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Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism

Independence Day Message – 2026

As we mark the 78th Anniversary of National Independence at a defining moment in Sri Lanka's history, with renewed hope and confidence in our nation's future, I extend my warm greetings to all Sri Lankans at home and across the globe.

Independence Day is not only a time to celebrate our achievements, but also an opportunity to reflect on the challenges we have faced and those that lie ahead, and to renew our collective resolve towards overcoming them. The strong foundation laid through the democratic choice of our people has reinforced our national commitment to unity, stability, and shared prosperity.

Today, Sri Lanka embarks upon a renewed national journey to build a developed and forward looking nation that engages with confidence in the rapidly evolving international system, while steadfastly safeguarding our sovereignty and national interests. This responsibility is one that we uphold not only for ourselves, but also for future generations who will inherit the nation we shape today.

Sri Lanka's foreign policy continues to be guided by the enduring principles of non-alignment, respect for international law, peaceful coexistence, and constructive engagement with all nations. We remain committed to strengthening partnerships that support sustainable development, expand opportunities for our people, and enhance our contribution to regional and global peace and cooperation.

In the face of recent challenges caused by the severe adverse weather conditions brought about by Cyclone Ditwah, the resilience and solidarity demonstrated by our people have once again reflected the unbreakable spirit of Sri Lanka. Together, we move forward with determination to rebuild a stronger and robust nation.

This is a moment for all Sri Lankans to come together in a spirit of unity and shared purpose to secure a brighter future for the generations to come, while striving to overcome past setbacks and moving ahead with renewed determination. May this Independence Day strengthen our resolve, deepen our dedication to the nation that we proudly serve, and guide us toward the realization of our shared vision of “A Thriving Nation - A Beautiful Life”.

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Vijitha Herath
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism
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