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அருண் ஹேமச்சந்திரா, பா. உ.
Arun Hemachandra, M. P.

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வெளி விவகார மற்றும் வெளிநாட்டு வேலை வாய்ப்பு பிரதி அமைச்சர்
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

"Remembering Indian Ocean Tsunami Twenty Years on"


On 26th December 2004, the world experienced a powerful tsunami that struck the coastal areas of many countries, including Sri Lanka. The disaster took more than 35,000 lives in our nation alone, leaving behind destruction, devastation, and sorrow. As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 2004 Tsunami, we remember and honor not only those who we lost but also the survivors, whose strength and resilience continue to inspire us.

While the tsunami an unprecedented disaster, it also brought to fore overwhelming generosity, and support to Sri Lanka from around the world, which played a vital role in the country's recovery.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Kingdom for facilitating valuable humanitarian assistance through the British Red Cross in the aftermath of the disaster. The British people showed great kindness, by contributing over £300 million to support the affected countries. We recall with appreciation the visit of His Majesty King Charles, then Prince of Wales and President of the British Red Cross, to the tsunami affected Northern and Eastern coasts of the country in March 2005.

We also extend our gratitude to the British-Sri Lankan community, whose unwavering support played a key role in the recovery efforts. As our nation was recovering from the disaster, the British-Sri Lankan community came together to provide relief and restore livelihoods. Your support reflected the deep bond we share and the desire to rebuild lives and restore hope for the affected people.

As we reflect on the Indian Ocean Tsunami 20 years on, let us resolve to carry forward those lessons of courage, resilience, solidarity and commit to build a safer future for everyone.


Arun Hemachandra, MP

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment

December 16, 2024