

PAKISTAN & SRI LANKA

Partners in Progress

Annual Magazine



Sharing Future

Long Lasting Friendship

Shared Cultural Heritage
Shared Education
Shared Tourism

PAKISTAN

&

SRI LANKA

Magazine

CREW

Patron-in-Chief
H.E Major General (R)
Faheem-ul-Aziz

*Maj. Gen. (Retd)
Faheem ul Aziz*

High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka



Managing Editor
Adeel Sattar

Adeel Sattar

Press, Culture & Education Attache',
Pakistan High Commission, Colombo

Graphic Design
Burhan Ahmed

Burhan Ahmed

Member of Administrative & Technical Staff,
Pakistan High Commission, Colombo



Photographers
Ahmed Akram & Saleem

Ahmed Akram

Translator cum Assistant
Pakistan High Commission, Colombo



42&44, Bullers Lane, Colombo 07
www.Pakistanhc.lk
Pressattache2@gmail.com

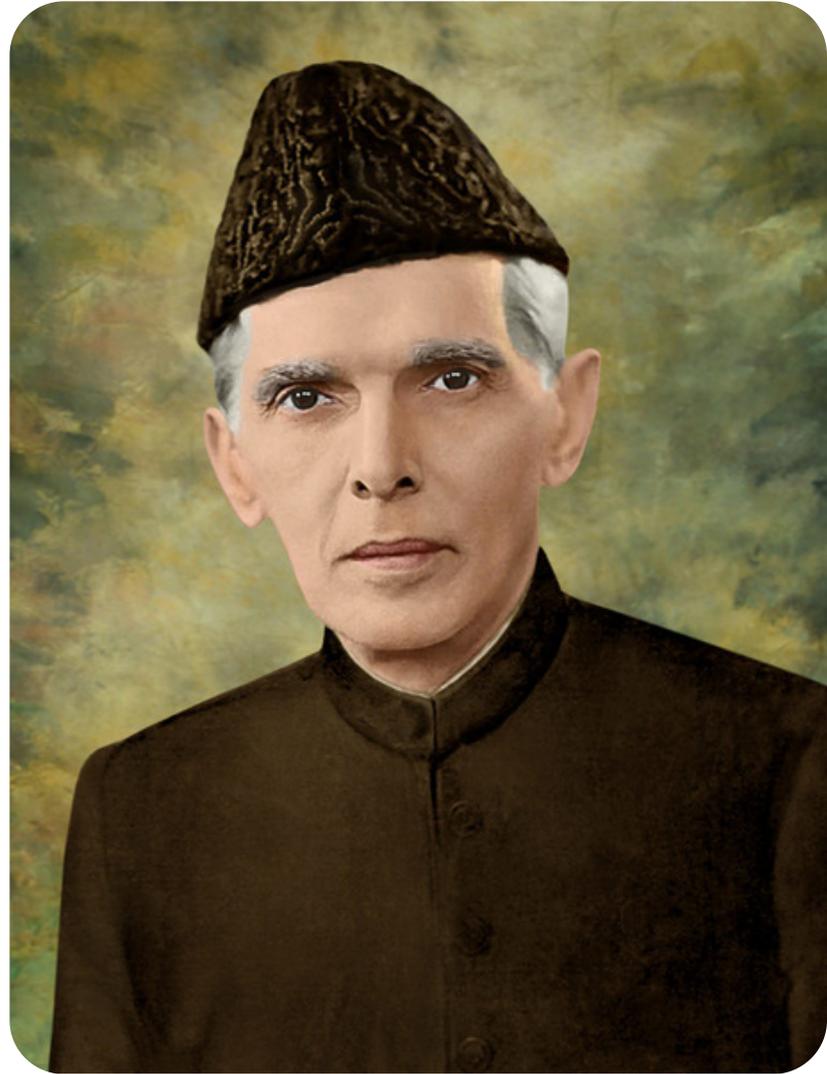
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QUAID'S *Vision*

“Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Pakistan will never be found lacking in extending its material and moral support to the oppressed and suppressed peoples of the world, and in upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter.”



Quaid-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

FOUNDER OF PAKISTAN

MESSAGE FROM H.E HIGH COMMISSIONER



It is a source of great satisfaction that Pakistan and Sri Lanka continue to enjoy close and mutually beneficial relations across all sectors. This bilateral cooperation has been significantly strengthened by increased interactions between public officials and high-level government functionaries of our two friendly nations.

Our historical ties, rooted in the Indus and Gandhara civilizations and Buddhist culture, span over 2,500 years. Both countries have made impressive efforts to preserve and build upon these solid foundations. The relationship between Sri Lanka and Pakistan is one of mutual choice and can serve as a shining example of cooperation at the bilateral, regional, and international levels.

As Sri Lanka works towards a future of peace, stability, and progress, the government and people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with you. We are confident that a promising future is on the horizon.

On this occasion, I take the opportunity to extend our best wishes for the continued progress, prosperity, and peace of the people and Government of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.

Major General (Retd) Faheem-ul-Aziz
PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SRI LANKA

PAK-SRI LANKA CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural shared heritage between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is rich and historical, with one of the most significant connections rooted in Buddhism. The cultural link between Pakistan and Sri Lanka centers on their shared Buddhist heritage, highlighted by the Gandhara civilization in Pakistan. Pilgrims from Sri Lanka visit these historic sites, while both nations work together to preserve and celebrate this connection. Both countries share deep links through Emperor Ashoka's spread of Buddhism, seen in the ancient stupas, monasteries, and relic-based traditions found in both nations. Early Sri Lankan carvings also reflect influences from Gandhara art, highlighting a long history of cultural exchange.



JAULIAN MONASTERY, PAKISTAN

Jaulian is a ruined Buddhist monastery dating from the 2nd century CE, located in Taxila, in Pakistan. Jaulian, along with the nearby monastery at Mohra Muradu, form part of the Ruins of Taxila – a collection of excavations that were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.

The Polonnaruwa Vatadage is a 12th-century circular relic house in Sri Lanka's ancient capital, built to house the Sacred Tooth Relic. It features two stone tiers, four seated Buddha statues, and a central stupa, all once covered by a grand wooden roof supported by the surviving stone pillars. The site is world-renowned for its intricate stone carvings, including the highly detailed Moonstones and Guardstones that guard its entrances.



POLONNARUWA VATADAGE SRI LANKA



BUTKARA STUPA, PAKISTAN

The Butkara Stupa is an important Buddhist stupa near Mingora, in the area of Swat, Pakistan. It may have been built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka, but it is generally dated slightly later to the 2nd century BCE. The stupa was enlarged on five occasions during the following centuries, every time by building over, and encapsulating, the previous structure. The stupa was enlarged on five occasions during the following centuries, every time by building over, and encapsulating, the previous structure.

Much like the Butkara Stupa, which saw multiple layers of construction and was surrounded by various votive stupas and columns, the Thuparama is the oldest stupa in Sri Lanka and features a similar "Vatadage" design. The tall, slender stone pillars surrounding the central dome are characteristic of this early Buddhist architectural style, intended to support a circular roof over the monument.



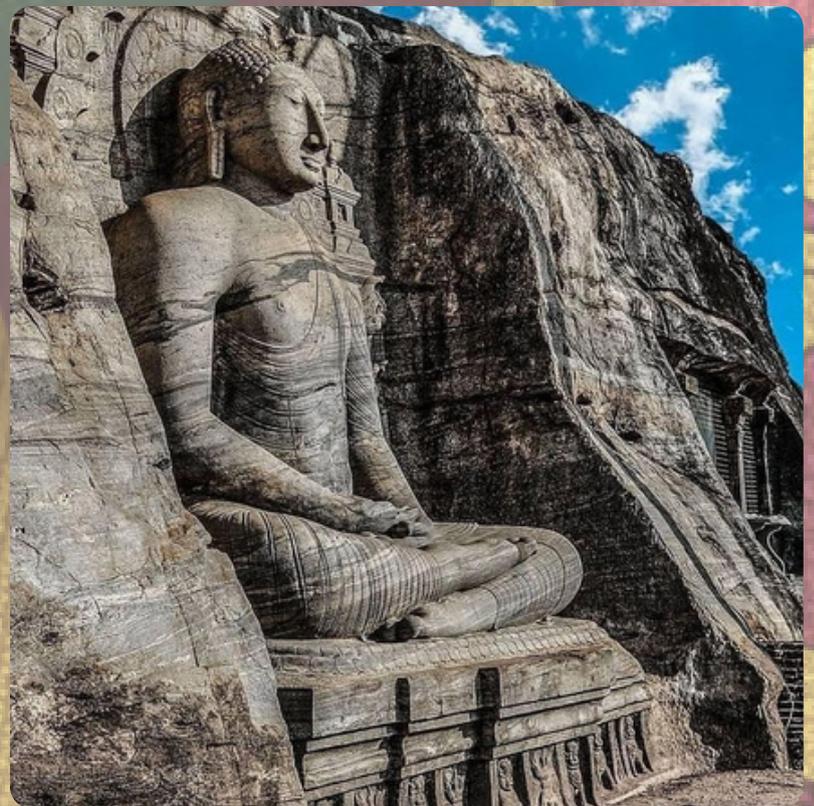
THUPARAMA STUPA, SRI LANKA



FASTING BUDDHA, PAKISTAN

The "Fasting Buddha" sculpture is a masterpiece of Gandhara art, found in Pakistan and depicting Prince Siddhartha before his enlightenment. Unearthed in Sikri, Pakistan, the original sculpture from the 2nd century CE is a national treasure now displayed at the Lahore Museum. It shows an emaciated Siddhartha in deep meditation and symbolizes the rigorous self-denial he undertook in his search for spiritual truth.

Like the Fasting Buddha, this statue of Seated Buddha at Gal Vihara in Polonnaruwa is carved with immense precision from a single rock face. However, instead of the gaunt, skeletal frame of the Gandharan ascetic period, Sri Lankan art almost exclusively depicts the Buddha in a state of supreme enlightenment (Samadhi) and serenity, reflecting the "middle path" that he chose after moving away from extreme fasting.



SEATED BUDDHA, SRI LANKA



SRI LANKAN MONKS VISIT PAKISTAN





GANDHARA

Where Buddhism Met the Classical World



By Najma Amath

Gandhara was one of the most historically significant crossroads of civilizations in the world. Located in what is now northwestern Pakistan, Gandhara serves as the point of convergence for Eastern religion and Western art. As such, it has created a unique blend of culture and spirituality through its influence on Buddhism's early development through visual art and philosophy. This blending of cultures occurred because Gandhara's geographical location allowed it to take ideas from both the Indian Subcontinent (east) and Greco-Roman cultures (west) and put them into a single form of artistic expression.

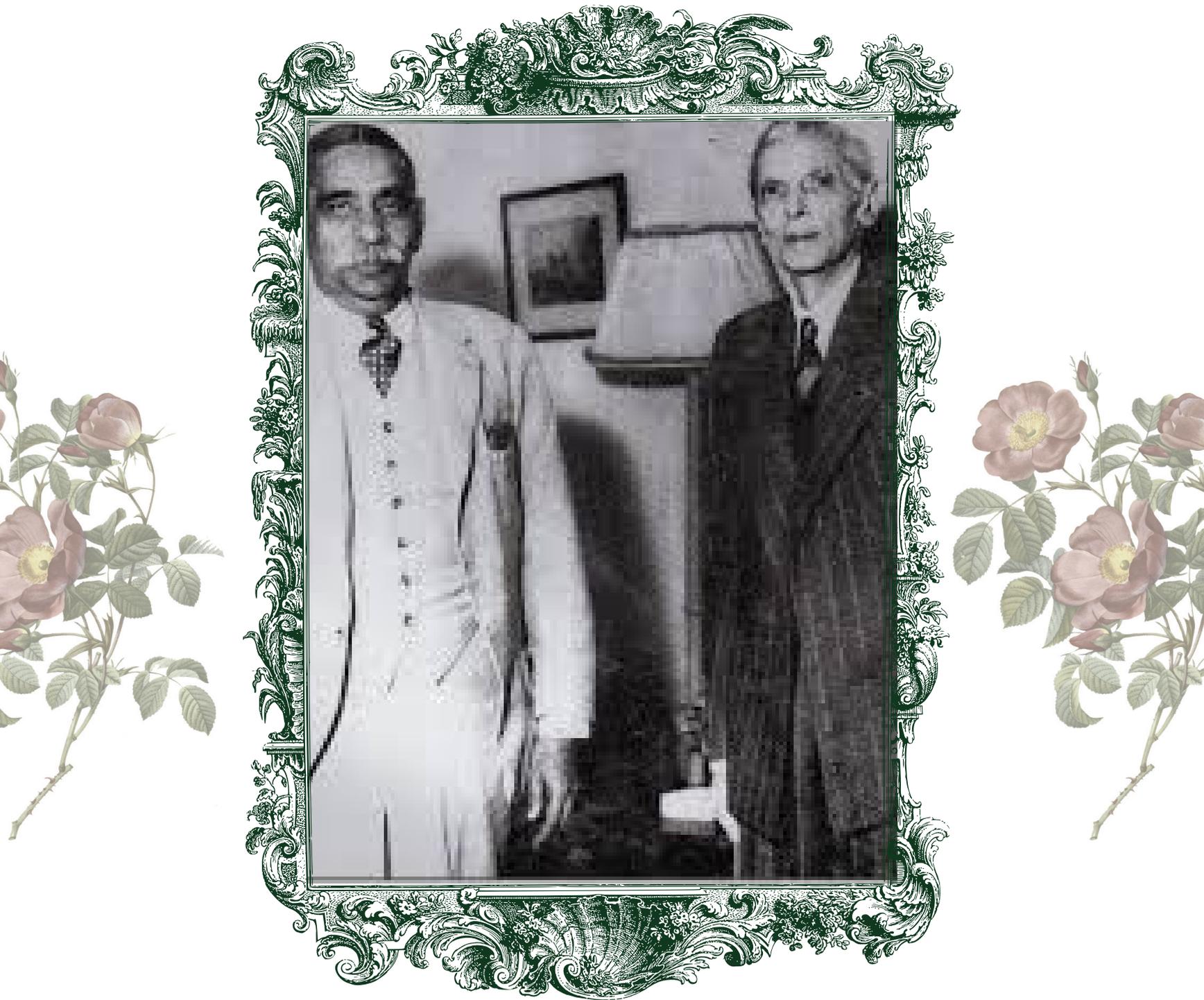
Alexander the Great began a period of nearly 800 years' worth of substantial political and cultural change in Gandhara when he arrived there in the year 330 BC. Over the course of this time, multiple cultures developed and made their way to Gandhara. As these cultures collided, they developed a thriving cosmopolitan trading centre, as well as a religion of Buddhism and art. Rather than destroying previous customs, the new influences were combined and expanded, allowing for the spread of Buddhism to Central and Eastern Asia. A significant Buddhist legacy grew in Gandhara during the time of Kushan Emperor Kanishka in the 2nd century AC. Kanishka was able to take advantage of control over key trading routes and turned Gandhara into a major centre of education for Buddhist study, leading to the expansion of Buddhism from the Indian subcontinent into Central Asia. The money earned from the trade network was put towards building stupas, monasteries and workshops. This created an environment where a Greco-Buddhist art style emerged. During this time there was a large change in the artistic culture of the region. Trade, contact and migration helped to shape this cultural fusion. In addition, the period created an opportunity for the Buddhist form of representation that portrayed the Buddha in human form, which was influenced by Hellenistic sculpture. These Buddhist art pieces from this time played a significant role in changing how people view Buddhism and Buddhist art throughout Asia (containing Central Asia and China).

The stupas of Gandhara represent a unique combination of various cultures and artistic styles. Their stone structures are embellished with a variety of inscriptions and carvings that illustrate a mixture of Greco-Roman, Parthian and South Asian symbolism. The architectural designs found at sites such as Dharmarajika Stupa and Butkara Stupa are indicative of advanced architecture and geometric forms occurring between 2nd Century BCE-6th Century CE. The use of inscriptions in Kharoṣṭhī further indicate the religious and devotional practices being performed by members of the Buddhist faith during this period.

Unlike the massive stupas of Sri Lanka, which represent massive, centralized political power, those found in Gandhara reflect the diverse backgrounds of the people who built them (i.e. monastic institutions, rulers, and merchants). They also provided a pluralistic space for both Theravada and Mahayana traditions, increasing the rich nature of the region's religious beliefs. The sculpture produced during this time changed from an early focus on narrative relief to the sculpting of large-scale schist representations of the Buddha and the Bodhisattvas - illustrating the artistic development as well as the ambitions of the local Buddhist community.

Unlike the monumental brick stupas located at Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka which were representative of the imperial authority controlling the region, the stupas within the region of Gandhara represent a much broader spectrum of societal components. The stupas were created by more than just rulers and include monks and middle class patrons as well. As a result, the developed pluralism within the region created a growing environment for the two distinct traditions, Theravāda and Mahāyāna Buddhism. This pluralistic environment provided for a multitude of theological influences; the inscriptions of reliquaries show the donation of objects from both wealthy and common donors. The sculptural art of Gandhara underwent an extensive transformation between the third and fifth centuries, from early narrative reliefs to elaborate single standing figures and monumental schist (slate) statues of both Buddhas and Bodhisattvas, providing evidence of both aesthetic evolution and the different spiritual aspirations of the various communities of Buddhist believers. Unfortunately, from the fifth century onwards the invasions and political turmoil of the region led to the dissolution of the vast majority of this dynamic culture; yet even with the decline in existence, the nature of the Buddhist imagery created in Gandhara has had a profound effect on the history of Buddhism in Asia as well as the general spiritual and cultural heritage of the region.

LEADERSHIP CONNECT

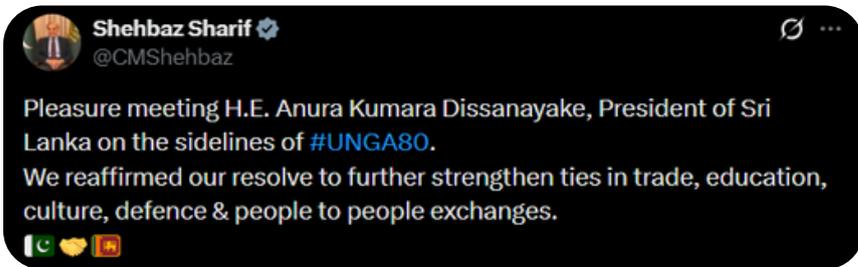
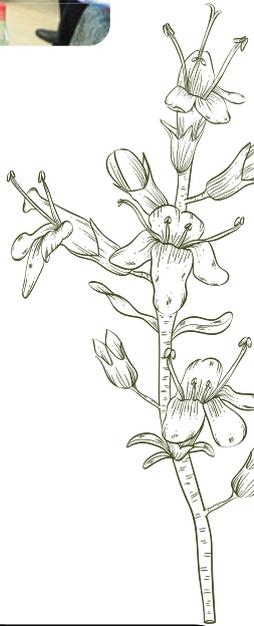


Don Stephen Senanayake, Father of the Nation and the first Prime Minister of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) meeting with Mohamed Ali Jinnah, the Founding Father of Pakistan as well as its first Governor-General. The photograph was taken in Karachi, then the capital of Pakistan, between August 1947 and September 1948.





Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met with the President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake on the margins of the World Government Summit in Dubai on February, 2025.

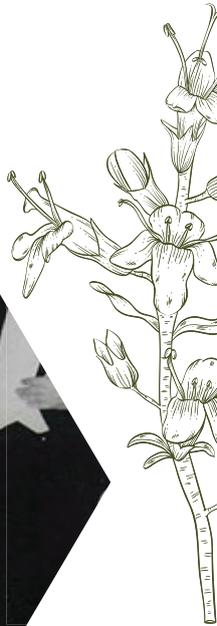
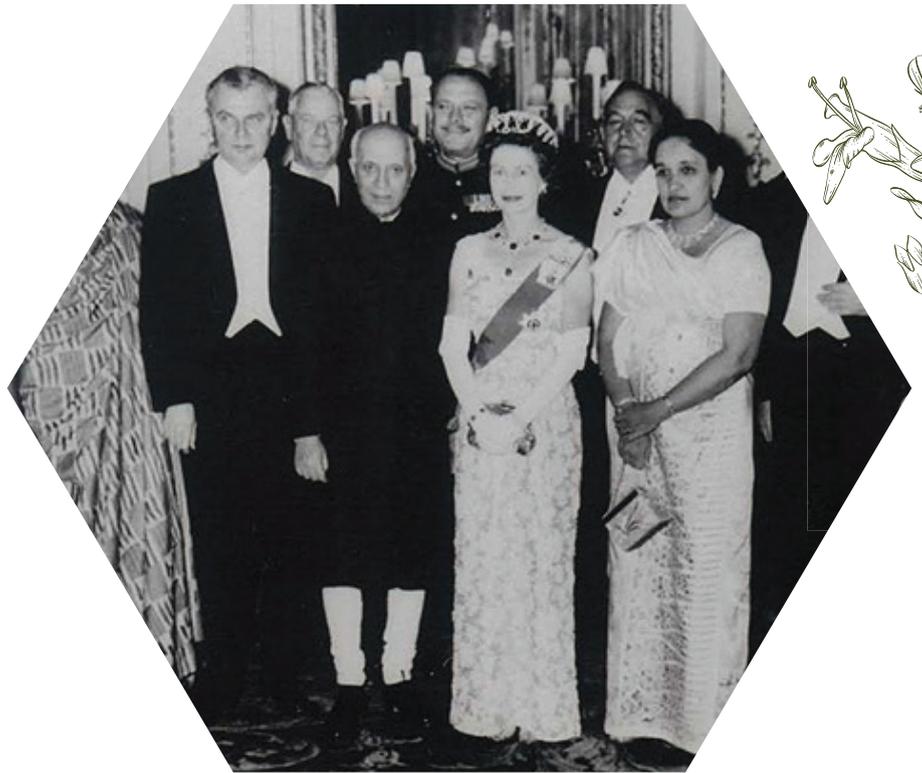




16 December 1975 – Visit of Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

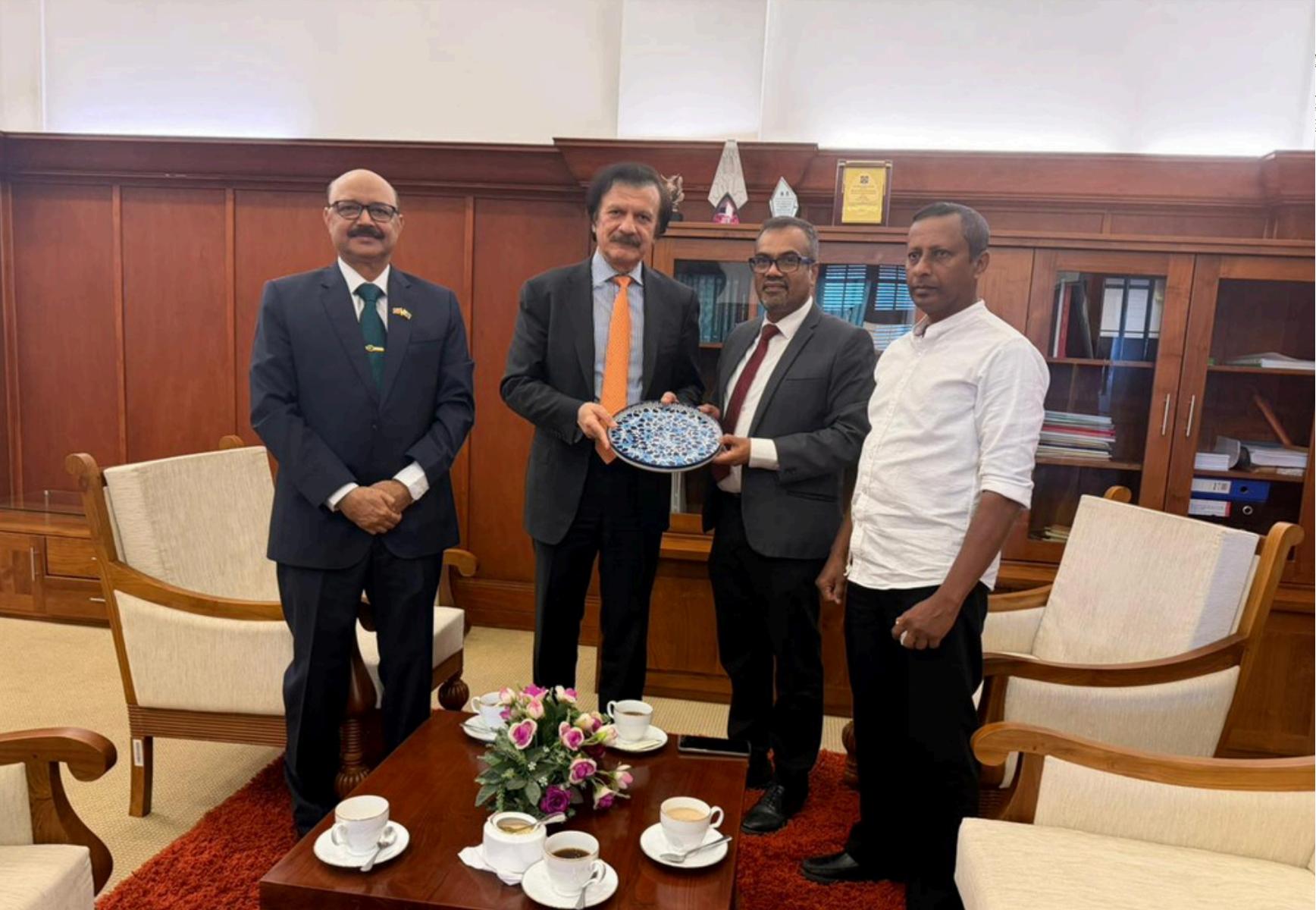
At the invitation of Mrs Bandaranaike, Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto undertook a visit to Sri Lanka. During his stay President Bhutto addressed the National State Assembly, becoming the second Pakistani leader to do so after General Ayub Khan in 1963. He held extensive discussions with Mrs Bandaranaike on the situation in Pakistan, especially in the period after the break-up of the country and in light of the support Sri Lanka had extended Pakistan in permitting the refueling of civilian aircraft flying between East and West Pakistan.

Marking her presence on the world stage, Mrs Bandaranaike undertook her first official visit to London, to attend the 11th Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. Whilst being the first Commonwealth Conference at which a woman Head of Government had attended, Mrs Bandaranaike joined the ranks of Harold Macmillan of the United Kingdom, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Ayub Khan of Pakistan



SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan led a high-level delegation to Colombo for the 13th Pakistan-Sri Lanka Joint Economic Commission (JEC), focusing on revitalizing the Free Trade Agreement and launching a new Joint Working Group on IT and Digital Economy. On the sidelines of the JEC, SAPM Haroon Akhtar Khan met with Wasantha Samarasinghe (Minister of Trade & Commerce), Sunil Handunneththi (Minister of Industry), Dr. Anil Jayantha Fernando (Minister of Labor/Finance), and Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni (Deputy Minister of Health).





SHARED EDUCATION

Knowledge Without Borders

Imagine a Sri Lankan student walking the halls of a historic university in Lahore or Islamabad, fueled by a legacy of regional partnership. This is the reality of the Allama Iqbal Scholarships, a cornerstone of the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) mission to empower the next generation.

By providing 800 fully funded scholarships and 200 partial grants, Pakistan is opening its doors to Sri Lanka's brightest minds across all disciplines. But the collaboration doesn't stop at graduation. Through the Pak-Sri Lanka Higher Education Cooperation Programme, a continuous loop of faculty exchanges and administrative training ensures that both nations grow together. Whether it's the Jinnah Scholarships for young learners or large-scale education expos, the message is clear: the future of South Asian leadership is being built in the classroom.



Sri Lankan students while visiting Northern areas of Pakistan



Allama Iqbal Scholarship Award Ceremony



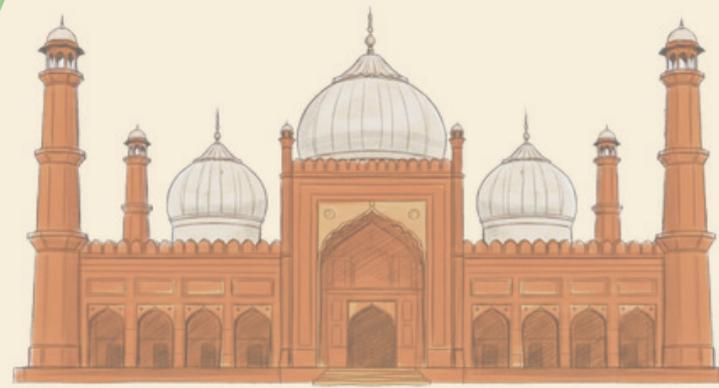
Alumni Gathering at Pakistan High Commission Colombo

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS



Diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and Pakistan are strong, longstanding, and conflict-free, built on mutual respect and cooperation. Both countries are strategic partners in South Asia and engage in frequent high-level exchanges across Defense, Trade, Education, Sports and Culture.

Key areas of cooperation between Pakistan and Sri Lanka span several fields. Defense ties include long-standing military training and regular talks on maritime safety, joint exercises, and information sharing, highlighted by a Sri Lankan Air Force visit during the 2024 Indus Shield exercise. Economic links have grown through the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, with both countries working to improve trade and investment by easing barriers. Cultural exchange remains strong, supported by visits such as the 2024 Sri Lankan delegation attending a symposium on Gandhara Buddhist heritage. Politically, both nations have often backed each other in global forums, continuing a history of solidarity that dates back to Sri Lanka permitting Pakistani aircraft to refuel during the 1971 conflict.



SPORTS DIPLOMACY

SPORTS, PARTICULARLY CRICKET, HAVE LONG SERVED AS A POWERFUL BRIDGE BETWEEN NATIONS, FOSTERING GOODWILL AND STRENGTHENING DIPLOMATIC TIES.

Cricket has played an important role in connecting Pakistan and Sri Lanka, helping build trust and friendship between the two nations. Regular tours, shared passion, and respectful interactions on and off the field have encouraged cultural exchange. Even during challenging periods, both countries have stood by each other through the game, showing the strength of their bond.



Attaullah Tarar Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting in a meeting with Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, in Islamabad on November 20, 2025.



PAKISTAN CRICKET TEAM WELCOMED IN SRI LANKA AT AIRPORT



DEFENCE COOPERATION

Pakistan and Sri Lanka share a long and steady defense partnership built on military support, training, equipment, and intelligence exchange. This bond grew even stronger during Sri Lanka's civil conflict, when Pakistan offered key assistance at a crucial moment.

Main areas of cooperation:

- Support to Sri Lanka in raising the training standards of its forces for United Nations duties
- Sri Lanka receives top-tier access to training offered on a free basis
- Regular participation in joint and multinational drills such as AMAN, Barracuda, Cormorant Strike, and other bilateral exercises
- Around 600 free training slots offered each year for all Sri Lankan forces
- Total of 897 Sri Lankan officers and soldiers trained in Pakistan between 2021 and 2025
- 53 Pakistani officers trained in Sri Lankan military institutions between 2021 and 2025



Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir in a meeting with Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Sampath Thuyacontha



Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General (Retd) Sahir Shamshad Mirza in a meeting with Commander of the Sri Lankan Air Force, Air Marshal Udeni Rajapaksa



The Chief of General Staff of the Pakistan Army, Lieutenant General Syed Aamer Raza in a meeting with Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of Defence, Major General (Retd) Aruna Jayasekara

THIS STRONG DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP HAS HISTORICAL ROOTS, WITH PAKISTAN'S TIMELY ASSISTANCE DURING THE FINAL PHASES OF THE SRI LANKAN CIVIL WAR BEING A KEY EVENT THAT SOLIDIFIED THE STRATEGIC BOND BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.



A Camaraderie beyond Geopolitics: In praise of Pakistan-Sri Lanka Army ties



By Dr Punsara Amarasinghe

Both the Pakistan and Sri Lankan armies came into existence by virtue of colonialism, in which the British military traditions galvanised the commanding structure. Despite sharing a common bond with British roots, both armies had different destinies in serving their motherlands. Yet, in contrast to these differences that they adopted, the deeper ties between the Sri Lankan army and the Pakistan army are worth remembering as one of the strongest pillars of bilateral relations between the two countries.

In the first two decades after independence, the duties bestowed upon Sri Lankan army took a rather ceremonial manner, emulating the colonial ethos and the commanders of the Sri Lankan army were British nationals until 1955. However, the massive political transformation that occurred in 1956 compelled the armed forces in Sri Lanka to get rid of their Quasi-European characteristics, which resulted in reducing the number of officer Cadets sent by Sri Lanka to the elite Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. The indigenization of the army, along with the financial constraints that surrounded post-independent Sri Lanka, compelled the governments to send their officer cadets to less expensive and effective military training schools in the region.

In this context, several young Sri Lankan army officers were sent to the Pakistan Military Academy in 1963, marking the beginning of a longstanding relationship between the two armies. Among the first group trained at the academy was Sri Lal Weerasooriya, who would later become the Commander of the Sri Lankan Army. The professional relationship that Weerasooriya, later General, developed with Gen. Pervez Musharraf proved significant decades later when both held senior leadership positions. In 2000, as the strategically vital Elephant Pass army camp complex faced imminent capture by LTTE forces, troops under General Weerasooriya established a defensive line in Muhamale. However, mounting an effective resistance was extremely challenging without substantial firepower. At that time, the Sri Lankan army's firepower was limited to artillery, which was insufficient to counter the LTTE offensive. Consequently, the acquisition of Multiple Barrel Rocket Launchers (MBRLs) became critical. The longstanding rapport between General Weerasooriya and General Musharraf, established during their training at the Pakistan Military Academy, became instrumental. In response to General Weerasooriya's urgent request, General Musharraf arranged for the delivery of 30 MBRLs to Colombo within a few days, significantly altering the course of the conflict.

To understand the strong ties between the Sri Lankan army and the Pakistan army, one needs to revisit Sri Lanka's lesser-known assistance given to Islamabad in 1971 during the Indo-Pak war. In 1971, when Pakistan requested refueling facilities from Colombo to its aircraft flying to East Pakistan, the request was granted by then Sri Lankan Premier Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, regardless of its subsequent geo-political effects.

The bonds between the two armies became much sharper in the turbulent 1980's when Sri Lanka began to confront the LTTE terrorism at an unprecedented level. In the words of Sri Lanka's renowned military historian Channa Wickremasekera, this period was a tough

apprenticeship for the Sri Lankan army that was transforming from its ceremonial role into a fighting squad, and the new armed technology became a pivotal need for Sri Lankan forces to cope with this new enemy. The fire arms used by the Sri Lankan army in the early 1980's lacked the capacity to crush. The heavy arms of the Sri Lankan army consisted of a few Saladin armoured cars purchased from Britain in the 1950s and the Artillery regiment, which was reduced to a single regiment after a 1962 coup attempt, had a few 76 mm Mountain Guns acquired from Yugoslavia and Britain.

To boost the morale of the armed forces, the Sri Lankan government under the Presidency of J.R. Jayawardene made several requests from various Western States, but to no avail. In the backdrop of such a twisted context, Colombo's request to Islamabad was warmly reciprocated, followed by the dispatching of a heavy load of firearms and other military equipment to intensify the Sri Lankan armed forces' attempt to thwart the LTTE's activities. It should be noted that the ties between the two armies have fostered not mainly due to the diplomacy. On the contrary, the personal friendship fostered between the gentlemen officers from both armies has played a catalyst role in cementing the relationship, which continues to this date. For example, in 1976, when Gen. Zia Ul Haq visited Sri Lanka as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, then army commander of Sri Lankan army, General Sepala Attygalle made a good rapport with Gen. Zia. 10 years later when Gen. Sepala Attygalle requested armed assistance from Pakistan it was gently accepted by General Zia Ul Haq, who was then in power as the President of Pakistan proving how person to person approaches can be much effective in international affairs.

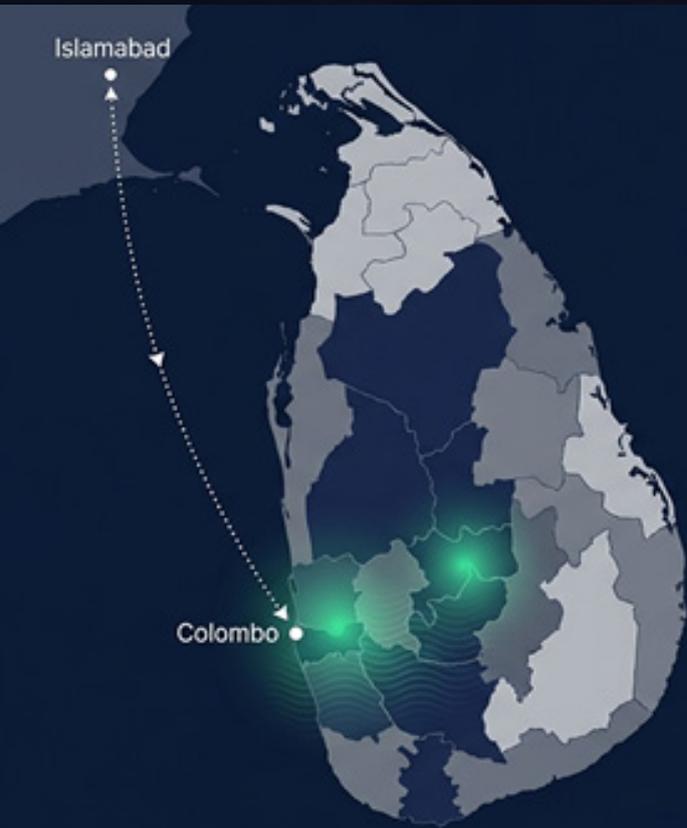
In the fourth Elam War, when international pressure began to weaken Sri Lanka's armed forces' humanitarian operations in the North and Eastern provinces of the island, Sri Lanka sought urgent armed supplies from Pakistan. In particular, \$ 25 million worth of 81 mm, 120 mm mortar ammunitions were delivered to Sri Lanka within the month's request, which forged the last offensive of the Sri Lankan armed forces in eliminating the LTTE menace. According to Janes Defence Weekly, the total defence purchase from Pakistan reached up to \$ 100 million by the end of 2008. On the advent of the complete military defeat of the LTTE, in January 2009, a meeting between Pakistan Defence Secretary Lt Gen Syed Athar and his Sri Lankan counterpart Goatabhaya Rajapaksa paved the path to enhance cooperation between military training between the two armies. In that context, besides sending officers to the traditional Pakistan Military Academy, Sri Lankan army officers began to receive their training in other prestigious military academies in Pakistan, such as the School of Artillery in Nowshera, the Command and Staff College in Quetta.

All in all, the stringer ties between the Sri Lankan army and the Pakistan army reflect the warmth between the bilateral relations between the two states under all circumstances. Yet the bond between the two armies stand unique as it is a sheer embodiment of trust between soldiers built on shared experience, personal stories and nostalgia.



PARTNERS IN RELIEF & RESCUE

Pakistan's Humanitarian Support to Sri Lanka
A STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO CYCLONE DITWA



Crisis and Solidarity: The Diplomatic Signal

Following the devastation caused by cyclone DITWA, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif immediately contacted President Anura Kumara Dissanayake to express solidarity. The response was not merely rhetorical; it triggered an instant mobilization of national assets.

“Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to a time-tested friendship... Pakistan believes that Sri Lanka is a resilient nation and will surely find strength and courage to overcome this tragedy.”

— Major General (Retd) Faheem-ul-Aziz, High Commissioner

First Responder: Immediate Maritime Pivot



The Asset

PNS SAIF (F-253)

Already docked at Colombo Port for the international Fleet Review 2025
Transitioned to HADR operation on November 29, 2025.

The Action

Immediate Donation Handover

Command handed over packed relief items and rations to the Sri Lankan Navy within hours of the crisis onset.

The Capability

Z9EC Helicopter Embarked

Prepped immediately for aerial rescue and sorties in inaccessible zones.

PARTNERS IN RELIEF & RESCUE



Critical Rescue at Kotikawatta

December 1, 2025

In the Kotikawatta area, floodwaters rose to 15 feet, cutting off road access for a 4km radius. The PNS SAIF helicopter conducted high-risk sorties to reach the stranded.

4 Survivors Recovered
Including a 7-month-old infant stranded for 5 days.

Aerial drops of dry rations were simultaneously conducted for families in inaccessible zones.



Establishing the Air Corridor

December 3, 2025 - Noor Khan Air Base to Colombo

Directed by the Government of Pakistan, the NDMA mobilized a strategic air bridge using Pakistan Air Force C-130 aircraft.

 47 - Member Team

 6.5 Tons of specialized equipment

 Essential survival gear

This rapid deployment bridged the gap between immediate need and sustained support, delivering the Elite Search and Rescue (USAR) Team directly to the disaster zone.



Boots on the Ground: Elite Capabilities



Urban Search & Rescue

47 - members specialized team from the Pakistan Army, equipped with sniffing dogs and technical location gear for complex disaster scenarios.



Medical Support

Deployment of a fully equipped Field Hospital to treat trauma and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases in flood-hit areas.



Infrastructure Engineering

NDMA offered temporary bridging solutions to restore access to severed transport links and cut-off communities.

Multi-Modal Logistics & Civil Cooperation

Beyond military assets, the operation utilized civil aviation channels to maximize throughput.

Sri Lanka Airlines

December 3-4: Used for rapid transport of high-volume perishables.



Civil Society Partnership

Collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation (NGO) to supplement government aid, ensuring a "Whole of Nation" approach.



High Level Ministerial Visit



On the special directives of Hon. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and following his recent telephone conversation with Hon. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Hon. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar has arrived in Colombo on a two-day official visit to express Pakistan's solidarity after the floods. Pakistan reaffirms its everlasting friendship with Sri Lanka and stands confident that the resilient Sri Lankan nation will overcome this challenge.

The Maritime Wave: Sustained Relief

December 15, 2025 - Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT)

200 TONS

Of Humanitarian Goods
Delivered in Single
Consignment



****Diplomatic Handover.****

Presented by High
Commissioner Maj. Gen.
(Retd) Faheem-ul-Aziz.

Received by Hon. Anura
Karunathilaka (Minister of
Ports) and Rear Admiral
S.J. Kumara.



Shelter & Protection

- Family Tents
- Trapaulins
- Blankets & Quilts
- Bubble Mats



Rescue & Survival

- Inflatable Boats
- Life Jackets
- De-watering Pumps
- Camping Lamps



Nutrition

- RUTF (Ready-to-Use
Therapeutic Food)
- Infant Dry Milk
- Dry Rations



Health

- Critical Medicines
- Mosquito Nets
- Hygiene Kits

KANDY MUSEUM RENOVATION



High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Maj. General (Rtd) Faheem Ul Aziz HI (M) officially inaugurated Pakistan Gallery, located inside Kandy Museum. The gallery has recently been renovated to showcase the Buddhist archeological and heritage sites, based in different cities of Pakistan through pictures, relics, and artifacts. It is now officially opened for the general public to visit.





KANDY MUSEUM RENOVATION

Sri Lanka – Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association

High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka Major General (R) Faheem-ul-Aziz attend the meeting of the Sri Lanka – Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association for the 10th Parliament on 05th August, 2025. H.E was welcomed by the Hon. Speaker of Parliament Dr. Jagath Wickramaratne and the Hon. Deputy Speaker Rizvie Salih. H.E also addressed the Association at the occasion.



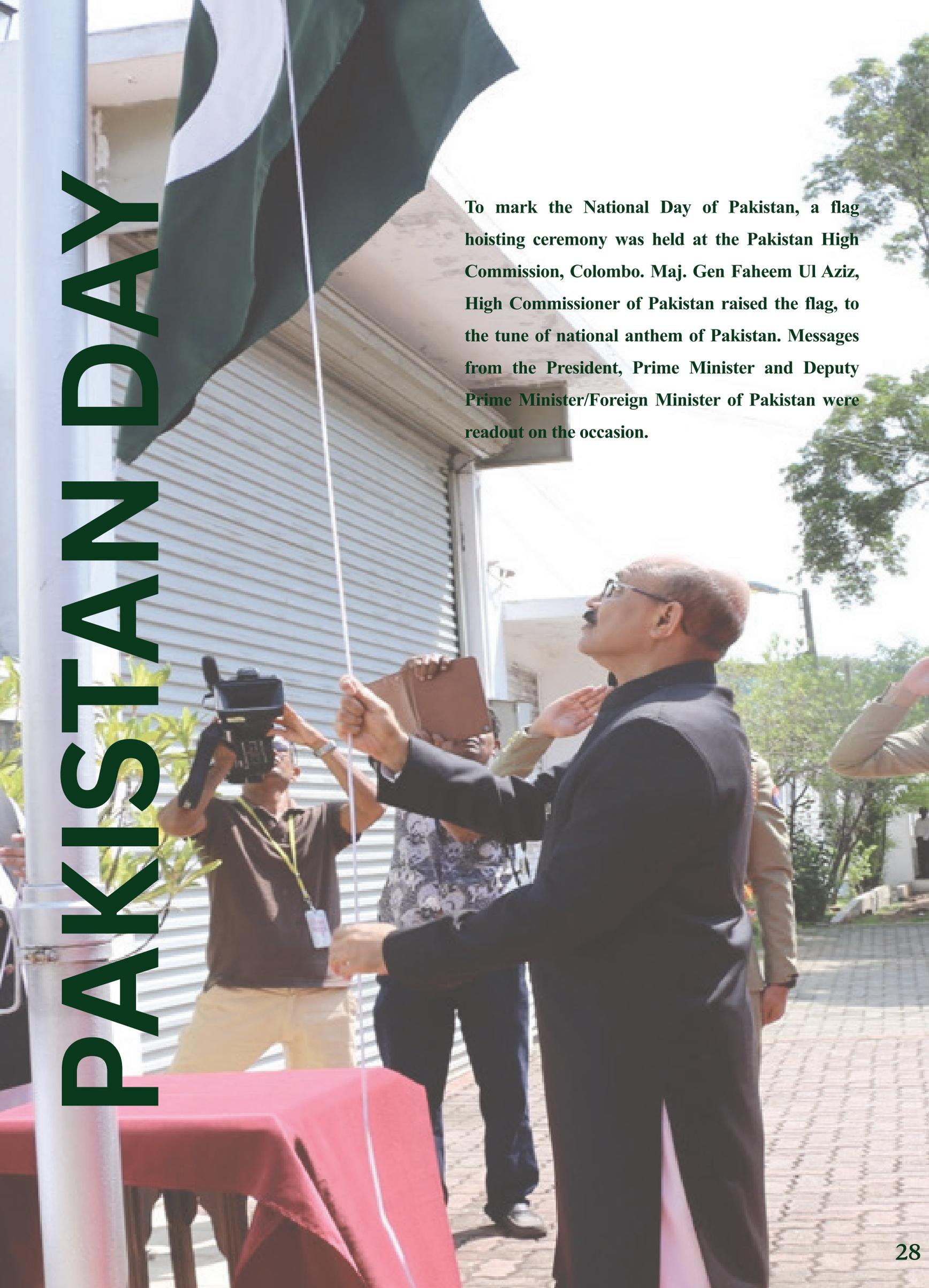
Sri Lanka – Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association



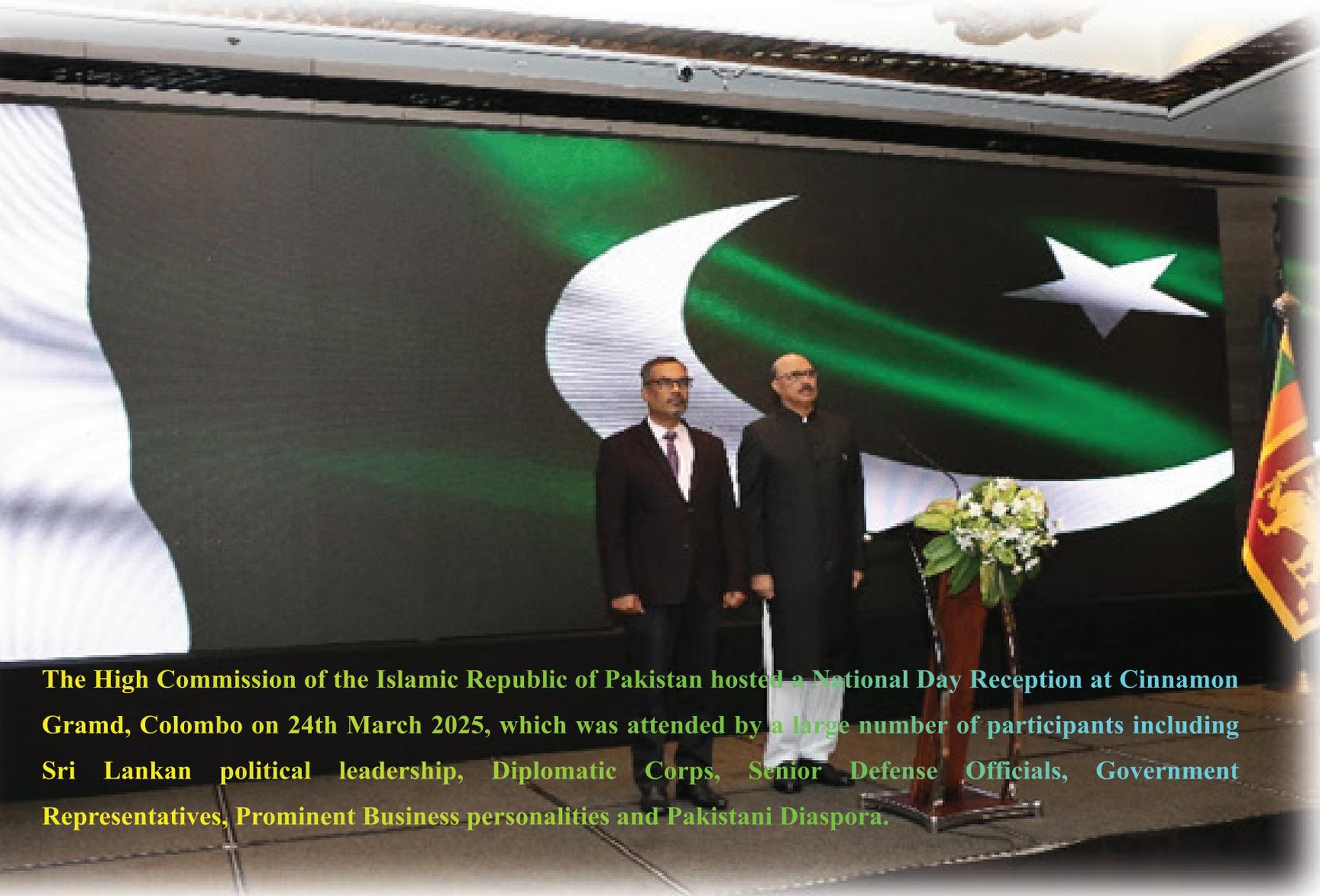
Sri Lanka – Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Association visited Pakistan High Commission



PAKISTAN DAY



To mark the National Day of Pakistan, a flag hoisting ceremony was held at the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo. Maj. Gen Faheem Ul Aziz, High Commissioner of Pakistan raised the flag, to the tune of national anthem of Pakistan. Messages from the President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan were readout on the occasion.



The High Commission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan hosted a National Day Reception at Cinnamon Grand, Colombo on 24th March 2025, which was attended by a large number of participants including Sri Lankan political leadership, Diplomatic Corps, Senior Defense Officials, Government Representatives, Prominent Business personalities and Pakistani Diaspora.

LONG LIVE پاکستان
PAKISTAN زنده باد

PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY
PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION, COLOMBO

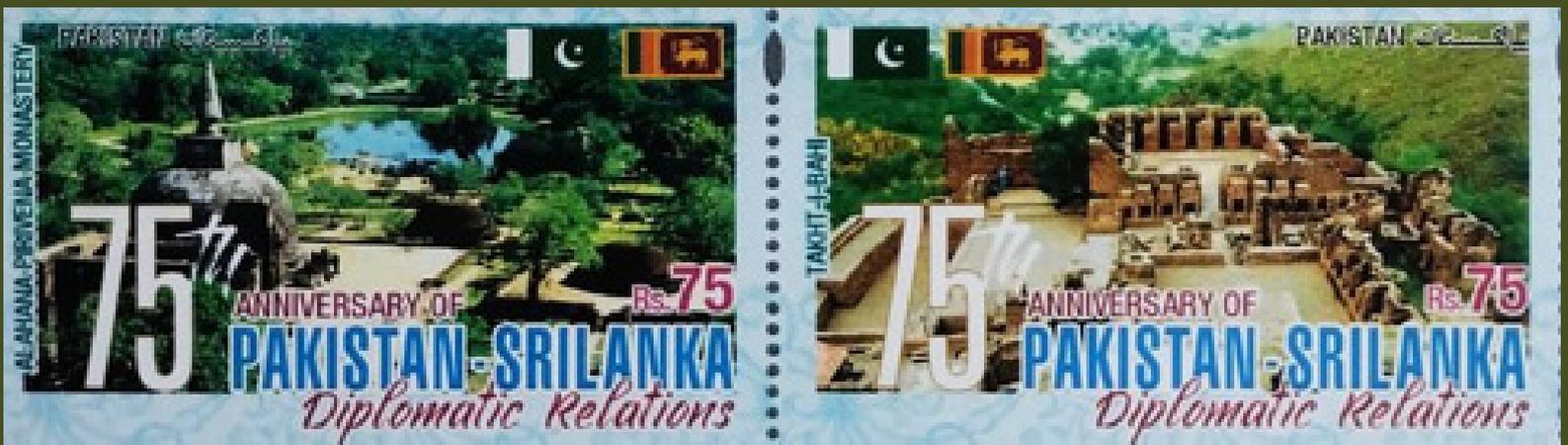




Joint issuance of Commemorative Stamps between Pakistan and Sri Lanka



To celebrate the enduring friendship and shared cultural heritage between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the two nations recently collaborated on a joint stamp issuance marking 75 years of diplomatic relations. This milestone, formally reached in 2022, was commemorated through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in March 2025 between Pakistan Post and the Sri Lanka Department of Posts. The issuance serves as a philatelic symbol of the "deep-rooted and multifaceted" ties that bind the two South Asian neighbors, spanning political, economic, and cultural spheres.



The joint issuance features two unique stamps, each highlighting a significant historical Buddhist heritage site from the respective countries, reflecting their ancient connections along the Buddhist circuit and the Silk Road.

Featured Landmarks

The stamps showcase two iconic archaeological wonders:

- Takht-i-Bahi (Pakistan): An Indo-Parthian archaeological site of an ancient Buddhist monastery located in Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This UNESCO World Heritage site is one of the most well-preserved Buddhist monastic complexes in the Gandhara region.
- Alahana Pirivena (Sri Lanka): Located in the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, this monastic college was established by King Parakramabahu the Great. It is a vital part of Sri Lanka's cultural triangle and showcases the grandeur of medieval Sinhalese architecture.

Under the agreement, both countries collaborated on the design to ensure a unified aesthetic. As part of the diplomatic exchange, 5,000 stamps and 2,000 first-day covers were exchanged between the two postal administrations. The stamps were officially released to the public in late December 2025, with first-day covers featuring special cancellations that include the emblems of both nations. This initiative not only appeals to philatelists but also reinforces the "shared history" narrative that both governments continue to promote as a pillar of their bilateral partnership.

PAKISTAN & SRI LANKA

SHARED CUISINES



The Shared Culinary DNA

Despite the geographical distance, the two nations share foundational ingredients that define their flavor profiles:

- **The Spice Route Staples:** Both cuisines rely heavily on turmeric, cumin, coriander, and cloves. Sri Lanka is the world's leading exporter of cinnamon to Pakistan, while Pakistan exports high-quality rice and textiles to the island.
- **The Love for Biryani:** Biryani is a national obsession in both countries.
 - **Pakistan:** Known for its Sindhi and Karachi styles—fragrant, meat-heavy, and often featuring potatoes.
 - **Sri Lanka:** Known locally as Biryani (influenced by the Malay and Muslim communities), it is often richer in spices like cardamom and cloves, and frequently served with a side of wambatu moju (pickled eggplant) or mint chutney.

SHARED CULINARY BOND

Pakistan and Sri Lanka share a deep cultural and culinary bond that stretches back centuries, rooted in maritime trade, shared history as former British colonies. While Pakistani cuisine is often characterized by its heavy use of wheat and meat (influenced by Central Asian and Persian traditions), and Sri Lankan cuisine is defined by its coastal, coconut-heavy, and rice-based identity, they overlap in fascinating ways.





BOOK ON JINNAH



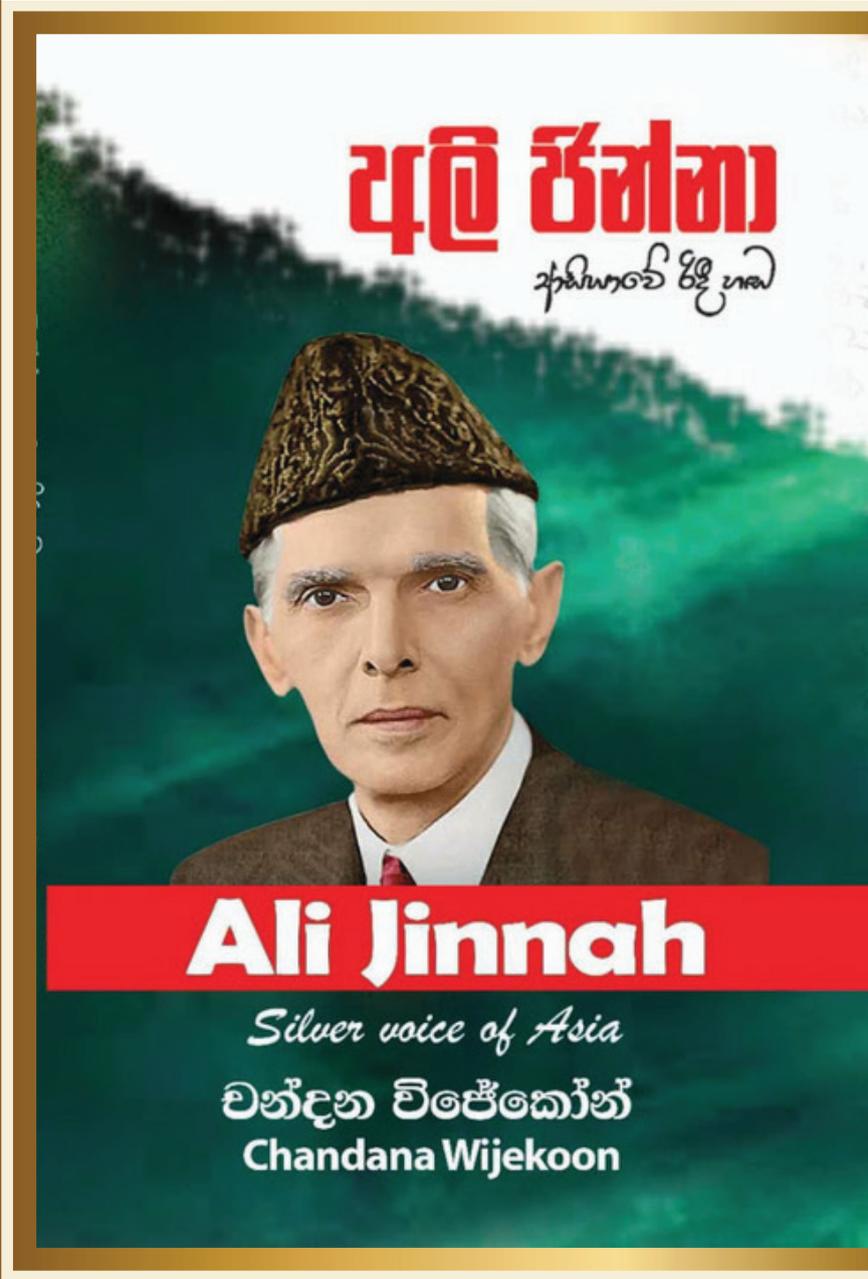
A Journey in Search of Ali Jinnah

Chandana Wijekoon is a professional journalist with over 30 years of experience in the media field, having received his higher education from the

Chandana Wijekoon University of Colombo and the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism from the University of Colombo and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Media Research. Beyond his local academic background, he has received advanced training in international news writing and editing at Reuters in the United Kingdom and completed advanced diplomas in democracy, media, and investigative reporting at Kalmar University in Sweden. To date, Wijekoon has authored nine books, including Sri Lanka Press Council Law and its Role (1999), The Story of the Newspaper (2007), Mass Media and Social Consciousness (2011), Lahore Fort (2012), The Glory that was Ghandara (Journey in search of Buddhist Ruins in Pakistan)-(2013), Tears of Hiroshima (2018), Ali Jinnah: Founder of Pakistan (2019), Nawalokaya (The Role of Venerable Udakendawala Siri Saranankara Thero in Left Communication) (2021), and his latest work, Ali Jinnah (Silver Voice of Asia) (2023). In addition to his writing, he serves as a visiting lecturer in journalism and as the Bureau Chief for the Agencies of Cyber World Press.

His publication, Ali Jinnah (Silver Voice of Asia), has generated significant discussion among Sri Lankan readers. While numerous articles regarding Muhammad Ali Jinnah's character and actions exist in various languages, Wijekoon is the first to compile a book on him in the Sinhala language. Jinnah, the founder of independent Pakistan, remains a unique figure in world political history and a turning point in South Asian politics. Beyond his political status, he was a dedicated humanitarian who began his political life as a moderate, educated in England. Although many books have been written about this imposing figure, they were almost exclusively in English or Urdu, meaning only a small minority of Sri Lankan readers were previously familiar with his vital role. This seven-chapter book is an extension of Wijekoon's publication in 2019 and includes subtle details regarding Jinnah's political and private life that were previously omitted.

In his historic speech to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly in 1947, Jinnah declared that he established Pakistan to create an environment of freedom for all nations, asserting that a person's



religion or creed has nothing to do with the business of the state. He emphasized that while individuals maintain their personal beliefs, they are all equal citizens of a single state. A highlight of the book is the inclusion of Jinnah's speech to the Muslim League in Lahore in 1940, a 21-page section that encapsulates his liberal politics and humanitarianism. Along with three other significant speeches, the book provides Sri Lankan readers with invaluable insights into a progressive leader. Ultimately, Chandana Wijekoon's effort to bring the role of this noble leader to the attention of Sri Lankan readers through Ali Jinnah (Silver Voice of Asia) is a highly commendable contribution to local literature.



TOURISM



PARTNERS IN TOURISM

Pakistani travelers are increasingly visiting Sri Lanka for beach vacations and shopping, while Sri Lankan adventure seekers are beginning to explore the trekking opportunities in Gilgit-Baltistan. Efforts have been made to streamline visa processes for tourists from both nations to encourage frequent travel.

UNCOVER THE ULTIMATE LOCATION



SHARED TOURISM

While Sri Lanka offers world-class beaches and wildlife safaris (Yala, Sigiriya), Pakistan offers the majestic peaks of the Karakoram and Himalayas.

PARADISE IN ASIA

Fairy Meadows



Fairy Meadows is a lush, high-altitude alpine pasture in northern Pakistan that offers breathtaking, front-row views of the massive Nanga Parbat peak.



Attabad Lake

Attabad Lake is a stunning turquoise-blue reservoir in the Hunza Valley, famously formed by a massive landslide in 2010 that dammed the Hunza River.

Nine Arch Bridge



The Nine Arch Bridge in Ella, also known as the "Bridge in the Sky," is a stunning colonial-era viaduct built entirely of stone, brick, and cement without a single piece of steel.



Sigiriya

Sigiriya, also known as "Lion Rock," is a massive 5th-century stone fortress and ancient palace perched atop a 200-meter granite peak, famous for its colossal lion paws gateway and sophisticated hydraulic gardens.



National Radio & Telecommunication Corporation

is a high tech industry engaged in manufacturing of telecommunication equipment in Pakistan



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