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General

Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, is a large pear-shaped island lying off the SE coast of India. The central part of the S half is mountainous, while elsewhere the island is practically flat. Extensive fresh and salt water lagoons lie close inland along much of the coast. Slight earthquake shocks are occasionally felt in Sri Lanka, but they are not sufficiently intense to cause serious damage. The climate is tropical monsoon; the North-east Monsoon lasts from December to March, while the South-west Monsoon lasts from June to October.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Sri Lankan rupee, consisting of 100 cents.

Firing Areas

Naval gun firing exercises are carried out in areas enclosed by the following positions:

1. **Area D2.**
 - a. 06°50'N, 79°25'E.
 - b. 06°50'N, 79°39'E.
 - c. 06°35'N, 79°39'E.
 - d. 06°35'N, 79°25'E.
2. **Area D3.**
 - a. 07°19'N, 79°10'E.
 - b. 07°16'N, 79°30'E.
 - c. 07°06'N, 79°30'E.
 - d. 07°03'N, 79°10'E.
3. **Area D4.**
 - a. 08°50'N, 81°20'E.
 - b. 08°50'N, 81°30'E.
 - c. 08°40'N, 81°30'E.
 - d. 08°40'N, 81°20'E.
4. **Area D5.**
 - a. 08°30'N, 81°30'E.
 - b. 08°30'N, 81°40'E.
 - c. 08°20'N, 81°40'E.
 - d. 08°20'N, 81°30'E.

Details of operating/activation times for the above areas will be transmitted by Colombo Radio.

Government

Sri Lanka, which received independence from the United Kingdom in 1948, is a republic. The President, who is also the chief of state and the head of government, is elected for a 6-year term by popular vote. The parliament consists of a 225-



Flag of Sri Lanka

member chamber serving 6-year terms. For purposes of general administration, the island is divided into 8 provinces.

A war began in 1983 in the NE part of the island between Tamil separatists (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and government forces. A cease-fire was signed in January 1995, but fighting has continued since April 1995.

The legal system is based on a highly complex mixture of English common law, Roman-Dutch law, Muslim law, and Sinhalese customary law.

The capital is Colombo.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Thai Pongal Day (Tamil)	January 14
National Day	February 4
Good Friday	Varies
New Year's Eve (Tamil and Sinhala)	April 13
New Year's Day (Tamil and Sinhala)	April 14
May Day	May 1
National Heroes Day	May 22
Christmas Day	December 25

Religious holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year depending on the appearance of the moon, include Ramadan Festival Day, Maha Sivarathri Day, Hajj Festival Day, Deepavali Festival Day, Milad-Un-Nabi (Prophet's Day), and 12 days during the year known as Full Moon Poya Day.

Industries

Major industries include the processing of rubber, tea, tobacco, coconuts, and other agricultural commodities. Other main industries include livestock raising, gem and mineral mining, textiles, clothing, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, fishing, leather goods, and petroleum refining.

Languages

The official language is Sinhala (Sinhalese). Tamil and English are also widely used.

Regulations

Security Zone

Mariners are cautioned that the government of Sri Lanka has declared a 3-mile wide territorial security zone off the E coast between **Point Pedro** (9°50'N., 80°15'E.) and **Komari** (Sangamankanda Point) (7°00'N., 81°53'E.). All merchant vessels approaching Sri Lanka from the E should be aware of the possible presence of naval patrol vessels which may request identification and details of destination.

The government of Sri Lanka has issued the following regulations:

A. No vessel shall enter or remain within Sri Lanka's territorial waters other than:

1. Those entering or leaving Sri Lanka's ports of Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee, and Kankasanturai.

2. Vessels navigating through the traffic separation zone off Dondra.

3. Vessels engaged in Sri Lanka's coastal trade.

4. Vessels laid up inside Trincomalee Harbor.

5. Vessels waiting in the roads off the port of Colombo with the approval of the harbormaster.

6. Vessels navigating through Sri Lanka's territorial sea and internal waters in the Palk Strait with the permission of the commander of the Sri Lanka Navy.

B. Any vessel which enters Sri Lanka's territorial waters in contravention of these rules shall do so at their own risk, and the Sri Lanka government shall not be liable for any loss or damage such vessels may suffer.

C. The master of any vessel which enters Sri Lanka's territorial waters shall identify the vessels if challenged by:

1. Any vessel responsible for the performance of coast guard duties.

2. Any Sri Lanka aircraft.

3. Any Sri Lanka authority from land by radio.

D. Any vessel which has to enter Sri Lanka's territorial waters for purposes other than those described in the rules shall do so only with the approval of the harbormaster.

The above regulations are promulgated for information only and should in no way be construed as in derogation of the right of navigation on the high seas.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description FOXTROT (-6). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 210 Galle Road, Colombo. The mailing address is P.O. Box 106, Colombo.

U. S. Embassy Sri Lanka Home Page

<http://usembassy.state.gov/srilanka>