



strong-willed, dedicated and never-tiring President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his team of active cabinet ministers, have undoubtedly given the resilient nation a ready-made formula for a speedy recovery which most of its political adversaries and critics, both local and foreign, found hard to believe.

The country was guided by the principles of the President's philosophy, as outlined in Mahinda Chintana, on which he fought the elections with resounding victories ever cited in the annals of the country's political history.

The President, a devout Buddhist, has taken steps to protect Buddhism as well as the other faiths to lead the country towards righteousness and morality so that the people could enjoy the prosperity, happiness, peace and tranquility prevailing in the country, as a cohesive and united nation.

Establishment of various development projects to drag out the down-trodden villagers out of poverty to gain pros-



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cent to 90,889 in November 2011 with arrivals during the 11 months to November rising 31.1 per cent to 758,458. It is expected that, by the end of the year, tourist arrivals would reach 800,000.

Sri Lanka setting a record in resilience

Sri Lanka, rising from a 30-year cruel and ruthless terrorism which struck at the roots of its socio-economic foundation, devastating primarily the Northern and Eastern provinces and other parts of the country, has set a high record of resilience unparalleled in history.

It is easily comparable with the city of Pompeii - a city totally destroyed by a volcanic eruption at Mount Vesuvius, and Japan - the annihilation of the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by two, back-to-back, atomic bombs dropped by America in World War II. These cities speedily rose

from the ashes to become even greater in strength.

The newfound political stability, peace and tranquillity in Sri Lanka; the growth of the economy due to strong macroeconomic fundamentals; the huge agricultural and industrial development projects, both in size and extent; the redevelopment of infrastructure besides new additions such as the speedy 126 km (78 miles) picturesque Southern Expressway connecting Colombo (Kottawa) to Matara at a cost of \$700 million, and reducing the time taken to travel to one and half hours from the current four hours; the tourism industry at its highest peak; and the

perity, and setting up of and extending the chain of schools, colleges, universities accessible to every corner of the country have made it possible and transparent to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, the (Royal) Colleges in Colombo which cater to the sons and daughters of the wealthy and the elite, and the Central Schools in the villages - though yet lacking full complement of qualified teachers, equipment and resources - which prepare village students for higher education.

Mainly, as a result of the current peaceful situation of the country, tourism industry has reached its highest peak so far with rapidly increasing numbers of tourists from foreign countries.

According to the statistics revealed by LBO, Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals had risen 25.8 per

Arrival of tourists from France, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, China, Japan and Taiwan increased considerably whilst the number of tourists from Malaysia and Singapore fell slightly.

Tourism is a very lucrative industry and is a main foreign exchange earner in any country, whether developed or undeveloped; and Sri Lanka is no exception.

According to the Central Bank, revenue earned from tourism was \$575.9 million in the last 9 months of 2011 as against \$580.1 million in 2010. With the revenue earned from the last three months including December, the amount for the whole year of 2011 would topple the figures so far recorded this year and would eventually surpass that of 2010 by a huge, substantial margin.

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නේමන්ත දේවේන්ද්‍ර
 නෙරංජනා කුඩලිගම
 Home Visits possible

පැරි දේවපුර අමතක නොකරන්න

සන්නස පසුගිය කළාපයේ සිසිර දිසානායක නම් මහතා විසින් ලියන ලද "අපේ සිංහල පාසල්" නම් වූ ලිපිය හා බැඳෙයි.

අද දවසේ බොහෝ සිංහල භාෂා පාසල් තිබුණ ද මෙයට වසර විස්සකට වඩා පහතට ඇත අතීතයේ එවැනිකක් දැකීම සිහිනයක් පමණක් විය. එවැනි යුගයක 1992 දී පමණ පළමු සිංහල භාෂා පාසල ආරම්භ කළ පැරි දේවපුර මහතා විකේට්ටියාවේ සිංහල භාෂා පාසල් පිළිබඳ කතා කරන විට කිසිම ආකාරයකින් එවැනි අමතක කළ නොහැකි ය.

එවකට රෝසල් මෙල්බන් රෝහලේ ලේඛකාධිකාරීවරයකු ලෙස කටයුතු කළ දේවපුර මහතා මුලිආත්ම ආරම්භ කළ සිංහල භාෂා පාසල පැවැත්වුණේ ග්ලැසියර්වත්තක් කොමියුනිටි සෙන්ටර් හිදී ය. මේ භාෂා පසල ආරම්භ කිරීම සඳහා අපවත් වී වඳුලු සෝම නාමුදුරුවන්ගෙන් ලද අනුයාසනාද අමතක කළ නොහැකි ය.

පැරි දේවපුර මහතා ආරම්භ කළ විකේට්ටියා ප්‍රාන්තයේ ප්‍රථම සිංහල භාෂා පාසලේ ගුරුවරයන් වූයේ හිමාලි කරුණාරත්න හා කාන්ති වික්‍රමසූරිය යන ගුරුවරයන් දෙදෙනා ය.

ආරම්භ කර ටික කලකට පසු මෙම සිංහල භාෂා පාසල අප්‍රිල්හි උසස් පාසලට ගෙන යන්නට සිදුවිය.

අපේ සමාජයට අඩුවක්ව පැවති සිංහල භාෂා පාසල් ආරම්භ කළ පැරි දේවපුර නාමය ළමාදී ඕස්ට්‍රේලියාවට පැමිණි අය යොදන්නා නාමයක් බවට පත්ව ඇති බව දැකීම කණගාටුවට කරුණකි. එසේ වී ඇත්තේ පිදිය යුත්තක් පිදීමේ ගුණය අප අතින් මහතර විකීම නිසා ය. දැන් විකේට්ටියාව සිටින මේ පුරෝගාමියාට නිසි ගෞරවය ලබාදෙන්නට අමතක නොකරන මෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටිමි.

එස් නන්දදේව
 අප්‍රිල්හි