SRI LANKA

National Flag
National Anthem
State Emblem
National Flower
National Tree
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The necessity of a National Flag was discussed even before Sri Lanka gained independence on February 4th, 1948. Mr. A. Sinnalebbe, MP for Batticaloa tabled a motion in the State Council on January 16, 1948 suggesting that the Lion Flag of King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe which was taken to Britain in 1815 should be made the National Flag. This was debated and later Prime Minister Rt. Hon. D. S. Senanayake named an Advisory Committee for the formulation of a National Flag. The Members of the Committee were Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike (Chairman), Sir John Kotalawela, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Mr. T. B. Jayah, Dr. L. A. Rajapakse, Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam and Senator S. Nadesan.

Although a Committee for the formulation of a national flag was appointed no finality had been reached when the first independence day was celebrated on February 4th, 1948. However the Lion Flag fluttered on that day. The Lion Flag and the British Union Jack fluttered on the occasion of the opening of the first Parliament of independent Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) on February 19th, 1948. Prime Minister D. S. Senanayake unfurled the Lion Flag at the Octagon (Pattiripuwa) during the independence celebration held in Kandy on February 12th, 1948.

The National Flag recommended by the special committee was presented to Parliament by Mr. D. S. Senanayake on March 2nd, 1951 and adopted. It had two strips, one green and the other
yellow. Each of these strips had to be equal to one seventh the size of the flag.

When Sri Lanka was first made a Republic in 1972 the traditional Bo Leaves depicted in the National Flag were changed to resemble natural Bo leaves. This amended flag was first unfurled at the Republic Day celebration held on May 22, 1972. The National Flag is incorporated in Section 6 Second Schedule of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of September 09, 1978.

Except for the new Bo leaves the present flag is the same flag recommended by the National Flag Formulation Committee on March 2nd, 1951.
නම්නාමේ විදේශ විස්තරයේ පිටත්දිනය නිසා කැමිනිඩ්ටාර්ඩ් ගොඩින් ඉතිහාසිකයින්ගේ දළව පිය විත්කාරකාරී විදේශයේ ඔයුබලන්තීන්නේ ලෝකයට අදහසයේ අභිලෙක්කාවයි.

1950 දිනානතා ලකුණ දක්නට විශේෂයේ මෙම නම්කොට මිහි ලෙස උපදේශය ලාය. මෙම උපදේශය ලකුණේ 1959 දිනානතා ලකුණේ නත්තුවක් "මීන් රත්න අපු එක්ව අපු" බවට ලකුණේ උපදේශය.

1949 දිනානතාව ලකුණේ 04 දිනානතා ලකුණේ අදහසි ක්‍රියාවේ මෙම නම් විශේෂයේ ජීවීන් ලකුණේ 500 දිනානතාව දියණික ක්‍රියාවක් ලකුණේ ආරීත්වික මාසය කියෙන් ලකුණේ අදහසි ක්‍රියාවක් ලකුණේ උපදේශය.

51 දිනානතාව ප්‍රමාණයේ ලකුණේ ආරීත්වික මාසය පවුල්ලක් ලකුණේ 7 දිනානතාව පවුල්කම් ආරීත්වික මාසය ක්‍රියාවක් ලකුණේ උපදේශය.

-කමිතියක අරමුණක් ලකුණ ඉතිහාසිකයින් ලකුණේ ප්‍රණායම් දෙසින් පෙරමුණක් විශේෂයේ නම්කොට මිහි ලෙස උපදේශය ලාය. මෙම උපදේශය ලකුණේ ආරීත්වික මාසය පවුල්කම් ලකුණේ 1948 දිනානතාව ලකුණේ උපදේශය.
After gaining independence from foreign rule the people of Sri Lanka were kindled with patriotic feeling.

On the recommendation of the Sri Lanka Gandharva Sabha a competition to select a national anthem was conducted in January 1948.

At this competition late Mr. Ananda Samarakoon’s composition ‘Namo Namo Matha’ was chosen as the National Anthem.

The main theme of the Anthem is designed to instil honour and respect to the Motherland and create national progress through Unity.
During the early 1950s there was a controversy about the national anthem. A defect was found in the lyrics and the opening words were changed as "Sri Lanka. Matha – Apa Sri Lanka". The first rendering of the National Anthem was made on Independence Day February 04, 1948 by a group of 500 students from Musaeus College, Colombo and it was broadcast over the radio.

The National Anthem is incorporated in Section 7 third schedule of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
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தமிழ் எழுதம்

நீர் வழிவாசி காட்டு — முதல் நீர் வழிவாசி
பெயர் தமிழ் காட்டு காட்டு!

நமக்காள் வாழும் விளக்க நாட்டியல் வாசிக
நரசியா புனித மன்னனே நமித போன்ற
முனைச் சுகைச் சிதைவு நமித
முனைந்த புகையில் வரும் காட்டியம்பு
மக்கள் மக்கள் காட்டு காட்டு!

முல்லையியும் அல்லது
மரம் கூரிய ராணையுலகம்
முத்தான் அலிப்பாரும்
மாணவியரின் காட்டிய
மாணவர் மாணவர்கள்
அனைவரும் அறிவு உண்டு
அனைவரும் குறிதறுபுரோன்ற — முதல் நீர் வழிவாசி
பெயர் தமிழ் காட்டு காட்டு!

முல்லை தமிழ்வாசியும்
இருக்கும் வரம் நீரேவு காட்டு
முனைந்த புனித மன்னன்று
முனைந்த புகையில் வரும் காட்டியம்பு
முனைந்த புகையில் வரும் காட்டியம்பு
முனைந்த புகையில் வரும் காட்டியம்பு
முனைந்த புகையில் வரும் காட்டு காட்டு!
National Anthem

Sri Lanka Matha
Apa Sri Lanka Namo Namo Namo Namo Matha
Sundara siri barini surandi athi soba mana Lanka
Dhanya dhanaya neka mal palathuru piri jaya bhoomiya
   Ramya
Apa hata sapa siri setha sadhana jeevanaye matha
Piliganumana apa bhakthi pooja Namo Namo Matha
Apa Sri Lanka Namo Namo Namo Namo Matha
Obave apa vidya
Obamaya apa sathyya
Obave apa shakthi
Apa hada thula bhakthi
Oba apa aloke
Apage anu prane
Oba apa jeevanave
Apa mukthiya obave
Nava jeevana demine nithina apa pubudu karan matha
Gnana veerya vadawamina ragana yanu mana jaya bhoomi
   kara
Eka mawkage daru kala bawina
Yamu yamu wee nopama
Prema wada sama bheda dhurarada
Namo Namo Matha
Apa Sri Lanka Namo Namo Namo Namo Matha.
State Emblem

Sri Lanka used the British emblem when it was a British Crown Colony. We continued to use it even after gaining independence in 1948. According to the recommendations of a select committee appointed to devise a state emblem more suitable for Sri Lanka (Ceylon) we opted for a new State Emblem. It had a Lion with Sword in its right fore paw encircled with a ‘Palapethi’ design atop. Below there was a strip carrying the country’s name in Sinhala, Tamil and English.

A new republican emblem was chosen after the country was declared a Republic on May 22, 1972. In addition to the lion with a sword and the ‘Palapethi’ design it portrays the punkalasa’, dhammachakka, sun, moon and two sheaves of paddy.
The Nil Mahanel flower was declared the National Flower of Sri Lanka on February 26, 1986. Its botanical name is ‘Nymphae Stellata’. This flower is mentioned in many Sinhala, Pali and Sanskrit Literary works. The flower which is also referred to as “Kuvalaya”, “Indheewara”, “Niluppala”, “Nilothpala” and “Nilupul” occupies a pre eminent position in Buddhist literature too. It is said the ‘Nil Mahanel Flower’ was among the 108 ceremonial designs found on the footprint of Prince Siddhartha. This proves that it had been a ceremonial flower throughout history. It is believed that the damsels depicted in Sigiriya Frescoes also carry the Nil Mahanel flower in their hands. Traditional poetry known as “Sandesa Kavya” likens women’s eyes to the Nil Mahanel flower which has also been used as an ear ornament.

The Nil Mahanel plant which grows in shallow waters is found in all parts of the country. The flower which is purplish blue in colour has a heavy concentration of petals in the centre. The Nil Mahanel flower is also considered a symbol of truth, purity and discipline.
National Tree

A proposal made to declare the Na Tree as the National Tree was adopted by the Cabinet on February 26, 1986. Socially and culturally we have been closely associated with the Na Tree for centuries. It was chosen as the National Tree for 7 reasons.

1. It is a tree which originated in Sri Lanka;
2. Its utility;
3. Historic and Cultural importance;
4. Exterior posture;
5. Wide distribution;
6. Colour and nature;
7. Ability to draw and sketch it easily.

Botanically it is called "Mesua Nagassarium" and in English it is called the Iron Wood tree. An indigenous tree it is also grown in parks because of its majestic beauty. As the English name signifies the tree is very hard and durable. The wood is used in building temples and devales.