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இலங்கையின் பிரதமர்
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Message on the Occasion of the Commemoration of the 36th SAARC Charter Day

On the auspicious occasion of the 36th anniversary of the SAARC Charter Day, I have the great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to all citizens of the SAARC Member States.

Three decades and half ago on this auspicious day, we embarked together on a common journey of regional cooperation with the aim to eradicate poverty and to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia. During this difficult journey, SAARC has made remarkable progress including the setting up of institutions and mechanisms while developing norms and practices.

SAARC has unexplored potential for transforming the development landscape in the region. In order to achieve this, SAARC has to redouble its efforts in deepening cooperation. The delivery of concrete results through effective implementation of our commitments and decisions remains unfulfilled. We should place utmost commitment to make this regional mechanism dynamic and results-oriented for the benefit of our common progress.

In pursuant to our common endeavor, I reiterate Sri Lanka's full and firm commitment to advance the work of SAARC in taking forward the founding principles of the Organization in a spirit of collective responsibility.

Mahinda Rajapaksa
Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka