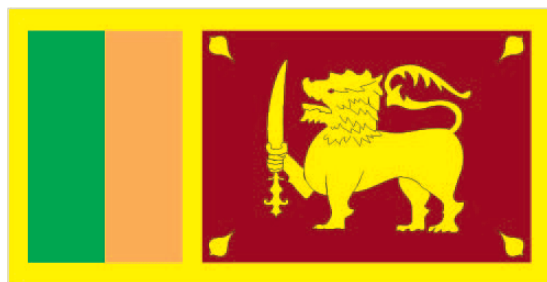
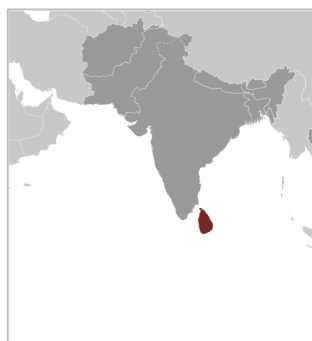




SRI LANKA



INTRODUCTION

The first Sinhalese arrived in Sri Lanka late in the 6th century B.C., probably from northern India. The island was ceded to the British in 1796, became a crown colony in 1802, and was formally united under British rule by 1815. As Ceylon, it became independent in 1948; its name was changed to Sri Lanka in 1972.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Ranil WICKREMESINGHE

Head of Government

President Ranil WICKREMESINGHE

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Colombo

Legislature

unicameral Parliament (225 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Mahinda SAMARASINGHE

US Ambassador

Ambassador Julie J. CHUNG

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 65,610 sq km

Land: 64,630 sq km

Water: 980 sq km

Climate

tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)

Natural Resources

limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay, hydropower, arable land

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

economic contraction in 2022-23 marked by increased poverty and significant inflation; IMF two-year debt relief program following 2022 sovereign default; structural challenges from non-diversified economy and rigid labor laws; heavy dependence on tourism receipts and remittances

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$270.6 billion (2022 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$12,200 (2022 est.)

Industries - processing of rubber, tea, coconuts and other agricultural commodities, tourism, clothing and textiles, mining

Agricultural products - rice, coconuts, eggs, plantains, tea leaves, sugar cane, milk, cassava, maize, poultry

Exports \$16.1 billion (2022 est.)

textiles (knit and non-knit garments); tea; rubber tires; precious stones; cinnamon (2022)

partners: US 24%, India 8%, UK 7%, Germany 6%, Italy 4 % (2022)

Imports \$19.2 billion (2022 est.)

refined and crude petroleum; knitted/woven fabrics; special purpose ships; packaged medicine; coal (2022)

partners: India 34%, China 19%, UAE 6%, Malaysia 4%, Singapore 4% (2022)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

23.3 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

0.56% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Sinhalese 74.9%, Sri Lankan Tamil 11.2%, Sri Lankan Moors 9.2%, Indian Tamil 4.2%, other 0.5% (2012 est.)

Language

Sinhala (official and national language) 87%, Tamil (official and national language) 28.5%, English 23.8% (2012) est.)

Religion

Buddhist (official) 70.2%, Hindu 12.6%, Muslim 9.7%, Roman Catholic 6.1%, other Christian 1.3%, other 0.05% (2012 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 19.2% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 1.22% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)