

Apema Sampath

Preserving the heritage of our present into the future...

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எமது சம்பத்

எமது உரிமைக்கும், பெருமைக்கும் உரிய செல்வங்களை எதிர்காலத்திற்காக பேணிக் காப்போம்...







The Sri Lankan Elephant

The Sri Lankan Elephant, a majestic symbol of our natural heritage, faces a precarious future, with its numbers having declined nearly 65% over the last century. Towering up to 10 feet and weighing over 5,000kg, these animals aren't just massive; they also play a crucial role in our ecosystem, shaping forests and sustaining biodiversity. Sampath Bank has supported the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka for over 30 years, donating Rs. 5/- for every new debit card issued to protect these majestic elephants and Sri Lanka's natural heritage.



JANUARY					2	025
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13 Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day | 14 Tamil Thai Pongal Day







Blue Whales

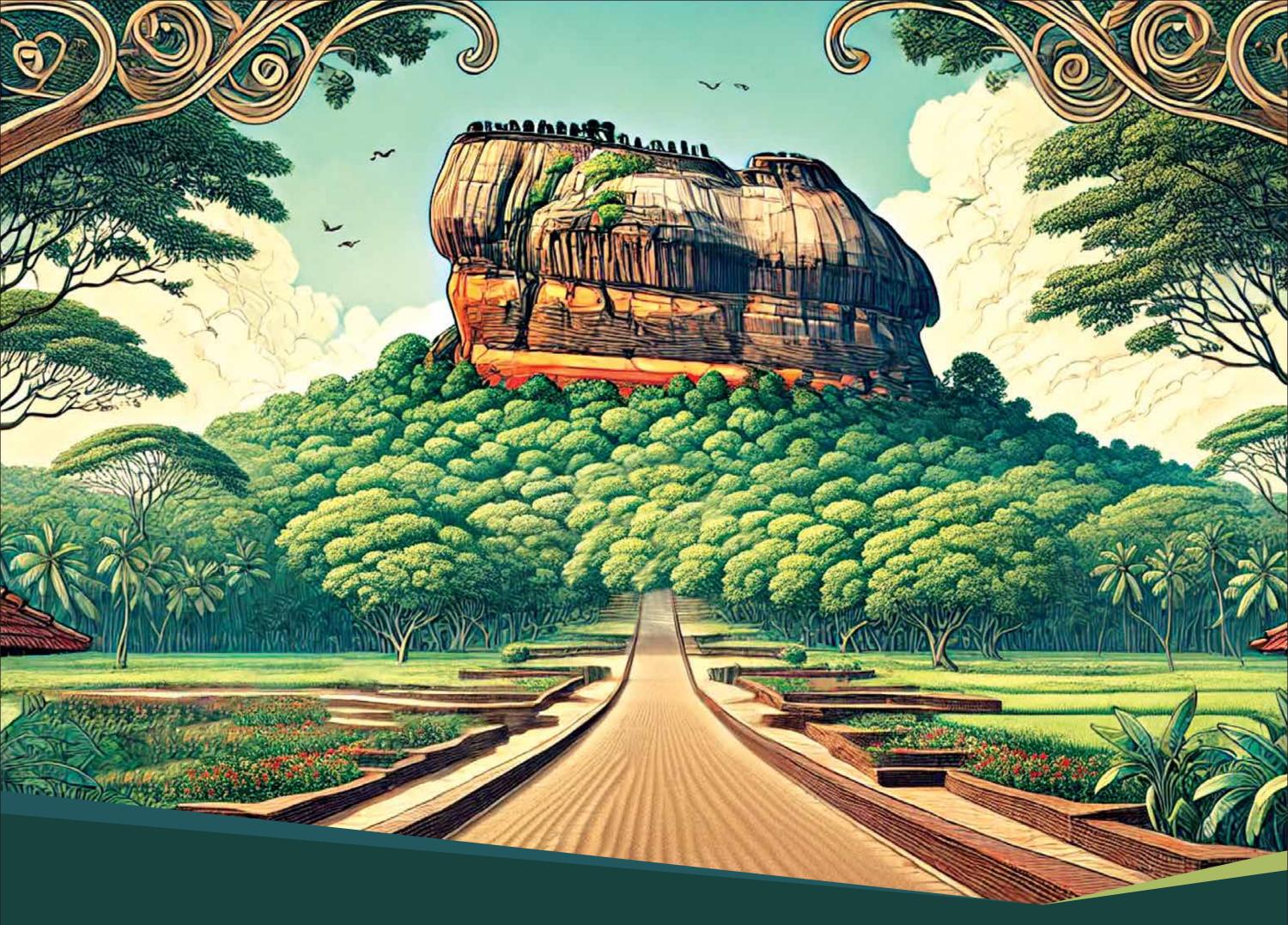
Once numbering nearly 350,000 worldwide, blue whale populations have since been decimated, with fewer than 25,000 remaining today. In Sri Lankan waters, these gentle giants face numerous threats, with ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear being the leading causes of death. Simulations show that shifting our shipping lanes just 15 nautical miles southwards would reduce the risk of collisions by up to 95%. Efforts are currently underway to achieve this, while global initiatives focused on reducing plastic pollution are also critical to the survival of these endangered ocean giants.



FEBRUARY					20	J25
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04 Independence Day | 12 Nawam Full Moon Poya Day | 26 Maha Sivarathri Day





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Sigiriya Lion Rock

Rising proudly from the heart of our island nation, Sigiriya Lion Rock is a timeless symbol of Sri Lanka's spirit and heritage. This UNESCO World Heritage Site captures the dreams and ambitions of a bygone era, built by King Kashyapa as a monument to resilience and vision. The intricate frescoes, graceful and ageless whisper stories of an artistic soul, while the network of gardens, moats, and rock-top pools showcases an ancient genius that tamed nature itself. Sigiriya isn't just a place; it's a legacy, a reminder of the strength, beauty, and pride woven into the fabric of Sri Lanka, calling out to inspire awe and reverence in all who journey here.



MARCH						2025	
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13 Medin Full Moon Poya Day | 31 Id-UI-Fitr (Ramazan Festival Day)







Parakrama Samudraya

Built by King Parakramabahu I, Parakrama Samudra is a timeless testament to ancient Sri Lanka's wisdom in water conservation and self-sufficiency. Constructed between 1153 and 1186 AD in Polonnaruwa, this iconic reservoir formed by six interconnected tanks showcases astounding engineering that has endured for centuries. Restored in 1954, it continues to nourish thousands of acres, sustaining Sri Lankan agriculture. Through the 'Wewata Jeewayak' programme, Sampath Bank is proud to support the restoration of traditional irrigation networks, ensuring farmers a dependable water supply and fostering a legacy of agricultural sustainability for generations.



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12 Bak Full Moon Poya Day | 13 Day prior to Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day 14 Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day | 15 Special Bank Holiday | 18 Good Friday







Sinharaja Forest Reserve

Spanning nearly 9,800 hectares of Sri Lanka's last viable primary tropical rainforest, the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Ratnapura, is a living tapestry of nature. This emerald sanctuary is home to over 60% of the island's endemic trees and more than half its endemic mammals and butterflies, showcasing extraordinary biodiversity that flourishes within its lush borders. Recognising the importance of our forests, Sampath Bank actively engages in reforestation projects, including restoring degraded fern land in Halgahawala, Opatha. The project has also established a biodiversity credit accrual system to inspire private sector investment and launched a university-based research programme to foster conservation awareness. Together, let's protect Sinharaja's precious legacy for future generations.



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01 May Day | 12 Vesak Full Moon Poya Day | 13 Day following Vesak Full Moon Poya Day







Ceylon Tea

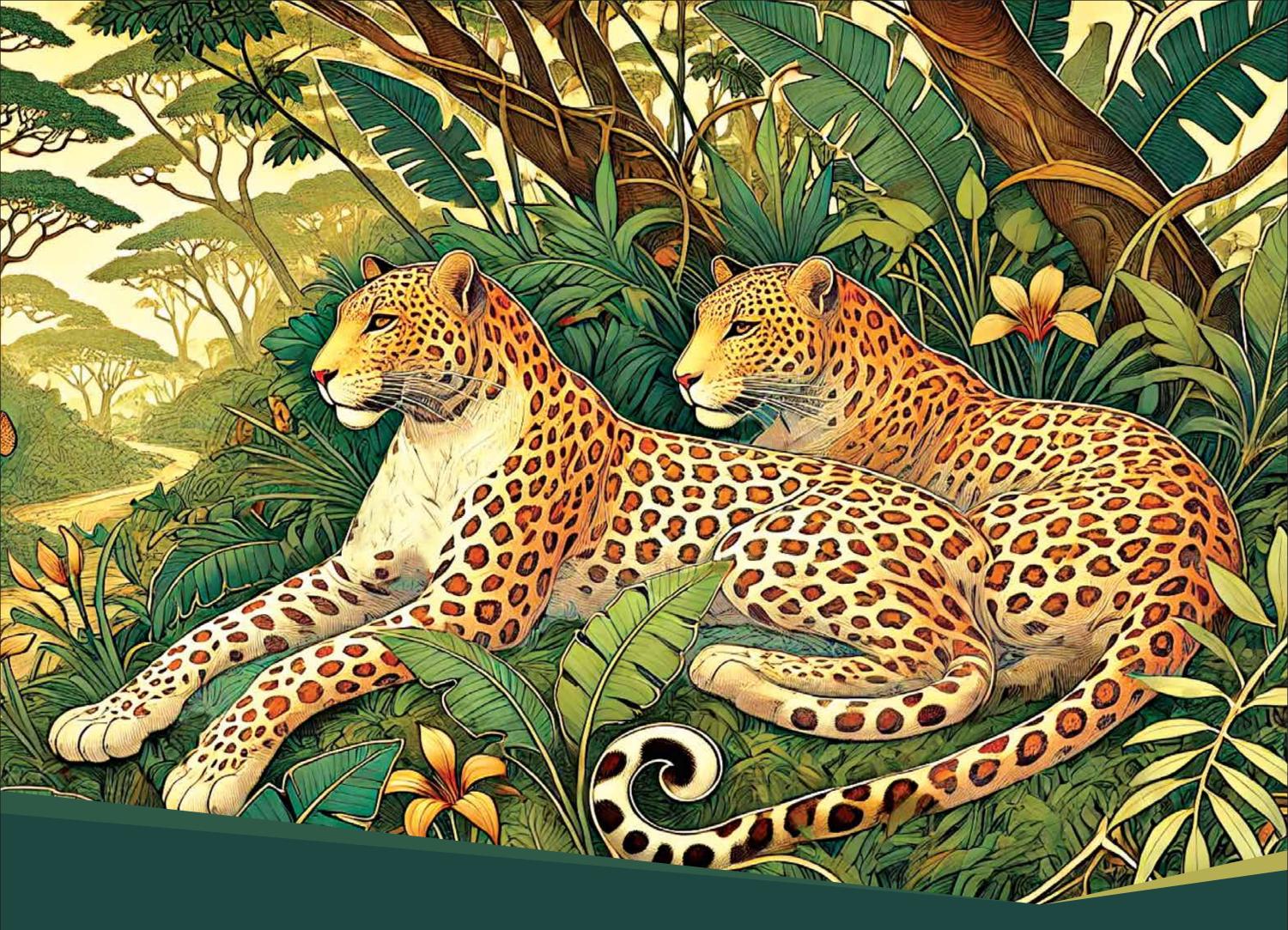
Introduced in 1867, Ceylon Tea stands as Sri Lanka's pride and leading agricultural export, providing livelihoods for nearly one million people. Covering about 4% of the country's land (203,000 hectares), these plantations yield approximately 340 million kilogrammes each year. As the world's largest producer of orthodox tea, Sri Lanka ranks fourth in overall production and third in exports, holding a significant 10% share of the global tea market. Our tea isn't just a product; it's a legacy that embodies the dedication and craftsmanship of our people.



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07 Id-UI-Alha (Hadji Festival Day) | 10 Poson Full Moon Poya Day







Sri Lankan Leopard

The Sri Lankan Leopard (Panthera pardus kotiya) is a vital predator, renowned for its striking rusty-yellow coat adorned with dark spots. Endangered due to poaching and habitat loss, these magnificent leopards are best observed during the dry season at waterholes. Sampath Bank is dedicated to wildlife conservation, empowering cardholders to contribute to these essential efforts and inspiring a collective commitment to protect Sri Lanka's rich natural heritage. Notably, Yala National Park is home to the highest density of leopards found anywhere in the world, making it a critical sanctuary for these elusive creatures. Together, we can safeguard their future.



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10 Esala Full Moon Poya Day





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Turtle and Corals

Sri Lanka is a sanctuary for five of the world's seven sea turtle species – the Green, Olive Ridley, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, and Leatherback each classified as endangered or vulnerable due to overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss. To combat these challenges, Sampath Bank has launched its Turtle Conservation Programme under the "A Breath to the Ocean" initiative at the Rekawa Turtle Conservation Centre in partnership with the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Additionally, Sri Lanka's coral reefs, home to over 180 species of hard corals, are vital ecosystems that support coastal communities and protect shorelines from erosion. As part of our initiative, Sampath Bank is engaged in transplanting live corals into reef balls, fostering biodiversity while promoting eco-tourism and grassroots economic development. Through these efforts, we are dedicated to safeguarding endangered species and strengthening the resilience of our precious marine ecosystems for future generations.

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08 Nikini Full Moon Poya Day







Peradeniya Botanical Gardens

Established in 1821, the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens is a living testament to Sri Lanka's botanical heritage, with roots tracing back to the 14th century. Spanning 60 hectares at an elevation of 460 metres, it boasts approximately 4,000 plant species, including endemic and endangered varieties. Among its many treasures are the Orchid House, with over 300 stunning orchid varieties, a remarkable palm collection, and memorial trees planted by notable figures throughout history. The gardens also engage in vital conservation efforts, playing a crucial role in preserving Sri Lanka's rich biodiversity. A visit to Peradeniya is not just an exploration of nature; it's an invitation to connect with the beauty and significance of our planet's flora.



SEPTEMBER

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05 Milad-Un-Nabi (Holy Prophet's Birthday) | 07 Binara Full Moon Poya Day





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Mangroves

Covering 15,670 hectares along Sri Lanka's coastline, mangroves are vital guardians of our shores, protecting against erosion, supporting rich biodiversity, and sequestering up to 50 times more carbon than tropical forests. These ecosystems are essential for climate change mitigation and the livelihoods of over 30% of our population, who rely on coastal resources. In response to this critical need, Sampath Bank's 'A Breath to the Ocean' Project aims to restore one hectare of mangroves in the Anawilundawa Wetland over five years. By employing nature-based solutions, we seek to create both environmental and socio-economic benefits and together, we can ensure the health of our coastal ecosystems and the well-being of the communities that depend on them.



OCTOBER

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06 Vap Full Moon Poya Day | 20 Deepavali Festival Day





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Gems

Often referred to as the 'Island of Gems', Sri Lanka boasts a longstanding reputation in the global gem and jewellery industry for its rich deposits of precious stones. With a history that spans over 2,500 years, the island's gem industry is celebrated in historical texts and literary works, with references dating back to 250 B.C. Legend has it that King Solomon gifted the Queen of Sheba with priceless Sri Lankan gems; over the centuries, our exquisite gemstones have adorned the regalia of royalty worldwide, from Queen Victoria to Princess Diana and the Duchess of Cambridge. Today, Sri Lanka ranks among the top five gem-producing nations globally, renowned for over 70 varieties of gemstones, including the coveted Ceylon Sapphire. Among our treasures is 'The Star of Adam,' the largest blue sapphire ever discovered. Sri Lanka's gem legacy continues to shine brightly, solidifying our status as a leading source of natural treasures.

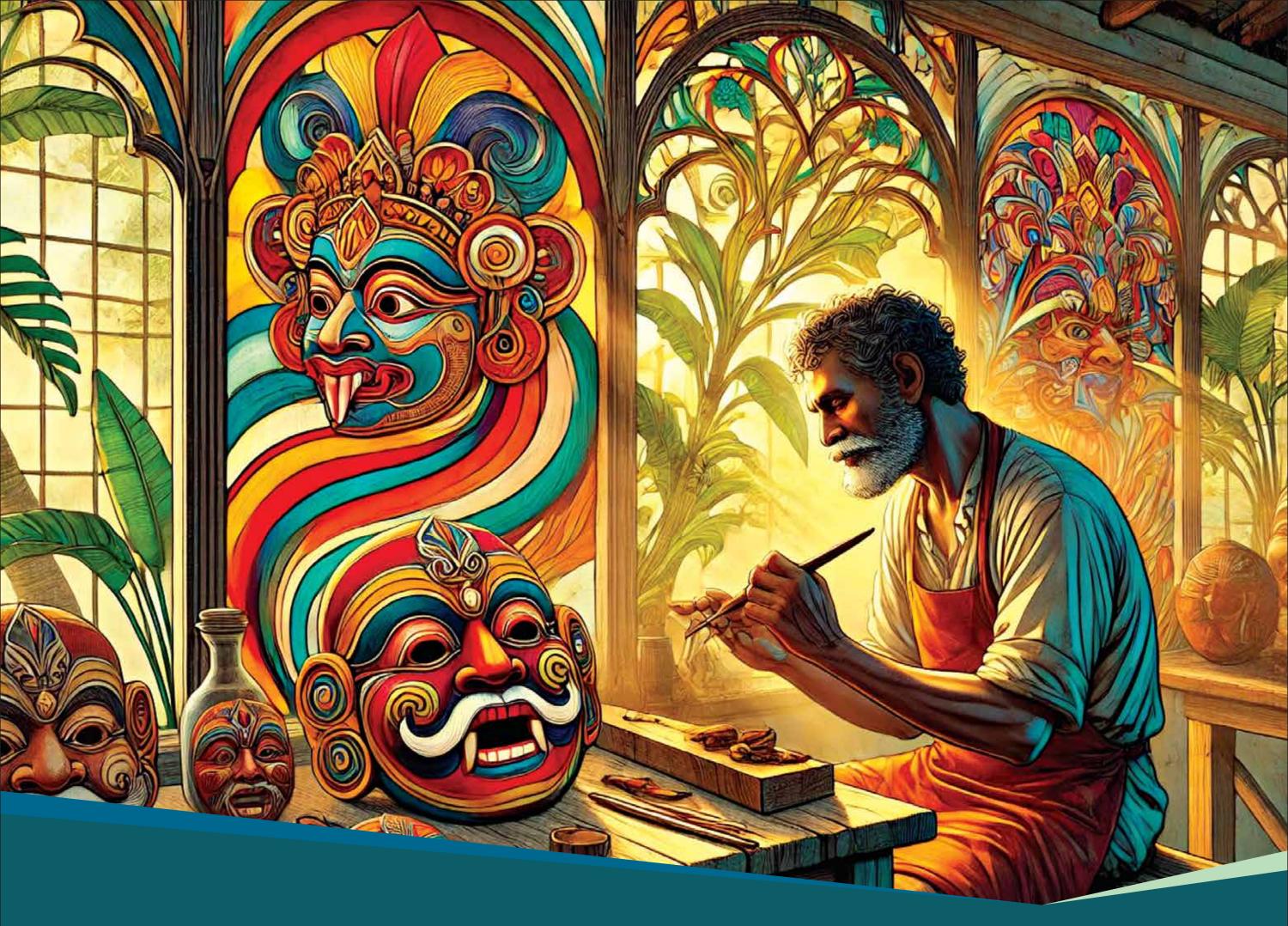


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05 Il Full Moon Poya Day





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Mask

Mask-making in Sri Lanka is a dynamic cultural tradition, essential to local folklore and rituals. Each representing gods, demons, and animals plays a vital role in performances like Kolam and Sanni dances. Crafted using ancient techniques, these masks feature unique designs and colours that convey deep meanings. Despite challenges like limited raw materials and competition, this art form continues to thrive and attract tourists. The future of Sri Lankan mask-making lies in preserving its rich heritage while adapting to contemporary market demands.



DECEMBER

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04 Unduvap Full Moon Poya Day | 25 Christmas Day



HOLIDAYS - 2025

January 13, Monday	Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day	0
January 14, Tuesday	Tamil Thai Pongal Day	
February 04, Tuesday	Independence Day	
February 12, Wednesday	Nawam Full Moon Poya Day	0
February 26, Wednesday	Maha Sivarathri Day	
March 13, Thursday	Medin Full Moon Poya Day	0
March 31, Monday	Id-UI-Fitr (Ramazan Festival Day)	
April 12, Saturday	Bak Full Moon Poya Day	0
April 13, Sunday	Day Prior to Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day	
April 14, Monday	Sinhala & Tamil New Year Day	
April 15, Tuesday	Special Bank Holiday	
April 18, Friday	Good Friday	
May 01, Thursday	May Day	
May 12, Monday	Vesak Full Moon Poya Day	0
May 13, Tuesday	Day Following Vesak Full Moon Poya Day	
June 07, Saturday	Id-UI-Alha (Hadji Festival Day)	
June 10, Tuesday	Poson Full Moon Poya Day	0
July 10, Thursday	Esala Full Moon Poya Day	0
August 08, Friday	Nikini Full Moon Poya Day	0
September 05, Friday	Milad-Un-Nabi (Holy Prophet's Birthday)	
September 07, Sunday	Binara Full Moon Poya Day	0
October 06, Monday	Vap Full Moon Poya Day	0
October 20, Monday	Deepavali Festival Day	
November 05, Wednesday	Il Full Moon Poya Day	0
December 04, Thursday	Unduvap Full Moon Poya Day	0
December 25, Thursday	Christmas Day	

O POYA DAY A PUBLIC HOLIDAY BANK HOLIDAY MERCANTILE HOLIDAY ALL SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS ARE BANK HOLIDAYS

