



Raksha Mantri pays a courtesy call on Sri Lankan President in Colombo

India and Sri Lanka reaffirm commitment to shared progress & people welfare while ensuring regional security and prosperity

As closest friend and neighbour, India considers it a responsibility to provide assistance as first responder, will continue to do so: Shri Rajnath Singh

Sri Lanka would never allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's security interests: Mr Anura Kumara Dissanayake

Both sides ink MoUs on upgradation of L70 Guns for Sri Lankan Air Force and cooperation between National Cadet Corps & National Defence Colleges of the two countries

Three Bailey Bridges constructed by the Indian Defence Forces virtually inaugurated

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Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh called on the President of Sri Lanka Mr Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on September 09, 2026. The two leaders held substantive discussions on issues covering the entire spectrum of the multi-faceted partnership between the two nations, characterised by traditionally warm relations and mutual trust.



The two sides reaffirmed that as civilisational twins, close neighbours & maritime partners, India and Sri Lanka would continue to work together for their development & welfare of the people while working jointly to ensure the safety, security, peace and prosperity of the region. Raksha Mantri conveyed greetings on behalf of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and underlined that the citizens of the two countries share deep friendship based on strong historical & civilisational links and people-to-people exchanges.

Extending a warm welcome to Raksha Mantri, President Dissanayake recalled his interactions with PM Modi and reiterated that Sri Lanka would never allow its territory to be used for any activities inimical to India's security interests.



President Dissanayake expressed his gratitude for the relief assistance provided by India as part of Operation Sagar Bandhu during Cyclone Ditwah and the comprehensive rehabilitation package extended by New Delhi to facilitate reconstruction and rehabilitation work across different parts of the island. Raksha Mantri emphasised that as a closest friend and neighbour of Sri Lanka, India considered it not a favour, but a responsibility to provide assistance as the first responder and would continue to do so in the future as well.



Both leaders virtually inaugurated three Bailey Bridges constructed by the Indian Defence Forces. The two sides also exchanged MoUs on upgradation of L70 Guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force, and cooperation between National Cadet Corps (NCC) & National Defence Colleges (NDC) of both the countries. The MoU on Upgradation of six L70 guns for the Sri Lankan Air Force falls under a Government of India grant. The upgradation of these air defence guns will significantly strengthen the air defence architecture of critical assets in Sri Lanka. These air defence guns were earlier provided to the Sri Lanka Air Force by India.



The MoU on academic cooperation between NDC, India and NDC, Sri Lanka will facilitate knowledge sharing which will be a significant step in further strengthening the academic bonds between both the sister institutes. The MoU on NCC cooperation will formalise the NCC youth exchange programme between India and Sri Lanka. This exchange programme provides a valuable opportunity for NCC cadets from multiple countries across the world to come to New Delhi every year and participate in NCC events.



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