



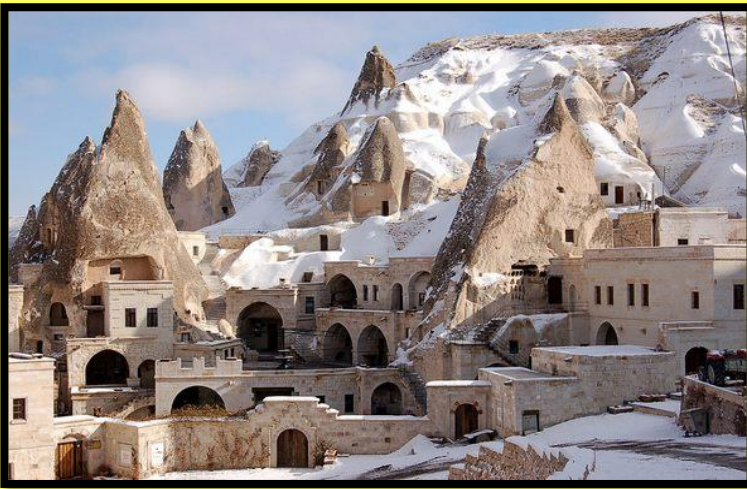
# *Sri Lanka shines in Türkiye....*



*News & Events  
November – December  
2023*



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



No: 41, GOP, Kirlangıç Street, Çankaya, Ankara ||| Tel. +90 3124271020-25 |||  
Fax. +90 3124271026 ||| Email: [slemb.ankara@mfa.gov.lk](mailto:slemb.ankara@mfa.gov.lk) ||| Website:  
[www.srilanka.org.tr](http://www.srilanka.org.tr) Facebook: Sri Lanka Embassy in Türkiye |||  
Twitter: @slembankara ||| Instagram: slembinankara



## NOVEMBER 2023

### Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Republic – 01/11/2023

At the Republic Park in Cankaya Municipality, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka planted a Smac tree (Latin: *Rhus coriaria L.*) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkish Republic, along with other Ambassadors.



### Paying respect to the founder of the Turkish Republic, Veteran Mustafa Kemal Atatürk – 09/11/2023

Ambassadors in Ankara, including the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, took part in a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the death anniversary of Veteran Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic.



### The Ambassador of Sri Lanka joins the opening ceremony of "TRAVEL-EXPO" Ankara – 16/11/2023



**Meeting with the Vice President of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) – 16/11/2023**

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka met with Mr. Hasan Eker, Vice President of TURSAB, and discussed about how Turkish Airlines direct flights between Istanbul and Colombo increase opportunities for bilateral tourism.



**Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara joins the Travel-Expo Ankara from 17 - 19 Nov 2023**



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participated in Travel Expo Ankara 2023.



The Vice President of Türkiye H.E. Cevdet Yılmaz, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy and Mr. Gürsel Baran, Chairman of Ankara Chamber of Commerce of Türkiye graced the stall of the Embassy of Sri Lanka.

Ambassador of Sri Lanka briefed the dignitaries on the potential for bilateral tourism.



**MUSIC LIFE AROUND US: 42ND CONCERT organized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Türkiye – 20/11/2023**

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Ankara hosted the Concert themed "Music Life Around Us," in solidarity with Türkiye's 100th Republic Anniversary at the official residence.

The event featured soloist Yusuf Çelik and was attended by ambassadors and distinguished guests.





**STRATCOM SUMMIT 2023 – Istanbul  
25/11/2023**

STRATCOM SUMMIT 2023 - Istanbul - an insightful and timely event - discussing on how misinformation and fake news create chaos, and how to out-smart and the role of AI in addressing the issue.



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka also had a brief discussion with Mr. Ziyad VAROL, the Deputy Director General of Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) - top right photo

**Promotional event of Gem and Jewellery –  
26/11/2023**

The Embassy hosted a Sri Lankan gem and jewellery promotion event at the residence of the Ambassador in Ankara.



**EXHIBITION AND PRESENTATION OF SRI LANKAN COLOURED  
GEM STONES AND JEWELLERY**

*a unique chance to appreciate breathtaking natural gems of Sri Lanka ....*





*Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 from 1700 – 1900 hrs.  
at The Residence of the Ambassador of Sri Lanka (Nurol Residence, Koza Sokak  
No. 126 A Block /5<sup>th</sup> Floor*

A visiting Sri Lankan gem and jewellery businessman, Mr. Samantha Wickramaarachchi of Sunray Gems displayed his collection of gems and jewellery.



**Glimpse of Serendipity: SRI LANKA in Türkiye**  
**27/11/2023**



The painting exhibition on November 27, 2023, featured 25 watercolor paintings by renowned artist Mr. Vasantha Perera, depicting Sri Lanka's cultural traditions.

The event, organized at the Mimi Hotel Ankara owned by Mr. Mahmut Uluer, Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Nevşehir, showcased Mr. Perera's coffee table books and highlighted his artistic contributions, including designing commemorative stamps for the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

The exhibition drew over 50 attendees, including diplomats, art lovers, business communities, and government officials, who enjoyed Sri Lankan delicacies and Ceylon Tea.

**Ambassador-designate of Indonesia to Türkiye,**  
**H.E. Achmad Rizal Purnama calls on the**  
**Ambassador of Sri Lanka - 29/11/2023**



**First Secretary of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in**  
**Türkiye accredited to Georgia joins the "Ceylon**  
**Ball 2023" in Tbilisi – 01/12/2023**

First Secretary, Ms. Priya Nagarajah joined the "Ceylon Ball 2023", a talent show organized by the Sri Lankan Students' Association of Tbilisi State Medical University in Tbilisi.

Talented Sri Lankan students performed Sri Lankan live music programme.





The Sri Lankan Ambassador to Türkiye paid a courtesy call to Mr. Serkan KAYALAR, President of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA). Discussions focused on current and future projects as well as on enhancing bilateral collaborations such as joint projects in agriculture, environmental initiatives, and climate change mitigation efforts.

**The Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Türkiye meets Diyarbakır Deputy Ms. Suna Kepolu Ataman  
05/12/2023**

The Sri Lankan Ambassador in Türkiye met Diyarbakır Deputy Suna Kepolu Ataman at her chamber in the Parliament. (She is also the spouse of the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Trabzon, Mr. Atilla Ataman).

During the meeting, discussions focused on the continuing friendship between the two countries, exploring potential collaborations, particularly with Diyarbakır.

**DECEMBER 2023**

**The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye calls on Mr. Serkan KAYALAR, President of TİKA -  
05/12/2023**



**Ambassador of Sri Lanka attended '89th Anniversary of Turkish Women's Right to Vote and be Elected' - 05/12/2023**





The Ambassador of Sri Lanka participated in the '89th Anniversary of Turkish Women's Right to Vote and be Elected' event.

### Celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations, Sri Lanka and Türkiye issue Special Commemorative Stamps - 08/12/2023



To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye in 2023, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara, in collaboration with Turkish Post and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, launched Special Commemorative Stamps at the Official Residence of the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Türkiye.

The Special First Day Covers were simultaneously unveiled on December 8th in both Türkiye and Sri Lanka, marking this significant milestone for both nations.

The Special First Day Covers with stamps were handed over by Mr. Menderes Pınarbaşı of Turkish Post and Mr. Murat Dikmen from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Ambassador Hasanthi Urugodawatte Dissanayake at her official residence. Ambassador Dissanayake then presented the covers to Ambassador Oğuzhan Ertuğrul, Director General for South Asia at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mahmut Uluer, Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Nevşehir, and Mr. Vasantha Perera.



The launch of these stamps in both countries was initiated by the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Türkiye, with the Embassy coordinating closely with Turkish authorities and the Philatelic Bureau of the Department of Posts in Sri Lanka for several months to complete the processes.



Renowned artist Mr. Vasantha Perera designed special commemorative stamps for both Sri Lanka and Türkiye, celebrating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations. His artistic contributions include 39 unique stamps for the Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau, focusing on wildlife and nature. The stamps depict iconic locations in each country, namely Sigiriya in Sri Lanka and Cappadocia in Türkiye. The hot air balloons in both stamps symbolize the connection between the two nations, operated by Mr. Mahmut Uluer, also the Hony. Consul for Sri Lanka in Nevşehir.

The Special First Day Cover showcases "Villa Stamboul" in Sri Lanka, built by Sir Mohamed Marcan Marker. The initiative, a first for both countries, received cooperation from Turkish Post and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



The purpose of this Bazaar is to unite diverse cultures, generate funds for education through scholarships for the underprivileged, and support various charity projects in Turkey by selling a variety of products.



The Ambassador expressed gratitude to Mr. Perera and emphasized the historical significance of this bilateral stamp issuance. Over 50 attendees, including parliamentarians, officials, and ambassadors, witnessed the ceremony and enjoyed Sri Lankan delicacies.

**The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participates in the Annual Charity Bazaar in Ankara on 10/12/2023**

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participated in the Annual Charity Bazaar organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses Solidarity Association of Türkiye (DMEDD) on 10 December 2023 held in Ankara.



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye, along with 40 other diplomatic missions, participated in a Bazaar to showcase Sri Lankan culture and contribute to a charitable cause. The event featured over 60 stalls, attracting more than 500 visitors to the Sri Lanka stalls.

The Embassy displayed a variety of products, including spices, Ceylon Tea, handloom shawls, clothing, handicrafts, and jewelry, as well as promoting tourism. Notably, sketchbooks by renowned artist Vasantha Perera and Ceylon Tea were highlights at the Sri Lanka stall.





**Meeting with the Minister of Power & Energy and CEO of Penthol Group for possible investment collaborations - 22/12/2023**

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye facilitated a meeting between Hon. Kanchana Wijesekera, Minister of Power and Energy of Sri Lanka, and the CEO of Penthol Group and delegation.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential investments in Sri Lanka's petroleum and renewable energy sectors. The visit aimed to foster dialogue and explore opportunities for collaboration between the two entities.

The Ambassador presented a "Colombo" sketch book to H. E. Burak Akçapar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye. His spouse, Ms. Sebnem Akçapar is the President of DMEDD.

**Jazeera Airways in Türkiye in collaboration with the Aitken Spence Travels promotes Sri Lanka - 21/12/2023**

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participated in Istanbul's first destination tourism promotional event organized by Aitken Spence Travels in collaboration with Jazeera Airways. Over 80 travel agents attended the event. Jazeera Airways and Aitken Spence Travels are jointly promoting Sri Lanka as the next travel destination, aiming for 10,000 passengers from Turkey by 2024.

Presentations by key figures, including Mr. Nalin Jayasundera and Mr. Kanishka Mahagedara of Aitken Spence Travels, and Mr. Arda Icil of Jazeera Airways, highlighted the attractions of Sri Lanka to the Turkish travel market.



\*\*\*\*\*

