

Assistant High Commission of India

Kandy

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Handing over of drugs and medical supplies to Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya**

Assistant High Commissioner Dr. Athira S. handed over a consignment of drugs and other medical supplies to Dr Arjuna Thilakaratne, Director of Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya in Kandy on 30 April, 2022. Vice Chancellor of University of Peradeniya, Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, Dean of Medical Faculty of University of Peradeniya, Prof Vasanthi Pinto, Heads of various Departments of the Hospital and other staff of the hospital were present for the event.

2. These medical supplies reached Colombo on 29 April 2022. Shri Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka handed over the supplies to Hon'ble (Prof) Channa Jayasumana, Sri Lankan Minister of Health. The medical consignment arrived at Colombo Port in INS Ghariyal which was specially deployed for the purpose. These medical supplies are in response to the request from Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya. Shortage of essential medical supplies in the Teaching Hospital was noted by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar during his visit to Sri Lanka in March 2022.

3. Reiterating India's continued support to Sri Lanka, AHC underlined that India has always been and will forever remain a good friend of Sri Lanka. Thanking Govt. of India, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar & the people of India for the friendly gesture, Vice Chancellor Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, also appreciated the promptness with which the Indian mission responded to the request of the Teaching Hospital. Dean of Medical Faculty, Prof Vasanthi Pinto highlighted that the timely delivery of the medical supplies caters not only to the people in and around Kandy, but island wide as the Hospital receives patients from all parts of Sri Lanka.

4. More medical consignments in response to specific requests by various medical entities operating in all parts of Sri Lanka are also being scheduled from India. In addition, USD 200 million has been earmarked for the supply of medical supplies under the USD 1 billion credit line for essential commodities like food, medicine, etc. India has been extending multi-pronged support to Sri Lanka in the recent past to tide over the present difficult situation. Overall economic assistance from India to Sri Lanka stands close to USD 3 billion in 2022 alone.

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30 April 2022