

## **Media Release**

### **WEEK-LONG SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICE PROGRAMME HELD IN CHENNAI AS A PART OF CELEBRATIONS OF 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF SRI LANKA**

A week-long Special Consular Service organized by the Deputy High Commission of Sri Lanka in Chennai to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence Day of Sri Lanka with a five-day programme, successfully concluded today with the registration of 1139 births of children born to Sri Lankan parents residing in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu, India. The Special Consular Service programme commenced on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> January and continued until Friday, 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 for the benefit of children from various camps in Madurai, Tirunelveli, Pudukottai, Karur, Vellore, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Erode and Tirupur districts.

The Deputy High Commission initiated and commenced a Special Consular Service programme as a pilot project focusing its effort to support and encourage the registration of birth for children born to Sri Lankan parents living in refugee camps resulting in 1029 birth registrations in the year 2016 as part of its effort to promote the Government policy on National Integration and Reconciliation. During 2017, this Mission conducted 52 Special Consular Services on a weekly basis every Wednesdays at the Chancery premises and issued 3520 birth certificates.

Among Sri Lankans living in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu, around 10,000 – 11,000 births reportedly remain unregistered. This Mission aims to continue the weekly Special Consular Service during 2018 as well, with a view to bring the number of unregistered births to zero level at the earliest possible.

**Deputy High Commission of Sri Lanka**  
Chennai

02<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018