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இலங்கையின் பிரதம மந்திரி
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

2021 May 03rd

World Telecommunications & Information Society Day 2021 Message from the Prime Minister

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) has been celebrated every year on 17th May emphasizing the importance of the role of ICT in making positive impacts to the lives of billions of people around the world.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the most forceful tool for the country as well as to its community in achieving national and/or personal goals and objectives. During the COVID -19 pandemic, Information and Communication Technology has been playing a bigger role than ever and confirming the urgency of digital connectivity. The theme of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2021 is "Accelerating Digital Transformation in Challenging Times" which is highly relevant to this current pandemic situation.

The global pandemic of COVID-19 has severely affected all nations around the world changing economic conditions and the life styles of the communities where most of the services such as Education, Banking, Health, and Food Supplies etc. are delivered through online platforms. Hence upgrading of ICT infrastructure is vital to meet the challenges confronted by us during this crisis situation.

The new technologies such as 5G, Internet of Things (IOT) and Artificial Intelligence widen ways to increase the standards and quality of life of citizens in this digital era. The digital divide between and within countries has created obstacles for ensuring equal access to such quality of life by all peoples. Our Government has taken several steps to address the digital divide in Sri Lanka. TRCSL has taken an initiative to expand telecom infrastructure under the national project of "Gamata Sanniwedanaya" aiming to provide 4G connectivity throughout the country. Our Government extends its fullest cooperation towards making this project a success and I take this opportunity to thank the TRCSL for this great initiative.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on this occasion and wish them a fruitful World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

Mahinda Rajapaksa
Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka