



**His Excellency Palitha T.B. Kohona,
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations**

Ambassador Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona served as the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Prior to his appointment

he served as the Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process (SCOPP) established by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Palitha Kohona who hails from Matale, Sri Lanka, received his secondary education in Sri Lanka at St. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia. He proceeded to obtain a LL.B (Hons) at the University of Sri Lanka and a LL.M from the Australian National University. He obtained a Doctorate from Cambridge University, UK, for the thesis 'The Regulation of International Economic Relations through Law', subsequently published by Kluwer, Netherlands. He is also an Attorney-at-Law, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Dr. Kohona has published extensively on areas such as, terrorism, international organized crime, the environment, etc.

Dr. Kohona was a member of the Sri Lanka delegation to the UN General Assembly in 2006 to 2011. He is the Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Territories Occupied since 1967. He has been invited to be an Honorary Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association. During his tenure as the Secretary-General of the Government Peace Secretariat (2006), he participated in several rounds of peace negotiations with the LTTE in Geneva and led the delegation to talks in Oslo.

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WHO WE ARE

The Office of International Affairs & Diplomacy actively supports UVU's global engagement efforts by advancing UVU's presence and prestige in the International community; helping UVU students become globally competent graduates; promoting cultural literacy and diversity both on campus and in the community.

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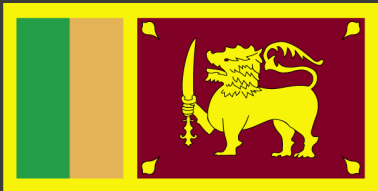
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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SRI LANKA



Sri Lankan Flag History:

When Vijaya, the first King of Sri Lanka arrived on the island from India in 486 BC, he brought with him a flag with a symbol of a lion on it. The flag has long since been used in Sri Lanka as a symbol of freedom and hope, and is considered to be one of the oldest flags in the world.

Sri Lankan Flag Meaning:

The lion represents the strength and bravery of the nation; the sword demonstrates the sovereignty of Sri Lanka; the four bo leaves symbolize Buddhism and its influence on the country, and the four virtues of: kindness, friendliness, happiness, and equanimity; orange signifies Sri Lankan Tamils, green the Sri Lankan Moors; dark red represents the European Burghers, and yellow denotes other ethnic groups.

Information taken from wikipedia.org and CIA factbook.

- With unique tropical forests and picturesque beaches Sri Lanka is known as the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean.”
- Famous explorer Marco Polo wrote that Sri Lanka is the finest island in the whole world.
- Sri Lanka was known as Ceylon before 1972.
- The spice, cinnamon, originated in Sri Lanka and was discovered by the Egyptians.
- Together with Malaysia, Sri Lanka provides 70% of the world’s total rubber production.



- Aukana is the site of an impressive 43 ft statue of Lord Buddha, which dates back to the 5th century AD (pictured left).
- Sri Lanka is the world’s largest tea exporter.
- Sri Lanka was the first country in the world to democratically elect a woman as their head of state.
- The string hopper, which is a pancake-like steamed noodle flattened into a circle, is a common dish in Sri Lanka.
- The modern industrial economy of Sri Lanka has one of the highest per capital incomes in South Asia.
- Cricket is the most popular sport.
- From 1983 until 2009 a Civil War caused constant violence between the Sri Lankan government and some of its citizens. The war was led by a separatist militant organization, known as the Tamil Tigers, who fought to create an independent Tamil state in the north and the east portions of the island.
- The Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage in Sri Lanka is one of only a few elephant orphanages in the world and is considered to be the largest worldwide.



Information gathered from Wikipedia.org, funtrivia.com, iloveindia.com, & www.10-facts-about.com/Sri-Lanka.