
Minister Basil Rajapaksa visits New Delhi - India

Saturday, 06 July 2013

Minister Basil Rajapaksa who was on a day's visit to New Delhi met the Minister of External Affairs of India, Salman Khurshid on 5 July. The two ministers discussed a range of issues of bilateral relevance and reiterated their commitment to strengthening the deep and abiding friendship between India and Sri Lanka. Minister Khurshid welcomed the proclamation made by the President of Sri Lanka on 5 July to the Commissioner of Elections to hold elections to the Northern Provincial Council. Minister Basil Rajapaksa thanked the Government and the people of India for the consistent support extended to the people of Sri Lanka, especially in the Northern Province and expressed appreciation for the assistance provided in resettlement of displaced persons, demining as well as development assistance which includes fifty-thousand houses, rehabilitation of the Kankasanthurai Port and restoration of the northern railway line. The Minister also thanked the Government of India for the resolute support extended for demilitarization, development and democratization of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka which has enabled the ushering of stability in the Province.

The External Affairs Minister expressed appreciation of the efforts taken by the Government of Sri Lanka in reconstruction, resettlement, and infrastructure development as well as the steps taken to improve the livelihoods of the people in the Northern Province including rapid strides made in the agriculture sector. Minister Khurshid stressed the importance of all political parties in Sri Lanka being represented in the Parliamentary Select Committee which has as its objective the resolution of issues relating to constitutional reform and expressed hope that all parties would join the process. Emphasizing the spirit of friendship that underpins India-Sri Lanka relations, Minister Khurshid reiterated India's support for Sri Lanka in all spheres and the importance of working together closely through regular consultations. The Minister of External Affairs of India stated that he looks forward to visiting Sri Lanka at an early date.

High Commission of Sri Lanka in India New Delhi 5 July 2013