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SL top global safety destination for women travellers

(DailyMirror.lk) - The People's Daily newspaper of China selected Sri Lanka as the top global safety destination for women travellers in 2018, in a recently concluded contest, which combined the results of expert reviews, ratings and popular votes. Sri Lanka topped the list of 20 countries that were selected, including USA, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Switzerland and the Maldives, a statement from Sri Lanka Embassy in Beijing said. It said;



"The awards were presented to

representatives from the Embassies and travel bureaus of the winning countries on 05 June 2018, at a ceremony held during the 2018 Women's Safe Travel Experience Summit, co-organized by the People's Daily and the Capital Normal University. Ambassador for Sri Lanka to China Dr Karunasena Kodituwakku, speaking as the representative of the winning country, thanked the People's Daily for recognizing Sri Lanka's commitment to the safety of

tourists visiting the country, particularly women travellers who are rapidly becoming a strong demographic in the tourism sector. Stressing on the importance of safety as a deciding factor in selecting a travel

destination, Dr Kodituwakku said that Sri Lankan people are hospitable, friendly and ever ready to provide a helping hand to travellers who need assistance. He also noted that tourist places are well organized, with dedicated staff to guide and help tourists enjoy their visits, and highlighted the presence of a tourist police division dedicated to addressing and processing complaints in a speedy manner and who regularly liaise with the travel industry to improve safety measures for tourists. Ambassador Kodituwakku highlighted the many experiences available for tourists visiting Sri Lanka, including the beautiful beaches for both relaxation and adventure, and natural attractions including diversity of scenery within a few hours' drive of each other, wildlife parks and reserves, and biodiversity hotspots. He also highlighted that

Sri Lanka is also rich in heritage, with many places rich in ancient history and culture for those interested in exploring the country's past and festive pageantry. Dr Kodituwakku noted that all these experiences are easily accessible through safe and convenient public transport, either railways or highways or domestic flights, all of which provide quick and safe means of travel for all visitors. In conclusion, Dr Kodituwakku again thanked the People's Daily for their recognition of Sri Lanka through this award and invited guests to visit Sri Lanka to explore its rich diversity of experiences.

Representatives from the People's Daily, Baidai Trip, National Cultural History Magazine, and China Women's Cultural Research Center also spoke during the event.

The Mihintale mission

By Sachitra Mahedra
Translation by Venerable Nanamoli and Bodhi Theras

(DailyNews.lk) - During his brief stay in the island, Arahant Mahinda made use of five works of the Pali Canons: Cullahatthipadopama Sutta (Majjhima Nikaya I, 3. 7), Peta Vatthu and Vimana Vatthu, two books of Khuddaka Nikaya (short volume) on celestial and ghostly mansions, Devaduta Sutta (on Heavenly Messengers - Majjhima Nikaya III 3. 10) and Balapandita Sutta (on Wise and Fool - Majjhima Nikaya III, 3. 9.). The whole royal family of King Devanampiyatissa is said to have become Buddhists following these sermons; some family members, in fact, attained the first stage of sainthood, Sotapanna. Sotapanna is the stream-winner,

which literally means entering the stream. He eradicates the first three fetters: belief in an individual self (sakkaya di??hi), doubt or uncertainty, especially about the teachings (vicikiccha) and attachment to rites and rituals



(silabbata paramaso). The rest goes as sensual desire (kamacchando), ill-will (vyapada), lust for material existence and rebirth, (ruparago), lust for immaterial existence and rebirth in a formless realm (aruparago), conceit (mano), restlessness (uddhacca) and ignorance (avijja). The sotapanna is named after a simile that compares attaining Nibbana with crossing a stream and reaching the farthest shore. Sotapanna, hence, is the first followed by three stages: sakurdagami (once-returner), anagami (non-returner) and arahant (totally awakened).

One sublime reason for the solid establishment of Buddhism in Sri Lanka is Arahant Mahinda's skilful choice of works from the Pali Canons. There is more to his Mihintale mission than just converting another royal clan into Buddhism. This fact is clearly corroborated, as the arahant did not get to the conversion business right away; his first requirement was inquiring

intellectual capacity of the chief of state with the history's first recorded famous Intelligence Quotient on trees and relatives. The simile of the elephant footprint With this in the setting, Culla Hatthipadopama Sutta (Majjhima Nikaya: Sutta 27), a minor discourse on the simile of elephant footprints, is an interesting study. Linguistically, Hatthi, Pada and Opama mean elephant, foot and simile respectively in Pali.

The source is based on a conversation between two Brahmins (non-Buddhists): Pilotika and Janussoni. Pilotika, though not a ... SEE P4

Sri Lanka in nervous chase to level series

by Andrew Fidel Fernando

www.espn.cricinfo.com - The Pereras - Kusal and Dilruwan - put on a luck-filled but plucky 63-run partnership to haul Sri Lanka to victory on the fourth afternoon of the third Test. There were heart-stopping moments for Sri Lanka in this session, particularly when their best batsman Kusal Mendis was hit in front of the stumps before the team could get off the mark on the day. But although Jason Holder completed an outstanding five-wicket haul at his home venue, and despite the relentless pressure the West Indies quicks created, Sri Lanka's seventh-wicket stand held firm. Kusal Perera, having returned from his brief stint in hospital the previous night, made a measured 28 not out off 43 balls - by far his most consequential innings of the series. Dilruwan showcased the fight for which he keeps getting picked, surviving 68 balls as he staggered to an unbeaten 23. Between

Sri Lanka 154 (Dickwella 42, Holder 4-19) and 144 for 6 (Kusal Perera 28*, Dilruwan Perera 23*, Holder 5-41) beat West Indies 204 (Holder 74, Dowrich 71, Kumara 4-58) and 93 (Rajitha 3-20, Lakmal 3-25) by four wickets

them, this pair only hit four intentional boundaries. One of those was Dilruwan's slap over mid-off, to reach the target. Sri Lanka will take particular satisfaction from this victory, it having come in such trying circumstances. Three of their senior-most batsmen were missing from the XI - opener Dimuth Karunaratne was injured, Angelo Mathews was at home attending the birth of a child, and Dinesh Chandimal was suspended. The absence of this experience almost told in this chase as batsmen threw wickets away in the final sessions of day three, but large helpings of good fortune helped ease Sri Lanka's path to victory the following afternoon. Dilruwan could have been out several times, edging a ball through the slips, sending a leading edge just wide of cover, and almost playing Kemar Roach on to his stumps. Kusal Perera played and missed plenty himself, and was hit painfully on the hand by Miguel

Cummins, to add to the discomfort from his nasty collision. But somehow, while the Pereras were at the crease, most of the dangerous deliveries missed the edges of their bats or passed by the stumps, and Sri Lanka inched home. There were leg byes, byes, glances just past the keeper, and nervy singles into the infield. The runs were not pretty, but they were important. There was little the West Indies did wrong on day four. The quicks continued to create chances; no catches were dropped. Occasionally the seamers were guilty of bowling too straight, allowing the batsmen to score easy runs to fine leg. But as the morning progressed, and the ball became softer, there was less seam movement on offer. They seemed by a distance the likelier side to win, when Holder's sixth delivery of the day, stayed a tad low and struck Mendis in front of off stump. But even though Shannon Gabriel was as quick in this session as he has been through the series, and Kemar Roach was just as intense, the Pereras squeaked out runs, while their anxious dressing room - in which Chandimal was

present - looked on. Only after the target was whittled down to less than 20 did the mood lighten in the Sri Lanka camp; it was around that stage that West Indies' shoulders dropped. Kusal and Dilruwan clinched the victory and secured a drawn series for Sri Lanka, but it was the seamers' outstanding work on day three, in which they dismissed the hosts for 93 in the second innings, that was most instrumental to this victory. Though it did help that Sri Lanka batted deep in this match, and that Dilruwan - rather than either of the other spinners, who are less capable with the bat - was their No. 8. With this victory, Sri Lanka complete a sequence of four overseas Test tours, each of which they have performed creditably in. They had won against Pakistan last year, drawn two Tests in India (though they lost the series 1-0), won in Bangladesh, and now drawn a difficult seam-dominated series in the West Indies. Had they not wasted two hours protesting the ball-tampering charge in St Lucia, they might even have returned with the trophy.

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