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## Modi and Mahinda hold talks in the US

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Mahinda Rajapaksa held talks in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting. This was second meeting between the President and the Indian Prime Minister

which India is assisting in, including the Sampur thermal power project which been granted permission to proceed with the environmental clearances underway. The Indian Prime Minister then explained to President Rajapaksa the meeting

the Sri Lankan government on this, the Indian External Affairs Ministry said. "There was a fairly detailed discussion on the matters relating to fishermen. We understand that currently 76 Indian fishermen are still in Sri Lankan custody and Prime Minister raised this issue, saying that this is a humanitarian issue and needs to be dealt with sensitivity and President Rajapaksa did acknowledge that both sides need to work on finding a long term solution to it. He did mention that for his part they are ready to work on it; but he did mention environmental concern regarding bottom trawling," the Indian External Affairs Ministry said. Meanwhile, the President's office said that at the meeting, President Rajapaksa explained to Prime Minister Modi that the

The President also briefed the Prime Minister on the ways in which the Government is assisting the Northern Province, particularly with the financial resources in the amount of Rs. 1.5 billion that has been made available in this year's budget.

On the issue of fishermen, both leaders agreed that the matters must be handled carefully since there are sensitivities among all concerned parties. President Rajapaksa reiterated his concerns about the practice of bottom trawling. "Bottom trawling is the biggest problem," President Rajapaksa said. "Now it is an illegal practice. We have banned bottom trawling for Sri Lankan fishermen. It's creating permanent damage to the sea bed and resources."

The President explained that Sri Lankan fishermen in the North perceive it as unjust if Indian fishermen are permitted to carry out bottom-trawling techniques while it is banned for Sri Lankan fishermen. President Rajapaksa also thanked Prime Minister Modi for India's support and constructive initiatives at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva.

"We have to live together, so we must help each other," Prime Minister Modi said in response.



after the Indian Premier took office this year after winning the Indian elections. The Indian External Affairs Ministry said that at the talks there was a discussion about development projects in Sri Lanka

between the TNA delegation in India; and he did mention that he had explained to the TNA delegation also that dialogue is best way to proceed in trying to reconcile the differences that they may have with

Government has always been ready to engage in talks with all political parties, including the TNA, for which a mechanism has been established in terms of the Parliament Select Committee (PSC).

### Marvan is new SL coach

(Sundaytimes.lk)(AFP) – Sri Lanka Cricket on Wednesday appointed former Test captain Marvan Atapattu as the head coach, making him the island nation's seventh coach in the last four years.



A selection committee interviewed Atapattu, 43, and one other candidate on Tuesday before recommending him for the job, a news release from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said. The SLC executive committee then "unanimously approved and appointed Mr. Marvan Atapattu to the position of national head coach... with immediate effect", the release said. Atapattu had served as the interim coach for three months before his full-time appointment Wednesday, guiding the team during the recent series against England, South Africa and Pakistan. The former batsman replaces Englishman Paul Farbrace who quit in April after just four months on the job to take over as

England's deputy coach under Peter Moores. Sri Lanka are set to play seven ODIs against England from November 26 as part of their build-up to the 2015 World Cup being hosted by Australia and New Zealand. They are also due to tour New Zealand in December and January. A prolific right-hander, Atapattu scored 5,502 runs from 90 Tests, including six double-hundreds, after making his debut against India in 1990. His 8,529 one-day runs included 11 hundreds. Atapattu will be the latest addition in a succession of coaches for Sri Lanka since 2010, following Trevor Bayliss, Stuart Law, Ramesh Ratnayake, Geoff Marsh, Graham Ford and Farbrace.

### MR to visit Vatican

(adaderana.lk) - President Mahinda Rajapaksa is scheduled to leave for the Vatican during the first week of October for an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis One, the Government Information Department says.

The President will officially extend an invitation to the Pope to visit Sri Lanka during his audience with the Holy Father. The Catholic Church has already confirmed the visit of Pope Francis I to Sri Lanka in January next year. His Holiness will also preside over the canonisation of Blessed Joseph Vaz, the Apostle of Sri Lanka, as the first Saint of Sri Lanka. Pope Paul VI and Pope Saint John Paul II visited Sri Lanka in 1970 and 1995.

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