



भारतीय उच्चायुक्त
High Commissioner of India

28 June 2017

Dear Mrs. Kelegama,

We are deeply shocked and saddened by the untimely demise of Dr. Saman Kelegama.

Dr. Kelegama's links with India go back to his student days in IIT, Kanpur. He was a respected figure in Sri Lanka and beyond, including India. His several friends in India in academia, industry and government; and generations of Indian diplomats posted in Colombo including many of my predecessors join me in conveying their profound grief. India has indeed lost a very dear friend. He will be missed.

Dr. Kelegama was a true patriot, who worked with full passion towards creating a prosperous Sri Lanka. He was deeply committed to regional economic integration and made seminal contributions in the field of International Trade. His sudden demise is as much a loss for us as for Sri Lanka. It has created an irreplaceable void and his absence will be deeply felt.

Dr. Kelegama was not only a visionary economist, but also a very gentle, amiable, erudite and scholarly human being. I have seen in him an eclectic mix of admirable personal and professional qualities.

On a personal note, I had invited him to India House for tea last month. Both of us had to go for another event at the last moment, and we were forced to reschedule our meeting. Before we could finalise it, he left us. May his soul rest in peace.

We share your agony and grief. All our prayers are with you and the family. Government and people of India are with you, should you need us anytime.

Deepest condolences,

Taranjit

(Taranjit Singh Sandhu)

**Mrs. Sirimavo Kelegama
23/2 Guildford Crescent
Colombo-7**