

# 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Pakistan



# 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of India



The High Commission of Pakistan and the Pakistani community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 65th Independence Day of Pakistan on August 14, with traditional fervour and resolve to make Pakistan a strong, dynamic progressive, tolerant and democratic Islamic welfare state.

The High Commission of India and the Indian expatriate community in Sri Lanka celebrated the 65th Independence Day of India on August 15th at India House in Colombo.

“Pakistan’s relations with Sri Lanka have remained cordial and cooperative throughout. Links between our two peoples and cultures date back to the time when the Indus Valley Civilization, the Gandhara civilizations and the Buddhist culture had prospered in what is now Pakistan. Both countries have made persevering efforts to build on these solid foundations and further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation. The trade and business communities of both nations therefore have a crucial role to enhance interaction and complement each other mutually and beneficially. The future is promising for our two nations.”

- Pakistan High Commissioner Seema Ilahi Baloch

“Mahatma Gandhi called Sri Lanka the ‘nearest neighbour’ to India. It is through that prism that we see our ties. For Sri Lanka, the end of three decades of internal conflict has brought historic opportunities. India has always been committed to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and to the restoration of lasting peace through reconciliation. It is our hope that the vision and leadership that resulted in an end to armed conflict will now be employed in the quest for a genuine political settlement resulting in national reconciliation among all communities. We will continue to support Sri Lanka’s commitment to heal the wounds of the past and to build a caring society which ensures a life of equality and dignity to all its citizens.”

- Indian High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha



## India supplies telecommunication network to North

An agreement for supply and installation of Signalling and Telecommunication system for railway network in Northern Province of Sri Lanka was signed on August 17, between General Manager B.A.P. Ariyaratna, Sri Lanka Railways and Managing Director Mohan Tiwari, IRCON (a Government of India Undertaking) in the presence of Minister of Transport Kumar Welgama and High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha. The project costs of US \$ 86.51 million. Is a part of Indian Line of Credit of USD 800 million, which has been extended by the Government of India at concessional terms. The project covers the Anuradhapura - KKS and Medawachchiya Tallai Mannar sections, covering a route length of 341 KMs and 28 stations. The signalling work involves provision of centralised control panel, interlocking colour light system with electrically operated points and track detection system. All the level crossings will be interlocked with new signalling system, which would ensure safety at level crossings. The telecommunication work involves provision of optical fibre communication system throughout the section.

## Work commences on housing project in North and East

With the shift from relief and rehabilitation phase to the reconstruction and development phase, the Government of India has agreed to fund the construction of 50,000 houses in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. While the bulk of the project will focus on the needs in the Northern Province, it will also cover some areas of the Eastern and Central Provinces. Work has already begun on a pilot project of one thousand houses, which will spread over all five districts of the Northern Province.

Foreign Missions in Colombo who wish to share news and information are welcome to write to: [dpl@sundayobserver.lk](mailto:dpl@sundayobserver.lk)