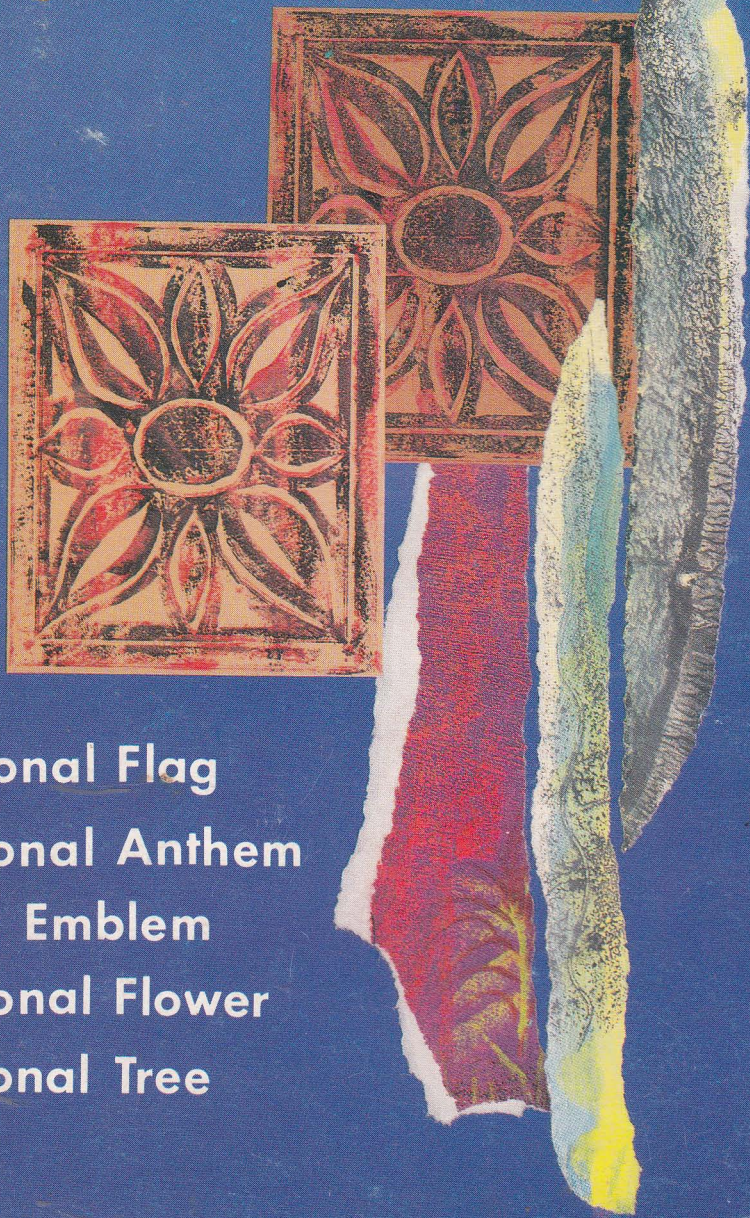


SRI LANKA



- .National Flag
- .National Anthem
- .State Emblem
- .National Flower
- .National Tree

S. Jothilingam

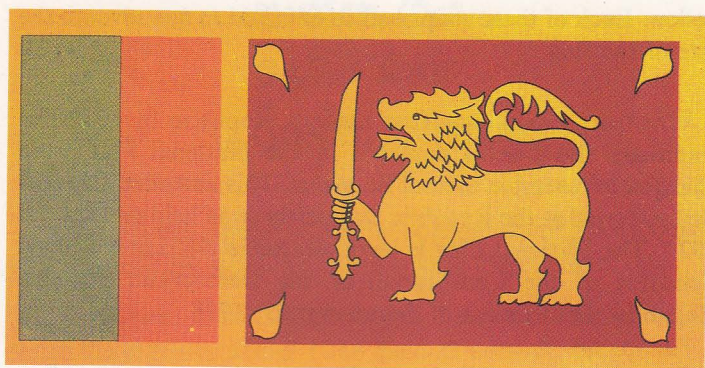
SRI LANKA

- .National Flag
- .National Anthem
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National Flag

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 (Pattirippuwa) 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.



ජාතික ගීය

தேசிய கீதம்

NATIONAL ANTHEM

ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය ජනතාව අධිරාජ්‍යවාදී පාලනයෙන් පුරුණ නිදහස ලබා ස්වාධීනවත්ම ඔවුන් තුළ නිදහස් හැඟීම් ජනිත වන්නට විය.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගාන්ධර්ව සභාව මගින් කළ යෝජනාවක් අනුව ජාතික ගීය සඳහා තරගයක් 1948 ජනවාරි මාසයේදී පැවැත්විණි.

මේ අනුව ආතන්ද සමරකෝත් මහතාගේ "තමෝ තමෝ මාතා" ජාතික ගීය ලෙස තෝරා ගැනිණ.

මෙම ගීතයෙහි ප්‍රධාන පරමාර්ථය ජන්ම භූමිය කෙරෙහි ගෞරවය සහ භක්තිය ජනිත කරවීමත්, ජාතික සමගීය තුළින් ජාතික ප්‍රගතිය ඇති කරලීමත්ය.

1950 දශකයේ අග භාගයේ ජාතික ගීය පිළිබඳ තොයෙකුත් වාද විවාද ඇති විය. එහි ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස 1959 ජාතික ගීයේ මූලට "ශ්‍රී ලංකා මාතා අප ශ්‍රී ලංකා" යන පද එක්විය.

1949 පෙබරවාරි මස 04 වන දින නිදහස සැමරුම් අවස්ථාව අලලා මිදුසියස් බාලික විදුලසිය සිසුන් 500 ක සහභාගිත්වයෙන් ජාතික ගීය ප්‍රථම වරට ගායනය කරන ලද අතර, ගුවන් විදුලියෙන් ද ප්‍රචාරය කෙරිණි.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ ආණ්ඩුක්‍රම ව්‍යවස්ථාවේ 7 වෙනි වගන්තිය යටතේ තුන්වන උපලේඛනය වශයෙන් ජාතික ගීය ආණ්ඩුක්‍රම ව්‍යවස්ථාවේ ඇතුළත් කර ඇත.

சுதந்திரம் அடைந்ததும் தேசிய உணர்வுால் உந்தப்பட்ட இலங்கை மக்கள் தமக்கென ஒரு தேசிய கீதத்தையும், தேசியக் கொடியையும், தேசிய மரத்தையும், தேசிய பூவையும், அரச சின்னத்தையும் கொண்டிருப்பதில் ஆர்வம் காட்டினர்.

இலங்கை சுந்தர்வ சபையின் சிபாரிசுக்கிணங்க தேசிய கீதமொன் றிணைத் தெரிவு செய்யும் போட்டி 1948 சனவரியில் நடத்தப்பட்டது.

அப்போட்டியில் திரு. ஆனந்த சமரக்கோன் இயற்றிய 'நமோ நமோ மாதா' என்ற கீதம் தேசிய கீதமாகத் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டது.

தாய்நாட்டின் மீது பற்றும் மதிப்பும் உண்டுபண்ணுவதே தேசிய கீதத்தின் நோக்கம். ஒற்றுமையை வளர்ப்பதன் மூலம் நாட்டை அபிவிருத்திப் பாதையில் வீறுநடைபோடச் செய்வதற்கான சூழலை உருவாக்குதல் அதன் இலட்சியம்.

1948 பெப்புருவரி 4 ம் திகதி சுதந்திர சதுக்கத்தில் சுதந்திர தினம் கொண்டாடப்பட்டபோது கொழும்பு மியூசியஸ் கல்லூரியின் 500 மாணவிகள் அதை முதன் முதலாகப் பாடினர். அது வானொலி மூலம் நாடு முழுவதற்கும் ஒலிபரப்பப்பட்டது.

1950 ம் ஆண்டின் முற்பகுதியில் தேசிய கீதம் பற்றிய சர்ச்சை ஒன்று கிளம்பியது. ஆரம்ப அடி சரியான ஓசைநயம் கொண்டிருக்கவில்லை என்று கருதப்பட்டது. அதன் விளைவாக முதலாவது அடி

'சிறீ லங்கா தாயே — நம் சிறீ லங்கா'

என்று மாற்றப்பட்டது.

சனநாயக சோஷலிச இலங்கைக் குடியரசின் அரசியல் யாப்பின் 7 வது பிரிவின் 3 வது உபபிரிவில் இலங்கையின் தேசிய கீதம் சேர்க்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

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.



ජාතික ගීය

ශ්‍රී ලංකා මාතා
අප ශ්‍රී ලංකා
නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ මාතා
අප ශ්‍රී ලංකා නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ මාතා
සුන්දර සිරි බරිනි සුරැඳි අති ශෝභමාන ලංකා
ධාන්‍ය ධනය තෙක මල් පළතුරු පිරි ජය භූමිය රමා

අපහට සැප සිරි සෙන සඳතා
ජීවනයේ මාතා
පිළිගනු මැන අප හක්නී පූජා
නමෝ නමෝ මාතා
අප ශ්‍රී ලංකා
නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ මාතා
ඔබ වේ අප විදු
ඔබමය අප සත්‍යා
ඔබවේ අප ශක්ති
අප හඳ තුළ හක්නී
ඔබ අප ආලෝකේ
අපගේ අනුප්‍රාතේ
ඔබ අප ජීවන වේ
අප මුක්තිය ඔබ වේ

තව ජීවන දෙමිනේ
නීතින අප පුබුදු කරන් මාතා
ඥාණ විරිය වඩවමින රුගෙන යනු මැන ජය භූමි කරා
එක මවකගෙ දරු කැල බැවිතා
යමු යමු වී තොපමා
ප්‍රේම වඩා සැම හේද දුරුරද
නමෝ නමෝ මාතා
අප ශ්‍රී ලංකා
නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ නමෝ මාතා

தேசிய கீதம்

சிறீ லங்கா தாயே — நம் சிறீ லங்கா
நமோ நமோ நமோ தாயே !

நல்லெழில் பொலி சீரணி
நலங்கள் யாவும் நிறை வான்மணி லங்கா
ஞாலம் புகழ் வளவயல் நதி மலை மலர்
நறுஞ்சோலை கொள் லங்கா
நமதுறு புகலிடம் என ஒளிர்வாய்
நதிமது ஏல் தாயே
நமதலை நினதடி மேல் வைத் தோமே
நமதுயிரே தாயே — நம் சிறீ லங்கா
நமோ நமோ நமோ தாயே !

நமதாரருள் ஆனாய்
நவை தவிர் உணர்வானாய்
நமதேர் வலியானாய்
நவில் சுதந்திரம் ஆனாய்
நமதிளமையை நாட்டே
நரு மடி தனையோட்டே
அமைவுறும் அறிவுடனே
அடல்செறி துணிவருளே — நம் சிறீ லங்கா
நமோ நமோ நமோ தாயே !

நமதார் ஒளிவள்மே
நறிய மலர் என நிலவும் தாயே
யாமெலாம் ஒரு கருணை அனைபயந்த
எழில்கொள் சேய்கள் எனவே
இயலுறு பிளவுகள் தமை அறவே
இழிவென நீக்கிடுவோம்
ஈழ சிரோமணி வாழ்வுறு பூமணி
நமோ நமோ தாயே — நம் சிறீ லங்கா
நமோ நமோ நமோ தாயே !

National Anthem

Sri Lanka Matha

Apa Sri Lanka Namō Namō Namō Namō 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 Namō Namō Matha

Apa Sri Lanka Namō Namō Namō Namō Matha

Obave apa vidya

Obamaya apa sathya

Obave apa shakthi

Apa hada thula bhakthi

Oba apa aloke

Apaga 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 mawakage daru kala bawina

Yamu yamu wee nopama

Prema wada sama bheda dhurarada

Namō Namō Matha

Apa Sri Lanka Namō Namō Namō Namō Matha.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා මතා
SRI LANKA MATHA
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF CEYLON

Moderato

♩ = 108

f *cresc.*

♩ = 108

§ A.

f *cresc.*

f *mf*

f *mf*

f *cresc.* *mf* a

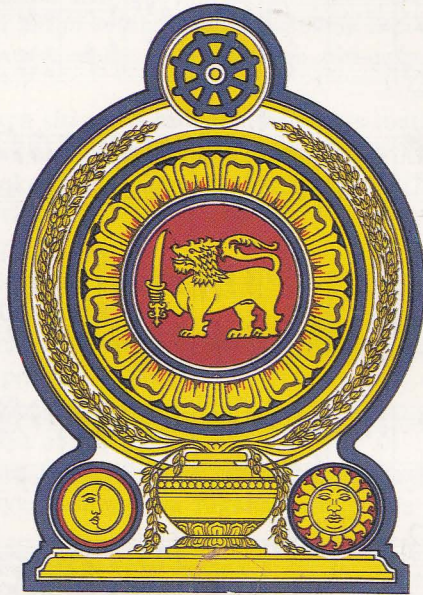
f

B

f *mf* *cresc.* *f*

dm. *dm.*

§
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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.



National Flower

The Nil Mahanel flower was declared the National Flower of Sri Lanka on February 26, 1986. Its botanical name is 'Nymphaea Stellata'. This flower is mentioned in many Sinhala, Pali and Sanskrit Literary works. The flower which is also referred to as "Kualaya", "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.

LANDSAT MAP OF SRI LANKA
APPROXIMATE SCALE - 1 : 2,200,000





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