



January



Sri Lanka Envoy Meets with the Deputy Minister of Tourism and Culture of Türkiye

Ambassador Niluka Kadurugamuwa paid a courtesy call on Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, Nadir Alpaslan on 06 January 2026.

The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in the tourism and cultural sector, with discussions on potential collaborations and the

possibility of Türkiye extending its expertise and assistance to support further development of Sri Lanka's tourism industry. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing people-to-people ties and mutually beneficial partnerships between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

Minister Nilusha Dilmini and First Secretary (Commercial) Dilanga Hettiarachchi of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara joined the Ambassador at this meeting.

Sri Lanka engages with the IMEAK Chamber of Shipping, Türkiye



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Niluka Kadurugamuwa, met with the President of the IMEAK Chamber of Shipping, Tamer Kıran, at the Embassy premises in Ankara on 21 January 2026.

The discussion focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in the maritime sector between Sri Lanka and Türkiye. During the meeting, the Ambassador highlighted the advantage of Sri Lanka's strategic geographical location in the Indian Ocean, its efficiency as a maritime hub, and the country's well-established boat- and shipbuilding industry, and Sri Lanka's potential as a key partner for regional and international maritime operations.

The Ambassador further stressed the importance of considering the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IMEAK Chamber of Shipping and the relevant organizations in Sri Lanka, with a view to expanding maritime services and institutional collaboration between the two countries. In addition, he invited IMEAK membership to consider offering cadetship opportunities for Sri Lankan seafarers onboard Turkish vessels, promoting the Sri Lankan flag for Turkish vessels, and exploring possible collaborations with Sri Lankan maritime, boat, and shipbuilding sector stakeholders.

Acknowledging Sri Lanka's strategic importance for maritime operations, IMEAK President expressed the Chamber's strong interest in exploring potential collaborations with Sri Lankan counterparts.

The IMEAK Chamber of Shipping (Istanbul and Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions) is Türkiye's most established and influential professional organizations in the maritime sector. Representing more than 11,000 members, it operates across maritime transportation, port management, shipbuilding, and logistics sectors. With its nine branches, IMEAK maintains a strong nationwide presence and actively contributes to the development of maritime trade at both national and international levels.



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka meets with the Mayor of Ankara



The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Niluka Kadurugamuwa met with the Mayor of Ankara, Mansur Yavaş, at the latter's office.

During the meeting, the Ambassador recalled the long-standing and cordial relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye dating back to the Ottoman period, and highlighted recent positive developments in bilateral and economic cooperation. Emphasis was placed on the need to further strengthen trade,

economic and cultural ties as well as people to people contact between the two countries, in particular at the level of Capital cities.

The Ambassador called on the Vice Chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party



The Ambassador called on the Vice Chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Parti) of Türkiye and Member of Parliament for Bursa, Efan Ala for a warm and productive discussion.

The exchange focused on strengthening parliamentary cooperation and deepening economic relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, reaffirming the shared commitment of both sides to advance collaboration through constructive dialogue, mutual

understanding, and stronger people-to-people links.

The meeting was also attended by Ziya Altunyaldız, Member of Parliament for Konya and Deputy Vice Chairman of AK Parti, along with the Minister and First Secretary (Commercial) of the Embassy

February

Celebration of 78th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara commemorated the 78th Anniversary of Independence of Sri Lanka in a solemn Flag Hoisting Ceremony held on 04 February 2026 at the Embassy premises.

The National Anthem and multi-religious observances conducted by clergy of the Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, and Christian faiths, invoking blessings for peace, unity, and prosperity for Sri Lanka and its people.

Independence Day Messages of H.E. the President, Hon. Prime Minister, and the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism were read on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Niluka Kadurugamuwa, underscored the significance of independence, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding sovereignty, strengthening national unity, and working collectively towards sustainable development

The ceremony was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, members of the diplomatic corps, Honorary Consuls of Sri Lanka in Türkiye and Georgia, and members of the Sri Lankan community living in Türkiye.

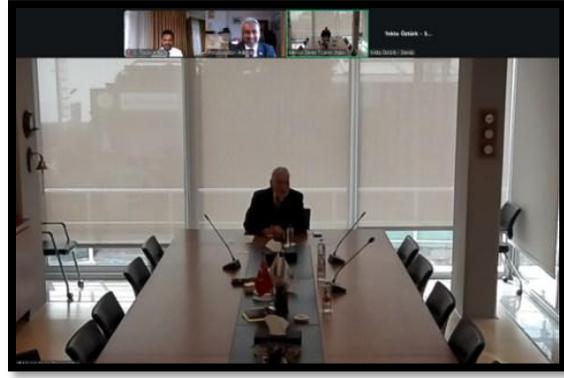


Exploring possible bilateral maritime cooperation with the Mersin Chamber of Shipping

The Ambassador and the diplomatic staff had an online meeting with the President of the Mersin Chamber of Shipping (MDTO), Cihat Lokmanoğlu on 10 February 2026.

The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation in the maritime sector between Sri Lanka and Türkiye. During the meeting, the Ambassador highlighted Sri Lanka's strategic location in the Indian Ocean, its role as an efficient maritime hub, and the country's well-established boat- and shipbuilding industry, elaborating Sri Lanka's potential as a key partner for regional and international maritime operations.

The Ambassador also emphasized the importance of pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Mersin Chamber of Shipping and relevant Sri Lankan institutions to expand maritime services and institutional collaboration. Opportunities for cadetship placements for Sri Lankan seafarers on Turkish vessels, promotion of the Sri Lankan flag as a flag of convenience for Turkish ships, and collaboration with Sri Lanka's maritime, boat, and shipbuilding stakeholders were also discussed.



Acknowledging Sri Lanka's strategic importance, the President of MDTO expressed interest in pursuing potential collaborations with Sri Lankan counterparts.

The Mersin Chamber of Shipping (MDTO) represents over 650 maritime and port-related companies in Mersin Province of Türkiye and plays a key role in sector coordination and member support within Türkiye's maritime trade and logistics ecosystem.

Sri Lanka seeks possible labour collaborations with Türkiye



Ambassador Niluka Kadurugamuwa held a constructive meeting with Mr. Yunus Öz, Director General for International Workforce of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Türkiye on 19 February 2026.

During the meeting, the two sides engaged in an in-depth discussion on matters concerning Sri Lankan workers currently employed in Türkiye, focusing on their welfare, employment procedures, and avenues for strengthening cooperation between the relevant authorities. Possible solutions and future collaborative mechanisms were explored with the aim of ensuring safe, lawful, and mutually beneficial labour mobility between the two countries.

Minister of the Embassy, Nilusha Dilmini was also present at the meeting.

Sri Lanka Embassy engages with strengthening sport cooperation with Türkiye



Ambassador Niluka Kaduruğamuwa met with Mr. Nahit Şahin, President of the Rugby Federation, and Mr. Baki Pekbak, Vice President of the Cricket Branch of Türkiye on 19 February 2026, to explore avenues for strengthening sports cooperation between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

The discussions focused on future collaboration in both rugby and cricket, including opportunities for exchanges, capacity building, and promoting closer people-to-people connections through sport.



Sri Lanka participates the International Mother Language Day

The Embassy of Sri Lanka participated in the commemoration of the International Mother Language Day on 23 February 2026 organized by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Ankara, celebrating linguistic diversity and cultural heritage across nations. Representing Sri Lanka, Mr. Prasad Sampath, a Sri Lankan staff member of the Embassy, performed a Sinhala song, showcasing the richness and beauty of the Sinhala language and the nation's pride



March

Sri Lanka Ambassador Meets with the Minister of National Education of Türkiye



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Niluka Kadurugamuwa paid a courtesy call on Prof. Yusuf Tekin, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye, on 10 March 2026.

During the meeting, the Ambassador recalled with appreciation Minister Tekin's visit to Sri Lanka in July 2025 to co-chair the 3rd Session of the Sri Lanka–Türkiye Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation (JCETC). The discussion focused on further strengthening educational cooperation between

the two countries and enhancing broader bilateral relations.

Minister of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara, Nilusha Dilmini accompanied the Ambassador to the meeting.