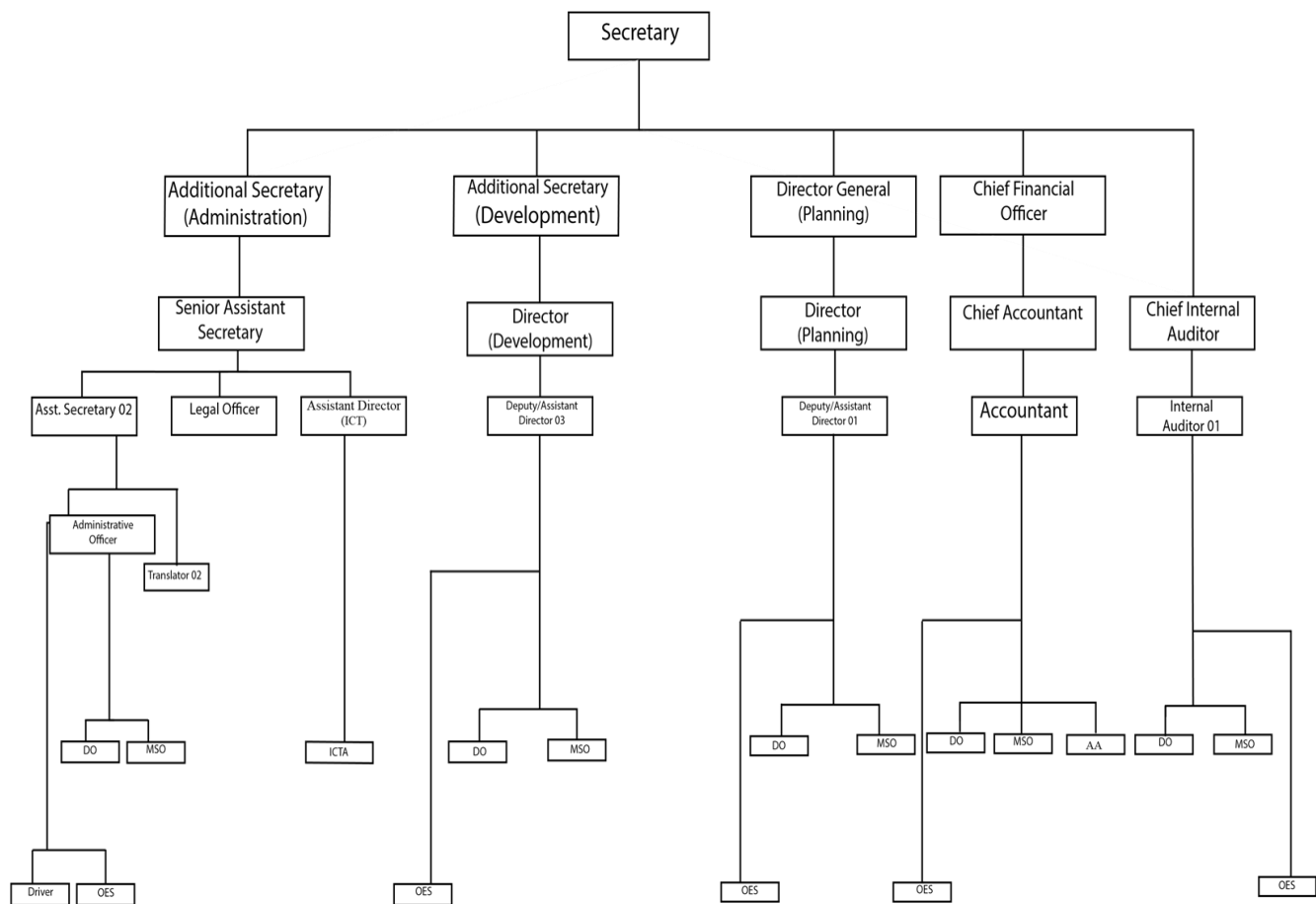
1. Formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects, in relation to the subject of foreign affairs, foreign employment and tourism, and those subjects that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations listed in the Gazette.
2. Provision of public services under the purview of the Ministry in an efficient and people friendly manner.
3. Reforming all systems and procedures using modern management techniques and technology, thus ensuring that the functions of the Ministry are fulfilled while eliminating corruption and waste.
4. Provision of necessary assistance to relevant Ministries and Institutions for the promotion of external trade, investment, tourism, employment and external financial relations.
5. Development of the tourism industry and promotion of high standards in line with the national policy, while promoting Sri Lanka's image.

6. Registration and regulation of travel agencies and those involved in the tourism industry.
7. Popularizing Sri Lanka as a unique tourist island among domestic and foreign tourists highlighting Sri Lanka's biodiversity, historic heritage, environment, climate diversity, oceanic resources, etc.
8. Promotion of holiday resorts, internationally recognized centers related to conferences, exhibition and entertainment facilities, hotel facilities, air and sea travel for tourists.
9. Provision of required facilities to encourage those engaged in the tourism trade and related entrepreneurs.
10. Ensuring the safety of tourists
11. Preparation of time bound action plans for sustainable usage of natural and cultural resources, developing human resources for the tourism industry, developing and standardizing new tourist services, strategic destination promotion etc.
12. Facilitating to enhance medical tourism by providing a whole range of medical care and treatments including Ayurvedic therapy.
13. Promotion of the sports tourism industry.
14. Integration of the tourism industry with national and international markets for the visual arts.
15. Facilitating to make cultural heritage a significant part of the tourism industry.

Institutions coming under the Tourism Section

1. Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau
2. Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
3. Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management
4. Sri Lanka Convention Bureau

Organization Chart



DO - Development Officer
 MSO - Management Service Officer
 ICTA - Information and Communication Technology Assistant

AA - Accounts Assistant
 OES - Office Employees' Service

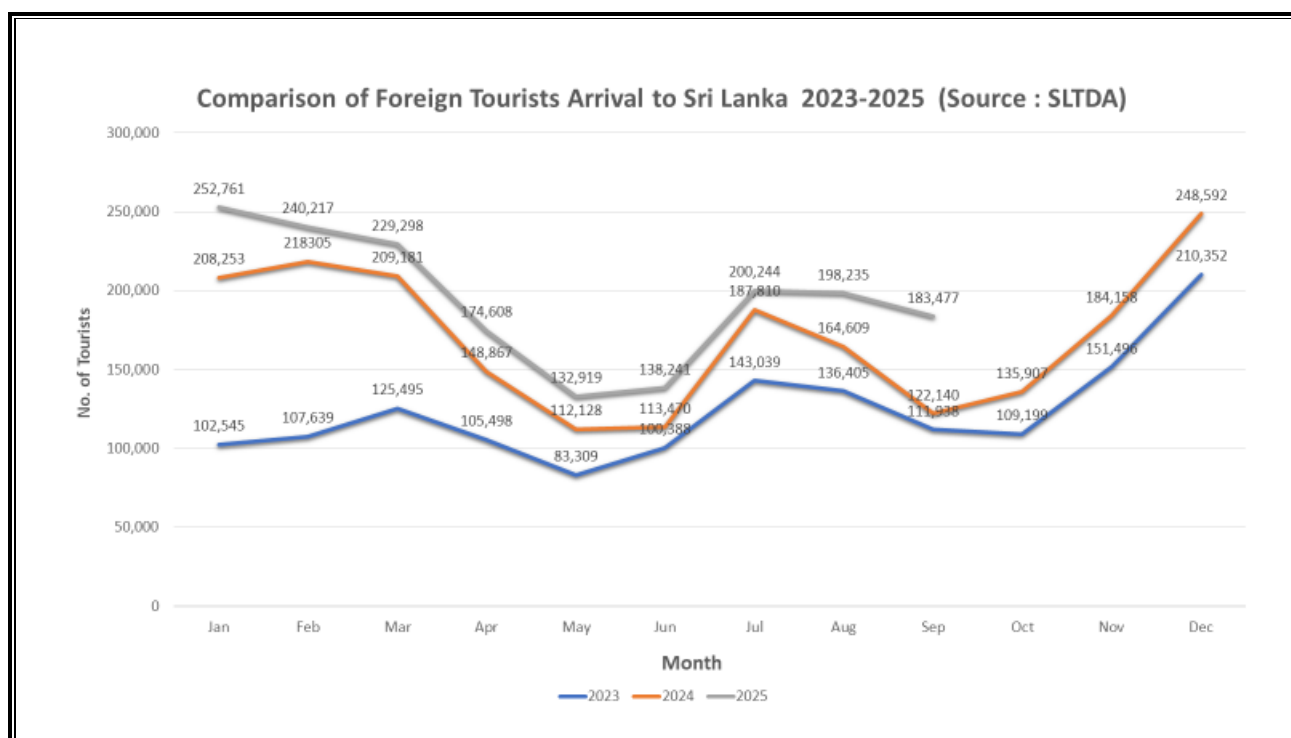
1.1. Progress and Future Outlook of the Tourism Section

1.1. Progress and Outlook

Sri Lanka is a country with high potential for tourism with its cultural, political and natural diversity. It is home to 08 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, one location among the world's 36 major biodiversity hotspots, and has become popular as a tourist destination with strong tourist appeal, featuring a diverse coastline of 1,340 kilometers. Furthermore, Sri Lanka, being a country with a traditionally very high culture of hospitality, and its location along the main air and sea routes of the Indian Ocean, has been a positive factor for the promotion of the tourism industry. Good news about Sri Lanka's tourism industry has spread throughout the world. Accordingly, Sri Lanka has been named the most beautiful island out of the 50 most beautiful islands in the world in 2025 by Big 7 Travels. Moreover, Sri Lanka has been named as the best country for solo travel in 2025, and as the world's most family-friendly country in 2025. Time magazine has mentioned the Pekoe Trail as one of the world's most outstanding places. The hospitality and friendly behavior of Sri Lankans make the experience of tourists in Sri Lanka very pleasant. This encourages tourists to visit Sri Lanka again and creates a positive response about Sri Lanka among tourists.

Tourism is the third major source of foreign exchange for Sri Lanka, making a significant contribution to national economic growth. It earned an income of US \$ 3.16 billion in 2024, and it earned an income of US \$ 2.29 billion by the end of August 2025. Tourist arrivals were recorded at 2.05 million in 2024, while tourist arrivals as of September 30, 2025, have been recorded at 1.72 million. This represents a 16% growth compared to 1.48 million tourist arrivals up to September 2024. It can be predicted that the total foreign tourist arrivals will reach a value exceeding 2.4 million by the end of the year.

Comparison of the Foreign Tourist Arrivals to Sri Lanka (2023-2025)



In line with the government's manifesto, the Ministry is working to formulate the necessary policy plans and provide the necessary guidance for the tourism industry. For this purpose, the four main tourism institutions, namely the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management and the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, along with the Provincial Councils and Provincial Tourism Institutions, the District Secretariats, as well as with the participation of the private sector, have commenced the preparation of the Tourism Master Plans and Tourism Strategic Plans under the leadership of the Ministry.

Similarly, the Ministry and other institutions are working in a targeted manner to achieve optimal progress in programs and projects being implemented for the development of the tourism sector during the last quarter of 2025. Under this, priority has been given to improving the infrastructure of tourist destinations, working to introduce a new Tourism Act to replace the existing Tourism Act, implementing capacity building programs to enhance human resources required for the tourism sector, and implementing tourism promotion campaigns.

1.2. Internal Divisions

The Tourism Section operates under five main divisions, namely the Administration Division, the Finance Division, the Development Division, the Planning Division and the Internal Audit Division.

1.2.1. Administration Division

This division functions under the supervision of the Additional Secretary (Administration). The Administration Division effectively carries out all administrative functions, developing the human resources of the Tourism Section. Moreover, the necessary intervention is also made for the administrative functions of the institutions/departments under the purview of the Ministry and the government and non-government institutions, including the Parliament and the Office of the Cabinet of Ministers are also coordinated by this division.

Scope

- Recruitment, promotion, placement and retirement of the staff
- Implementation of capacity development programmes to enhance the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the staff
- Maintenance of the up to date database of the staff
- Maintenance of vehicles and management of transport facilities
- Maintenance and development of the infrastructure of the Tourism Section
- Management of the coordination and communication with external bodies, including Parliament
- Discipline and grievance management
- Facilitating, guiding and overseeing the activities of the statutory bodies coming under the purview of the Tourism Section
- Preparation of Cabinet Memoranda
- Answers to the parliamentary questions asked for oral answers under standing orders
- Maintenance of organizational productivity at a high level

Cadre Details

The approved cadre of the Ministry is 111 and the existing cadre is 76 as at 30.09.2025.

Service Category	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Vacancies
Senior	19	12	7
Tertiary	3	2	1
Secondary	68	47	21
Primary	21	15	6
Total	111	76	35

Table 1: Cadre Details
Source: Administration Division

Performance

During the period under review, steps were taken to provide training with the aim of strengthening the capacity, knowledge and skills of the staff.

Details of the Training Programmes

Local Trainings

Name of the Programme	Organizing Institution	Duration of the Programme	Number of employees trained
Responsibilities and Duties of Administrative Officers	Skills Development Fund	2025.02.24-2025.02.25	01
New Procurement Guidelines	Prag Service Private Limited	2025.03.19	04
Government Payroll System	Metropolitan Campus -KDU	2025.03.24-2025.03.26	01
New Procurement Guidelines	Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka	2025.03.26-2025.03.27	01
Developing Knowledge of Human Resources in the Public Sector	Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government	2025.04.11	01
Role and Responsibilities of Office Employee Assistants	Skills Development Fund	2025.05.20-2025.05.21	03
Workshop on Salient Features of the Procurement Guidelines and Manual 2024	Centre for Open and Distance Learning, University of Colombo	2025.05.29	02
The Introduction Workshop on the Electronic Procurement Monitoring System	National Procurement Commission	2025.06.13	02
Procurement Guidelines and Manual - 2024	Centre for Open and Distance Learning, University of Colombo	2025.06.20	02
Transportation Management	Skills Development Fund	2025.06.23	01

Name of the Programme	Organizing Institution	Duration of the Programme	Number of employees trained
Workshop on General Office Administration	Centre for Open and Distance Learning, University of Colombo	2025.06.23	01
Procurement Guidelines, Plans and Regulations	Metropolitan Campus -KDU	2025.06.24-2025.06.26	01
Gender Awareness Programme for Legal Officers	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	2025.06.27	01
Essentials in Project Management	Metropolitan Campus -KDU	2025.07.07-2025.07.09	01
Enhancing Financial Reporting	Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka	2025.07.17-2025.07.18	01
Training on Project Management - Online	Distance Learning Centre	2025.08.22-2025.08.27	01

Table 2: Local Training Programmes
Source: Administration Division

Foreign Trainings

Name of the Programme	Organizing Country	Organizing Institution	Duration of the Programme	Number of employees trained
Sufficiency Economy Philosophy towards Creative Economy - Thailand	Thailand	Embassy of the Kingdom of Thailand	2025.05.12 - 2025.05.24 (12 Days)	01
Seminar on Biodiversity Sustainability for Developing Countries - China	China	The Economic and Commercial Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China	2025.06.03 - 2025.06.19 (15 Days)	02

Name of the Programme	Organizing Country	Organizing Institution	Duration of the Programme	Number of employees trained
Capacity Building Program on Strategic Leadership and Governance II for the Civil Servants	India	National Center for Good Governance	2025.07.28 - 2025.08.09 (12 Days)	01
Overseas Training Course on Green Development for Sri Lanka	China (Held in Sri Lanka)	Academy for International Business Officials in China	2025.07.16 -2025.07.25 (10 Days)	02

Table 3: Foreign Training Programmes
Source: Administration Division

1.2.2 Finance Division

This Division is responsible for management of Financial Resources and Assets in the Ministry. Finance Division provides a range of supportive services including budget estimate activities, payroll system, financial operations, assets management, financial reporting and other financial related services.

Scope of work

- Preparation of draft Annual Budget Estimates and Budget Control.
- Preparation and presenting final accounts.
- Maintain the Advance “B” Accounts of Public Officers.
- Preparation of staff wages and payment of salaries on due date and making payments in relation to the capital and recurrent expenditure.
- Handling of all works of Ministry Procurements Process.
- Monitoring and control the Imprest requirement and presenting the annual cash flow.
- Assets management and organize annual stock verification.
- Preparation and submission of Financial Report.
- Handling of all audit queries of the National Audit office.
- Monitor and advice on Financial Management of the Ministry and the Institution come under the preview of the ministry.
- Running management information systems. (CIGAS, ITMIS, e-GP)
- Implementation of financial policies in accordance with the prevailing laws, rules, regulations and circulars.

01 - Operational Activities
13 - Administration & Establishment Services
Financial Progress as at 30 September 2025

(Rs.)

Description			Budget 2025	Expenditure Upto 30.09.2025	Balance	Expenditure % on Total Budget
Recurrent Expenditure			195,000,000	92,817,478	102,182,522	48%
Personal Emoluments			89,000,000	53,521,381	35,478,619	60%
112-1-13-000-1001-000	1001	Salaries & Wages	52,000,000	34,266,380	17,733,621	66%
112-1-13-000-1002-000	1002	Overtime & Holiday Payments	2,000,000	974,900	1,025,100	49%
112-1-13-000-1003-000	1003	Other Allowances	35,000,000	18,280,101	16,719,899	52%
Travelling Expenses			3,000,000	623,579	2,376,421	21%
112-1-13-000-1101-000	1101	Domestic	1,000,000	155,650	844,350	16%
112-1-13-000-1102-000	1102	Foreign	2,000,000	467,929	1,532,071	23%
Supplies			12,600,000	4,843,161	7,756,839	38%
112-1-13-000-1201-000	1201	Stationary & Office Requisties	2,000,000	954,523	1,045,477	48%
112-1-13-000-1202-002	1202	Fuel Allowance	5,000,000	3,335,080	1,664,920	67%
112-1-13-000-1202-009	1202	Fuel for Pool Vehicles	4,000,000	355,562	3,644,438	9%
112-1-13-000-1202-010	1202	Fuel for Other Purposes	1,000,000	161,996	838,004	16%
112-1-13-000-1203-001	1203	Diets	500,000	-	500,000	0%
112-1-13-000-1203-002	1203	Uniforms	100,000	36,000	64,000	36%
Maintenance Expenditure			10,700,000	6,153,983	4,546,017	58%
112-1-13-000-1301-000	1301	Vehicles	9,000,000	4,594,077	4,405,923	51%
112-1-13-000-1302-000	1302	Plant & Machinery	700,000	693,349	6,651	99%
112-1-13-000-1303-000	1303	Buildings & Structures	1,000,000	866,557	133,443	87%
Services			79,500,000	27,492,822	52,007,178	35%
112-1-13-000-1401-000	1401	Transport	5,000,000	1,859,160	3,140,840	37%
112-1-13-000-1402-000	1402	Postal & Communication	1,750,000	1,006,594	743,406	58%
112-1-13-000-1403-000	1403	Electricity & Water	6,250,000	1,909,138	4,340,862	31%
112-1-13-000-1404-000	1404	Rents and Local Taxes	60,000,000	18,395,897	41,604,103	31%
112-1-13-000-1405-000	1405	Cleaning and Janitorial Services	3,000,000	1,827,965	1,172,035	61%
112-1-13-000-1407-000	1407	Security Services	1,500,000	691,233	808,767	46%
112-1-13-000-1409-138	1409	Machinery and Office Equipment Service Agreements	300,000	114,222	185,778	38%
112-1-13-000-1409-139	1409	Vehicle Insurance	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	100%
112-1-13-000-1409-140	1409	Miscellaneous Services Expenditure	700,000	688,613	11,387	98%
Transfers			200,000	182,552	17,448	91%
112-1-13-000-1506-000	1506		200,000	182,552	17,448	91%
Capital Expenditure			10,000,000	942,740	9,057,260	9%
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Capital Assets			7,000,000	-	7,000,000	0%
112-1-13-000-2001-000	2001	Buildings and Structures	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	0%
112-1-13-000-2002-000	2002	Plant, Machinery and Equipment	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	0%
112-1-13-000-2003-000	2003	Vehicles	3,000,000	-	3,000,000	0%
Acquisition of Capital Assets			2,000,000	683,865	1,316,135	34%
112-1-13-000-2102-000	2102	Furniture and Office Equipment	1,000,000	226,143	773,857	23%
112-1-13-000-2103-000	2103	Plant, Machinery and Equipment	1,000,000	457,721	542,279	46%
Capacity Building			1,000,000	258,876	741,125	26%
112-1-13-000-2401-000	2401		1,000,000	258,876	741,125	26%
Grand Total			205,000,000	93,760,219	111,239,781	46%

Table 4: Operational Activities
Source: Accounts Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism (Tourism Section)						
Head No : 112						
2 - Development Activities						
14 - Tourism Sector Development						
Financial Progress as at 30 September 2025						
						(Rs.)
Description			Budget 2025	Expenditure Upto 30.09.2025	Balance	Expenditure % on Total Budget
Capital Expenditure			930,000,000	90,992,563	839,007,437	10%
Capital Transfers			930,000,000	90,992,563	839,007,437	10%
Development Assistance						
Development Tourist Attractions						
112-2-14-000-2202-017	11		600,000,000	40,730,501	559,269,499	7%
Market Development Facility Project- (GOSL/Australia)						
112-2-14-001-2509-000	13	25,000,000	30,000,000	-	30,000,000	0%
112-2-14-001-2509-000	17	5,000,000		-	-	0%
Development of Pinnawala - Kithulgala Tourist Corridor						
Land and Land Improvements						
112-2-14-002-2105-000	11		300,000,000	50,262,063	249,737,937	17%

Table 5: Development Activities
Source: Accounts Division

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism - Tourism Section				
Head No : 112				
Financial Progress Summary as at 30 September 2025				
				(Rs.)
Description	Budget 2025	Expenditure up to 30.09.2025	Balance	Expenditure % on Total Budget
Recurrent Activities				
- Operational Expenditure	195,000,000	92,817,478	102,182,522	48%
Total Recurrent Expenditure	195,000,000	92,817,478	102,182,522	48%
Capital Expenditures				
- Operational Capital Expenditure	10,000,000	942,740	9,057,260	9%
- Development Capital Expenditure	930,000,000	90,992,563	839,007,437	10%
Total Capital Expenditure	940,000,000	91,935,304	848,064,696	10%
Grand Total	1,135,000,000	184,752,782	950,247,218	16%

Table 6: Financial Progress as at 30.09.2025
Source: Accounts Division

1.2.3 Internal Audit Division

The Internal Audit Division of the Tourism Section is functioning under a Chief Internal Auditor who is directly responsible to the Secretary to the Ministry as per Financial Regulation 134(1) and Section 40(3) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2019. This Division consists of a staff with three Development Officers. The functions of the Internal Audit Division are as follows.

Scope

Considering the scope of this Division, it may conduct system audits, financial audits and performance audits covering all areas such as the approved annual budget, action plan and new budget proposals, and in addition to that, special investigations may be conducted to ensure the effective performance of the Ministry and its subordinate institutions.

The following programmes and projects are implemented under the Tourism Section.

112-01-13 Operational Activities, Administration and Establishment Services

112-02-14 Development Activities and Tourism Promotion Activities

Key Functions

- Ascertaining whether the system of the internal check and control exercised in the ministry for the prevention of errors & frauds are effective in design as well as in actual operations.
- Ascertaining the reliability of accounting & other records and seeking that the accounting methods employed provide the information necessary for the preparation of correct financial statements.
- Appraising the quality of performance of staff in carrying out the responsibility assigned to them.
- Ascertaining the extent to which the Ministry's assets are safeguarded from losses of all kinds.
- Ascertaining whether the regulations such as E-code, FR, and other government circulars are being followed.
- Ascertaining the effectiveness of the system of internal control system adopted in preventing as well as detecting waste, idle capacity and extravagance.
- Carry out special investigations when necessary.
- Examine the accounting procedure of the Ministry and its operations which have any financial implications and verifying the safety, economical and proper use of property and assets of the Ministry.
- Carry out management auditing of the related institutions

Performance

- The following documents have been prepared for the year 2025.
 - Internal Audit Plan 2025 and the Risk Register 2025.
- Twelve (12) internal audit queries have been issued following the audit of the Ministry and Institutions coming under the Tourism Section.
- Two (2) Audit and Management Committee meetings have been held during the year with the participation of relevant institutions.
- Three (3) investigations have been conducted.

1.2.4 Planning and Monitoring Division

The main functions of this division can be identified as planning, coordinating and facilitating the national development policies, programmes and projects prepared for the tourism industry. This division maintains proper coordination with the Department of National Planning, the Department of External Resources, the Department of National Budget and the Department of Project Management and Monitoring to accomplish the above functions. This Division is responsible for planning and monitoring development projects.

Scope

- Identifying new trends, planning for the promotion of the tourism sector, and submitting them for necessary approvals.
- Preparing the annual action plan of the tourism section, including projects for tourism development, and taking steps to allocate provisions from the treasury for tourism development projects (capital projects) annually.
- Monitoring and reviewing the physical and financial progress of capital projects implemented by the Ministry in accordance with the action plan every quarter.
- Action on a results-oriented evaluation process as per the annual progress report of the tourism section.
- Preparing the annual budget and performance report of the tourism section and submitting it to Parliament.
- Evaluating new project proposals submitted to the Ministry by ministries, departments and institutions and submitting them as necessary to the Department of National Planning and the Department of National Budget.
- Monitoring and reviewing the physical and financial progress of the implementation of the annual action plans of the institutions under the Tourism Section, namely the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management and the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau.
- Preparing the necessary strategic plans by coordinating activities at the national, provincial and regional levels to implement the National Tourism Policy.
- Preparing and updating the Organizational Results Framework of the Tourism Section.

Performance

- Preparing the Annual Performance Report and Accounts of the Tourism Section for the year 2024 and submitting it to Parliament.
- Preparing the Action Plan for the year 2025 and the Capital Budget (Development Projects) for the year 2026. Accordingly, preparing the relevant project proposals for allocating provisions from the 2026 budget and submitting them to the Department of National Planning and the Department of National Budget.
- Holding 03 quarterly progress review meetings for the year 2025 in the institutions under the Tourism Section under the chairmanship of the Hon. Deputy Minister of Tourism.
- Holding a progress review meeting of the Ministry under the patronage of the Department of Project Management and Monitoring.
- Preparing project proposals to utilize World Bank grants for capacity development and preparation of development projects in the Tourism Section, and submitting them to the Department of National Planning, and obtaining the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. Taking necessary action to establish a Project Management Unit under this.
- Preparing and submitting project proposals for US \$ 77 million under World Bank loan assistance and taking action to obtain World Bank approval for those project proposals.
- Conducting field visits to Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Kandy, Mannar, Trincomalee, Ampara and Batticaloa districts under the chairmanship of the Hon. Deputy Minister of Tourism, identifying the tourism development needs in those areas and intervening to resolve the existing problems.
- As a preliminary step to prepare the strategic plan for tourism development for 2026-2030, organizing a one-day workshop with the sponsorship of Visa Worldwide Singapore (Pvt) Ltd, with the participation of officials from all District Secretariats, Provincial Councils and Tourism Boards and taking further actions in this regard.



- Preparing the Organizational Results Framework for the tourism section for the period 2025-2030, including the expected results of the projects implemented by the Ministry and the four tourism institutions under the Ministry.

- Preparing the Action Plan for the year 2025 and the Strategic Plan for the period 2025-2029 for the commitment assigned to the Ministry and its tourism institutions in line with the current government's policy framework of “A Thriving Nation – A Beautiful Life”, under the guidance of the Presidential Secretariat.
- Providing the necessary technical facilities to establish tourism zones in the Mahaweli regions of Walawa, Medirigiriya and Dibulagala in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority and taking further actions to develop tourism attractions.
- Updating the information system required to monitor activities related to the tourism section and submitting it when necessary.

1.2.5 Development Division

This division is responsible for the implementation of the annual action plan of the tourism section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism and carries out all the development works related to the institutions under the purview of this Ministry, namely the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB), the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM). Further, the division carries out all the international relations activities under the ministry's purview. Also, this division coordinates other government institutions, bilateral and multilateral development partners, and private sector stakeholders directly involved in development activities with the aim of facilitating the tourism industry.

Scope of the Development Division

- Implementation of the development projects under the annual budgetary allocation in order to achieve the Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Tourism Section.
- Carrying out all the development works related to the institutions under the purview of this Tourism Section, namely the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB), the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM)
- Implementing cooperation programs related to tourism development with international and regional institutions in the field of tourism development
 For example:- Regional institutions - BIMSTEC, IORA, CICA, SASEC, SAARC
 International institutions - UNDP, World Bank, ADB
- Coordinating with other government institutions, bilateral and multilateral development partners and private sector stakeholders related explicitly to the development work.
- Identifying new trends in tourism development activities

1.2.5.1 Development Projects

1.2.5.1.1 Development of Tourist Attractions.

A sum of 600 million rupees has been allocated to this ministry under the 2025 budget estimate to develop public facilities and infrastructure in tourist destinations and increase facilities for tourists in those places. The major objectives of the project are to ensure the sustainable growth of the tourism industry by developing tourist attractions in rural areas.

Its progress is shown in the table below.

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
1	Development of the Ella Chat Area	49,766,400.00	19,002,942.30	Work in progress
2	Development of Beera Ella Kadura	44,501,729.25	-	Work in progress
3	Construction of a holiday resort (Cabana) at Tourist Viewpoint, Porawagala	10,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
4	Construction of the first floor of the Multipurpose Centre at Walasbedda	10,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
5	Concreting of the main road to Gramsland Top Division at Glenalpin Viewpoint	1,000,640.31	-	Provisions have been granted.
6	Concreting of the road leading to Halamba Bridge at Panakanniya Grama Niladhari's Division	1,303,979.99	-	Provisions have been granted.
7	Development of the Kithalella Road in Ella	9,923,458.31	-	Provisions have been granted.
8	Surathali Falls Development Project	8,169,564.36	-	Work in progress
9	Surathali Falls Development Project -- Construction of parking facilities	4,013,858.59	-	Work in progress
10	Kayak Boat Project at Samanalawewa	3,759,647.41	-	Work in progress
11	Construction of a sales outlet, renovation of toilets and water supply system, and setting up seats in the area where the baobab tree is situated at Delft Island, Jaffna	8,848,764.00	-	Work in progress

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
12	Provision of sanitary facilities (twin toilets), water supply and landscaping near the lighthouse at Point-Pedro in the Jaffna district.	8,998,445.24	-	Work in progress
13	Construction of tourist facilities at Puliyaamunai Lagoon in Kokkilai	9,903,128.85	2,031,618.98	Work in progress
14	Purchase of a passenger boat for Puliyaamunai Lagoon, Kokkilai for the development of an eco-tourism site	9,946,606.00	7,696.00	Work in progress
15	Renovation of the Mannar Dutch Fort	15,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
16	Development of the courtyard and access road in front of the Samadhi Buddha Statue at the Monaragala Temple in Rambadagalle	9,821,141.13	-	Provisions have been granted.
17	Development of the road leading from the Alankudawa Catholic Cemetery to the beach by laying tar	4,537,368.1	-	Work in progress
18	Construction of a car park at the Kandakuliya Kudawa Beach	4,528,456.77	-	Work in progress
19	Development of the road leading to the beach at Eththal Erumbukudal by laying tar	21,828,766.44	-	Work in progress
20	Construction of a sanitation system for the Kasakele camping site in Kalpitiya	12,863,833.64	-	Work in progress
21	Formulation of the Master Plan for North Western Province	5,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
22	Construction of a tourist facility center in the vicinity of the Seethawaka Wetland Park	18,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
23	Construction of the stairs leading to the Ranmudu Falls	850,000.00	-	Work in progress

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
24	Carpeting of the road from the beginning of the St. Anthony's Road (Serendib Hotel) at Eththukala to the Bypass in Sujiman Villa	4,276,303.65	-	Work in progress
25	Concreting the pedestrian walkways from the bridge over the Hamilton Canal (Walking Bridge) to St. Sylvester's Road at Eththukala.	211,727.11	-	Work in progress
26	Concreting the road section (near the St. Sebastian's Statue) in front of the Tourist Police at Palangathuraya to the house No.100/3/A and section from House No. 9/16 to the previously concreted place.	1,995,526.37	-	Work in progress
27	Renovating, installing electric lamps, preparing handrails of the bridge over Hamilton Canal along the road (Walking Bridge) connecting the St. Sylvester's Road and Kattuwa Railway Station Road at Etthukala on St. Anthony's Road near Kattuwa Railway Station in Negombo Divisional Secretary's Division,	3,811,676.37	-	Work in progress
28	Construction of a drain on St. Anthony's Road in Etthukala Grama Niladhari's Division No.73 of Negombo Divisional Secretariat	3,292,470.48	-	Work in progress
29	Development of the area near the Rambewa Lake as a resting and tourist attraction park	9,999,780.33	-	Work in progress
30	Tourism project to showcase the Palugaswewa 'Ellanga' system, a world heritage site of agriculture associated with the irrigation civilization of Anuradhapura	7,078,639.21	-	Provisions have been granted.

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
31	Tourism project to showcase the Palugaswewa 'Ellanga' system, a world heritage site of agriculture associated with the irrigation civilization of Anuradhapura (Information Center)	4,297,317.99	-	Provisions have been granted.
32	Galenbindunuwewa Kahatagasdigiya Tourism Project (Purchase of rafts and kayaks)	2,700,000.00	-	Provisions have been granted
33	Construction of a Tree House for Tourism Project at Galenbindunuwewa, Kahatagasdigiya	7,011,000.00	-	Work in progress
34	Empowering small-scale entrepreneurs to facilitate tourism promotion in the Wilpattu National Park	5,874,028.73	-	Work in progress
35	Project to obtain Blue Flag certification for Arugam Bay Beach	9,421,052.00	-	Work in progress
36	Development of the access road to Marble Beach	30,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
37	Establishment of a recreational park with water sports facilities at Lagoon Drive, Kattankudy.	9,600,000.00	-	Work in progress
38	Establishment of sanitary facilities for tourists at Kattankudy Beach.	9,840,000.00	-	Work in progress
39	Establishment of tourist resting facilities at Kattankudy	9,950,000.00	-	Work in progress
40	Water sports boats for tourists at Kattankudy Lagoon	9,900,000.00	-	Work in progress
41	Eco cruises, boat trips for tourists in Kattankudy	9,800,000.00	-	Work in progress
42	Repair of a beach cleaning vehicle - Kattankudy	6,900,000.00	-	Work in progress
43	Construction of concrete drainage on the Eravur Lagoon's entrance road (Mari Amman Kovil Road).	10,000,000.00	-	Work in progress

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
44	Renovation of the Dutch Fort in Batticaloa	1,950,000.00	-	Work in progress
45	Development of access roads to Brandigala Tourist Village	5,991,633.45	47,115.00	Work in progress
46	Saluapullana Lake- Granite paving on the tank embankment from near the Office of the Farmers' Association to the spillway.	9,888,889.79	-	Provisions have been granted.
47	Culvert and road construction at Hunnasingiriya Tourist Destination	9,907,151.52	-	Work in progress
48	Development of a green belt in front of Dambulla Rajamaha Viharaya	9,822,493.81	-	Work in progress
49	Development of tourist facilities at Kawetayamuna Rajamaha Viharaya	4,094,681.37	-	Work in progress
50	Regularization of boat parking and construction of jetties at Gregory Lake	9,748,909.20	1,899,328.00	Work in progress
51	Providing facilities for the Viewpoint at Pidurutalagala Peak	2,705,288.67	-	Work in progress
52	Development of parking facilities and a public toilet system for tourists at Mandaramnuwara	7,004,412.68	-	Work in progress
53	Development of an Open Viewpoint at Mandaramnuwara	2,818,303.75	-	Work in progress
54	Improvement of sanitary facilities at Patna Tourist Zone in Deniyaya (Construction of a new toilet system adjacent to the Public Library at Kotapola)	2,584,383.54	-	Work in progress
55	Cleaning of the Canal at Mirissa, Udupila and building of gabion walls	9,800,000.00	-	Work in progress
56	Development of Sunandarama Road, Mirissa with a drainage system	9,693,855.15	-	Work in progress

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
57	Development of the road section from Peter's Place to the Piumi's House on the Roundabout Road-230 meters (Roundabout Road at Piwarathana Mawatha)	6,972,101.30	-	Work in progress
58	Development of the road section from near the Samagipura Buddha Statue in Nilwella (Piwarathana Mawatha) to Peter's Place (Phase 1) (From Hilltop Heaven to Co House)	4,516,822.60	-	Work in progress
59	Construction of locker rooms to store tourists' luggage and camping equipment from the No. 03 solar powered lamppost to the No. 05 solar powered lamppost on the Weligama beach	9,998,725.28	-	Work in progress
60	Construction of locker rooms to store tourists' luggage and camping equipment from near the Pelena estuary in Weligama to the No. 02 solar powered lamppost	9,998,725.28	-	Work in progress
61	Development of the drainage system on the Polhena road (140 meters)	2,841,043.19	-	Work in progress
62	Development of the drainage system on the Polhena - Madiha road (120 meters)	3,837,628.96	-	Work in progress
63	Development of the access road to Parrot Rock in Bandaramulla	8,159,286.40	-	Work in progress
64	Development of the road from near Mr. Galison's house to Pathaswala Road in Rekawa	1,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
65	Development of the access road to Andagalawella beach	1,999,932.10	-	Work in progress

S/N	Name of the Development Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (Rs.)	Current Status
66	Development of the tourist zone around the Welipathanwila fishing harbor	10,000,000.00	-	Work in progress
67	Development of the middle section of the Moraketiara-Walauwatta road	1,999,626.51	-	Provisions have been granted.
68	Development of the remaining section of the Sea Road at Unakuruwa West	1,999,099.55	-	Provisions have been granted

Table 6: Progress of Tourist Attraction Development Projects.

Source: Development Division

1.2.5.1.2 Development of the Pinnawala-Kithulgala Tourism Corridor

A sum of Rs. 300 million has been allocated by the 2025 budget estimate for the development of the Pinnawala-Kithulgala Tourism Corridor. The objective of this program is to develop the main tourist attractions around the Pinnawala-Kithulgala Tourism Corridor, transforming them into a well-equipped tourist zone.

This program is implemented through the Urban Development Authority and the Kegalle District Secretariat.

Its progress is summarized in the table below.

No.	Project	Allocation in 2025(Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025	Current Status
1	Development of the car park in front of the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage	36,611,560.00	-	Work in progress
2	Development of the Kataram Oya access road and improvement of tourist facilities	42,350,998.80	-	Work in progress
3	Development of the car park of the Pinnawala Zoo by laying interlocks and construction of a toilet system	39,064,450.70	-	Work in progress
4	Concreting of the Asupini Ella Deiyawala access road	34,061,674.18	-	Work in progress

No.	Project	Allocation in 2025(Rs.)	Expenditure as at 30.09.2025	Current Status
5	Uduwa-Dothal Oya Road Development Project, connecting Bulathkohupitiya Divisional Secretariat and Aranayake Divisional Secretariat	50,784,000.00	-	Work in progress

Table 7: Progress of the Pinnawala-Kithulgala Tourism Corridor Development Project.

Source: Development Division

1.2.5.2 Issuance of Free Visas

Cabinet Decision No. 24/1650/601/099, dated 21.08.2024 and Cabinet Decision No. අමප/24/1793/619/029, dated 02.09.2024 approved the implementation of visa-free entry for tourists for citizens of 40 countries.

Since certain sections of the Immigrants and Emigrants Act need to be amended in carrying out legal proceedings under it regarding the issuance of free visas, the Department of Immigration and Emigration is currently taking measure in this regard.

1.2.5.3 Expo 2025

- The Government of Japan has invited Sri Lanka to participate in the World Expo 2025 to be held in Osaka from 13 April to 13 October 2025 under the theme “**Designing Future Society for our Lives**”.
- Sri Lanka focuses mainly on the “**Sustainable Management of Marine Resources**” (Marine Tourism).
- The primary focus is on improving the image of the country instead of promoting tourism.
- As per Cabinet Decision No.: අමප/23/0430/615/016, dated 27.02.2023, the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau was authorized to register for Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan.
- The Managing Director of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau has been appointed as the Commissioner General of the Sri Lanka Expo Secretariat.
- The provisional estimated cost of the exhibition is approximately Rs. 248 million, of which 50% will be borne by the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

1.2.5.4 Foreign Aid Projects

Projects implemented under foreign grants are directly managed by the donor agencies and the Development Division carries out the necessary coordination and follow-up activities.

1.2.5.4.1 Sustainable Tourism Development Program implemented by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Policy Based Loan for Policy Measures (STSDP)

The Asian Development Bank has made a financial allocation of US\$ 100 million for a tourism sector development program. This sector development program is to be provided as a policy component loan of US\$ 70 million and an investment component loan of US\$ 30 million.

The policy components to be fulfilled for the financial allocation of \$70 million have now been finalized. The Sustainable Tourism Development Program is to be implemented in Sigiriya and Trincomalee under a loan based on the investment component of \$30 million and is being implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction and Housing.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction and Housing and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism forwarded a joint Cabinet Memorandum on 03.09.2025, and the Cabinet approval has also been received for it.

1.2.5.4.2 Market Development Facility (MDF)

The objective of this project is to foster inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction. The project period is from 01 March 2022 to 30 June 2027, and the estimated total cost is AUD 12.1 million. Funding for this project is provided by the Australian Government.



PROGRESS REPORT

2025

**SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY**



02

SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) constitutes the primary statutory body mandated with comprehensive oversight of the tourism sector in Sri Lanka. Established pursuant to Section 2 of the Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005, the Authority operates under a strategic vision to position Sri Lanka as the foremost tourism destination within the Asian continental market.

SLTDA's institutional mandate encompasses four principal functional domains: strategic planning and policy formulation, tourism infrastructure and destination development, regulatory governance and compliance management, and sectoral policy implementation across tourism and tourism-related industries. The SLTDA's operational scope includes tourism planning and development, licensing and registration of tourism service providers, quality standards development and enforcement, human resource development through training and capacity building programs, investment facilitation and promotion, statistical data compilation and research, and coordination mechanisms with public and private sector stakeholders to ensure coherent sectoral development aligned with national economic objectives.

Vision

"To be recognized as the world's finest island for compact, authentic and diverse experience"

Mission

"To be a high value destination offering extraordinary experiences that reflect Sri Lanka's natural and cultural heritage, socially inclusive and environmentally responsible and provide economic benefits to communities and the country"

Objectives of SLTDA

The objectives of the SLTDA as per the Section 3A of Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005

- a) To develop Sri Lanka as a tourist and travel destination both in Sri Lanka and abroad.
- b) To advise the Minister in charge on the subject of Tourism on matters relating to travel and the tourism industry, within the policy formulated by the Cabinet of Ministers, in relation to this sector.
- c) To provide guidance to the SLTPB to develop, promote and market Sri Lanka as a tourist and travel destination both in Sri Lanka and abroad.
- d) To provide guidance to the SLITHM to undertake human resource training and development activities.
- e) To work towards the enhancement of the tourism and travel sectors in order to secure a contribution for the expansion and development of Sri Lanka's economy.
- f) To develop and promote adequate, attractive, and efficient tourist services, inclusive of the hospitality industry in a sustainable manner.

- g) To license and accredit tourist enterprises in order to develop, enforce and maintain locally and internationally accepted standards in relation to the tourism industry and other related industries.
- h) To encourage persons or bodies of persons in the private sector to participate in the promotion of the tourism industry and the promotional and training activities connected with such industry.
- i) To do all such other acts as may be necessary or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objectives.

Organogram

SLTDA ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



1. Tourism Planning & Development & IRU

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Yala Wild Resort Development Implementation of prioritized infrastructural development based on Master Plan recommendations and maintaining resort area as a Conservancy	<p>As far as tourism investment projects are concerned, in addition to Jetwing and Cinnamon properties, seven more plots of 7-8 acre each lands were approved for investment projects and leased out to seven investors; out of these, three are in commercial operations (Wild Coast, Uga Chena Huts and Hilton), while one is in trial run (Kotiyagala) ; one more project is under construction and one in the IRU approval process. The other project is on hold due to an ongoing court case.</p> <p>The construction of the Yala site office and entrance structure is on hold pending the decision on the continuation of the appointed project consultant. For the construction of common access road to address its current issues, an initial study was carried out by the Tissamaharama Pradeshiya Sabha in consultation with all stakeholder hotels and designs were completed with estimates. The tender document too were submitted to carry out the procurement process to select a contractor. For the painting works of electricity and telephone posts inside the resort, the tender was called and it is under evaluation stage.</p> <p>The SLTDA together with the operating hotels within Yala wild resort using the common access road for entry, continued the efforts to declare the Yala wild resort area as Palatupana Special Protected Area – a Conservancy. During first three quarters of 2025, the finalization of the proposed MoU, developing structure and articles of the Guarantee company to be formed by the investor hotels were completed and SLTDA intends to sign the MoU during the last quarter of 2025.</p>	37.60 Mn	0.34 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	We also worked with DWLC (Department of Wild Life Conservation) and the Survey department and reopened boundaries of the SLTDA's property and clearly demarcate the 1 mile buffer zone, to provide clarity to proceed with some of the proposed investment projects including camping sites.		
Kalpitiya Island Resort Development Implementation of prioritized infrastructural development based on Master Plan recommendations	<p>At the start of the year 2025, 10 islands were leased out; Vellai I, II & III were leased out to M/s Sun Resort Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, but they and follow up with investor to commence the construction. Currently the investor not interested to develop the resort due to the approvals and restrictions. On the other hand, the Ippantivu Island leased out to Qube Lanka Leisure (Pvt) Ltd, had not commenced work citing many reasons including the issue of the fishing community using a small part of the island. We have communicated to the investor in writing to commence project work, failing which we intend to take necessary steps as per the signed lease agreement. From the other six islands lease out to five investors, four islands are in the IRU approval process, while 2 are still adjusting their designs. The Balance two islands – Uchchamunai and Battalangundawa were advertised, calling EOIs from potential investors and bids will be closed on 13th October 2025.</p> <p>The ownership of the Palaviya TIC building was officially handed over to the Ministry of Tourism by the DS-Kalpitiya and in return it was given by the Ministry to the SLTDA to commence building refurbishment works. Although the designs were done for the building refurbishment works, it was put on hold pending the decision on the continuation of the appointed consultant.</p> <p>The SLTDA had initial discussions with the PRDA and DS-Kalpitiya to start the design work for the common Jetty in the mainland.</p>	7.00 Mn	-

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Dedduwa Lake Resort Master Plan preparation, demarcation and fencing of existing land boundaries and obtaining beach access	<p>The TOR was prepared to develop the master plan with feasibility study, but it was put on hold due to encroachment issues. However, we did publish newspaper advertisements calling EOI for the cleared lands and bids will be closed on 13th October 2025.</p> <p>Land demarcation and fencing work could not proceed due to encroachment issues, price escalations and less support from ground level government officers. At a meeting held in June/July chaired by the Deputy Tourism Minister and attended by DS-Bentota and other key stakeholders, the DS-Bentota was instructed to drive and resolve the encroachment issues by end 2025 in order to clear land boundaries. We are in discussion with DS-Bentota to expedite this matter.</p> <p>For obtaining beach access for the Dedduwa project, surveying of approx.12 Hectares of land was carried out with the assistance of DS-Bentota and approx. 70% land owners were identified. This work will continue in quarter 4.</p>	1.5 Mn	-
Kuchchaweli Beach Resort Implementation of prioritized infrastructural developments based on Master Plan recommendations	<p>So far six investors have leased out a total of 79 acres of land plots in the resort and another five investment proposals totaling to 82 acres are cleared and in re-assessment for approval for leasing. After leaving 137 acres for elephant habitat and 138 acres for common facilities, road and public areas as per master plan, the balance area of approximately 74 Acres of vacant/available lands were advertised calling EOIs from potential investors and the bids will be closed on 13th October 2025.</p> <p>The designs were completed for the site office, but need to complete sub division approval with assessment number from the Local Authority (PS), on which we are working. However, the</p>	4.5 Mn	-

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	<p>project is hold due to the pending decision on the continuation of the selected project consultants.</p> <p>The common access road development in Lot No. 05 of Kuchchaweli resort, the estimate was prepared and submitted to the procurement division to proceed with the process to award the contract.</p>		
<p>New Resort Development</p> <p>To Develop, Operate and Maintain the SLTDA owned theme resorts at international standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaffna • Mannar • Pidurangala <p>Rasoolthottam</p>	<p>The Divisional Secretariat of Delft Island had sent a letter to Provincial Land Commissioner stating that this land vesting was not tabled at the DCC meeting. The Provincial Land Commissioner had requested the Delft DS to submit to the next DCC. The SLTDA is awaiting the vesting order to proceed further.</p> <p>Regarding the Mannar land for a theme resort, the SLTDA had continuous discussions with the DS-Mannar during the second quarter of 2025, as there were land owners who were not willing to give the identified land. Subsequently, another site visit was arranged by DS-Mannar and other key officers and identified owners within land area of 140 acres for the proposed resort development work to move forward. Following up with the DS to proceed accordingly.</p> <p>For the Pidurangala land and the cleared lands in Rasoolthottam, newspaper advertisements calling EOIs were published and the bids will be closing on 13th October 2025.</p>	6.30 Mn	0.06 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
<p>Supporting and Promoting Provincial Level Tourism Products & Services</p> <p>Development of Tourism at Provincial level with provincial bodies and local communities</p>	<p>The SLTDA started work with the Western Province Tourism Bureau to implement international standard name boards in the province and accordingly, they have started the procurement process. Once completed in quarter 4, SLTDA will provide funding support.</p> <p>The SLTDA also progressed with the Ministry of Health to financially support the upgrade/create of special paying wards for tourists in identified hospitals. SLTDA and MoH had jointly selected three hospitals for stage 1 development and we hope to start work of Tissamaharama hospital during the year, as they have submitted the estimate by now.</p> <p>Further we have obtained necessary board approvals to financially support improving service levels for tourists in Ella and Negombo areas by assisting in garbage and cleaning matters. The relevant local authorities are in the procurement process to implement tasks by quarter 4 and we will fund accordingly on successful task completion.</p>	33.00 Mn	-
<p>Tourism Zone Development through Tourism Development Master Plans (TDMPs)</p> <p>To have tourism development master plans for zones and implementation of identified priority actions</p>	<p>The final report of the Nuwara Eliya TDMP was submitted to the President's office for review. Further, the TDMP components falling within the Greater Nuwara Eliya area mainly focusing on Nuwara Eliya MC have been incorporated into the Greater Nuwara Eliya Development Plan and published. The balance parts will be incorporated into the Development Plans of the respective local authority areas. Still the Final Report is pending from the UDA awaiting confirmation.</p> <p>The Hikkaduwa TDMP is prepared aligned with the Hikkaduwa Development Plan. The Hikkaduwa TDMP draft final was submitted to SLTDA and after review & final stakeholder</p>	34.70 Mn	1.396 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	<p>meeting, we expect to have the Hikkaduwa TDMP final report from the UDA by December 2025.</p> <p>In the Kalpitiya TDMP, the interim report and inception Report have been submitted to SLTDA. The second stakeholder meeting was held in August 2025 and the work is progressing well. The draft final report is expected to be ready by End-November 2025 and after the review, we expect the final report to be ready by early January 2026.</p> <p>The erosion of Calido Beach had resulted in destroying of the tourism zone around Kalutara. Thus, based on a request from the Hoteliers' Association of Kalutara, the SLTDA, in collaboration with the CCD, initiated measures to provide a solution for this disaster affecting the tourism zone along the northern Kalutara beaches. Accordingly, the CCD had proposed a solution to rehabilitate the Kalu Ganga to restore its natural flow as it was before 2017. This involves stopping all sand mining to restore the natural sand flow and rehabilitate the eroded beaches, as if this coastal erosion is not controlled, it will continue to spread along the northern beaches, ultimately destroying not only the tourism zone in Kalutara North but also extending towards Panadura. This idea was communicated to all key stakeholders collectively by CCD & SLTDA, but unfortunately, some local authorities and officials in Kalutara misunderstood the proposed solution and raised concerns about its implementation. As a result, the CCD appointed a Special Expert Committee to review and evaluate the proposal. The Expert Committee had completed their study and their report was released. It is expected to be discussed at the upcoming DCC meeting of Kalutara on 17th October 2025 and decide on the implementation. The SLTDA intends to provide financial support for the implementation of sand bar restoration work.</p>		

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
To Develop New Products and Experiences Implementation of prioritized action points identified through the marine tourism road map	With technical assistance from the ADB, the Marine Tourism Road Map for Sri Lanka was prepared and launched in April 2025. As per this road map, the SLTDA initiated action and provided funding support to the Coast Conservation Department to install the geo bags at the Whisky point tourism destination in Arugambay to mitigate sea erosion and to secure waves for the surfing activity. The SLTDA intends to continue working with other relevant agencies to implement prioritized identified actions of the Marine Tourism Road Map.	25.25 Mn	15.06 Mn
To Provide decent working environment for office staff and visitors Redesign and re arrange office space and key areas with furniture, fittings and equipment as necessary.	Smart screen with smart board option was procured for the IRU section to facilitate investor projects and drawings. For the Planning & development section, the tender documents were submitted to the procurement division to proceed with the purchasing of required furniture and fittings for the divisional meeting room.	1.35 Mn	0.346 Mn.
IRU - Organizing Joint site inspections	Received 88 projects in the year of 2025. And 87 Joint Site inspections related to these projects have been successfully completed within the year.	2.75 Mn	2 1.92 Mn
IRU - Organizing Scoping Committee Meetings	Successfully completed 12 Scoping Committee meetings with 62 tourism projects. Issued 59 Preliminary Clearance Letters for the above discussed projects.	5.9 Mn	2..92 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
IRU - Organizing the Event for HODs of MDAs	The most recent session, the fifth of its kind, took place on 10th March 2025 at the Cumulus, Cinnamon Life Hotel. This session brought together Hon. Minister, Hon. Deputy Minister, Secretary, Chairman, Director Generals, and senior representatives from 32 government agencies. This led to a general discussion related to the IRU mechanism.	3.08 Mn	2.24 Mn
IRU - A corporate gift for HoDs including governors, Chief Secretaries, District Secretaries, Provincial Ministries and/entities	As the corporate gift for HoDs, prepared 125 branded pouches with the gift boxes. And gifted at the HoDs session.	0.72 Mn	0.55 Mn
IRU - Conducting training sessions	01 st training session was successfully conducted on 15th September 2025 with participation of SLTDA staff. Ms. Shyama Harshanee, Registrar of Companies joined as a resource person from Registrar of companies.	0.40 Mn	0.059 Mn
IRU - Printing of Applications, Investor Handbooks and dockets in all 3 languages and printing of country brochure	500 applications, 500 handbooks and 500 dockets were printed.	3.00 Mn	1.16 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
IRU - Identifying, monitoring, and visiting the suitable lands with potential for tourism purposes.	Lands including 30 Private own lands, 21 Divisional secretariat lands, 13 Urban development Authority lands, 1 Port Authority Zone and 7 SLTDA lands were successfully inspected.	1.00 Mn	0.13 Mn (Most of the expenses covered within collected IRU fees by conducting them together with IRU project visits).

2. DOMESTIC TOURISM & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Development of Shanthipura View Point as a tourist attraction in collaboration with Sri Lanka Air Force	Project Completed	32 Mn	27.75 Mn
Domestic Tourism - Provincial Development Programme		30 Mn	
Western Province: Construction of the Police Post to ensure the safety and protection of tourists at Mount Lavinia	Project Completed		6.36 Mn
Development of Pillikottuwa, Attanagalla and Yatapatha	W/P Tourist Board requested to develop some infrastructure facilities at 'Pilikothisuwa Rajamaha Viharaya'. Site inspection was carried out by SLTDA		0.61 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	and granted approval to release funds. Pending relevant documents from Mahara Divisional Secretariat to release the funds		
Central Province: Development of the Area-base Tourism Development Plan for Mandaran Nuwara/ Hanguranketha /Mathurata Divisional Secretariats	4 workshops and 9 online sessions were conducted to develop area based tourism plan		0.54 Mn
Eastern Province: Improving sanitary (washroom and shower) facilities in Arugam bay	Joint Site visits, with officials from NAVY, SLTDA, DS Pottuvil & Lahugala, CCD and PSs (Arugam Bay Sanitary facilities (toilets and showers) development at 03 points - panama point, elephant rock area at Lahugala and, main surfing point at Arugambay) to commence implementation of the project		0.12 Mn
Assisted in developing of the Tourism development plans working with Tourism Sub Committees	Wennapuwa DS/Puttalam, Dikwella DS/Matara, Negambo MC Gampaha, Gampaha DS, Kalutara DS, Balapitiya DS/Galle, Wattala DS/ Gampaha, Matara/DCC, Hambantota/DCC, Kandy/DCC, Gampaha DCC		0.14

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Provincial tourism progress review	Progress review with all 9 provincial tourism entities, district planning director in collaboration with DG planning MOT Scheduled to be held on 17/10/2025 at GalleFace hotel	2.0 Mn	
Capacity Building: Facilitated Refresher programmes for tourist drivers conducted by SLITHM/Facilitated Training Programmes (4day tourist driver training) for tourist drivers conducted by SLITHM/Tourist Driver Identities issued (New and Renewed)	1092 Tourist Driver ID cards printed	0.5 Mn	0.46
Workshops/Training conducted for MSME (Indirect tourist product/service providers) in collaboration with the National Craft Council and Small Entrepreneurship Development (SED) Divisions	Conducted workshops at Kurunegala, Wayaba Province and Attanagalla, Western Province	1.5 Mn	0.16
Training programmes for school children on 'Opportunities in the Tourism Sector'; together with relevant Educational Zones	School Awareness Programmes were conducted in Hambantota, Attanagalle, Homagama, Gampaha, Tangalle	5.0 Mn	1.96
Beach Cleaning programmes in collaboration with Clean Sri Lanka Secretariat and MEPA	Wattala, Weligama, Crow island, Waligama, Matara, Thalalla, Hirikatiya, Devi Nuwara, Arugam Bay, Kalpitiya		0.62
Knowledge sharing sessions on lifesaving ensuring visitor safety and Protection	01 sessions was conducted in		0.05

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	Waligama, Southern Province		
Awareness programme conducted on improving the quality of tourist service providers concerning cruise tourism	01 sessions was conducted in Hambantota, Southern Province		0.07
Capacity building programme - local government officials	A programme was conducted for the local government officials of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya districts of the Northern Province on roles and functions of SLTDA		0.56
Community awareness programmes on Tourism Sector in collaboration with the WPTB	Community awareness programmes		0.19
Exhibitions supported	Eastern University in Trincomalee, Unlock future in Gampaha and World Ocean Day by MEPA		0.63
Emergency Assistance Emergency relief provided for tourists to ensure the safety and protection	Assisted tourist on emergency situations for Russian, Algerian, Netherland, Iran, United Kingdom and New Zealand nationals and Assisted in providing translation facilities to Tourist Police in French, Thai, Chinese, Ukraine, Russian languages	1.00 Mn	0.36

3. HUMAN RESOURCES & PREMISES MANAGEMENT

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation (Recurrent Progress relevant to HR)	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
General Administration	Recruitments Completed (2025) Based on Cabinet approval (19.02.2025), filled two critical vacancies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director/ Legal • Director/ Resort Management Recruitment process ongoing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Director/ Financial Management 	545.99 Mn	230.99 Mn
Supplies		238.08 Mn	86.76 Mn
Other Expenses		23.40 Mn	-
To create a conducive working environment for SLTDA staff and visitors	We have followed the proper procurement process and the repair work of the generator is carried out accordingly by the selected company, which will be completed by December 2025. Further, with procurement approval, we have purchased 10 AC units for relevant replacements including tourist police office. Other works of purchasing vital furniture and space arrangements for TDL unit will be carried out in quarter 4.	32.00 Mn	7.15 Mn

4. RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Membership in the International Tourism Organization, including UN Tourism, PATA, and GSTC	Renewed the membership of UN Tourism, PATA and GSTC for the year 2025	30.00	25 Mn
Participation in the International Conference, Forum, Workshops, Meetings, and Trainings organised by International Organizations such as UN Tourism, PATA, and GSTC	Facilitated the participation of officers for 08 Foreign Conferences and Training Programs	10.00	3.9 Mn
Organize an event to celebrate World Tourism Day - 2025	Commemorated World Tourism Day - 2025 in collaboration with the University of Colombo Disbursed money for the Provincial Tourism Authorities for the Celebration of World Tourism Day - 2025	10.00	10 Mn
Compilation of Tourism Satellite Account	The surveys on inbound and outbound tourists have been completed. Preparations are underway to conduct the Domestic Tourism Survey by the Department of Census and Statistics	22 Mn	14 Mn was funded by MDF for the two surveys. 19Mn has been allocated to DCS.
Research on economic leakage in accommodation, travel agents and wellness sectors	Research was completed and findings are ready to be disseminated.	7.5Mn	7.5Mn
Development of visitor experience model and best practices for visitor management	Research was completed and a workshop was held to validate the findings and to identify key actions for the future developments in relation to visitor experience and visitor	15Mn	15Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	management at ten key attractions.		
Publish periodic reports	Publications on Weekly tourist arrivals, Monthly tourist arrivals, Tourism Industry Report, Growth Scenarios and other new reports such as Visitor arrivals and travel trends based on telecommunication data were published on time and were disseminated.	2Mn	These were published as E reports and designing was done inhouse and no cost was incurred.
Improve Tourism Statistics	Purchased telecommunication data for the analysis of tourist trend and travel patterns	10Mn	4.5Mn

5. ICT DIVISION

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
ICT Infrastructure - Server Implementation	New server for on-prem requirements were successfully implemented with about 12 virtual servers running on it.	3.65 Mn	3.65 Mn
ICT Infrastructure - End User Improvements	10 end computing units were upgraded under capital, with more than 30 unit repairs covered under recurrent expenditure.	5.6 Mn	2.67 Mn
ICT Infrastructure - Maintenance	Secure and Robust infrastructure maintenance with minimum downtimes for Online Systems, Web Presence, Email platform and end user computing.	53 Mn	35.26 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Introduction of value adding online systems	Five (05) such in-house developed online systems were introduced, enhancing convenience, transparency and efficiency to industry clients and internal departments.	No extra cost	

6.RESORTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Maintaining and Refurbishing of the NHR Bentota	Construction of Beach Road between Thaala and Cinnamon Bentota Hotels	4.5 Mn	4.5 Mn
Installation of Solar Powered Street lights at NHR Bentota	Board approval Received.Pending issuance of the Letter of awards	18.00 Mn	0
Consortium service for the construction and refurbishment work at NHR-Passikudah	Consultancy Fee	4.0 Mn	3.5 Mn

6. INTERNAL AUDIT DIVISION

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Preparation of audit reports	2.1 risk audit reports were completed	-	-

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Convening of Audit & Management Committee meetings	3 Meetings were conducted	0.43 Mn	0.19 Mn
Progress - Based on current progress, approximately 70% of the Plan has been covered (i.e. the universe of audits scheduled for the year).			

7. LEGAL DIVISION

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Enforcement Activities officially commenced on 29th September 2025. One Inspection was carried out, covering 21 places in Dehiwala- Mount Lavinia Municipal Council Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> court cases currently being handled Number of service agreements finalized: 06 	01Mn	23,000/-
Total number of complaints attended -112			
Number of Court cases concluded- 08		01Mn	150,000/-
Number of Court Cases currently being handled - 57			
Number of Service Agreements finalized - 06			
Attended meetings at the Land Ministry and other relevant institutions			
Provided legal advice to the Resort Management Division,			

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
TP & Development Division, and S & QA Division			
Cleared a number of Land Bank files			
Attended site inspections at Nilaveli and Kuchchaweli lands.			

8. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM UNIT

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Sustainable Destination Development	2 International Auditors from Green Destinations visited Sri Lanka in January and physically audited Sigiriya Sustainable Tourism Destination	UNDP Funds	UNDP Funds
	Sigiriya was awarded the Green Destinations Bronze Award at the ITB Berlin in March 2025, becoming the 1st Sustainable Tourism Destination in Sri Lanka		
	The STU organized a two-day workshop and exposure visit for officials from provincial tourism authorities on May 22–23, 2025 in Sigiriya. The programme aimed to enhance knowledge and capacity in sustainable and community-based tourism development	1 Mn	1 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	Felicitation event was organised on 6th June 2025 to appreciate stakeholders who contributed to Sigiriya to achieve Sri Lanka's 1st Sustainable Tourism Destination status.	1 Mn	1 Mn
Inclusive Tourism Economy	Certificate awarding ceremony for 100 SMEs for sustainable tourism on 21st July, 2025	UNDP Funds	UNDP Funds

10. STANDARDS & QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Informal Sector Absorption including physical, virtual awareness programs, Mobile services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Awareness programs Island wide 07 Mobile Services 	2.0 Mn	1.20 Mn
1. Registrations & Renewals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism services & establishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tour Guides 2. Inspections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 656 - New Registrations 2075- Renewals 200- New registrations 3471 - Renewals 4360 - Conducted inspections for Tourism services & establishments 	17.0 Mn	- 6.2 Mn
Classification inspections to classify Tourist Hotels, Heritage Hotels, Eco Lodge & Boutique Hotels/Villas	17 establishments	4.0 Mn	2.36 Mn
New Guideline Development & Revisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellness Tourism (New) 	0.40 Mn	0.12 Mn

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotel Classification (Revision) Tourist Restaurant (Revision) 		
Training of Staff & Inspection Officers on new guidelines and standards	02 Training programs for Inspection officers	1.50 Mn	(Sponsored by Donor Agencies)

11. FINANCE DIVISION

Activity	Physical progress (in words not as a percentage)	Budgetary allocation	Financial progress (Amount spent in LKR)
Overall Performance of SLTDA	As mentioned under each division.	As per the original budget, the budgetary allocation for the capital project is Rs.Mn 868.61 As per the revised budget, the budgetary allocation for <u>LKR</u> 269.65 <u>Mn</u>	Financial progress is <u>LKR</u> 61.02 <u>Mn</u> as at 30/09/2025

Tourism Planning & Development & IRU

Marine Tourism Road Map Launch



Yala Resort Survey Work



Domestic Tourism & Community Relations

Capacity Building programme for Officers from the Northern Province



Beach cleaning programme at Mount Lavinia

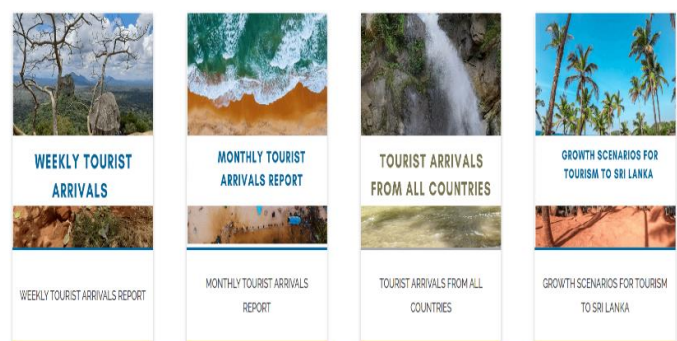


Research and International Relations

Workshop and visitor experience and visitor management



Research publications



Resorts Management Division

Newly constructed Bentota beach roads



Sustainable Tourism Unit

Winning the Bronze award
for Sigiriya by Green Destinations



Awareness and workshop for officers from provincial



Standards & Quality Assurance Division

Mobile services for tourism service providers



Awareness programme for SMES



Sri Lanka

YOU'LL COME BACK FOR MORE

**SRI LANKA TOURISM
PROMOTION BUREAU**

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**SRI LANKA TOURISM PROMOTION BUREAU****Introduction**

Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) is established under the Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005 of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Bureau is currently functioning under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign bureau and Tourism. The Bureau plays a key role in promoting and marketing Sri Lanka as a tourist and travel destination globally. SLTPB is mainly conducting activities in areas of Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations, Events and New Product Development.

Objectives

These objectives are applicable for SLTPB on the scale that the promotion of Sri Lanka as a brand towards increasing the tourist arrivals that would support the achievement of targeted foreign exchange earnings to revive the economy of Sri Lanka.

1. Achieve target foreign exchange earnings of \$3.5 billion from tourism by 2025.
2. Increase daily tourist in-country spend around \$140 from a baseline of \$181

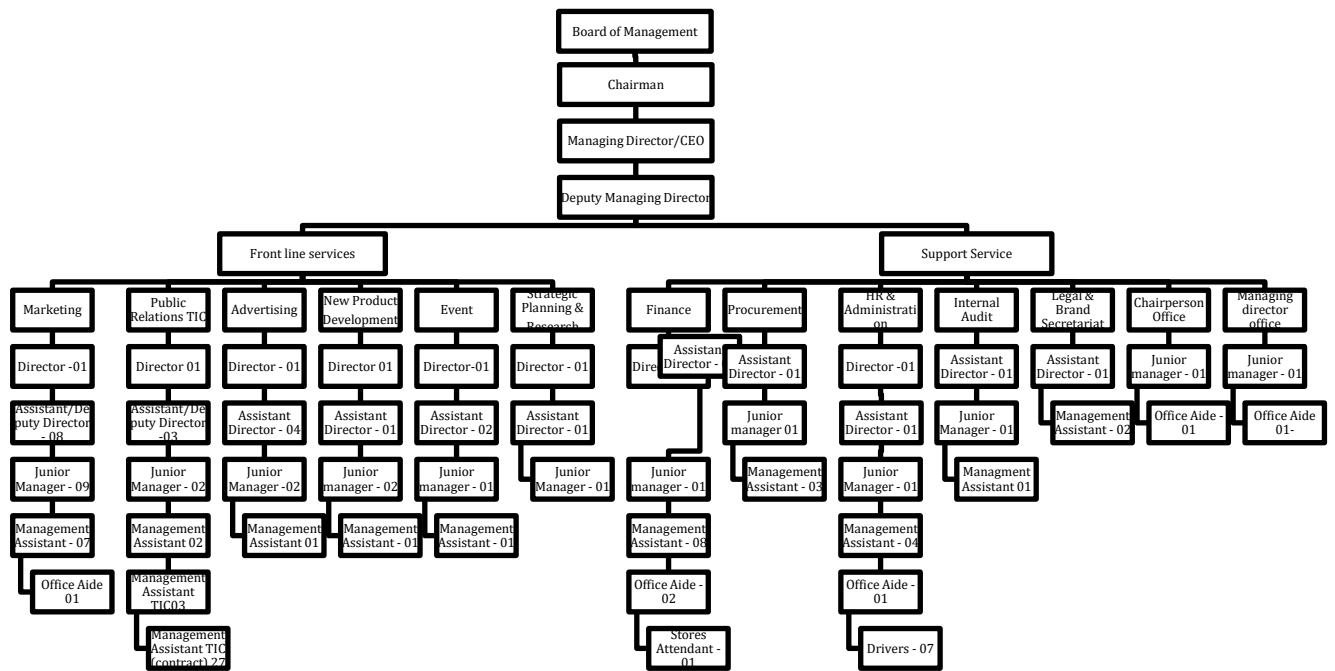
Vision

“To be recognized as the world’s finest island destination for memorable, authentic and diverse experiences.”

Mission

“To be a high-value destination offering extraordinary experiences that reflect Sri Lanka’s natural and cultural heritage, are socially inclusive and environmentally responsible, and provide economic benefits to communities and the country”.

Organizational Structure



Marketing

Travel, Tourism Fairs, Road Shows, Press conferences & Networking events

Across the period commencing at the outset and extending through Q3 2025., the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau actively engaged in a variety of initiatives, including travel and tourism fairs, roadshows, press conferences, and networking events. These efforts were designed to strengthen relationships within the global travel community and promote Sri Lanka as an attractive destination. By participating in major travel fairs and hosting roadshows in key markets, the bureau showcased the island's unique offerings, from its stunning beaches and lush landscapes to its rich cultural heritage. Press conferences facilitated direct communication with media representatives, ensuring that compelling stories about Sri Lanka reached a wider audience. Additionally, networking events provided valuable opportunities for stakeholders, industry partners, and travel agents to connect, collaborate, and share insights, ultimately driving tourism growth and fostering a deeper understanding of Sri Lanka's potential as a premier travel destination.

Organize the International Marketing and Overseas Promotion Programs

Table No. 1

Activity	Completed activities as at 30 September
Travel Fairs	17
Road shows	07 (India/China/Korea/Saudi Arabia/Russia/Denmark/Norway/Finland and Sweden)
Consumer promotions	02 (Switzerland Sweden,)
Trade & Media Fams	9 countries (India, China, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Switzerland, Russia, Nordic, Sweden)
Mission support	07 (UK, Germany, France, Netherlands, India, USA)

1.International travel fairs- organizing Travel fairs

Table No 2

No	Country City	Name of the Fair	Duration	Status as at 30 September 2025
1	Netherlands, Utrecht	Vakantiebeurs	8-12 January	20 SL companies. 2100 exhibitors. 100 sq. meter area.
2	Austria, Vienna	Ferien	16-19 January	14 SL Companies. More than 71,000 visitors
3	India, Surat	Global village	21-27 January	70 Sri Lankan travel trade companies. 2100 exhibitors
4	Spain, Madrid	FITUR	22 – 26 January	28 SL companies. attracted a record-breaking 255,000 attendees
5	India, Mumbai	OTM	30 – 01 February	72 travel companies sharing 360 sq.m area

6	India, New Delhi	SATTE	19-21 February	70 Sri Lankan travel trade companies. 2100 exhibitors
7	Germany, Berlin	ITB	4-6 March	68 companies and Sri Lankan Airlines
8	Czech Republic, Prague	Holiday World	14-16 March	14 SL Companies, attendees at about 30,000
9	Dubai, UAE	ATM and press conference	28 Apr' - 01 May	Tradefair-70 companies and Sri Lankan Airlines, attendees 55,000 Press conference-60 media participants
10	Guangzhou, China	GITF	17 - 19 May	12 SL Companies, Agents 320 and public attendees 68,000
11	Busan, Korea	SITF	5 -8 June	20 SL Companies Won 3 remarkable awards
12	UK	Bird Fair	11-13 July	10 SL Companies, More than 100,000 visitors
13	Ahmedabad, India	TTF	31 July -02 Aug	37 Sri Lankan companies (Most Promising International Destination") award
14	Russia	Leisure	10 - 12 Sept	17 SL Companies
15	France	IFTM	23 - 25 Sept	30 SL companies including Sri Lanka Airlines, 6,000 to the booth
16	Japan	JATA	25-28 Sept	15 Companies, attendees, attendees 126,900
17	Turkey	Istanbul Travel Fair	24-26 Sept	12 SL Companies

2. Organizing International Roadshows/Consumer

Table No. 3

No	Country	Name of the Roadshow/Consumer	Duration	Status as at 30 September 2025
1	India	Lucknow, Chandigarh, Jaipur	23,25,27 June	SL Companies - 33
2	China	Shanghai, Guangzhou, Nanjing	29 March - 1 April	SL Companies - 12
3	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh, Dammam	22- 24 April	SL companies - 21
4	Korea	Seoul, Busan	09 & June	SL Companies - 23
5	Switzerland	Zurich Consumer event	12th August	Collaboration with Edelweiss
6	Russia	St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, Moscow	29th August - 4th Sep	SL companies - 12

7	China	Nanjing, Changsha, Xiamen	25-29 Aug	SL companies - 14
8	Nordic	Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden	8-11 September	SL Companies 20
9	Sweden	Stockholm Consumer event	13 September	Collaboration with Quarter Airways

3. Organizing Trade / Media/ Blogger Programmes

Table No. 4

No	Country	Travel Agents / Media / Blogger	Details / Status	Duration
1	UK	Media	Celebrity Wildlife Writer Mr. Dominic Mitchell	02 - 17 February
2	Switzerland	Media	10 members including officials of Edelweiss	13 - 21 March
3	Egypt	Influencers	02 influencers	19 - 26 February
4	Poland	ESKA TV	10-member media crew to produce a documentary "ESKA on the Beach"	09 - 20 April
5	UK	ITV -UK	05 Member TV crew to produce "ITV This Morning Show in the UK"	08 -13 March
6	India	17 agents - TAFI Madhya Pradesh	Product presentation, B2B networking session for local agents. 60 SL companies	28 April - 03 May
7	UK	Group of journalists from BGTW	A group of 34 journalists from the British Guild of Travel Writers Association (BGTW) - UK	13 - 23 May
8	Spain	Blogger / Influencer	07 Bloggers	30 May - 06 June
9	Germany	Tour Operators	10 German Tour operators. B2B session for SL companies	19 - 26 May
10	Australia	Travel Agents	10 agents	07 - 17 June
11	Latvia	Latvia RETV crew	04 Members from Latvia	21 April - 02 May
12	China	Mango TV	Reality Show	10-28 June
13	UK	Media	Into The Wild - Sri Lanka Wildlife and Nature Podcast - UK	21 ug - 01 September
14	UK	Influencer	In to the wild-podcast -UK	2-22 September
15	Australia	Influencer	5 members including photo grapher	21- 31 August
16	Meddle East	Influencers	Egypt (2 members)	19-26 February
17	Meddle East	Influencers	Egypt-including traditional Wedding (2 members)	6-14 September

18	Meddle East	1 Influencer and 1 journalist	Jordan and UAE	18-25 September
19	Poland	Influencer (Magazine)	Vogue Magazine	17-23 February
20	Poland	Influencer (2 members)	PLAAMKA	07-15 March
21	Poland	Family	Sri Lanka native Wedding with Waddas	24 August

4. Collaboration activities with mission (Mission Support activities)

Table No. 5

No	Country	Type activity consumer / Trade	Details / Status	Duration
1	UK, London	Sri Lanka Wildlife Festival	Organized by SL Embassy. 100 participants from UK	15 - 17 July
2	Netherlands	Embassy festival	Organized by the Hague Municipal Council	6 September
3	BIMSTEC	BIMSTEC third working group meeting on Tourism	Hosted the meeting with the participation of the representatives from BIMSTEC countries in Colombo.	18 March
4	France	“Sri Lanka Afternoon” at the Hirschstetten Flower Garden	The “Sri Lanka Afternoon” - cultural diplomacy and tourism promotion	07 June
5	Germany	A tourism promotion event ‘Explore Sri Lanka’	First-ever Sri Lanka tourism promotion specifically designed for the senior citizen segment	12 July
6	USA	Photography Exhibition	Promote Tourist attractions of Sri Lanka	26 April
7	UK	BGTW	Networking event with media	25 September

5. Strengthening Air Connectivity

- Launching new air routes and enhancing existing airline services.
- Offering low-cost and promotional packages through collaboration with international airlines.
- Facilitating direct access for tourists through destination upgrades.
Ex: Latvia, Luthuvenia, Moldova, Poland, Estonia

6. Promotions in collaboration with international media and television networks.

Production of reality show with Mango TV in China

SLTPB has collaborated with China’s renowned celebrity couple, Mr. Huang and Ms. Yung, who have over 120 million followers. They filmed a six-episode series in Sri Lanka, with each episode running for 90 minutes, showcasing Sri Lanka as a premier travel destination.

Duration of filming in Sri Lanka - 10th to 28th May

Total no of crew members - 58

Total Exposure gained - 600+ viewers

7. Organizing a High-Level Tourism conference with China and Maldives

SLTPB, in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka, has organized a high-level tourism conference aimed at strengthening tourism ties among stakeholders from the three countries.

The Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka attended the forum as the Chief Guest, along with H.E. the Ambassador of China to Sri Lanka, the Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China, the Chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism, leading travel agencies from China and the Maldives, state-owned media representatives from China, as well as delegates from Chinese airlines and online payment service providers.

Additionally, most members of the delegation participated in a familiarization tour following the forum, to experience and explore the key tourism offerings of the destination.

Duration; 16th to 24th June

Attendees: Government officials from China - 09, Delegates from Maldives - 06, Travel Agents - 15, Media - 07, Airlines - 03, Online payment service providers - 04

Public Relation

1.Overall Progress of Global Media Travel Influencer Promotions

Table No. 6

KPI of VBP & VJP of 2025 (As of September 2025)	
Total of Key Media and Top Ranked Influencer Host (VJP & VBP)	73
Total Returned Media Value (LKR)	205,824,687.00
Global Reach (Followership and Readership)	482,433,758
Total Expenditure to SLTPB (LKR)	25,206,450.00
Published Content (articles, posts, blogs)	3155

- **Key Project initiatives of PR**

1. 435.6 Million Reach from India with Shemaroom.com (OTT) Travel & Film Documentary Campaign with Bollyland.com
2. Media & Influencer Campaign 'Sri Lanka Story for Every Season' Launched by hosting 12 key media and travel influencers covering 07 Key Source Markets with over 2.2 Million Global Audience
3. Press Coverage on The Standard UK with 2.6 Million Daily Readers
4. Hosting Mega YouTube Channel "Chopstick Travel" with 4.6 Million Followers Base
5. Press Coverage on The New Indian Express with 536,000 Print Circulation
6. Forbes -Hungary Coverage with 800,000 UV (Online), 15,000 Prints
7. Jetsetter (HK) Coverage with 76,700 UV (Online)
8. De Morgan - Belgium Coverage with 55,000 (Print Circulation)
9. Hosting Indian Mega YouTube Channel- Distance Between (1.3 Million Subscribers)
10. Hosting Oscar Nominee Film Director Deepa Mehta in Sri Lanka
11. Hosting Indian Mega Actor Jayam Ravi in Sri Lanka
12. Film Tourism National Policy Development with Single Window Approval Scheme
13. PR Connection with Global Film Producers Ex: David Hamilton
14. India Blooms - Online Media Coverage with 1 Million + UV (Online)
15. TTG- Asia Coverage on Sri Lanka Tourism's Int. Media Campaign Promotions : <https://www.ttgasia.com/2025/04/01/sri-lanka-rolls-out-campaign-highlighting-its-year-round-appeal>.

2. Film Tourism

- **Specific Film Tourism & Celebrity Promotions**

1. Japanese Cinematic Travel Vlog Series
2. Parashakthi (Tamil Film) – Starring Shiva Karthikeyan & Jayam Ravi (India)
3. Amazing Race - Australia
4. Amazing Race – Finland
5. Bollyland.com Tv Show– Dedicated Film Location Show for Mumbai-based Indian TV
6. Hosting South Indian Star Actors Shiva Karthikayen and Jayam Mohan in Sri Lanka
7. Hosting Hollywood Legend Jeremy Irons and Indian star Varalaxmi Sarath Kumar to Sri Lanka for the film shoot " Rizana- A caged bird" directed by Mr. Chandran Rutnam
8. Facilitating for South Indian Cinema legend, Mohan Lal to Sri Lanka for a film shoot.
9. Hosting Oscar nominated Director Deepa Mehta and David Hamilton, renowned film producer to Sri Lanka and participated at the press conference organized by Cinnamon Life on their future cinematic collaborations.

- **Participation at International Media / PR & Film Tourism Events (PR Strategic Implication)**

Event - International Media Marketplace 2025 (IMM)

Duration - 22nd to 23rd January 2025

Location - Jarvis Centre, New York, USA

Strategy - Connecting with international media at globally recognized media networking events

KPI Connected with Minimum of 50 top international travel journalists who represent mainstream global media publications and news channels

Event - Cannes International Film Festival 2025 (CANNES) - France

Duration - 13th - 24th May 2025

Location - Palais des Festivals et des Congress in Cannes, France.

Strategy - Interact & build a network with European and Global Film & TV Industry

Stakeholders and convince them to film in Sri Lanka while increasing awareness of incentive scheme and SWA system for international filmmakers.

KPI - Get connected with 30-40 international production companies to visit Sri Lanka during 2025/26 for film location promotions

New Product Development

- **Destination Weddings**

1.Sri Lanka represent at the Global Edition of the Exotic Wedding planning conference (EWPC)
-Dubai 2025 on 26 -28 February at Ras Al Khaimah

Participation- 250 international destination wedding planners from 75 countries
- 6 Sri Lankan from wedding industry

2.Awareness programs for government stakeholders

Country promotion for Destination weddings -India 2025

7-11 September in Mumbai Ahmedabad and Delhi

Mumbai-25 media representatives /132 business session invitees

Ahmedabad- 37 media representatives / 150 business session invitees/ 12 participants from Sri Lankan wedding industry

- **Wellness Tourism**

Health and wellness tourism – promoting Ayurveda, aromatherapy, and traditional health services, especially in target markets. Development of a wellness website.

- **Marine & Cruise Tourism**

Cruise promotional video to engage passengers.

- **Buddhist & Spiritual Tourism**

1.Live-streaming the Kandy Perahera in 10 languages for global audiences.

2.Buddhist FAM and B2B sessions with travel agents from India, Nepal, and Vietnam on 14-20 May

10 international travel agents and 40 Sri Lankan industry

- **Community-based tourism**

Developing rural destinations, homestays, and experiential tourism.

- Showcasing Ceylon Tea, culinary products, and other unique exports alongside tourism promotion programs in foreign markets.

- Organizing special festivals and cultural shows (e.g., Colors of Ceylon, Sri Lanka Food Festivals, Tea & Spice Promotions).

Events

Offering sponsorship to advance Sri Lanka tourism

- Duruthu Perahara
- Nawam perahara
- Kandy Esala Perahara
- 74th National Higher Ordinary Vinya Ceremony
- Buddha Rashmi International Vesak Day magazine
- Bauddhaloka Vesak zone
- The Colombo International Kite Festival
- 11th Colombo International Theatre Festival

Collaborative engagement with fellow tourism organizations

- Collaboration with Ministry of Culture -Unawatuna world dancing day
- The Gala Dinner – 54th SKAL Asia
- Ethera Aththan samga Methra Awurudu -Bentota
- Colabaration with North Central Tourism Ministry'Kumbichchan Evening Fiesta in line with World Tourism Day
- Buddha Rashmi National Vesak zone
- Sancharaka udawa with SLAITO

ADVERTISING

Branding Related Activities

BIA – Advertising: Advertising pillars installed at Arrival and Departure outer porches of the Passenger Terminal Building at BIA.

[Approved Annual Budget 2025 vs Actual expenditure as at 30/09/2025](#)

**Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau
Budget vs Actual as at 30.09.2025 (Draft)**

Table No. 7

Revenue	Budget Allocation 2025 - Rs.	Revenue as @ 30.09.2025
Tourism Development Levy	2,732,679,000	7,050,118
Embarkation Levy	4,022,859,000	1,959,196,877
Interest Income	800,000,000	692,386,449
Trade Contribution & Other	200,000,000	138,955,509
Total Revenue	7,755,538,000	2,797,588,954

Expenditure	Budget Allocation 2025 - Rs.	Expenditure as @ 30.09.2025
Marketing Promotions	3,539,850,000	918,659,411
PR Campaign	980,000,000	-

Expenditure	Budget Allocation 2025 - Rs.	Expenditure as @ 30.09.2025
Digital Campaign	1,750,000,000	-
Working with Tour Operators /Industry Support Scheme	500,000,000	-
Total Marketing	6,769,850,000	918,659,411
Media Familiarization Tour	44,000,000	5,091,918
Bloggers Familiarization Tours	136,000,000	10,690,393
Film Tourism	82,000,000	3,606,256
Visitor Facilities & Tourism Information Centers	54,000,000	5,112,698
Local Media Campaigns	14,600,000	83,750
Total Public Relation	330,600,000	24,585,015
Event	178,700,000	13,538,298
Total Event	178,700,000	13,538,298
Advertising	821,500,000	5,531,707
Total Advertising	821,500,000	5,531,707
New Product Development	259,000,000	15,270,843
Total New Product Development	259,000,000	15,270,843
Strategic Planning & Research	2,000,000	62,665
Total Strategic Planning & Research	2,000,000	62,665
Production	100,000,000	19,696,190
Administration, Finance, Legal, Audit	416,745,000	159,510,057
Total General Administration & Finance and other supporting service	516,745,000	179,206,247
Sub Total	8,878,395,000	1,156,854,188
Treasury Contribution	-	600,000,000
Total Expenditure	8,878,395,000	2,913,708,375

Source: SLTPB

SRI LANKA INSTITUTE OF TOURISM AND HOTEL MANAGEMENT
(SLITHM)



PROGRESS REPORT - 2025





1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM) continued its significant progress in developing the future workforce of the tourism and hospitality sector in Sri Lanka across various disciplines in 2025. As the key objective, SLITHM is planning to train more than 5,000 students from its core programs, especially by conducting craft, certificate, intermediate, advanced, pastry, and bakery courses, as well as tourist guide programs. In addition, the Institute focused on enhancing its curriculum, strengthening industry partnerships locally and internationally, and offering tailor made training programmes to meet the demands of the sector's dynamic needs.

In response to emerging trends in the tourism and hospitality sector, SLITHM introduced new income generation programmes that align with the industry demand. Also, the upgrading of the curriculum ensured that students were prepared for the evolving challenges and opportunities within the industry. Additionally, the Institute strongly emphasized practical experience by expanding its network of industry partners. Collaborations with renowned international tourism and hospitality schools opened up new avenues for students to participate in exchange programs, gaining exposure to global best practices in hospitality management. This enhanced the Institute's role in giving the students exposure to global perspectives. In terms of the above facts, the Institute made substantial progress in strengthening its education programmes, both regular and income-generating programmes.

Despite these successes, the Institute faced a few critical challenges, particularly with the recruitment and retaining of qualified academic professionals, the economic downturn, rapid changes in global travel trends, and the ongoing recovery of the tourism sector post-pandemic. These challenges emphasized the need for continuous adaptation and innovation to stay aligned with industry developments. The Institute is committed to addressing these challenges by continuously refining its programmes, integrating emerging technologies, reviewing existing SORs, conducting new training programmes, and maintaining strong industry connections through its Alumni. Accordingly, SLITHM aims to expand its market reach while incorporating sustainability into its core programmes. With a steady focus on innovation, quality education, and strong partnerships, the Institute is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in catering to the growing demand in the industry. The Institute remains committed to equipping its students with the skills, knowledge, and competencies to thrive in a highly competitive and increasingly global market.

2. VISION AND MISSION

Vision: “To be the Center of Excellence in Training and Education for Human Resource Development of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry in Asia”.

Mission: To provide application-oriented international standard education and training to produce competent and committed Human Resources to meet the demands of the Hospitality and Tourism Industry.

3. INTRODUCTION

The Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism & Hotel Management (SLITHM) is the premier Institute in Sri Lanka to train young men and women in the Tourism and Hospitality Industries. It was established in 1964 as the Ceylon Hotel School and is now managed by the Ministry of Tourism. The Head Office of SLITHM is co-located with the Western Provincial School in Colombo. Provincial schools are located in Anuradhapura, Bandarawela, Kandy, Koggala, Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Batticaloa, and Jaffna to train and educate students islandwide.

The SLITHM provides comprehensive professional training to address the evolving demands of the local and international tourism and hospitality industries, producing well-trained and highly motivated management professionals. This initiative supports the national interest in the development needs of the tourism and hospitality industry.

In its first decade, the institution focused on developing individuals for top and middle management roles within the industry, complemented by short craft-level courses to supply skilled labor for various departments within the hospitality sector. Over the years, SLITHM has continuously refined its programs to align with the dynamic needs of Sri Lanka’s and Asia’s evolving global industrial markets. This adaptability has led to the introduction of new training schemes tailored to industry-specific fields. The programs provide multiple entry and exit points, offering students flexibility in their learning paths. Additionally, they recognize prior learning, benefiting individuals with practical industry experience who seek to enhance their expertise with a credible professional certification. At SLITHM, diverse courses empower students with limitless opportunities to build successful careers in the corporate world.

4. PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE INSTITUTE AS OF 30.09.2025

SLITHM has prepared its Action Plan based on the corporate plan 2022-2026. Accordingly, the activities of the institute have been categorized into five main goals as mentioned below.

1. Enhance the quality and quantity of Human Resources Development in the fields related to Tourism and Hospitality.
2. Strengthen the collaboration with external (local and foreign) universities, institutes, and agencies.
3. Revisit the existing policies to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.
4. Develop and implement an effective and efficient Marketing Plan.
5. Enhance the financial stability and invest in the expansion of operations of the institute.

Accordingly, the institute has conducted the following academic activities.

1. Conducting academic annual calendar – **5,369 total students**
 - Craft level (1st Intake - 3 months) - **477** students
 - Craft Level (2nd Intake - Regular + 13-Year MoE programme) - **688** students
 - Certificate Level (1st Intake - 5 months) - **1,032** students
 - Certificate Level (2nd Intake - 5 months), including double batches - **1,437** students
 - Intermediate Level - **48** students
 - 3-year Management diploma programme (ongoing batches) - **159** students
 - Certificate course in Pastry & Bakery (5 months - first intake) - **36** students
 - Certificate course in Pastry & Bakery (5 months - second intake), including double batches - **61** students
 - Pastry & Bakery (3 months - first Intake) - **55** students
 - National Tourist Guide Programme - **59** students
 - Chauffeur Tourist Guide Programme - **96** students
 - Tourist Drivers Training Programme - **1,221** students
2. The graduation Ceremony was conducted on 09th April 2025, and 62 students graduated.



3. The SLITHM has obtained the degree awarding status for the Three-Year Diploma Programme under the UGC Framework to offer a Bachelor's degree in Resort and Hotel Management honors and is currently working on internal processes related to this programme. This degree will commence in 2026.
4. Mapping of Intermediate and Advanced level courses into NVQ levels 5 and 6.
5. The following capacity development programmes were conducted for both academic and non-academic staff.
 - Local Training - 18 employees were trained in the first quarter and 15 employees in the second quarter.
 - Foreign Training - 5 employees participated.
6. SLITHM has signed an MOU with the Samurdhi Department in collaboration with private hotel schools as franchise organizations to train more than 1,000 unemployed youth all around the island as the Hotel Operation Multi-tasker programme with cabinet approval.



7. The continuous collaboration with the Central Academy of Cultural and Tourism Administration (CACTA) in China to promote and exchange training programmes.
8. The approval has been obtained from the relevant authorities to recruit all vacant positions of the Institute.
9. Recruited visiting lecturers and renewed contracts for all schools to create a pool of resource persons.
10. The expansion plan of the schools was introduced as follows:
 - Relocation of Koggala provincial school to Mahamodara.
 - Acquisition of Pinnawala hotel school by SLITHM.
 - Acquisition of a new building to expand the existing courses of Kurunegala.
11. Curriculum development project is ongoing with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Environment (UNDP project) to revise and upgrade the curriculum of National & Chauffeur guide courses and Craft level courses.

12. The cabinet approval has been received to carry out major maintenance and engineering works through the CECB of Sri Lanka.

- Class rooms Condition upgrading in 3rd floor, 5th floor (Colombo)
- Auditorium renovation (Colombo)
- Lower ground floor area arrangement (Partition for Cleaning service, Drinking water storage, and out-of-order equipment Storage) (Colombo)
- Refurbishment of Finance Division (Colombo)
- External Painting SLITHM-BUILDING (Colombo)
- Samudra Hotel Rooms renovation and maintenance (Colombo)
- Renovation of Samudra linen room and mini store 3rd floor (Colombo)
- Interior design second floor training restaurant (Colombo)
- Laundry counter renovation (Colombo)
- Bar Counter Modification of Samudra Pub and 2nd floor Area (Colombo)
- Garbage Room Construction (Kandy)
- Building Painting (Kandy)
- Building External Painting (Anuradhapura)
- Electrical System Upgrading - (Koggala)
- External wall painting and polishing existing chairs and tables of the restaurant (Ratnapura)
- Designing of new building -(Jaffna)
- Cooling Tower Renovation - 8th Floor (Colombo)
- Rectification of balcony area water stagnation and modification of rainwater discharge system of the whole building (Colombo)
- Renovation of 7th floor sea side cafeteria and 6th floor cafeteria (Colombo)
- Renovation of the Library floor and waterproofing of windows (Colombo)
- Renovation of LG Parking area and 1st floor external washrooms - (Colombo)
- Construction of wash-up area and pastry kitchen (area vacated by tourist police) (Anuradhapura)
- Washroom Complex - Check with ratio/Standards (03 Male/03 Female Washrooms) -(Anuradhapura)
- Construction of two-storied building (washrooms, restaurant, students' meal area)- Planning component (Anuradhapura)
- Water Supply and Waste Water Drainage System Modification - (Koggala)

Expected Outcome

- Enhanced opportunities for training and employment in the hospitality industry for the youth in Sri Lanka.
- SLITHM to remain as the leading institution for hospitality training in Sri Lanka to cater to the training requirements in the emerging niche areas in tourism, such as wellness tourism, heritage tourism, and eco-tourism.



Sri Lanka Convention Bureau

Progress Report 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB), established in 1987, is a statutory body operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment, and Tourism. It functions within the framework of the Tourism Act No. 38 of 2005, which serves as the governing legislation for Sri Lanka's tourism sector.

SLCB operates with an annual government budget with 4% income from the Tourism Development Levy and the Embarkation Tax

The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) is dedicated to promoting Sri Lanka as a premier destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE).

2. VISION AND MISSION

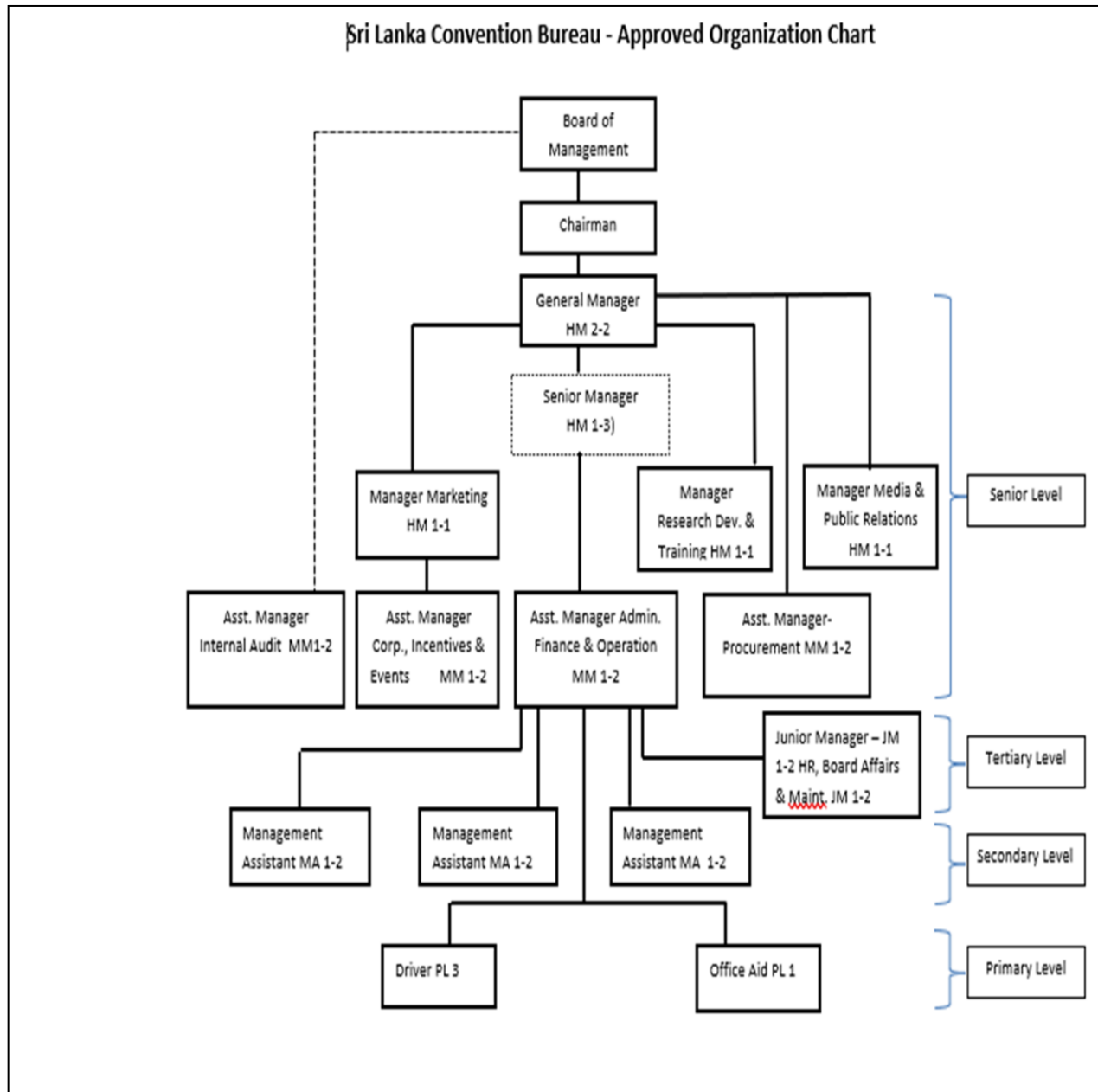
i. Vision

To position Sri Lanka as Asia's most sought-after venue for MICE tourism (Meetings, Incentive Travel, Conferences, Exhibitions and Events)

ii. Mission

Sri Lanka Convention bureau will secure optimum revenue in foreign exchange from MICE tourism which will contribute to the national economy by uplifting of the living standards of those who are dependent upon the "Meetings Industry" in Sri Lanka.

3. ORGANOGRAM



4. EXPECTED OUTPUT

- Increase the number of Exhibitions and Conferences held in Sri Lanka.
- Organize MICE promotion programmes in overseas
- Collaboration and Coordination with local MICE industry & Association for hosting international events.
- Formation & implementation of SLCB Event Support scheme.
- Develop a social media marketing campaign to engage in live presence of the Business event sector.
- Affiliations with other Convention Bureau in the region to encourage Association Meetings to rotate among Asian Countries.

5. EXPECTED OUTCOME

- To promote Sri Lanka as a venue for international, regional and domestic Business events.
- To maintain pace with market expectations
- To increase bid opportunities and conversion rate
- To increase the awareness of the 'Meet in Sri Lanka' concept across the target markets
- To facilitate entertainment events
- To encourage an increase in country capacity for MICE/Business events including Multipurpose venues, internationally branded high-volume hotels, and services to support the growth and servicing of the sector
- Build the image and enhance the profile of the destination
- Attract Investments
- Stimulate Infrastructure Development

6. FINANCIAL PROGRESS 2025

Approved Annual Budget 2025: Rs. Mn

Budget Income	:	408.5
Budgeted Capital Expenditure	:	4.1
Budgeted Recurrent Expenditure	:	459.2

Actual Income and Expenditure As at 30.09.2025 - Rs. Mn

Actual Income	:	102.9
Actual Capital Expenditure	:	-
Actual Recurrent Expenditure	:	219.9

7. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECTS /ACTIVITIES DURING IN THE YEAR 2025

7.1. Marketing Division

Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) functions under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism, with the mandate of promoting Sri Lanka as a premier destination for

MICE tourism (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions). In line with the mandate of Sri Lanka, SLCB carried out below key activities to promote the destination Sri Lanka as premier MICE hub in the global landscape.

The Sri Lanka MICE Expo 2025 (SL-MICE Expo 2025), organized by the SLCB held from 22nd to 26th September 2025 at Cinnamon Life, City of Dreams, Colombo. The multi-day event is designed to position Sri Lanka as a premier destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE). With more than 115 hosted international MICE and travel operators, alongside media representatives from 30 countries, the Expo aimed to strengthen Sri Lanka's standing on the global MICE map. It provided a unique platform for both local and international stakeholders to showcase their products, services, and innovations, serving as a dynamic marketplace for business growth, networking, and collaboration among global MICE professionals.

Hon. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, inaugurated the event. The event included a dynamic business forum a targeted B2B meetings with local suppliers and service providers, and insightful familiarization tour to the Central Province, will be providing a first-hand experience of the island's diverse attractions and capabilities as a MICE destination.

SLCB organized Sri Lanka's participation at the **Business Leisure and Luxury Travel Mart (BLTM)** held from 11-13 September 2025. At the three-day event, that concluded in New Delhi on 13th September 2025, SLCB has been recognized as the 'Best MICE Destination'. This award is a testament to SLCB ongoing efforts to promote Sri Lanka as not just a leisure destination, but a globally competitive hub for business events. With world-class venues, vibrant culture, and unmatched hospitality, Sri Lanka offers a unique value proposition to MICE travellers.

Apart from that, SLCB organized Sri Lanka's participation at IMEX, OTM and SATTE exhibitions to promote the key markets.

As part of the Bureau's mandate, **SLCB organized multi city tourism Roadshow series in India** covered Hyderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Chandigarh and Jaipur. India is number one source market for both leisure and MICE and these promotions positively encouraged to further strengthen existing collaborations with India.

SLCB supports local and international events.

7.1.1.) SLCB MICE Traveller Assistance Scheme, where local tourism industry stakeholders are benefitted. During the year up to now, SLCB assisted over 50 events in both financial and in-kind services. The main groups included; Culinary Art Food Expo 2025 (Café 2025), Max Life Insurance incentive group, Roche Products Annual Event, Adani Wilmar Incentive group, Max

Life Incentive group, GE Healthcare Incentive group, TANISHQ (Tata Group) 1,200 pax and Titan Watches 1,400 pax.

7.1.2.) The SLCB social media campaign is in progress in the main platforms of Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, X and Instagram, provides a digital connectivity to promote the destination.

SLCB organized familiarization tour for the Bangladesh Travel agents during the month of June 2025 for the 10 Bangladeshi travel agents. SLCB identified that, Bangladesh is an emerging market for Sri Lanka for both leisure and business travel.

7.1.3.) Trade Fairs Overseas

Following trade fairs were completed during the period

- Trade fairs in collaboration with Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) - OTM 30 January-01 February 2025 & SATTE 19-21 February 2025
- IMEX - Frankfurt, Germany - 20-22 May 2025
- BLTM, New Delhi - India - 11-13 September 2025

7.2. Research, Development, And Training Division / Destination Wedding Promotion Division

7.2.1.) MICE Training Programme – Sabaragamuwa University (21st May 2025)

Around 100 undergraduate students participated in this programme aimed at building skills in event management, digital marketing, and AI applications. Renowned industry experts conducted interactive sessions to inspire and prepare students for future careers in MICE tourism.

7.2.2.) Sri Lanka MICE Conclave 2025

Assisted Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators in conducting the first ever Sri Lanka MICE Conclave on 24 May 2025 at the SBMICH - Colombo. Over 100 proposals were received for the Individual/ Group/Organizations and Schools categories.

7.2.3.) Educational Session on Digital Marketing for Successful Business Events (26th May 2025)

Held at the Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, this session drew nearly 100 MICE industry professionals and marketing enthusiasts. Experts shared strategies on integrating digital marketing into MICE activities.

7.2.4.) MICE Training Programme – University Students in Colombo (3rd July 2025)

A full-day session at Hilton Colombo Residences brought together students from over 10 universities and colleges. With approximately 50 active participants, the programme emphasized creativity, innovation, sustainability and the legacy of events, concluding with group presentations and certificate distribution.

7.2.5.) MICE Awareness Session – Hambantota (15th July 2025)

More than 30 representatives from provincial government organizations attended this session at the District Secretariat Auditorium. Discussions focused on Hambantota's potential as an emerging MICE destination and highlighted the importance of regional collaboration to attract future events.

7.2.6.) Stakeholder Discussion on MICE Conclave 2025 Proposals (24th July 2025)

Over 15 key stakeholders from public and private sectors engaged in reviewing and refining innovative proposals such as mobile boutique hotels, floral tourism in Jaffna, elephant corridor management, and astro-tourism. The session encouraged collaboration for implementation.

7.2.7.) Exotic Wedding Planning Conference – EWPC UAE (26–28 February 2025)

Sri Lanka, represented by SLCB and SLTPB with industry partners, showcased its potential as a premier wedding destination. Chairman Dheera Hettiarachchi's presentation attracted about 400 international participants, while the Sri Lanka pavilion generated strong interest during B2B sessions.

7.2.8.) Destination Weddings Promotion – in 3 cities in India: Mumbai, Ahmedabad & Delhi (07 - 11 September 2025)

A three-city promotional campaign was conducted to strengthen Sri Lanka's appeal as a wedding destination in the Indian market. The events provided valuable exposure, networking opportunities, and strengthened B2B relations with Indian partners and both electronic and social media publicity was given to Sri Lanka through the press conferences held simultaneously.

7.2.9.) Destination Wedding Promotional Activities

Several initiatives are planned to carry out, including the printing of brochures, drafting a destination wedding policy, advertising in the national carrier and a video production for the Indian market.

7.3. Associations & Association Related Activities

7.3.1). Followings bids were submitted during the year 2025 –

- ✓ Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Joint Conference 2027 (APBIJ)
- ✓ IASP (The International Association for Suicide Prevention) world Congress 2027 or 2029 – Short listed for site inspection
- ✓ Commonwealth Law Conference 2029 (in collaboration with JKH)

7.3.2). “Meet in Colombo” – Awareness program organized by the German Chamber of Commerce – AHK Sri Lanka - 23rd May 2025

MICE (Meeting, Incentive Travel, Conferences & Exhibitions/Events) awareness session was organized by the German Chamber of Commerce to present the Unique Selling Points of Colombo as a MICE destination to German brands in Sri Lanka.

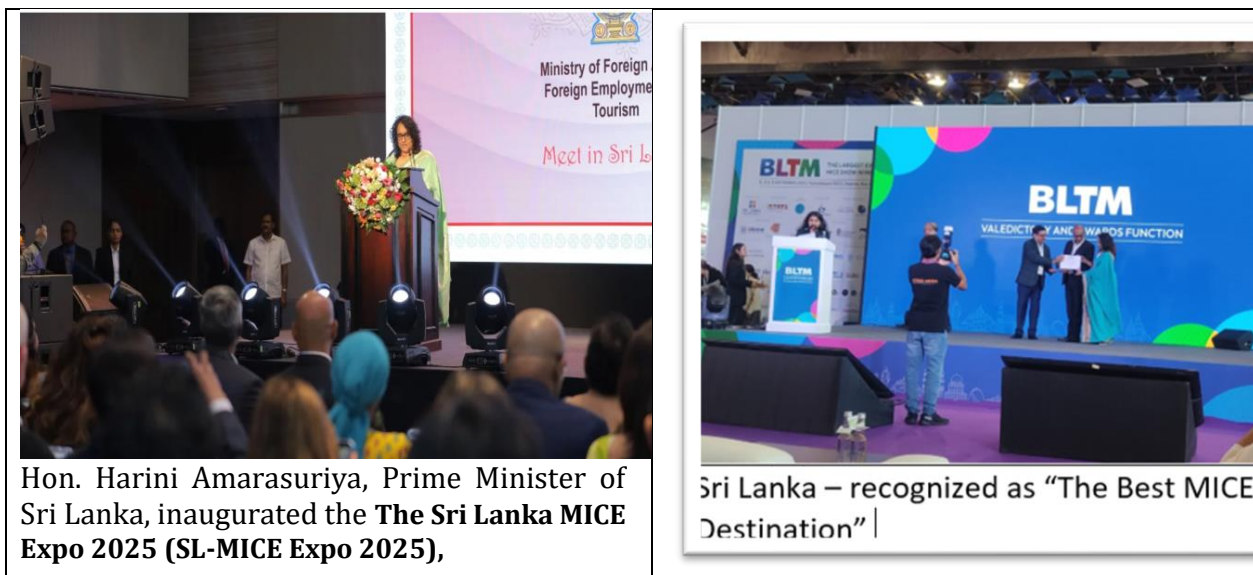
H.E. Dr. Felix Neumann, Ambassador of Germany to Sri Lanka and designated to the Maldives, was the Chief Guest and in his special remarks, the country's ambition to host international business events and welcoming people from all around the globe. Acting General Manager of the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB), presented the country's MICE offering, outlining its venue diversity, logistical strengths, and institutional support for hosting large-scale events.

7.3.3). Awareness Program for Event Organizers – Infrastructure Facilities at UCFM Tower, Colombo University - 11th August 2025

The SLCB took the initiative to organize the Awareness program about the infrastructure facilities of UCFM (University of Colombo Faculty of Medicine) Tower for Event Management companies and members of Sri Lanka Association of Professional Conference & Exhibition/Event Organizers in collaboration with Faculty of Medicine, Colombo university. Session was conducted with the assistance of Professor Vajira Dissanayake, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Professor Indika Karunathilake, Vice Chancellor of Colombo University.

7.3.4). India Association Congress 2025

India Association Congress (IAC 2025), was held in August 2025, at the Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre & Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre. SLCB joined the congress as the "Destination Presentation Partner" and presented the capabilities of Sri Lanka as a Destination for MICE & Business events over 100 Associations heads from India





Group photo of the university and college students who participated in the MICE Tourism Training Session.



Panel discussion: "Meeting Colombo" – hosted by AHK Sri Lanka

