

A Symbol of Regional Solidarity

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A Symbol of Regional Solidarity: Sri Lanka's Top Honour for PM Narendra Modi

Context

In a significant diplomatic gesture, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been conferred the **Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana**, making him the **first Indian** to receive this honour.

The award recognises leaders who have played a crucial role in strengthening bilateral ties and promoting regional solidarity.

About Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana

- It is the **highest civilian honour** given by **Sri Lanka** to foreign Heads of State or Government.
- Conferred to recognise **cordial relations, friendship, and solidarity** with the people of Sri Lanka.
- **Instituted in 2008** by **Mahinda Rajapaksa**, then President of Sri Lanka.
- **Ranks above** all other Sri Lankan national honours, including **Sri Lanka Rathna** (considered equivalent to **Bharat Ratna** in India).
- The award is granted at the **discretion of the President** of Sri Lanka.

Symbolism and Design of the Award

- Includes a **citation** and a **silver medal** adorned with **Navarathna** (nine Sri Lankan gems).
- Design features:

- A **globe** surrounded by **lotus petals**.
- A central **Pun Kalasa** (ceremonial pot with rice sheaves) symbolising **prosperity and renewal**, similar to the **Kalasa used during Sankranti** in India.
- **Sun and Moon symbols** representing continuity.
- A **Dharma Chakra**, highlighting the **shared Buddhist heritage** of India and Sri Lanka.
- Worn around the neck with a **6.5 cm wide ribbon**.

Diplomatic Significance

- Enhances India-Sri Lanka ties, especially in the context of **Neighbourhood First policy**.
- Reflects India's soft power and the global recognition of its leadership role in the region.
- Acknowledges India's consistent **support for Sri Lanka in economic, humanitarian, and strategic domains**.

Other International Honours Received by PM Narendra Modi

PM Modi has been honoured by **multiple nations**, indicating his rising **global diplomatic stature**.

- **Order of Zayed** - United Arab Emirates
- **Order of the Nile** - Egypt
- **Order of King Abdul Aziz** - Saudi Arabia
- **Order of St. Andrew** - Russia
- **Legion of Honour** - France

- **Legion of Merit** - United States
- **Order of Logohu** - Papua New Guinea
- **Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan** - Afghanistan
- **Order of Honour** - Greece
- **Order of Nishan Izzuddin** - Maldives
- **Order of the Dragon King** - Bhutan
- **Order of Fiji** - Fiji
- **Order of the State of Palestine** - Palestine
- **Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean** - Mauritius
- **King Hamad Order of the Renaissance** - Bahrain

