

**High Commission of India
Colombo**

Press Release

**Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting on upgradation of Thondaman
Vocational Training Centre (TVTC) in Hatton**

Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, co-chair of the PSC on upgradation of TVTC and Ms. Deepthika Gunarathna, Additional Secretary (Development), State Ministry of Estate Housing & Community Infrastructure, who represented Mr. D.P.G. Kumarasiri, Secretary and co-chair of the PSC, convened a meeting at the High Commission on 23 March 2021 to review progress of upgradation of TVTC in Hatton. Representatives of the Contractor- Panthila Civil Engineers, Consultant-DH Wijeyawardhana and other Government officials from India and Sri Lanka were also a part of the meeting.

2. Upgradation of the Training Centre is being undertaken as a grant project by Government of India and consists of civil work as well as supply of equipment. This project is a reflection of India's continued commitment to carry out human-centric projects in Sri Lanka in diverse spheres. Education and vocational training have been central elements of India's development assistance in Sri Lanka.

3. India's overall assistance to Sri Lanka currently stands at more than USD 3.5 billion with ~USD 560 million being grants. While close to 65 grant projects have already been carried out across the island, 20 of them are at various stages of implementation. Indian Housing Programme and 1990 Suwaseriya ambulance service are among the flagship grant projects implemented by India in Sri Lanka.

**Colombo
23 March 2021**