

Message of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, on the occasion of the launch of the Emergency Ambulance Service in Sri Lanka: July 28, 2016, Colombo

His Excellency Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka,

My Sri Lankan Friends,

Namaskaram!

On this occasion of the launch of the Emergency Ambulance Service in Sri Lanka, it is a matter of great pleasure that I and 1.25 billion Indians can use technology to again speak with our friends in Sri Lanka. Only last month I had the honour to dedicate the renovated Duraipppah Stadium to the people of Sri Lanka together with President Sirisena.

If yesterday it was in Northern Sri Lanka that we dedicated the fruits of our partnership, then today inauguration of this joint project will carry forward our cooperation in Southern and Western provinces of Sri Lanka.

I must commend His Excellency Wickremesinghe for his leadership in the success of the launch of this Ambulance Service. It represents a concrete result of how our close partnership benefits the people on the ground. It is another example of how Indian experiences, capacities and best practices can fulfill the needs of our friends in Sri Lanka.

Dear Friends, this project is important as it will help save lives. This Ambulance Service would add to your capacities for delivering emergency healthcare. And the goals of this project are ambitious. It will reach out to over 8 million residents of Southern and Western Sri Lanka. I am told it will also be a source of substantial job creation in local communities. The project also showcases the success of Public Private Partnership between the Government of Sri Lanka and its nominated implementing partner.

Dear Friends, the threads of strong civilizational linkages have united the people of our two countries. Today the partnership between India's capacities and your needs is not only touching the lives of our people, it also shows our path of constructive regional cooperation. India's Development Cooperation with Sri Lanka enjoys a wide spread of projects throughout Sri Lanka in different areas of economic activities. But it must happen as per your aspirations. It is for this reason that our cooperative projects rely on the choices and priorities set by the people, the leadership and the Government of Sri Lanka.

Friends, in concluding, let me repeat what I've said earlier too: that India stands for a united, stable and prosperous Sri Lanka. That is also the goal of our partnership. And the Emergency Ambulance Service is a unique example of this friendship.

I congratulate President Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on the success of this project.

I also offer the people of Sri Lanka my best wishes and strong support in their march towards economic prosperity.

Thank you, Thank you very much.

Colombo

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