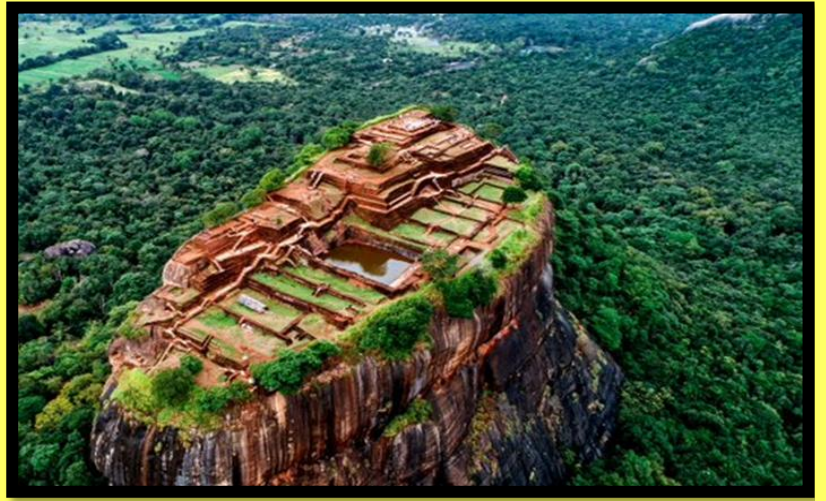




Sri Lanka shines in Türkiye....



*News & Events
January - February
2025*



*Embassy of Sri Lanka
Türkiye*

*also accredited to
Georgia & Ukraine*

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January 2025

Initiation of activities for the year 2025 – 02/01/2025

The day began with the hoisting of the Sri Lankan national flag, followed by the singing of the national anthem in the presence of all the Embassy staff and family members. It was followed by two minutes of silence to honour and pay respect to all who had sacrificed their lives for the nation.



As a symbol of commitment to national progress, thereafter all Sri Lankan staff members took the "Clean Sri Lanka—Oath/Affirmation of Citizens," emphasizing their dedication to the country's development and collective aspiration to rebuild the nation and regain coexistence, social and economic development, modernity, and cultural harmony.

Addressing the Embassy staff, Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake encouraged everyone to contribute to the process of nation-building actively, emphasizing the importance of their roles in fostering Sri Lanka's development, by contributing effectively, efficiently and creatively to the activities of the Embassy.



Ambassador Dissanayake also extended her best wishes for the New Year, motivating the staff to work diligently as a team towards achieving the national goals of Sri Lanka.



Courtesy call on Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye H. E. Mehmet Fatih KACIR- 15/01/2025

Ambassador Dissanayake discussed matters of mutual benefit for both countries, including the commercialization of research and innovation during the meeting.



Food Diplomacy Programme - 10/12/2024

Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake participated in a cooking programme to introduce Sri Lanka Cuisine to Turkish public through the Youtube Channel of Ms. Zeynep Koksall Yaykiran (Vice

Chairperson of Petoil Group). The channel focuses on introducing international cuisine to Turkish public together with diplomats and other expats in Ankara.)



February 2025

Celebration of 77th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka at the Embassy - 04/02/2025

The Embassy celebrated the 77th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka with a series of vibrant events attended by Sri Lankan expatriates, staff and families.

The celebrations commenced in the morning with a flag-hoisting ceremony at the Embassy premises and the singing of the national anthem.

The ceremony included multi-faith religious observances, paying tribute to Sri Lanka's diverse heritage. Official messages from the President, Prime Minister, and Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka were read, highlighting the country's commitment to democracy, good governance, and sustainable development. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of national heroes.



Diplomatic Reception celebrating 77th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka - 04/02/2025

Diplomatic reception was held at the MiMi Hotel in Ankara with the presence of H. E. Ms. Celile Eren Ökten, Deputy Minister of National Education of Türkiye as the Guest of Honour.

Over 350 distinguished guests, including Turkish parliamentarians, politicians, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, Turkish academic and business leaders, those representing arts and culture, attended the event, which underscored the strong and enduring diplomatic partnership between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.



The Guest of Honour, Her Excellency Celile Eren Ökten, Deputy Minister of National Education of Türkiye, commended Sri Lanka's progress and reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to deepening collaboration in multiple sectors. She acknowledged the longstanding friendship between the two nations, highlighting Sri

Lanka's support to Türkiye during its time of need. She mentioned that *"Türkiye and Sri Lanka share a bond of mutual respect and solidarity. We are committed to expanding our partnerships in education, trade, and cultural exchanges to benefit both our nations."*



In her address at the diplomatic reception, H.E. the Ambassador Saranya Hasanthi Urugodawatte highlighted Sri Lanka's progress towards economic recovery and stability. *"Sri Lanka is firmly on the path to economic resilience, marking a significant turnaround from past challenges. We have prioritized transparency, good governance, and sustainable economic policies to build a prosperous future,"* she stated.

The Ambassador also emphasized the historical ties between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, rooted in centuries-old trade and cultural exchanges, and expressed confidence in further strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, and tourism in the coming year.



The diplomatic reception was further enhanced by a captivating traditional Sri Lankan dance performance that showcased the island's rich cultural heritage, presented by two Sri Lankan medical students studying at Tbilisi State Medical University in Georgia.





Meeting with Mr.Oleksii Chernyshev, C.d.A.a.i. of Ukraine in Ankara, at the Embassy - 07/02/2025

Ambassador Dissanayake, had discussions with Mr. Oleksii Chernyshev, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Ukraine, in Ankara regarding enhancing bilateral cooperation with Ukraine at the Sri Lanka Embassy.



Guests were also treated to an exquisite Sri Lankan culinary experience featuring a selection of authentic dishes that delighted attendees.



Visit to the Atatürk Museum Mansion - 07/02/2025

Ambassador Dissanayake visited the first Presidential Residence of the Republic of Türkiye, the Atatürk Museum Mansion and met with Mr. Ahmet Taştepe, the National Palaces personnel of Türkiye.





Participating in a programme: "Foreign Affairs Vocational Training: Being a Diplomat in Foreign Affairs", Üsküdar University, Istanbul - 26/02/2025.

Üsküdar University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Strategic Research Application and Research Center (ÜSSAM) and Turkish Economic, Political and Strategic Research Center (TESAM) in Istanbul invited Ambassador Dissanayake for this programme.



H.E the Ambassador Saranya Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake, Ambassador İskender Okyay, the first Turkish Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Ambassador Ergin Soner were the panelists at this program.



Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Deniz Ülke Kaynak emphasized that it is a sacred duty to undertake duties on behalf of the state. The source also stated that they aim to train well-equipped students in the field of international relations.

The program was held at Üsküdar University South Campus Fuat Sezgin Conference Hall and was attended by Üsküdar University Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Prof. Deniz Ülke Kaynak, Head of

Political Science and International Relations (English)
Department Prof. Dr. Havva K k Arslan, TESAM
Founding President İlyas Bozkurt, TESAM members,
 sk dar University academicians and students.

Ambassadors shared their views on challenges and sacrifices that diplomats have to face, which is not usually not known by public and the importance of continuously and rapidly being updated about what is happening in the world, importance of networking and what it takes to represent one's country. Ambassador of Sri Lanka especially highlighted the additional challenges faced by female diplomats and challenges faced by particularly children moving from one country to another as well as role of diplomats in preventing conflicts and as peace builders.



The program, in which the professional experiences of the ambassadors were presented and discussed received much interest and accolades from the attendees.
