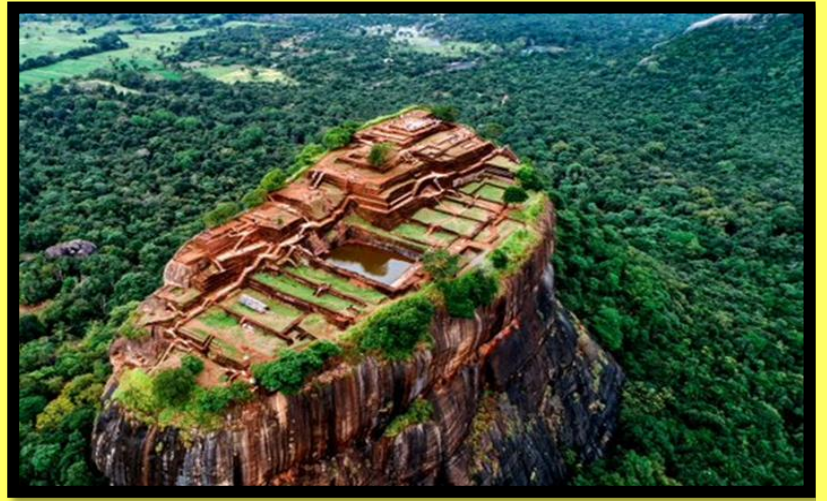




Sri Lanka shines in Türkiye....



*News & Events
March – April
2025*



*Embassy of Sri Lanka
Türkiye
also accredited to
Georgia & Ukraine*

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March 2025

**Courtesy call on Mr. Cihad Erginay,
DG of South Asia Division of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Türkiye – 05/03/2025**



Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake met with the new DG of South Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Ambassador, Cihad Erginay, and discussed on pending issues pertaining to strengthening ties in bilateral trade, investment, tourism cultural and political

matters and possible new initiatives.

**Celebrating International Women's Day in
Türkiye, Sri Lanka Embassy in Ankara screens
the documentary "Our Mother, Grandmother,
Prime Minister: Sirimavo" - 09/03/2025**

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara hosted special screenings of the documentary *Our Mother, Grandmother, Prime Minister: Sirimavo*, a powerful tribute to Madam Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the world's first elected female head of government.

The screenings in Ankara and Istanbul were held to coincide with the month of March, celebrating the International Women's Day and provided a rare and deep personal insight into the life and leadership of one of the most influential women in world's modern political history.

In Ankara it was held at the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Theatre in Ulus and in Istanbul, at the Istanbul Medeniyet University.



The screening in Istanbul was followed by an interactive panel discussion with the participation of Ms. Anomaa Rajakaruna and Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake on challenges faced by women in Türkiye and Sri Lanka, in breaking the glass ceiling, particularly in the film industry and in diplomacy, and sharing experiences





The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara collaborates with women artisans in Ankara – 14/03/2025

As part of its ongoing initiatives to commemorate International Women's Day, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara successfully hosted an exhibition cum sale event in collaboration with the "Ankara Olgunlaşma Enstitüsü" organization, under the Ministry of National Education of Türkiye.



Throughout the event, guests explored and acquired unique handcrafted textiles, ceramics, and traditional artwork, each reflecting Türkiye's rich artisanal heritage.

More than just an exhibition, the event also served as a platform for strengthening business and diplomatic ties, with members of Türkiye's business community expressing a keen interest in supporting women entrepreneurs in the traditional arts and crafts.



The event attracted over 100 guests throughout the day, including diplomats, government officials, Turkish business leaders, and supporters of cultural diplomacy and those who support female entrepreneurship.



The opening ceremony was graced by H.E. Ms. Celile Eren Ökten, Deputy Minister of National Education of Türkiye, who underscored the importance of supporting women-led craftsmanship and fostering deeper cultural exchanges between Türkiye and Sri Lanka.



Presenting open copies of Credentials by Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake to Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, H. E. Mr. Yevhen PEREBYINIS - 24/03/2025



The parties discussed the possibilities of enhancing political dialogue between the two countries, as well as ways to deepen bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas

of trade, agriculture and education.



Ambassador of Sri Lanka Presents Letter of Credence to the President of Ukraine – 24/03/2025

H.E. Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka resident to Türkiye and concurrently accredited to Ukraine, presented her Letter of Credence to H. E. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the

President of Ukraine at the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv on 24 March 2025.. It is a Christian cathedral in the centre of Kyiv.



The ceremony of Presenting Letters of Credence was followed by a brief meeting between Ambassador Dissanayake and the President of Ukraine.

The President also noted that Ukraine is interested in developing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade, education, food security, and medical rehabilitation. In addition, Ambassador suggested possible cooperation in science and technology, pharmaceuticals and agricultural sectors.



Ambassador Dissanayake engages in high-level discussions with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine – 25/03/2025

Ambassador met with the Head of the Fourth Territorial Department General, Head of the Department General of Consular Services and senior officials of the Economic Diplomacy on matters of mutual concerns, such as addressing ongoing consular matters and exploring avenues to strengthen economic relations between Sri Lanka and Ukraine, particularly on re-visiting pending bilateral agreements and following the processes in both countries to conclude those in a mutually beneficial manner. Both sides expressed their commitment to fostering deeper cooperation through educational and cultural exchanges as well.



Ambassador calls on the Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, H. E. Mr. Oksen Lisovyi – 25/03/2025

Ambassador engaged in fruitful mutually beneficial discussions on cooperation in higher education and scientific research, particularly with the universities and research agencies in western part of Ukraine, which are not affected by the on-going conflict.



The Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Ukraine, Mr. Kyrylo Kabanets joined the meetings.

Sri Lankan Documentary “Minarets” promotes dialogue and understanding in Türkiye on Sri Lanka diverse cultural heritage – 22 & 26/03/2025

Minarets, a groundbreaking documentary by Sri Lankan filmmaker Nadya Bhimani Perera, was screened to enthusiastic audiences in Türkiye at two special events hosted at Istanbul’s MEF University on 22nd March and Ankara University on 26th March.



The Istanbul screening was supported by Sri Lanka’s Honorary Consul in Istanbul, Mr. Aydın Özü, and Mr. Eranda Mahagama, a Sri Lankan PhD student at Istanbul University who played a key role in coordinating the event. He was also responsible for subtitling the documentary in Turkish.



Both screenings were followed by lively Q&A sessions, during which audience members—students, academics, and members of the public—engaged in thoughtful discussions about the film’s themes of identity, cultural continuity, and religious expression. AT MEF University in Istanbul the insights shared by esteemed Islamic scholar, Prof. Emir Eş and in Ankara by Associate Prof. Ayşe Ersay Yüksel of the Department of History of Turkish Islamic Arts at Ankara University added value to the discussion.



Directed by Nadya Bhimani Perera, *Minarets* explores the rich musical and devotional traditions of Sri Lanka’s Muslim communities.

The film is the result of extensive research and collaboration with academics, religious scholars, and community practitioners from across the island, shedding light on traditions often hidden from mainstream narratives. From Sufi chants and folk songs to wedding rituals and lullabies, the film traverses both the public and private spheres of music in Muslim life, revealing a cultural heritage that is deeply spiritual, diverse, and resilient.



April 2025

Sri Lanka Embassy Participates in 13th International Orange Blossom Festival in Adana, Türkiye – 02- 06/04/2025

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye participated in the 13th International Orange Blossom Festival held in Adana in early April for 03 days. The Embassy operated a vibrant cultural stall under the theme “Children of the World,” celebrating Sri Lankan heritage with a special focus on children and youth.



Set in the scenic Atatürk Park in Adana, the event drew over 200,000 visitors from across Türkiye and abroad, warmly welcoming over 15,000 visitors during the three-day celebration. Visitors of all ages, particularly children, were captivated by the vibrant display of Sri Lanka’s traditional art, crafts, and colorful visuals. The stall served as a unique window into Sri Lanka’s rich cultural tapestry, offering an immersive experience of the island nation’s warm hospitality and deep-rooted traditions.



As part of the cultural engagement, Sri Lankan Ceylon tea was served to guests, offering a warm and flavorful taste of the island's world-renowned beverage.



The Embassy's participation in this globally recognized festival served as an opportunity to foster cultural diplomacy, promote people-to-people ties, and showcase Sri Lanka's unique identity to an international audience.

Embassy of Sri Lanka hosts Louis de Bernières, the British author of 'The Dust That Falls From Dreams', part of a trilogy set in Ceylon – 31/03/2025

The author, **Louis de Bernières**, was hosted at the Residence of Sri Lanka Ambassador to Türkiye, Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake recently for a lively interactive session.



A lively session with Louis de Bernières followed at the Ambassador's Residence with the author being asked a series of questions on what inspired him to write novels set in Türkiye and Sri Lanka. For the inspiring writers present, Louis was asked about the essential

ingredients in creating a good story and how he went about doing his research. Louis provided an insight into how he set about weaving in stories that he had collected when researching his novels.



He also has written a novel set on early 20th century Türkiye, "Birds Without Wings" and shared many interesting insights on why and how he wrote the novel.



Foreign and Turkish diplomats, expats and many Turkish book lovers attended the event.

**Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye,
represented Sri Lanka at the 4th Antalya
Diplomacy Forum 2025, 11–13/04/2025**

This year the Forum was organized under the theme
"Reclaiming Diplomacy in a Fragmented World."

This high-level gathering, brought together over 6,000
participants from 155 countries, including heads of
state, ministers, and international experts.

Ambassador's participation underscores Sri Lanka's
commitment to multilateral dialogue and its active
engagement in shaping a more inclusive and
cooperative international order.



**The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara celebrates
Sinhala & Tamil New Year - 16/04/2025**





The staff, families and some of the Sri Lankans living in Ankara joined the celebrations.

It was celebrated with traditional new year sweet meats and many traditional and not-soo-traditional "Avurudu Kreedas" (new year games)

Sri Lanka Embassy in Ankara participates in National Sovereignty and Children's Day Celebrations of Çankaya Municipality - 21/04/2025

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara, located within the Çankaya Municipality, participated in the vibrant celebration of National Sovereignty and Children's Day, hosted by the Çankaya Municipality and affiliated kindergartens at the Doğan Taşdelen Çağdaş Sanatlar Merkezi.



This annual celebration, rooted in Türkiye's national history and dedicated to the children of the world by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Türkiye, provided a unique platform for intercultural exchange and friendship.

In line with the spirit of the event, the Embassy of Sri Lanka organized engaging activities for children, including traditional games, picture drawings and displays reflecting Sri Lanka's rich culture and natural beauty, and serving of Ceylon tea to attendees, allowing participants to experience a taste of Sri Lankan hospitality.



Children enthusiastically participated in the activities hosted by the Sri Lankan stall and expressed great joy in engaging with the games and creative displays. Their excitement and interest in the Sri Lankan cultural elements created an atmosphere of mutual appreciation.



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, together with Embassy staff, joined the celebrations, warmly interacting with children, families, and fellow diplomats. The event was also graced by the presence of Mr. Hüseyin Can Güner, Mayor of Çankaya Municipality, who welcomed participating embassies and reaffirmed the importance of global unity and cultural exchange through children.