

Enjoy a world of rewards  
and delights with FlySmiles

Join the SriLankan Airlines' frequent flyer programme and enter a world of exclusive benefits and privileges which include upgrades, reward tickets, excess baggage, priority check-in, pre-assigned seating and much more!



For more details visit [www.flysmiles.com](http://www.flysmiles.com) or email [flysmiles@srilankan.com](mailto:flysmiles@srilankan.com)



**WE CARRY THE BROADEST SELECTION OF SL NEWS  
TO THE BROADEST CROSS-SECTION OF SRI LANKANS**



# NEWSLANKA



Established since **1991**. FREE, WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

**THURSDAY - AUGUST 23 - 2012**

**T: 020 7978 9030**

**E: [info@newslanka.net](mailto:info@newslanka.net)**

**ISSUE 1081**

## Sri Lanka enters the space race

By Shirajiv SIRIMANE

(DailyNews.lk) - Sri Lanka to own its own communication satellite and belong to an elite group of nations.

The idea spread across Sri Lanka and SupremeSAT positively responded to build Sri Lanka's first communication satellite, with Chinese co-operation. Currently, only India (4) and Pakistan (1) have communication satellites in the region. Sri Lanka would own its own satellite by December 2015.

Plans are also under way to have Sri Lankans trained and employed as astronauts for would be space missions in the future.

The agreement to build the first satellite would be signed next October in China and President Rajapaksa, who initiated this move, is expected to witness this groundbreaking event.

The plan is to launch the satellite from Beijing and place it over Sri Lanka by December 2015 and the uplinks to the satellite would be from Kandy. Meanwhile SupremeSAT (Pvt) Ltd. signed the joint investment agreement with China

Great Wall Industry Corporation (CGWIC) and Sino Satellite Communications Company Ltd for the setting up of Sri

the Chinese government to provide satellites and commercial launch services and to carry out international space cooperation.

The company has already signed nine contracts with international customers for the manufacture and in-orbit delivery of telecommunication satellites, of which four have been successfully launched into orbit, while the other two are set to be launched next year. Apart from this, the company has launched many satellites for domestic purposes and has surpassed the US in the number of successful space launches in 2011.

The proposed Space Academy will consist of a state-of-the-art Satellite Ground Station which will provide on-the-job-training to Sri Lankans who will start to control the already co-branded satellites of SupremeSAT/Chinasatcom. This would also be the first time that Sri

Lankans from Sri Lanka would be uploading material to satellites. The signing of the agreement would see over US \$60 million being pumped into Kandy, making it the biggest foreign-funded private sector investment in the Central Province. It is also the first Chinese investment made in the Central Province. Chairman SupremeSAT, R.M. Manivannan, said that this investment would put the Central Province in the world investors' map, helping to woo more direct foreign investments. "Initially, over 100 employment opportunities would be provided from this project," he said.

**CONT ON PAGE 16**




The signing of the agreement in Kandy in the presence of Governor Central Province, Tikiri Kobbekaduwa, Chief Minister, Sarath Ekanayake, MP Sanath Jayasuriya, Vice Minister of Industries and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China Chen Qiufa, Chairman of SupremeSAT (Pvt) Ltd R.M. Manivannan and other officials. Pic: Saliya Rupasinghe

Lanka's first ever Space Academy within the Pallekele BOI Zone in Kandy on Tuesday (14th). Established in 1980, CGWIC is the sole commercial organisation authorised by




The proposed Space Academy in Kandy

**COLOMBO COLUMN**  
By Reggie Fernando - OUR MAN IN COLOMBO  
Please see next weeks paper



**Taprobane Travel**  
Great offers on flights & hotels.  
See page 3.



See page 17  
**Colombo £446**  
including taxes  
or call us now  
**0207 536 6576**

**DUKE'S COURT TRAVEL**  
Winter warmer Special  
**Colombo**  
fr. £220 + Taxes  
See the back page

**FAST CASH**  
MONEY IN MINUTES TO SRI LANKA

**TRAVEL CENTER**  
AMAZING PRICES  
SEE PAGE 11  
**COLOMBO FLIGHTS**  
CALL US 0800 368 5098

**BANK OF CEYLON (UK) LTD**  
Your trusted Sri Lankan Bank in UK  
BANK OF CEYLON (UK) LTD  
**BOC**  
Gateway to Sri Lanka

**ATLAS SHIPPING**  
Sea & Air Cargo  
Car & Container Shipping  
Pay your Freight Charges in Colombo  
See P13

**CARLTON LEISURE**  
For Worldwide destinations visit [www.carltonleisure.com](http://www.carltonleisure.com)  
COLOMBO CHENNAI  
£168 £189  
020 8554 0000 | 020 8506 7675 | 020 8385 6854 | 020 8672 5757

**NEWSLANKA COLOMBO**  
OFFICE: + 94 11 2 733 117  
AND WE CAN ACCEPT PAYMENT IN SRI LANKAN RUPEES. TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS.  
CALL CHANDIKA NOW



High Commissioner Dr Chris Nonis with (from L to R) Michael Wynn Parker, chairman of the Guild of Tourism; The Marquess of Bristol; HRH Princess Katrina of Yugoslavia; Lord Pendry and Andrew Rosindell MP for Romford.

## VISIT SRI LANKA AND SAVOUR THE CHANGE - HIGH COMMISSIONER NONIS

(PRESS RELEASE - 16/08/12) - High Commissioner to the UK Dr Chris Nonis outlined the strides that Sri Lanka had taken in economic, social rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation since the defeat of terrorism in May 2009 to the Guild of Tourism at a luncheon meeting held at the Cholomondelay Room at the House of Lords. One of the beneficiaries of this development effort in the post-conflict era was the tourism and hospitality industry which has witnessed a significant increase in foreign tourist arrivals including from the UK, he said. Addressing a distinguished audience that included Royalty, Lords, MPs and other

notables, Dr Nonis urged them to visit Sri Lanka and view first hand the unprecedented development that has also opened the doors to enterprising foreign investors in various sectors including tourism and hotels. High Commissioner Chris Nonis observed that while all the communities in Sri Lanka were actively engaged in this development effort bringing benefits to all, small sections of the Sri Lanka diaspora including some in the UK, were still engaged in a debilitating war of attrition and disinformation to undermine the work at hand in Sri Lanka which is intended to heal the wounds of conflict and bring peace and prosperity to the nation.

### FREE ADS FOR YOUR EVENTS

DEAR READERS, AS YOU MAY KNOW, WE GIVE A FREE BOX AD TO SL EVENTS WHICH ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC. HOWEVER FROM NOW ON WE WILL BE GIVING A FREE BOX AD (10cm x 7cm) TO ALL SL EVENTS, WHETHER IT IS FREE OF CHARGE OR THERE IS A COST INVOLVED. AS PER USUAL, ALL ADS ARE FREE IN OUR ONLINE 'EVENTS CALENDAR'. JUST E-MAIL DETAILS TO: [INFO@NEWSLANKA.NET](mailto:INFO@NEWSLANKA.NET)