

# ESALA PERAHERA- The most historical cultural procession of the world

## INTRODUCTION;

This historical procession is held annually to pay homage to the sacred Tooth Relic of Buddha housed at the Temple of Tooth, Kandy, Sri Lanka.



**1.HISTORY;** The Perahera is believed to have begun when the Sacred Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha was brought to Sri Lanka from India during the 4th century, eight hundred years after the passing away of the Buddha. Prince Dantha and Princess Hemamala brought the Sacred Tooth Relic to Sri Lanka.



*Commemorative Stamp Issued in 1979*

## 2.MODERN PERAHERA;

It started in the times of the Kingdom of Kandy period but the festival of taking the Tooth Relic in procession goes back more than 1,500 years. After the Kandyan Kingdom fell to the British in 1815, the custody of the Relic was handed over to the Buddhist Clergy. In the absence of the king, a chief lay custodian called the "Diyawadana Nilame" was appointed to handle routine administrative matters concerning the relic and its care.



*The Second longest Stamp in The World*

## 3. THE PROCESSION;

The procession consists of Kandyan dancers, fire dancers, various drummers, instrument players. There are elephants in glamorous outfits along with lay custodians.

This cultural event is popular globally and attract tourists to Sri Lanka during the season

