

FROM THE EDITOR.....



Ever since human civilization began, the mankind had an eager to construct larger and taller engineering structures. Keeping that legacy, ancient Sri Lankans also constructed number of engineering structures which are envious to other nations. The gigantic ancient stupas in north central plains are true examples for endeavoring engineering feat of ancient Sri Lankas. One such noteworthy construction is the Jetavana stupa built by King Mahasena in 3rd Century AD. By the time, it was constructed, it was the largest brick structure in the world and the third tallest structure in the world. Only two great Pyramids of Giza surpassed with the height. Still, it enjoys the title being “the largest brick structure in the world” after seventeen centuries.

Keeping that tradition, construction of the Lotus Tower began in 2009 with the generous financial assistance from People’s Republic of China. The lotus-shaped tower is to be used for communication, observation and other leisure facilities, with construction costing \$104.3 million, funded by EXIM Bank of People's Republic of China. The tower was locally designed by our engineering experts and they provided professional advice on design for the tower and also professional advice on cost planning and cost control of the project. The tower was ceremonially opened to the public on the 16th September 2019, seven years after the project commenced. The tower is currently the tallest self-supported structure in South Asia. It is also the second tallest structure in South Asia after the guy-wire-supported INS Kattabomman in India. The tower is also the 11th tallest completed tower in Asia and it is also the 19th tallest tower in the world.

The tower design is inspired by the lotus flower. The tower base is inspired by the lotus throne and is also formed by two inverted trapezoids. The tower's color is planned to alternate between pink and light yellow by smooth transition, an effect achieved by coating the glass. The tower is approximately 350 m (1,150 ft) tall and covers 30,600 m² (329,000 sq ft) of floor area. The Lotus Tower's main revenue sources will be tourism and antenna leasing. It will function as a radio and television broadcasting antenna ISDB-T and proposed DVB-T2 support structure for 50 television services, 35 FM radio stations and 20 telecommunication service providers, and will house a variety of tourist attractions. The antenna mast itself boasts a height of about 90m and is a steel structure of much design value.

The tower has four entrances, with two being used as the entrance for distinguished guests and State leaders. A telecommunication museum and restaurant are located on the ground floor. The tower podium consists of 6 floors. The first floor of the podium will accommodate a museum and two exhibition halls. The second floor will be utilized for several conference halls with seating space in excess of 500 people. Restaurants, supermarkets, and food courts will be situated on the third floor. A 1000-seat auditorium will be located on the fourth floor, which will also be used as a ballroom. The fifth floor will include luxury hotel rooms, large ballrooms, and the seventh floor will host an observation gallery. The landscaping is planned in the form of a large water park. The tower symbolizes the engineering excellency and supremacy of Sri Lankans in South Asia.

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