



Embassy Newsletter

SLEMB- Ankara

April- May 2026

April

Sri Lanka Embassy celebrates Sinhala and Tamil New Year

The Embassy family marked the occasion of celebrating Sinhala and Tamil New Year with a beautifully arranged traditional table, featuring an array of Sri Lankan sweetmeats and customary delicacies, symbolizing prosperity, unity, and new beginnings.



Sri Lanka looks for possible collaborations with MiGROS

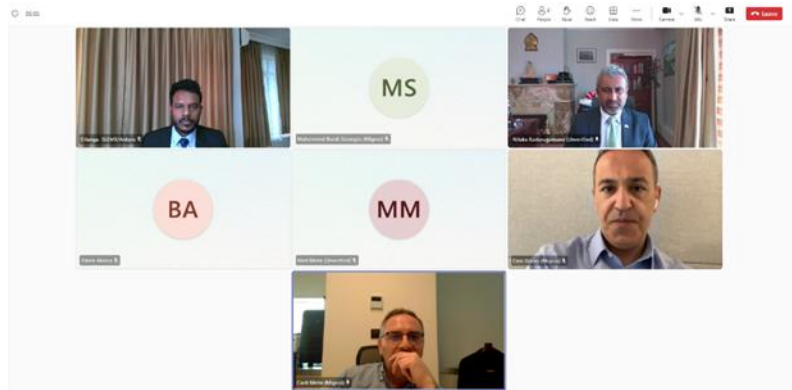
The Ambassador and First Secretary (Commercial) held a virtual meeting on 20 April 2026 with senior officials of Migros Ticaret A.Ş. of Türkiye to explore opportunities for enhancing Sri Lankan exports to the Turkish market. The Migros delegation included Mr. Cavit Metin, Marketing Director Mr. Muhammet Burak Süzergöz, Import Executive and Mr. Cem Göcen Import Export Group Manager.

Migros Ticaret A.Ş. is one of Türkiye's leading retail chains, operating a wide network of supermarkets, hypermarkets, and online platforms across the country. Migros has evolved into a major player in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector. The company offers a broad product range including fresh produce, packaged foods, household items, and private-label brands, catering to diverse consumer segments through different store formats such as Migros, MM Migros, and 5M hypermarkets. In recent years, Migros has strengthened its

digital presence through e-commerce and rapid delivery services, contributing significantly to Türkiye's modern retail landscape.

The Ambassador highlighted Sri Lanka's strong export potential, particularly in premium Ceylon cinnamon, value-added tea, and coconut-based products etc. He also emphasized the scope for strengthening bilateral investment cooperation as well.

The Migros representatives welcomed these prospects and expressed their interest in developing trade partnerships with Sri Lanka. As a follow-up, both sides agreed to initiate B2B engagements with reliable Sri Lankan exporters as a first step towards building sustainable commercial collaboration.



May

Sri Lanka holds discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye



A productive and forward-looking meeting was held between Director General of Europe and North America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of Sri Lanka, Sugeeshwara Gunaratna and Director General for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Korhan Karakoç.

During the meeting, Sri Lanka conveyed its sincere appreciation for the generous humanitarian assistance extended by the Government of Türkiye in the aftermath of cyclone Ditwah. The discussions also focused on strengthening ongoing cooperation and exploring further collaboration in development and reconstruction projects in the affected areas.

Sri Lankan Delegation collaborates with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA)

Director General for Europe and North America Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of Sri Lanka, Sugeeshwara Gunaratna met with Vice President of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), Dr. Ali Ercan today, during the former's visit to Ankara to attend the Second Round of Political Consultations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.



The discussions focused on the assessment of TİKA's ongoing and future development assistance projects in Sri Lanka following Cyclone Ditwah, with particular attention to long-term reconstruction and community support initiatives.

TİKA highlighted its longstanding partnership with Sri Lanka spanning over two decades through 26 development projects and expressed its commitment to further expanding cooperation, especially in the fields of education, healthcare, and agriculture.

Sri Lanka and Türkiye strengthen Bilateral Ties at the Second Round of Political Consultations



The Second Round of Political Consultations between the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Republic of Türkiye was successfully held on 05 May 2026 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye in Ankara. The consultations were co-chaired by Director General of the Europe and North America Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism of Sri Lanka, Sugeeshwara Gunaratna and Director General for South Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Ambassador Cihad Erginay.

The consultations marked a significant milestone in the longstanding and cordial relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, reflecting the shared commitment of both countries to further deepen cooperation based on mutual respect, shared values, and common interests. Both sides underscored the

importance of maintaining regular political dialogue to review progress and identify new avenues for collaboration, building on the strong historical foundations of bilateral relations.

During the consultations, the two delegations engaged in comprehensive and forward-looking discussions covering a wide spectrum of areas, including bilateral political relations, trade and economic cooperation, defence collaboration, connectivity and maritime affairs, education, science and technology, and regional and multilateral issues. Opportunities for expanding investments and joint ventures were also explored, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, tourism, logistics, and technology.

Sri Lanka expressed its sincere appreciation for the humanitarian assistance extended by the Government of Türkiye in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, and both sides discussed avenues for further cooperation in reconstruction and development initiatives. The consultations also noted the steady progress in defence and security cooperation, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthening institutional linkages and capacity-building efforts.

Discussions further focused on enhancing connectivity and maritime cooperation, including leveraging existing direct air links between Istanbul and Colombo and exploring collaboration in maritime services and the blue economy. Both sides also highlighted the importance of advancing cooperation in higher education, vocational training, and scientific research, including the early finalization of pending bilateral agreements.



The two delegations exchanged views on regional and global developments, including developments in West Asia, South Asia, and the Indian Ocean region, and reaffirmed their commitment to working closely within the United Nations and other multilateral fora on issues of mutual interest. Both sides reiterated their adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, international law, and multilateral cooperation.

The successful convening of the Second Round of Political Consultations reflects the strong political will on both sides to elevate bilateral relations to new heights, guided by a shared vision of sustainable development, regional stability, and mutual prosperity.

The Sri Lanka delegation comprised of Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Türkiye Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Minister Nilusha Dilmini and First Secretary Commercial Dilanga Hettiarachchi.

During the visit, Director General Sugeeshwara Gunaratna also met with the Director General for Humanitarian and Technical Assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Korhan Karakoç and Vice President of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), Dr. Ali Ercan, to discuss post-Ditwah assistance to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka participates at “7th International Culture Day”

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participated in the “7th International Culture Day” organized by OSTİM Technical University on 06 May 2026.

The event brought together diplomatic representatives, distinguished guests, academics, and students from more than 20 countries, providing a platform to celebrate cultural diversity and international friendship. The opening ceremony was attended by Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Yülek, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya, and other distinguished dignitaries.



The Embassy showcased Sri Lanka’s rich cultural heritage, unique identity, hospitality, and the taste of Ceylon Tea, promoting Sri Lanka’s traditions and values to an international audience.

The event strengthened people-to-people connections and highlighted the importance of cultural exchange in promoting mutual understanding and friendship among nations.

Embassy of Sri Lanka in Türkiye explores trade and investment cooperation with Istanbul Chamber of Commerce

Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, with his official delegation met with the President of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Mr. Şekib Avdagiç at the Chamber’s headquarters in Istanbul.

The meeting focused on exploring new avenues for bilateral trade and investment cooperation between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, with the objective of further enhancing the mutually agreed bilateral trade target of USD 500 million under the Türkiye–Sri Lanka Joint Economic Cooperation framework.

During the discussions, the Sri Lanka delegation highlighted the growing potential for Turkish businesses to explore increased trade and investment opportunities in Sri Lanka. He also encouraged greater engagement in sectors of mutual interest, emphasizing Sri Lanka’s strategic location, investor-friendly environment, and expanding economic prospects.

The discussions further covered potential areas of collaboration including the enhancement of air connectivity, maritime cooperation, and tourism cooperation between the two countries. The Ambassador elaborated the importance of strengthening people-to-people connectivity and promoting closer commercial partnerships between the business communities of both nations.

Adding valuable insights to the discussion, President Şekib Avdagiç pointed out the prospects of expanding trade relations with Sri Lanka, particularly through increased Turkish investments in the island nation. He also expressed interest in promoting Sri Lanka as an attractive destination for Turkish travelers and investors.



Sri Lankan official delegation participates at Beauty Istanbul International Exhibition

The Sri Lankan official delegation, participated in the 7th International BEAUTYISTANBUL Exhibition 2026 held at the Tüyap Fair Convention and Congress Center, Istanbul on 07 May 2026.

BEAUTYISTANBUL is recognized as one of the premier international exhibitions for the cosmetics and beauty industry in Türkiye and the wider region, bringing together companies and buyers from 66 countries. The exhibition covers a wide range of sectors including personal care products, natural and halal cosmetics, dermo cosmetics, perfumery, packaging, ingredients, spa and wellness products, beauty salon equipment, and private label manufacturing.

During the visit, the delegation engaged with leading international cosmetics manufacturers, exporters, and industry representatives participating at the exhibition to explore potential opportunities for Sri Lankan cosmetic and personal care product exporters to enter and expand within the highly competitive global beauty industry.

Given the importance of the event, the delegation also held discussions with the event organizers regarding the possibility of arranging a dedicated Sri Lankan business delegation to participate in the 8th edition of the exhibition scheduled for 2027, as the exhibition will serve as an important platform for Sri Lankan exporters to identify new market opportunities,

build business partnerships, and gain exposure to the latest global trends, innovations, manufacturing technologies, raw materials, and packaging solutions in the cosmetics industry.



Sri Lankan envoy meets with potential investors in Istanbul

Strengthening economic cooperation between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, the Sri Lankan official delegation, met with leading Turkish conglomerates Medipol Mega University Hospital and ÜNLÜ & Co, to discuss investment opportunities in Sri Lanka.

During the meetings, the delegation highlighted the growing potential in Sri Lanka's healthcare and financial sectors, with special emphasis on opportunities available at the Colombo Port City. Representatives of both institutions expressed keen interest in further exploring investment and partnership opportunities in Sri Lanka.

Medipol Mega University Hospital is one of Türkiye's largest private university hospital complexes, renowned for its advanced medical technology, multidisciplinary healthcare services, and international patient care facilities.

ÜNLÜ & Co is one of Türkiye's leading investment and asset management groups, providing a wide range of financial services including mergers and acquisitions advisory, capital markets transactions, portfolio management, and venture capital solutions.

These engagements reflect the continued efforts of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara to further strengthen bilateral economic relations and attract quality investments to Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka Looks for New Avenues in Türkiye to Bolster its Tourism Industry



With a view to strengthening tourism cooperation between Sri Lanka and Türkiye, the official Sri Lankan delegation met with the Vice President of the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB), Davut Günaydın and his team at the TÜRSAB Headquarters in Istanbul.

During the meeting, the Sri Lankan delegation highlighted Sri Lanka as a premium tourist destination in Asia for Turkish travelers, showcasing the island's rich cultural heritage,

warm hospitality, breathtaking landscapes, and world-class services offered at competitive prices. The discussions emphasized Sri Lanka's unique ability to provide memorable and authentic travel experiences for visitors from Türkiye.

TÜRSAB officials apprised the Sri Lankan delegation of the growing interest among Turkish travelers in exploring new destinations beyond traditional European and African markets and expressed their confidence in Sri Lanka's strong potential as an emerging and attractive destination for the Turkish tourism market.



TÜRSAB agreed to facilitate an exclusive Sri Lanka destination promotion programme at its headquarters with the participation of Sri Lankan tourism stakeholders. They also undertook to support the promotion of Sri Lanka's tourism documentaries through TÜRSAB's official T V channel and their members' promotional plat forms.



Sri Lanka explores possible IT collaborations with Türkiye



The Sri Lankan official delegation held a productive meeting with the Chairman and board members of the Istanbul chapter of the Türkiye Information and Technology Association (TBD) with a view to enhancing bilateral cooperation in the ICT and digital economy sectors between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

During the discussions, the Sri Lankan delegation highlighted Sri Lanka's growing potential as a regional IT and digital services hub in South Asia, supported by a highly skilled workforce, internationally recognized IT service providers, and a competitive business process management and outsourcing industry. The delegation also emphasized the Government of Sri Lanka's strong policy focus on building a "Digital Economy" and invited Turkish stakeholders to explore opportunities in digital payments, e-government platforms, cybersecurity

frameworks, AI and data analytics, HealthTech, SME digitalization, smart cities, cloud computing, and related sectors.

The Sri Lankan side further proposed the organization of dedicated business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking sessions between Turkish and Sri Lankan IT companies and encouraged Turkish investors to explore investment opportunities in Sri Lanka's dedicated IT and Tech Parks established under the Board of Investment (BOI), benefiting from the attractive incentives offered to foreign investors.

The delegation additionally proposed establishing a formal cooperation mechanism through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TBD and an appropriate counterpart in Sri Lanka to facilitate joint events, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and bilateral industry partnerships.

The TBD delegation expressed keen interest in strengthening collaboration with Sri Lankan counterparts, particularly with SLASSCOM and the Ministry of Digital Economy, and conveyed its preference to engage with Sri Lanka's government-led digital and IT initiatives.



Sri Lanka holds a discussion with the Economic Development Foundation



The Sri Lankan official delegation led by the Ambassador, held a cordial and productive meeting with Prof. Dr. Haluk Kabaalioglu, President of the Economic Development Foundation, Istanbul

The meeting focused on a wide range of global political and economic developments, regional economic trends, and opportunities to further enhance bilateral economic relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye. Both sides exchanged valuable insights on strengthening trade and investment cooperation, promoting stronger business-to-business engagement, and encouraging closer institutional collaboration between the two countries.

The Sri Lankan delegation highly appreciated the insightful perspectives shared by Prof. Dr. Kabaalioglu on international economic affairs and Türkiye's growing role in regional and global economic engagement. The delegation also expressed sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality and gracious business lunch hosted in honour of the visiting delegation, which further reflected the longstanding friendship and cordial relations between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.

Economic Development Foundation (İktisadi Kalkınma Vakfı – İKV) is one of Türkiye's leading research and policy institutions focusing on economic development, international trade, and Türkiye's relations with the European Union and the global economy. The Foundation conducts research, publishes policy analyses, organizes conferences and high-level discussions, and contributes to strengthening Türkiye's economic and commercial engagement with international partners. Through its activities, İKV serves as an influential platform connecting policymakers, academics, business communities, and international stakeholders on issues related to trade, investment, regional cooperation, and sustainable economic development.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with both sides reaffirming the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation to further strengthen economic and commercial ties between the two friendly nations.



Sri Lanka participates at the “International Friendship Day”

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara participated in the “International Friendship Day” held at Hacettepe University, which brought together representatives from 27 countries to celebrate cultural exchange and international friendship.

The Sri Lanka stall welcomed visitors with Ceylon Tea and introduced Sri Lankan products, including Siddhalepa Ayurvedic products and Supirivicky toothpaste, promoting Sri Lanka’s traditional wellness practices and quality consumer products. The event provided an opportunity to present Sri Lanka’s culture, tea heritage, and wellness products while strengthening connections with the international community in Türkiye.



Sri Lanka Showcases the Finest of Ceylon Tea in Türkiye to Mark International Tea Day



The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara joining hands with the Sri Lanka Tea Board and BETA Food Industry and Trade Inc., celebrated the International Tea Day with an exclusive afternoon dedicated to the world-famous Ceylon Tea at the Sri Lanka Residence on 18 May 2026. The event brought together members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, Turkish media representatives, leading tea traders, and importers in Türkiye to experience a unique cultural and culinary experience

centered around Sri Lanka’s most iconic export.

Welcoming the guests, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Türkiye, Niluka Kadurugamuwa emphasized the global significance of International Tea Day, declared by UNESCO, while highlighting the deep economic, cultural, and historical importance of tea to Sri Lanka. The

Ambassador also elaborated that Ceylon Tea continues to hold a prestigious reputation worldwide for its unmatched quality, rich aroma, refreshing taste, and diverse regional character cultivated across the island’s unique climatic regions.

The afternoon was adorned with a comprehensive presentation on “Ceylon Tea” conducted by Ms. Hatice Uğur, a Ceylon tea specialist, followed by screening of Ceylon Tea promotional videos and a finest Ceylon Tea tasting and live demonstration session, where guests were introduced to the seven regional varieties of Ceylon Tea along with a selection of premium artisanal teas. The interactive session presented participants with an exclusive opportunity to experience the craftsmanship, heritage, and authenticity that distinguish Ceylon Tea in the international market.



The event was organized in collaboration with BETA Food Industry and Trade Inc., one of Sri Lanka’s longstanding and valued Ceylon Tea import partners in Türkiye. Their contribution reflected the growing friendship and cooperation between Sri Lanka and Türkiye in promoting the tea industry.

The elegant afternoon was further enriched with the serving of freshly brewed finest Ceylon Tea along with the authentic Sri Lankan delights and traditional refreshments, allowing guests to experience the unique hospitality and vibrant culinary traditions of Sri Lanka. Guests were also gifted with Ceylon Tea hampers.

The celebration reaffirmed the Embassy’s firm commitment to promote Ceylon Tea in the host country while strengthening trade relations, and cultural exchanges between Sri Lanka and Türkiye.



Ambassador of Sri Lanka Presents Credentials to the President of Georgia



Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Georgia resident in Ankara, Niluka Kadurugamuwa presented his Letters of Credence to the President of Georgia, Mikheil Kavelashvili, at an official ceremony held in Tbilisi on 22 May 2026.

During the audience with the President of Georgia following the credentials ceremony, Ambassador Kadurugamuwa conveyed the warm greetings and best wishes of President Anura Kumara Disanayaka to the President, Government and the people of Georgia. The

Ambassador reaffirmed Sri Lanka's commitment to further strengthening the longstanding friendly relations and cooperation between Sri Lanka and Georgia in areas of mutual interest.

As part of the official programme, the Ambassador held meetings with several senior Georgian dignitaries and officials. He called on the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Maka Botchorishvili, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, George Zurabashvili

and Senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia including the representatives from the Department of Asia and Pacific and the Consular Department.



The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral engagement in the fields of political cooperation, trade and investment, tourism, education, people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. Both sides acknowledged the importance of maintaining close cooperation and regular high-level engagement to further deepen relations between the two countries.



The discussions also highlighted the growing educational links between the two countries, particularly the increasing number of Sri Lankan students pursuing higher education in Georgia, including at the Tbilisi State Medical University.

In this context, during the visit, Ambassador Kadurugamuwa also met with the Sri Lankan students in Tbilisi and exchanged views on matters relating to their academic and welfare activities. The Ambassador was accompanied by the Minister of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara, Nilusha Dilmini.

Sri Lanka Embassy Celebrates Vesak

The Embassy of Sri Lanka in Ankara marked the day of Vesak by illuminating its premises in celebration of the birth, enlightenment, and passing away of Lord Buddha. The Vesak observance reflected the timeless Buddhist values of peace, compassion, wisdom, and harmony, while showcasing Sri Lanka's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. The illuminated Embassy served as a symbol of hope and goodwill, sharing the universal message of Vesak with the people of Türkiye and the international community.

