



Akkinip Parabaikal

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**P2P - A Rebirth: Perception and consequences
from AP Journalists' point of view**

A combined editorial piece by key members of our *Akkinip Paravaikal* team to cross-examine the effects upon the Tamils' struggle for liberation.

Proceed to page 03 for more.



“Today we are faced with a critical and complex situation, unprecedented in the history of our liberation struggle. We are living in a political void, without war, without a stable peace, without the conditions of normalcy, without an interim or permanent solution to the ethnic conflict. Our liberation struggle will be seriously undermined if this political vacuum continues indefinitely.” (2004)

National Leader of Tamil Eelam

P2P - A Rebirth: Perception and consequences from AP Journalists' point of view

AKKINIP PARAVAICAL

Editors' note: All opinions presented are those of the AP team members.

Resistance has become an undeniable component of the Eelam Tamils' livelihood for decades. However, moments of mass uprising have periodically emerged in reinvigorating their collective psyche. In that regard, 'Pottuvil to Polikandy' or 'P2P' emerged as a march conducted by Tamils between the 2 furthestmost points of the occupied Tamil homeland between 03.02.2021 - 07.02.2021, thus rejecting the SL state and asserting Tamil sovereignty through physically portraying the continuity of the Eelam Tamils' territorial integrity. Through demanding issues pertaining to Tamils' grievances, the campaign gained momentum on an unprecedented scale. This resurgence of the Tamil population saw the amalgamation of the community in spite of any differences thus cementing the Tamils' internal revolution. Consequently, P2P immensely affected the psyche of the diaspora and thus we as the *Akkinip Paravaikal (AP)* team have dissected the effects and impending consequences of P2P upon our struggle for liberation to contextualise the significance of this turning point in our struggle.

Effects of P2P

Nitharsan

When the P2P protest was happening, I was really happy to see the spirit of our people. This spirit, where they overcame oppressive and legal obstacles, is lacking after 2009. However, the most joy came, when the Eelam Tamils, the Muslims and the Tamils from the plantation hills stood together and intertwined their demands into this platform.

Kayalvizhi

The last few days have been overwhelming for my heart. Through all of these videos and photos of the P2P protest, I can see again the



determination that our people had before 2009 - it especially reminds me of Pongu Tamil from 2001.

It further gives hope to our previous generations that one day, our people will be free from oppression and tyranny. After witnessing the amount of unity and seeing the next generation awakened and determined to make the voice of our people heard by the international community, we can be confident that this will indeed manifest into reality.

I am sure that after seeing this unity, Thileepan anna's words would have come to mind:

“Let the popular revolution erupt! May an independent Tamil Eelam flourish!”

“மக்கள் புரட்சி வெடிக்கட்டும் ! சுதந்திர தமிழீழம் மலரட்டும்!”

Ranjini

After hearing about the march from Pottuvil to Polikandy, I was overwhelmed with joy that our people are finally fighting again to stop the injustices. This uprising gives hope again to the people who no longer believed in the Tamil state. Thus, the older generation is once again re-engaging with the struggle.

Already the resistance of the students after the destruction of the Mullivaikkal monument shows that the people - especially the young generation, does not allow oppression to occur silently anymore. As Thalaivar said then, the battle is now in the hands of the youth.

Vithusa

It has been many years since I last felt hope in my heart. I write this reflection with this renewed sense of life that has been rekindled within my soul by the collective uprising in Eelam.

I remember the day that my hope was stolen. We all felt it as the armed conflict came to an end and news of shelling and bombing was radioed to us - our people were being stolen from us as nations around the world sat and watched. Then the silence. I cannot begin to explain it as words can never describe the feeling of complete loss that was experienced. However, my body felt it - it absorbed everyone's pain along with my own as we mourned. Where wailing became disconnected from my eardrums and I was entrapped by silence as my entire being froze. I moved through the world within this trapped state as the little fire flickered - awaiting for hope to be reignited within me.

As I witnessed the continuous structural oppression, vines of rage rebuilt within me. Strengthening my spirit - it caught aflame with each counter resistance carried out by our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. Tamil Eelam is irreplaceable and the Pottuvil to Polikandy protest reaffirmed the power of our people and the collective continuous fight for our homeland. That flickering flame has been reignited - burning brighter for the first time in many years.

கடச்சுடரும் பொன்போல் ஒளிவிடும் துன்பஞ் கடச்சுட நோற்கிற் பவர்க்கு. - குறள் 267

Senchudar Gemini

Resistance in its undiluted form is often nurtured through a catalyst which binds a subjugated community. These catalysts trigger the said community through internal and external means to gain the collective courage to resist hegemonic oppressors. Whilst the catalysts themselves may stem from actions with destructive or constructive intentions, the effect of it remains unquestionably beneficial for the progression of a subjugated communities' struggle for liberation.

As a generation which witnessed the abundance of revolutionary fervour which existed amongst the people of Tamil Eelam during the armed conflict, we have strong circumstantial catalysts which bind us to the struggle in an unwavering manner as we witnessed the conviction, loyalty and commitment of both citizens and cadres alike under the rule of the LTTE within our Tamil state. Rather than a factual understanding, such connections remain ingrained within us through experiential memory - one which cannot be erased. However, it has always been a concern as to whether future generations who were born after 2009 or were extremely young at the time, would be able to maintain a sustainable connection with a struggle where such significant catalysts did not imprint themselves within their memory. It was at this point that P2P emerged not as an isolated incident of Tamil resistance, but rather a movement which carried the strength of Tamil Eelam - both geographically and ideologically. The demands, the unity of the citizens and their continued loyalty to the legacy of our armed struggle and resistance have burned Tamil Eelam into our rightfully owned lands with each foot that tread from Pottuvil to Polikandy.

From the 6th Amendment to the PTA, successive genocidal governments may implement means to erase Tamil Eelam, yet the footprints of our martyrs yesterday and our citizens today reiterate through unifying Tamils' territorial integrity that no government, state or entity can truly destroy Tamil Eelam.

Political Forecast

Nitharsan

The Sri Lankan government has to respond to the P2P protest. One thing is, the subjugated communities on the island of Sri Lanka have stood together in solidarity. This will definitely weaken the position of the Sri Lankan state. Therefore, deepening the relations between these communities will be a cardinal task, which the Tamils must undertake in the future.

Additionally, due to their economic situation, they have to divert the focus of the Sinhala people - for what they will definitely accelerate the oppression. When this happens, we have to be prepared to answer.

Kayalvizhi

These new generations are aware of what is currently happening to our people and that if we do not act, our identity risks being completely erased. However, we must realise that we must ensure the safety of our people in the country after this event.

The government will attempt to break this unity among our people back home. For example, Mahinda Rajapaksa announced that Muslims will be allowed burial rights after global outcry over a mandatory cremation policy. This decision was taken with the intention that Muslims will withdraw from this revolution if they make them believe that their grievances are addressed. Consequently, it will still be our people who will find themselves alone to fight and will be exterminated in silence by the SL government.

Despite the threats and surveillance of the authorities, it is still our brothers and sisters in our homeland who will suffer the consequences while we are content to share and denounce what is happening on social networks.

History is repeating itself and it is up to us to be on guard not to fall into the traps of this international community which claim to help us by turning our struggle towards a struggle for justice rather than to achieve our goal: the **re-establishment of Tamil sovereignty**.

Ranjini

Our people now realise the structural nature of the genocide which continues in their homeland and are worried that if action is not taken, the situation will get out of control and the identity will be erased. They uprising, act quickly, and get caught in the hands of the destructive government. The P2P march is threatened by heavy military presence and intimidation tactics. Through surveillance, filming and

collection of personal details, the Tamil resistors are identified. The resulting consequences are persecution and arrest.

Consequently, people in our homeland are gradually arrested and disappear. Already in the summer of last year our compatriots have been arrested and it is still open what will happen to them. The Sri Lankan government will attempt to suppress our resistance. To stop the government, the international communities must intervene yet this is only the intermediate goal and the fight continues to restore Tamil sovereignty.

Vithusa

When considering the political forecast, we can always look to the pressure that will be enforced on Tamils and Muslims in occupied Tamil Eelam by the GoSL. That is an undeniable fact and a sad reality that many will continuously endure. However, I rather look to the emotional reawakening that occurred within our homeland and consequently exploded within the Tamil diaspora.

For the first time in several decades we see a collective unification of the Tamil and Muslim community. Subsequently following the end of the armed conflict, for the first time, we witness the collective action that defies age of participation, social class, as well as collective struggles binding together in a call for justice and accountability for the people by the people.

As such, the sparks of P2P have caught within the diaspora. Particularly within the younger Tamil diaspora who, through social media witnessed the destruction of the Mullivaikkal Memorial Monument at Jaffna University and subsequent mobilization by the youth. Closely following this event was P2P. The proximity and the timeliness of the protest reinforced a sense of action which will collectively be felt among the youth in the years to follow. An ideological reawakening has occurred in both spaces for those who participated and witnessed the massive protest. **The thirst for Eelam continues: தமிழரின் தாகம் தமிழீழ தாயகம்!**

Senchudar Gemini

Whilst the regime's crackdown against such resistance is inevitable as evidenced through the multiple attempts conducted to prevent the completion of P2P itself, it has become clear that Eelam Tamils within occupied Tamil Eelam are becoming restless and unforgiving. This movement was merely a glimpse of their true potential.

Consequently, with successive accounts of resistance from the Tamils, it will not be long before a frustrated Rajapaksa regime reveals their maniacal demeanour through unbridled brash oppression - thus pre-empting a true people's revolution

on the ground. It is now time for us as the diaspora to turn around and ask ourselves - will we be genuinely prepared to assist our resisting brethren to confront global superpowers and the genocidal Sri Lankan state when the time comes, or would we rather wait for that revolution to succeed or fail **and then** sit behind screens and steering wheels for complacent satisfaction?

Demands

1. We Tamils have been fighting for over seventy years for Self Determination. We are a nation of people living. In the merged North and East in the island of Ceylon. We have our right to determine our own destiny. Successive Sri Lankan Sinhala - Buddhist Governments have continually suppressed our right to self - determination and govern us employing brutal military force to annihilate, which amounts to Genocide.
2. Since the independence from the British in 1948, Tamils have been waging peaceful non - violent struggles for our self - determination. These peaceful struggles were brutally suppressed by the use of force by the successive Sinhala - Buddhist Government, resulting in Tamil youths turn to armed struggle, which was suppressed by Sri Lankan Security forces killing tens of thousands of Tamil civilians and sexually assaulting and raping Tamil women.
3. According to the November 2012 Report of the UN Secretary - General's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka, over 70,000 people were killed during the final six months of the war that ended in May 2009. Several were killed when Sri Lankan forces repeatedly bombed and shelled an area designated by the Government as No Fire Zones (Safe zones). Even hospitals and food distribution centers were bombed. Several also died of starvation and bled to death due to lack of medical treatment.
4. International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) in February 2017 handed over details to UN of Sri Lankan Military run "Rape Camps", where Tamil women are being held as "sex slaves." According to a UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office report in April 2013, there are over 90,000 Tamil war widows in Sri Lanka.
5. Thousands of Tamils disappeared including babies and children. The UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances stated that the second - highest number of enforced disappearance cases in the world is from Sri Lanka.
6. Militarization of Tamil's traditional homeland is continuing, and Tamils' historical identity is destroyed with the aim to change demography in favour of Sinhalese, using several government departments, including archaeological, forest, survey departments, and Ministry of Buddhasasana as well as Mahaveli River Development Agency. Also, Government - sponsored Sinhalese settlements are continuing.
7. Continuing land grab in Tamil's traditional homeland by the Security Forces and the Government converting Tamil's traditional and historical places into Sinhala - Buddhist areas by establishing numerous Buddhist temples in Tamil areas, including after destroying Hindu temples. As of now, around 200 Hindu temples were affected by this act of the Government.

8. Sri Lankan Sinhalese Security Forces stationed in Tamil's traditional homeland should be removed and civilian life return to normal. Also, calling for the immediate stop of appointments of Military officers to civilian administrative positions and immediately remove all the officers who are already in civilian administrative positions.
9. Sinhala - Buddhist Government continues to intimidate and abuse Tamil journalists who cover abuses against Tamils and Tamil Civil Society activists who protest these abuses. This not only violates their constitutionally guaranteed rights, it is being used to suppress Tamil's calls for fundamental rights, including self - determination.
10. Tamil cattle owners are facing numerous problems, where their grazing areas are being occupied by Sinhala - Buddhists and their cows killed. For example, In the Batticaloa district, Mayilathamadu and Mathavani grazing lands for cattle were forcibly occupied with the aim to create Sinhala - Buddhist settlements. Cows belonging to Tamil's were killed with the aim to destroy Tamil's livelihood. As part of this plan forests in Tamil areas were destroyed and cleared to establish Sinhala - Buddhist settlements.
11. All the lands that were confiscated by the Government / Sri Lankan Sinhalese Security Forces from Tamil civilians should be returned immediately.
12. Tamils have been denied the Right to Remember their war dead, as demonstrated by denying remembrance events, destruction of cemeteries of the war dead, and demolition of memorials by the Sinhala - Buddhist Government.
13. Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) has been used to imprison Tamils without charge or trial for over 40 years and is now being used against Muslims. Tamil Prisoners of War (POW) / Political Prisoners have been imprisoned for several years without trial. The Sinhala - Buddhist Government has pardoned Sinhala - Buddhist prisoners on a regular basis, but none of the Tamil POW's / political prisoners were pardoned.
14. Families of the enforced disappeared have been protesting to find their loved ones, including babies and children, but the Sinhala - Buddhist Government refuses to give them any answer.
15. Muslims who died due to COVID are cremated against the wishes of the families and against Islamic teachings. Muslims who peacefully protest against this policy are suppressed.
16. Tamils in the upcountry have been urging for a pay raise of 1,000 rupees and other grievances but successive Sinhala - Buddhist Governments have ignored their demands.

Proclamation

We urge to implement Tamil's Joint Appeal to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to UN Human Rights Council the Member States, which includes a request to Refer Sri Lanka to International Criminal Court (ICC) for War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide committed against the Tamil people by the Sinhala - Buddhist Sri Lankan State.

Furthermore, as a guarantee that the Genocide that took place against Tamils is not repeated, a permanent political solution should be found by getting the wishes of the Tamil people through internationally conducted and monitored referendums.

P2P Timeline

▶ 01.02.2021

Punniyamoorthy Sasikaran - a Tamil journalist from Batticaloa, received a prohibitory order from the Court. Police from Kaluwanchikudy arranged several prohibitory orders against politicians and members of civil societies to suppress the P2P march.

▶ 03.02.2021

- ◆ Day 1 of P2P march commenced from Pottuvil, Amparai as a 3-day march despite rain and court orders.
- ◆ Occupational police arrived with a prohibitive court order citing public disturbance due to the blockage of traffic by protestors.
- ◆ Rishad Bathiudeen calls upon Muslims to provide complete support for the P2P march.
- ◆ University Students' Union of Jaffna University release statement in support of P2P.
- ◆ Ceylon Tamil Teachers' Union release statement in support of P2P.
- ◆ Jaffna Magistrate issues restraining order banning demonstrations and rallies in response to applications filed by Jaffna and Kopay's occupational police.
- ◆ Mannar Magistrate issues restraining order against 14 individuals preventing entry of P2P marchers into Mannar due to applications from occupational Mannar police.
- ◆ Marchers arrive at Batticaloa.

▶ 04.02.2021

- ◆ Day 2 of P2P march commenced from Batticaloa passing through Arayampathi, Kathankudi and Kalladi.
- ◆ Mallakam Magistrate's Court postpones judgement regarding prohibitory order filed against the P2P protest by Chunnakam police to await a report from a Medical Officer.
- ◆ Occupational police riot squads removed multiple protestors in a truck.
- ◆ All Ceylon Makkal Congress calls upon all Muslims to support the P2P protest.
- ◆ Kokkilai locals conduct protest in Mullaitivu marking SL's Independence Day as a 'Black Day' and in support of P2P despite military intimidation.

▶ 05.02.2021

- ◆ Day 3 of P2P march commenced from Trincomalee Sivan Koyil at 8.30 am local time.
- ◆ Upcountry Workers' Front express support for the P2P movement during a media conference at Hutton.
- ◆ A delegation of Tamils led by former NPC member Ravikaran who were awaiting to join the P2P marchers from Trincomalee was confronted by occupational Mullaitivu police near the Nayarthu Bridge with a prohibitory order citing COVID-19 regulations.
- ◆ Chavakachcheri Magistrate's Court reject restraining order filed by police against P2P within the jurisdiction.
- ◆ Reports emerge that nails were strewn across the roads to prevent vehicles participating in the P2P march from completing the protest.
- ◆ National Movement for the Release of Political Prisoners' express support for P2P movement.
- ◆ North & East Disappeared Relations' Association join P2P march from Kilinochchi Depot Junction.
- ◆ Jaffna Magistrate's Court lifts ban on protests and rallies within the jurisdiction.
- ◆ Vigil held at Mullivaikkal Monument by P2P marchers. A handful of sand from the shores of Mullivaikkal were carried from the site by participants.

▶ 06.02.2021

- ◆ Day 4 of P2P march commenced from the new bus stand in Vavuniya at 7.45 am local time.
- ◆ Tamil Muslims in Vavuniya provide full support for P2P.
- ◆ A demonstration was conducted by the P2P marchers before Pandaravanniyan's statue.
- ◆ P2P rally arrived at Mannar Madhu Junction at 12 noon local time.
- ◆ P2P procession proceeded from Mannar Main bridge towards the statue of Thanthai Selva within Mannar's main city where a vigil was conducted.
- ◆ Muslims and families of forcibly disappeared persons from Mannar joined the rally.
- ◆ P2P rally arrived at Kilinochchi to be welcomed with mass local support.
- ◆ A hunger strike protest conducted by families of the disappeared before Kilinochchi Kanthaswamy temple came to an end.

▶ 07.02.2021

- ◆ Day 5 of P2P march commenced from Kilinochchi Depot Junction towards Polikandy.
- ◆ Killinochchi Magistrate issues court order banning rallies and protests within the jurisdiction.

- ◆ Rally proceeded through Kilinochchi despite announcements made over megaphones by occupational police citing that rallies, marches and vehicle processions were not permitted within the jurisdiction off Kilinochchi.
- ◆ P2P rally arrived in Jaffna with thousands of participants where vigils were conducted before Lt. Col. Thileepan's monument in Nallur. Respects were also paid to the first Black Tiger - Captain Miller.
- ◆ Handful of sand taken from Mullivaikkal placed with the foundations of the Mullivaikkal monument which is in the process of being reconstructed within Jaffna University campus following its destruction by authorities last month.
- ◆ Occupational Mandihai police block road preventing progression of P2P rally citing a court injunction.
- ◆ P2P rally arrived at the end location - Polikandy at 6.45 pm local time.
- ◆ Plaque denoting the completion of the P2P rally was set at Polikandy as the participants made a declaration citing their commitment to Tamil sovereignty.

▶ **08.02.2021**

New report filed at Mullaitivu Magistrate's Court by officer in charge of Mullaitivu police station calling for an investigation of participants in the P2P rally.

▶ **09.02.2021**

Shavendra Silva mentioned that legal action would be taken against those who participated in P2P.

3 occupational police stations in Paruttithurai file Court of Contempt cases against political representatives who participated in P2P.

▶ **10.02.2021**

US Ambassador, Teplitz questions the lack of coverage of P2P in SL media via Tweet.

▶ **11.02.2021**

A group named "Pottuvil to Polikandy People's Uprising Movement" was established

▶ **13.02.2021**

Kalmunai Magistrate summons 7 MPs to appear before it on 30.04.2021 regarding their violation of restraining orders obtained against them and 22 others by Kalmunai Police.

▶ **15.02.2021**

Mullaitivu police visited Ravikaran's residence on 14.02.2021 to summon him for investigations regarding his participation in the P2P rally.

Occupational police's case against Jaffna Chief Minister and Attorney-at-Law, V. Manivannan was heard in court on 15.02.2021 regarding his participation in P2P.

▶ **18.02.2021**

Mankulam police obtained a confession from Ravikaran at his residence at around 7 pm local time.

A 26-year-old Tamil youth from Paruttithurai was arrested for his participation in P2P.

▶ **19.02.2021**

Arrested Tamil youth released on bail charges.

Confessions obtained by occupational police from:

- ◆ Manivannan
- ◆ Chanakyan
- ◆ Pachilaipalli School's principal and deputy principal
- ◆ 2 Pachilaipalli Pradesiya Sabha members
- ◆ Vanni MP Adaikalanath

▶ **22.02.2021**

M.A. Sumanthiran questioned over P2P demonstration.

▶ **24.02.2021**

National Organisation against Enforced Cremations staged protest claiming that they do not demand a separate country or state, but rather the fundamental rights of the Muslim community. Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim representatives attended the protest.

International News

02.02.2021: **ADB** – According to Virakesari, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB's) 55th anniversary is scheduled to occur in Colombo between 02.05.2022 – 05.05.2022.

SL's Independence Day

05.02.2021: **Russia** - Russia's Foreign Minister has released a statement to mark Sri Lanka's Independence Day and reiterated backing on multilateral levels according to the Colombo Gazette. The segment reads:

"We maintain political contacts, including at the highest and high levels, and cooperate productively on the international arena, at the UN and other multilateral platforms."

06.02.2021: **US** - During SL's Independence Day celebrations at the SL Embassy in Washington DC, Dean Thompson - the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of the US Department of State cited that SL and the US had been in tight partnership due to a shared commitment towards democracy, human rights and equal justice, reports Colombo Gazette.

10.02.2021: **Indo-Pacific** - In an interview with The Print, Japan's Ambassador to India, Suzuki mentioned that India and Japan are in cooperation with SL to strengthen the Quad countries to further "strategic convergence" under the Indo

- Pacific framework, reports Colombo Gazette.

Quad Countries:

- ◆ Japan
- ◆ India
- ◆ Australia
- ◆ US

11.02.2021: **India** - Progress can be seen through the resumption of flights between India and SL. Economy Next reports that through India, SL reaches more tourists.

Foreign Investment

13.02.2021: **Ports** - According to Virakesari, harbour unions have noted their protest against a handing over of the Colombo Port Western Terminal to India. They were reported to have further mentioned that following the cancellation of the ECT deal following protests from harbour unions, the GoSL had offered 85% of the Western Terminal as compensation to India. The Secretary of one such union further reiterated that in terms of national security, there is no difference between the Eastern and Western Terminal.

15.02.2021: **Northern Islands** - According to Daily Mirror, the Chinese Embassy had responded to India's concerns regarding the involvement of a Chinese company in power projects across the islands off Jaffna citing that this was merely a

commercial activity which was facilitated through an open international bidding process.

17.02.2021: **Trinco Oil Farm** - Following successful cabinet discussions with India at the Indian High Commission in Colombo on 14.02.2021, SL Minister of Energy, U. Gammanpila mentioned that the Trincomalee Oil Farm would be reacquired by the GoSL. According to the Colombo Gazette, a spokesperson from the Indian High Commission had further indicated that SL and India would continue to cooperate for the development of the Upper Oil Tank Farms in Trincomalee.

20.02.2021: **Trinco Oil Farm** - According to Virakesari, the Indian High Commission had announced that the deal between India and SL regarding the Trincomalee Oil storages remains intact. The announcement was made in response to reports from several media outlets which claimed that the deal between the two states had been cancelled.

14.02.2021: **India** - According to The Wire, India's Minister for Home Affairs had stated that the BJP Party had plans to establish BJP-governments in neighbouring states such as Nepal and Sri Lanka, after they had won elections across all of the states in India.

18.02.2021: **Cremation** - US Ambassador, Teplitz expressed disappointment with SL's discriminatory cremation policy in a tweet, reports Colombo Gazette.

UNHRC

05.02.2021: **UN** - The UN Human Rights experts have called on the UNHRC and the international community to keep the human rights situation in SL under scrutiny and to explore internal and international accountability mechanisms, reports the Colombo Gazette.

16.12.2021: **UNHRC** – The Executive Director of the National Peace Council reported that SL had been given a very strong report by the UNHRC. Accordingly, punitive measures were recommended against government leaders and those accused of human rights abuses. According to Economy Next, it had further warned against the:

- ◆ increasing militarisation of civilian government functions
- ◆ abrogation of key constitutional guarantees
- ◆ political obstruction of accountability
- ◆ intimidation of civil societies
- ◆ use of anti-terror laws

20.02.2021: **Core group** – According to Economy Next, a core group of countries intend to present a resolution at the 46th UNHRC session to promote reconciliation, accountability and human rights in SL. It was reported that they further recognise SL's efforts in:

- ◆ infrastructure reconstruction
- ◆ demining
- ◆ land restitution
- ◆ resettlement of internally displaced persons

Core Group:

- ◆ Canada
- ◆ Germany
- ◆ North Macedonia
- ◆ Malawi
- ◆ Montenegro

22.02.2021: **UN draft** - The draft resolution on SL which was to be tabled at the UNHRC in Geneva, called on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase monitoring of the situation in SL and provide another update for the 49th and 51st sessions, reports, Colombo Gazette. Accordingly, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab informed the UNHRC:

"Madam President, we want to see an effective international human rights system that holds to account those who systematically violate human rights. The Human Rights Council must be ready to play its role in full, or I fear we will see its reputation sorely damaged..."

23.02.2021: **UNHRC** – SL's Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunwardena has called upon the UNHRC to reject the resolution against SL which has been tabled at the ongoing session. According to Colombo Gazette, he had cited that detailed updates regarding human rights had been provided to the OHCHR in December 2020 and January 2021 whilst simultaneously managing the COVID-19 pandemic. It was reported that he had further noted that the increased pressure is discouraging for a global south sovereign state.

24.02.2021: **US** – The UNHRC has been called by the US Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken to back the resolution on SL, noting the lack of accountability for past atrocities in SL, reports Colombo Gazette. He shared the following:

"I'm here to reaffirm America's commitment to respect and defend the human rights of all people, everywhere. As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims: All human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated."

24.02.2021: **UN** - Following the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet's presentation of her findings to the UNHRC in Geneva, SL's Foreign Minister, Dinesh Gunawardena had rejected the recommendations, highlighting that the report had failed to include comments by the GoSL, reports Colombo Gazette. Subsequently, reports indicate that the US had called on SL to implement strategies in line with the report - noting the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' concerns and need for public strategy by SL.

24.02.2021: **OIC** - The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has called upon SL to respect the burial rights of Muslims following the prolonged denial of the burial of Muslim COVID-19 victims. Colombo Gazette reported that Dr. Yousef Al Othaimeen - the Secretary General of the OIC - had spoken at the High Level Segment of the 46th session of the UNHRC.

25.02.2021: **India** - India informed SL during the UNHRC meeting in Geneva, that SL must respect the rights of Tamils, reports the Colombo Gazette. India's Ambassador, Mani Pandey noted that India has adopted 7 resolutions on human rights in SL since May 2009 - highlighting its engagement on the issue. However, he simultaneously reiterated India's two pillars of supporting Sri Lanka's unity and territorial integrity and committing itself towards the aspiration of Tamils.

26.02.2021: **China** - According to Virakesari, China's Permanent Representative to Geneva, Zheng Hu

had reiterated China's unwavering support for SL during his remarks at the 46th UNHRC Session.

27.02.2021: **Hunger strike** - Ms. Ambikai Selvakumar commenced a hunger strike unto death in Britain demanding the British government to address Tamils' grievances in their resolution which would be presented at the UNHRC. Her demands include:

- ◆ The referral of SL to the ICC
- ◆ The introduction of the IIM
- ◆ The introduction of a referendum for Tamils
- ◆ The appointment of a permanent rapporteur

Discussions

03.02.2021: **India** - According to Virakesari, India's Deputy High Commissioner, Vinoth K. Jacob had met Karuna and Pillaiyan in separate meetings. Reportedly, these meetings had occurred in Colombo at the Indian Embassy. Topics of discussion have been reported to have included the 13th amendment and the Provincial Council structure.

03.02.2021: **Bangladesh** – The High Commissioner of Bangladesh and M. Rajapaksa were reported to have met on 02.02.2021 at the SL Prime Minister's Office. According to Virakesari, the High Commissioner had proposed bilateral cooperation between the 2 countries upon the basis of agriculture, fisheries and shipping. It is noteworthy that he

had also invited M. Rajapaksa to Bangladesh's upcoming Golden Jubilee celebrations of Bangladesh's Independence.

04.02.2021: **India** - According to Virakesari, the Indian High Commissioner, Gopal Baglay had met the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of SL. The meeting was reported to have addressed the Colombo Harbour East Container Terminal issue, which has upset India. It is noteworthy that SL, India and Japan had signed an agreement in 2019, establishing that India and Japan would contribute investments for the terminal. Consequently, this would attribute 49% of the terminal's ownership to the foreign investors and 51% to SL. However, following pressure from

harbour unions, SL has claimed that while Japan and India would invest, SL's port authority would exert full ownership of the terminal.

04.02.2021: **Russia** - According to Daily Mirror, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated G.Rajapaksa on the occasion of the 73rd Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka.

10.02.2021: **Japan** - According to Colombo Gazette, high level talks were held virtually on 10.02.2021 during the 2nd round of the SL - Japan Policy Dialogue which was held virtually following SL's cancellation of relations with Japan and India regarding the ECT at Colombo Port. Reports indicate that areas of further cooperation to strengthen relations were discussed.

21.02.2021: **Investment** - During a virtual meeting with SL's Ambassador - Ravinatha Aryasinha and US Ambassador and Assistance Trade Representative for South and Central Asia - Christopher Wilson, SL pledged for hopes with US's foreign investment in the Chinese funded Colombo Port City Project according to the Colombo Gazette. The new according to Aryasinha as reported by Colombo Gazette comes following the Cabinet of Ministers approval of the "Colombo Port City Commission Bill".

Pakistan - Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan held bilateral discussions with M. Rajapaksa at the Temple Trees to discuss bilateral discussion while reiterating the country's ties with SL during his two-day visit to the country reports Colombo

Gazette. Subsequently, M. Rajapaksa noted the following:

"Our People hold Pakistan in very high esteem. Pakistan was a friend who stood by and helped Sri Lanka in times of great need. We are grateful for the steadfast support, particularly during my Presidency, when we had to fight a dangerous terrorist organization that was fully neutralized in May 2009."

Pakistan's PM has subsequently reassured support for SL during discussions with G. Rajapaksa on 24.02.2021 and plans for multilateral growth between the two counties.

SL and Pakistan discussed mutual investment of foreign exchange reserves in government bonds during a visit by Prime Minister, Imran Khan, Economy Next reports. According to PMD News, discussions were also held about the development of the agricultural economy.

"Pakistan has extended a \$50m line of credit for defence purchases to Sri Lanka, its foreign ministry says as Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan concludes a landmark visit to the island nation.

Reports from Aljazeera further indicate that an agreement was also made to increase intelligence sharing and cooperation on other security issues, including anti-terrorism and anti-crime operations.

According to Daily Mirror, they had also discussed the possibility of increasing SL's

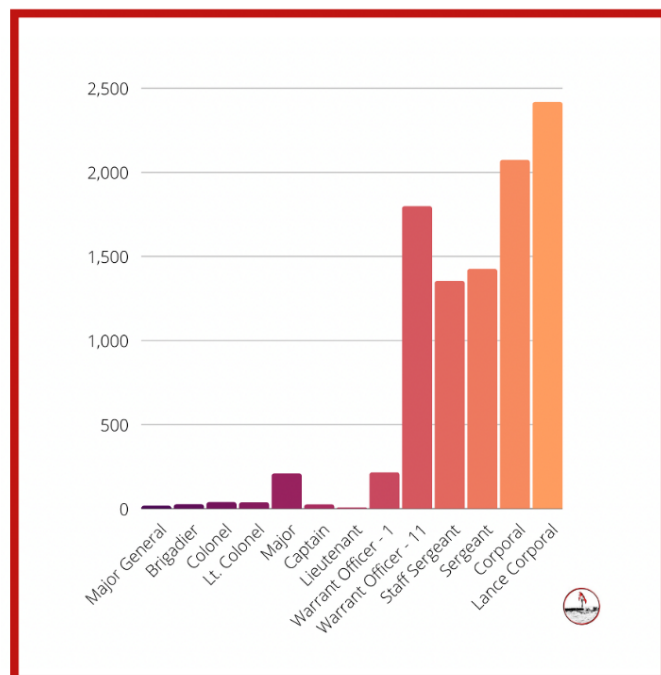
trade connectivity to the Central Asian region through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC) - referred to as a flagship project of China's BIR by

Pakistan's PM. It is notable that he had also pleased with the assistance provided by Pakistan to combat "terrorism".

Military News

01.02.2021: **Vaccination** - According to Virakesari, Shavendra Silva had mentioned that over 14,000 SL soldiers had been vaccinated against COVID-19. Further reports from Virakesari indicate that 31,000 vaccines had been reserved for the SL military.

04.02.2021: **Promotion** - During SL's 73rd Independence Day celebrations, G. Rajapaksa promoted 8,226 Army personnel to their next ranks on the recommendation of Shavendra Silva, reports the Colombo Gazette.



05.02.2021: **Indonesia** - The Indonesian Naval Ship, 'Kri Bung Tomo' arrived at the Hambantota for a formal two-day visit, reports navy.lk.

05.02.2021: **AERO-INDIA 2021** - According to defence.lk, a biennial virtual defence exhibition was held in Bangalore between 03.02.2021 - 05.02.2021. Further reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that the Indian Coast Guard had hosted a virtual Indian Ocean Region Coast Guard Seminar featuring the topic of "Collaborative Approach for Safe, Secure and Clean Sea in the Indian Ocean Region" at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo as a part of 'Aero-India 2021'. According to Colombo Gazette, SL Defence Secretary, K. Gunaratne had attended the event as Chief Guest and emphasised SL's role in protecting regional sea lanes of communication and trade within the Indian Ocean whilst committing to ensure safety and security especially within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

06.02.2021: **Promotion** - According to army.lk, senior brigadiers of the SL Army who were promoted to the rank of Major General on the eve of SL's 73rd National Independence Day, had received their new rank insignia from Shavendra Silva.

07.02.2021: **SL Navy** - The official launch of Colombo Naval Exercise -2021 (CONEX-21), was marked onboard the SL Naval Ship (SLNS) Sayurala at Colombo port on 07.02.2021 for the 3rd consecutive year. The exercise is scheduled to be held in seas off Colombo from 08.02.2021 - 10.02.2021, reports navy.lk.

13.02.2021: **Recruitment** - According to Virakesari, the SL military has announced that it intends to commence recruitment. Accordingly, reports indicate that recruits between the ages of 18 - 24 are permitted for recruitment from both genders. Recruitment drives are due to occur in the following occupational HQs within the Tamil homeland:

- ◆ Jaffna
- ◆ Vanni
- ◆ Kilinochchi
- ◆ Mullaitivu

16.02.2021: **SL Navy** - The Deputy Chief of Staff of SL's Navy - Ruwan Perera, called on the Commander of SL's Navy - Nishantha Ulugetenne, who assumed duties on 16.02.2021, reports navy.lk.

17.02.2021: **Security** - India's Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) virtually conducted a 1-day workshop addressing "Intelligence and National Security" for SL's Police, to address SL's security challenges, reports Colombo Gazette.

26.02.2021: **Japan** - According to army.lk, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ship 'Setogiri' arrived at the Hambantota port on 25.02.2021.

28.02.2021: **India** - Indian Air Force (IAF) aerobatics teams landed in SL in light of preparations for the SLAF's 70th Anniversary celebrations which are due to occur on 02.03.2021, reports Economy Next. India's participation is an indication of the strengthening cooperation, camaraderie and friendship between the armed forces of the two nations. The Indian High Commission in Colombo was further cited to have reiterated that SL was India's first priority partner within the realms of defence.

Arrivals:

- ◆ Fixed-wing squadrons
- ◆ Helicopter aerobatics squadrons
- ◆ Multi-role combat aircraft
- ◆ Maritime reconnaissance aircraft
- ◆ Military transports

27.02.2021: **China** - The construction units of China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC) had built infrastructure in SL and are now engaged in the planning of a mineral sands project worth over USD 310 million. According to Economy Next, wave actions would fill several marine sand deposits in the North - Western regions of the island - such as in Pulmoddai.

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

02.02.2021: **Resettlement** - 10 - 20 perches of land are set to be purchased from private owners by the GoSL to resettle displaced families in Jaffna. The resettlement program is set to occur in accordance with an SL Cabinet-approved proposal put forth by M. Rajapaksa, reports Colombo Gazette. Each plot of land is estimated to cost LKR 700,000 for 381 families residing in welfare centres within the Jaffna District.

17.02.2021: **Vavuniya** - A man was arrested in Senapilavu in Nedunkerny, Vavuniya with a large cache of explosives and anti-personnel mines. Police are investigating the motive behind the possession of the explosives and suspect that he was a former LTTE cadre, reports Daily Mirror.

18.02.2021: **Switzerland** - According to Virakesari, several Tamil Hinduistic leaders had met the Swiss ambassador for SL. Further reports indicate that the situation of Tamils in the occupied homeland and Tamils in Switzerland had been discussed by the 2 parties, during the meeting.

22.01.2021: **Energy** - SL has been urged to follow international bidding procedures following concerns of Chinese-funded energy projects in the North by China. Such proposals were made in a statement released by Sionsoar-Etechwin JV - citing the politicisation of the project as a hindrance of the interests of the people which fails to meet the plans of the current SL government while

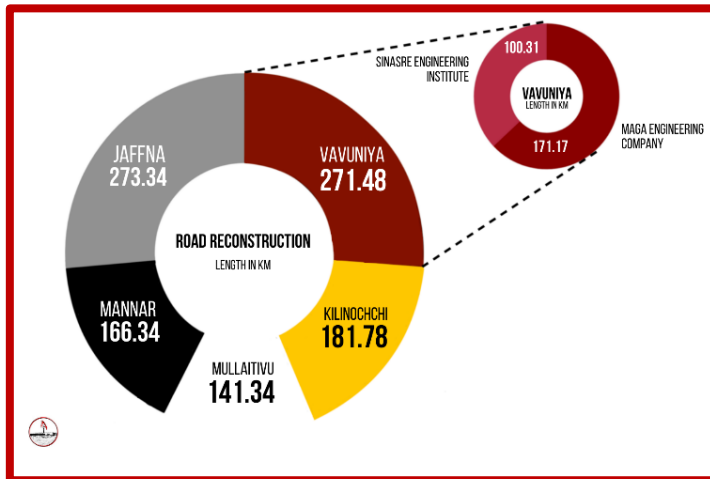
opposing third-party interference, reports Colombo Gazette. Further reports from 24.02.2021 indicate the GoSL's claims that there had been no final decision to provide China ownership of the power projects. According to SL's Minister of Power, Dullas Alahapperuma noted that four companies had offered a proposal, with the Chinese company offering USD 12 Million in the construction and operation of the hybrid power plant in the North.

24.02.2021: **Jaffna** - US Ambassador Teplitz visited the Jaffna Public Library and met for discussions with V. Manivannan and the Commissioner during her visit to Jaffna, reports Virakesari.

26.02.2021: **Vesak** - M. Rajapaksa announced that the GoSL's State Vesak festival would be held at the Nagadipa Raja Maha Viharai (Nainativu, Jaffna) would proceed amidst a global pandemic during May, 2021, Reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that there would be a special focus on the occupied Tamil Homeland. It is notable that almost 65 Viharais and 35 Buddhist Sunday Schools have been established in the Tamil Homeland thus far.

26.02.2021: **Roads** - According to Virakesari, the reconstruction of roads is being conducted systematically through an Integrated Road Investment Program (I-Road Program) which is funded by the

ADB through a 2-year contract. Road reconstruction across the occupied Tamil Homeland include:



28.02.2021: **Unity** - Following a meeting held in Vavuniya on 22.02.2021, between Tamil nationalist political parties, they had all agreed on principle regarding the notion of unity amongst themselves, reports Virakesari. Consequently, an attempt to unite the parties under a 'Tamil National Assembly' had been postponed by a week to allow each party to convene internally amongst their high-level members.

Sri Lanka

01.02.2021: **Ports** - Following pressure from trade unions on the Colombo Port deals with India, M. Rajapaksa has informed the unions that cabinet papers will be submitted to ensure the East Container Terminal (ECT) is fully operated by SL's Ports Authority, reports Colombo Gazette. However, they subsequently reported that the Indian High Commission in Colombo had demanded full implementation of the agreement established between SL and Japan on 28.05.2019. Following this, SL is set to hold talks with New Delhi regarding the West Container Terminal of the Colombo Port and a subcommittee has been appointed by SL's Minister of Ports and Shipping - Rohitha Abeygunwardena, to discuss a new proposal with India.

02.02.2021: **Riot police** - SL's Cabinet has approved a proposal to establish a Prison Emergency Response Strategic Force to mitigate riots within the prison system. The proposal was put forth by SL's Justice

Minister - Ali Sabry, following two major incidents in prisons and is set to cover 10 operations, reports Colombo Gazette.

03.02.2021: **13th Amendment** - India has called on SL to fully implement the 13th Amendment to the SL Constitution during meeting with Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) Leader - Rauff Hakeem, reports Colombo Gazette.

05.02.2021: **Prisoners** - According to Economy Next, SJB MP Champika considers that SL should grant amnesty to imprisoned ex-LTTE cadres and leave the war behind. Such claims may be due to the GoSL's intentions to alleviate their security forces from being tried in any foreign court. Further reports from Economy Next indicate that the GoSL has rejected the report put forth by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights.

06.02.2021: **Cyber attack** - According to the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL), a cyber

attack had been conducted on multiple .lk domains on 06.02.2021. Reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that the LK Domain Registry was conducting investigations into the breach.

09.02.2021: **Think Thank** - The Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) - the premier Think Tank for National Security Studies for Sri Lanka which is functional under SL's Ministry of Defence, organised a discussion on the issues pertaining to the forthcoming UNHRC sessions at SLNS Rangalla, Colombo, on 08.02.2021 reports army.lk.

COVID-19 Burials

10.02.2021: **COVID-19** - According to Daily Mirror, M.Rajapaksa had mentioned COVID-19 victims would be permitted to be buried. Further reports from Economy Next indicate that the decision had been welcomed by Pakistani counterparts whilst others such as the UNHRC remain sceptical regarding the implementation of the decision.

26.02.2021: **Burial** - SL issued a Gazette notification permitting the burial of Muslim and Christian COVID-19 victims whilst ceasing the cremation practices of COVID-19 victims, reports Economy Next.

27.02.2021: **Enforced cremations** - The Colombo Gazette reported that multiple Muslim countries had welcomed SL's announcement permitting COVID-19 burials.

Countries:

- ◆ Pakistan
- ◆ Turkey

◆ Afghanistan

13.02.2021: **PCol** - Reports from Colombo Gazette indicate that former Jaffna Mayor, Mrs. Yogeswari Patkunarajah had been appointed as a Commissioner of a PCol on Human Rights Violations which was established on 20.01.2021 by G. Rajapaksa.

13.02.2021: **Maha Sangha** - According to Virakesari, the Maha Sangha - a Sinhala-Buddhist clerical circle, had met M. Rajapakse. In this meeting the Maha Sangha had notified M. Rajapakse that fundamentalism was a problem amongst politicians where the further spread of falsehoods regarding Buddhist philosophy, archaeology, and ancient sites had to cease as responding to each criticism would waste time. Further reports indicate that they had assured M. Rajapakse that they and the people of SL still trust the SL president. Earlier reports from 12.02.2021 indicate that challenges at the UNHRC would be faced by SL in accordance with advice from the Maha Sangha.

21.02.2021: **RTI Commission** - SL's Right To Information Commission warned on the 4th anniversary of the operationalisation of its Act that if increasing concerns related to delays on part of public authorities to provide information will result in prosecutions to public officers for bypassing official duties under the Act, reports Colombo Gazette. The Commission's Director General - D.G.M.V Hapuarachchi noted in his statement that should delays continue, the commission would resort to statutory power to initiate a criminal legal process.

26.02.2021: **Contempt of Court** - Reports from Virakesari indicate that the SL Press Institute had outlined reasons for the regulation of SL's Contempt of Court law in a letter submitted to Ali Sabri. The proposals made by the institute were reportedly based upon a 2003 report to SL's Parliamentary Select Committee which was headed by Lakshman Kadirgamar.

28.02.2021: **CCTV** - Whilst speaking at a media briefing held at the Opposition Leader's Office in Colombo on 28.02.2021, former UPFA MP - Ajith, P. Perera insisted that CCTV cameras must be installed at all SL police stations to monitor police violence against civilians, reports Virakesari. It was reported that he had cited the importance of monitoring the SL police's body cameras as well.

Economic News

SL's Economic Profile – February 2021			
Inflation	February 2021	↓ 0.4 %	3.3 %
Budget deficit		↑ 59 %	LKR 1,317 billion
External Financing	LKR 230 billion	→	Net repayment
Tax Revenue	LKR 138 billion	→	LKR 87 billion
FOREX Reserves	End of January 2021		USD 4.8 billion
Excess Liquidity			LKR 154 billion
Balance of Payments (BOP) Deficit	2020		USD 2.32 billion
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	2019 – 3 rd quarter, 2020	USD 793 million →	USD 528 million
	2018 – 2019	USD 2.130 billion →	USD 1.204 billion
		Equity, inter-company loans, re-investments →	USD 758 million
		BOI firms →	USD 445 million
Foreign Debt	Due 2021	Total Paid	USD 3.7 billion
		Remainder	USD 1.1 billion
	Projections	Inflows	USD 32 billion
		Outflows	USD 27.6 billion
		Surplus	USD 4.4 billion
Vaccines	13.5 million doses		
Serum Institute of India	10 million doses		USD 52 million
Astra Zeneca (UK)	3.5 million doses		
Loan	US International Development Finance Corporation	→ Sanasa Development Bank	USD 40 million

SL's economic developments reported within the month of February, 2021.

03.02.2021: **Saree** - SL allows the import of sarees again after the imposition of import controls in 2020. According to

Economy Next, the LTTE had smuggled sarees through the 'Valvettithurai route'

which proved to be profitable for them at the time.

04.02.2021: **Agriculture** - Managing import taxes strengthens farmers causing an increase in SL's domestic production ensuring food security and self-sufficiency, reports Economy Next.

05.02.2021: **Prices** - For the next 3 months, SL will reduce and maintain fixed prices for 27 essential goods. According to Economy Next, this will be determined upon foreign exchange rates and any taxes levied on certain imported goods.

07.02.2021: **New Zealand** – According to Economy Next, Royal Fernwood Porcelain Limited – an SL company, is manufacturing ceramic components for a New Zealand technology company - Rakon.

Rakon is active in:

- ◆ advanced frequency control and timing solutions for telecommunications
- ◆ global positioning
- ◆ space and defence applications

08.02.2021: **IMF** – According to Economy Next, SL should consider an agreement with the IMF as there is a high probability that reserves would fall to extremely dangerous levels within the next six months (by July 2021). The agreement with the IMF could open up other sources of external financing, such as the Rapid Financing Facility, budget support from the ADB and the World Bank, and access to international capital markets, Economy Next reports.

08.02.2021: **Wage** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL's Wage Board had approved a daily wage of LKR 1,000 for plantation workers - LKR 900 daily wage and LKR 100 budget allowance.

15.02.2021 **Account Balance**: For the first time in 10 years, SL experienced a decline in the current account deficit and a surplus in the current account in the third quarter of 2020. The "current account surplus" in 2021 has come from either a balance of payments surplus or continued outflows from the financial sector, reports Economy Next.

15.02.2021: **Import control** - Import controls in SL will continue until the balance of payments issue is alleviated. According to Economy Next, the controls will be carried out with the inclusion of an "alternative" economic framework to promote domestic production.

19.02.2021: **Oil Tank** - According to Daily Mirror, SL's Energy Minister had mentioned that the Trincomalee Oil tank farm would be managed under a company which is to be formed with Lanka Indian Oil Company - a majority equity is reported to be allocated to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

22.02.2021: **Water supply** - Due to the prevailing drought situation, water for the Western Province will be restricted and released at a rate of 50,000 L / day. Due to high demand, water must also be obtained from Kalatuwawa Reservoir in the North Central Province, reports Economy Next.

23.02.2021: **Pakistan** - According to Virakesari, Pakistan and SL have signed 5

important agreements. The agreements were:

- ◆ Support for Tourism
- ◆ Between the Boards of investment of both states
- ◆ Between ITI (Industrial Technology Institute) and the University of Karachi
- ◆ Between ITI and the University of Comsats
- ◆ University of Colombo and the Lahore School of Economics

24.02.2021: **Foreign exchange** - SL's central bank instructs exporters to convert 25 % of foreign exchange receipts within 180 days to build foreign exchange reserves and reduce speculative activity. In addition, banks must sell 12.5 % of converted remittances to the central bank, reports Economy Next.

27.02.2021: **Credit** - China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approves USD 180 million in COVID-19 loans for affected small and medium enterprises. Reports from Economy Next indicate that half of this loan will be disbursed by state-run Bank of Ceylon with the other half distributed by the People's Bank.

Obituary

கண்ணீர் அஞ்சலி

DATE OF DEMISE: 18.02.2021



MRS. SUNTHARALINGAM KANAGAMANI

SEEKING FOR HER ENFORCIBLY DISAPPEARED
SON - SUNTHARALINGAM SURESHKUMAR FOR 12
YEARS

KAIVELI, PUTHUKUDIYIRUPPU

கண்ணீர் அஞ்சலி

DATE OF DEMISE: 23.02.2021



MRS. THAMOTHARAMPILLAI PERINPANAYAKI

SEEKING FOR HER ENFORCIBLY DISAPPEARED
SON - THAMOTHARAMPILLAI THARUMAKULANATHAN
FOR 21 YEARS & PARTICIPATED IN THE ROTATIONAL
HUNGER STRIKE WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN
VAVUNIYA FOR OVER 1,465 DAYS

MARAVANKULAM, VAVUNIYA



News about Oppression & Resistance

01.02.2021: **Protest** - Locals in Koralaipattu, Batticaloa protested before the Batticaloa Pradesiya Sabha condemning the undemocratic nature of the re-election of S. Jayaranjith as the Sabha's new chairperson. According to reports from Virakesari, they had protested by tying pieces of cloth on their faces in condemnation of the denial of their ability to elect their new chairperson in contrast with 9 other councils.

01.01.2021: **Shooting** - According to Virakesari, a Tamil youth had been shot and wounded by the occupational military in Chettikulam, Vavuniya. Consequently, he was hospitalised. Reports indicate that he had been shot by the military when he went into a forest to cut trees with two of his friends. Whilst the SL military claims that they retaliated to a shooting conducted by the youth, the wounded youth deny any allegations that they had been armed and mentioned that the military had ambushed them in an unprovoked manner.

Enforced Disappearances

03.02.2021: **Protest** - The relatives of forcibly disappeared persons are continuing their protest for a second day before the Kanthaswamy temple in Kilinochchi.

04.02.2021: **Hunger strike** - The relatives of forcibly disappeared individuals in Vavuniya have staged a

hunger strike and a protest against the so-called 'SL Independence Day'. It is noteworthy that the protest went ahead despite the approval of a prohibitive court order by the Court of Vavuniya which was issued on 03.02.2021.

20.02.2021: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, the mothers of missing persons have arranged a protest where they held 'Theesatti' (Pots of fire) on their heads.

23.02.2021: **Protest** - Families of missing persons in Vavuniya conducted a protest to mark the 4th anniversary of the commencement of their rotational hunger strike, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that the protestors had held US and EU flags in demanding justice.

25.02.2021: **Intimidation** - After summoning Mrs. Leeladevi Anantharajah, the Secretary of the North - East Association for the Relatives of the Forcibly Disappeared on 17.02.2021 to Colombo for investigations, the TID questioned her in Kilinochchi regarding her attendance to the UN in 2010. According to reports from Virakesari she had denied attending in 2010 but had indicated that she had attended the UN from March 2018 onwards to gain justice for forcibly disappeared Tamils. Earlier reports from 22.02.2021 indicate that the Secretary and President of Vavuniya's Association for

Families of the Disappeared were also interrogated by the TID to acquire information as to whether they were receiving funding from overseas.

04.02.2021: **Protest** - According to Virakesarii a protest was conducted at Kokkilai, Mullaitheevu to highlight the Tamils' grievances and in solidarity with the P2P protest. Reports indicate a heavy military and police presence at the site of protest.

04.02.2021: **Jaffna University** - According to Virakesari, students of the Jaffna University have attached posters, which declare the so-called 'Independence Day' of SL as a black day.

08.02.2021: **Heritage Land** - SL's Indigenous Vedda Community filed a complaint to SL's Court of Appeal demanding the cessation of land appropriation by authorities for maize cultivation by private companies. According to reports from Colombo Gazette, the communities' leader had cited that the Mahaweli authority had already acquired over 50,000 acres of their heritage land.

11.02.2021: **Myilaththamadu-Maathavanai** - According to Virakesari, the court of appeal has postponed the land appropriation of Myilaththamadu-Maathavanai case.

11.02.2021: **Censorship** - Following reports that Instagram had removed the hashtags 'Tamil Eelam' and 'Eelam' due to pressure from SL authorities, outraged Eelam Tamils flooded social media platforms with the hashtags demanding their reinstatement.

12.02.2021: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, relatives of individuals who had been arrested under the PTA, had met C.V. Vigneswaran. Reports indicate that they have requested the MP and the party leader of TPNA to work for the release of their relatives who were all arrested 6-7 months ago. When confronted regarding the arrests, the TID responded that the individuals had attempted to rebuild the LTTE - allegations which their relatives deny through claiming that the arrested individuals are innocent. According to Virakesari, the TID had mentioned that whilst a few of those arrested had been transferred to Colombo, the others had been sent to Tangalle for isolation as they had supposedly contracted COVID-19.

15.02.2021: **Protest** - According to Jaffna 7, Palai locals blocked the A9 Road in retaliation to the forcible removal of their huts and household products by occupational police. Reports indicate that they had blocked the road for around an hour with their belongings.

17.01.2021: **Poonthottam-Sirinagar** - According to Virakesari, the residents of Poonthottam-Sirinagar, Vavuniya had staged a protest for the 8th consecutive day.

Demands:

- ◆ certification of their lands
- ◆ new infrastructure
- ◆ a playground
- ◆ a housing scheme

18.02.2021: **Surveillance** - According to Colombo Gazette, the SLAF had officially handed over 2 drones to the Commander of the SLAF, Air Marshal

Sudharshana Pathirana by the Governor of the Western Province, SLAF Marshal Roshan Goonetilleke during an event at the SLAF - HQ in Colombo on 18.02.2021. Whilst the drones were transferred to be deployed to combat the spread of dengue within the Western Province, reports indicate that the drones would also be used to detect threats to SL's national security.

19.02.2021: **Karainagar** - According to Virakesari, an attempt to seize 50 acres of land privately-owned by 67 individuals for the acquisition of the SL Navy by the SL Survey department had been prevented by local landowners and politicians in Neelankadu, Karainagar.

20.02.2021: **Land appropriation** - According to Virakesari, a member of the Pradeshiya Sabha of Puthukkudiyiruppu has seized over 20 acres of forest in Manavaalan, Oddusuddan-Mullaitheevu. SL's Forestry department ignored the illegal deforestation of the land. It is noteworthy that the Oddusuddan Pradeshiya Sabha has not released any information regarding the issue despite the use of Right to Information (RTI).

21.02.2021: **ACJU** - SL's All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU) noted that the Muslim community in SL had been demonised and portrayed unjustly, reports Colombo Gazette. Accordingly, they have noted that social stereotypes and prejudices had emerged following the Easter Sunday attacks of 2019 causing communal tensions and challenging co-existence.

23.02.2021: **TikTok** - SL's Police Spokesman - DIG Ajith Rohana informed the public that the TID had arrested a 25-year-old youth in Wattala following the youth's sharing of LTTE-oriented content on TikTok - a social media platform. According to Colombo Gazette, the content promoted the LTTE and the national leader of Tamil Eelam, V. Prabhakaran. The Mullaitivu-born youth residing in Hatton, has been taken for questioning.

23.02.2021: **Poonakeri** - According to Virakesari a Pillaiyar statue, which was placed near the Sangupiddy-bridge, has disappeared. Locals claimed that the Pradeshiya Sabha of Poonakeri had reported to the local police station that the statue was built on their premises - subsequently the statue had disappeared. Further reports indicate that a Sinhala settlement is planned for the area.

25.02.2021: **Ban** - According to Ali Sabry, the GoSL plans on banning Muslim religious attire upon the premise of threats to national security, reports Colombo Gazette. Further reports indicate that the SL's cabinet has approved the ban of burqa in public places.

25.02.2021: **Violation** - According to Virakesari, a restraining order was released on 09.02.2021 by the Ukkulankulam Rural Development Society calling on the termination of a telecommunication tower within the area due to concerns raised by locals. However, construction had continued over the 20.02.2021 - 21.02.2021 weekend. Retaliatory protest

preparations by locals were also halted due to the interference of occupational police. Reports further indicate that the Bandarikulam Rural Development Society had been undertaking contradictory measures to facilitate the construction of the telecommunication tower in violation of orders put forth by the Ukkulankulam Rural Development Society.

28.02.2021: **Solidarity** - According to Virakesari, Jaffna University students have

commenced a rotational hunger strike in Nallur in support of Ms. Ambikai Selvakumar - demanding the referral of SL to the ICC. The first rotation commenced with 5 individuals - 2 university students and 3 religious leaders.

28.02.2021: **Protest** - The Central Plantation Workers' Centre conducted a protest in Gosland demanding a daily wage of LKR 1,000 and their rights to land and housing, reports Virakesari.

Signs of Structural Genocide

02.02.2021: **Sinhala only** - In light of SL's Independence Day, K. Gunaratne announced that SL's National Anthem would only be sung in Sinhalese during the hoisting of the flag by G. Rajapaksa on 04.04.2021's main event. According to Colombo Gazette, this is the 2nd Independence Day ceremony where the anthem was only sung in Sinhalese - disregarding the Tamil population on the island.

08.02.2021: **Sinhala Settlement** - According to Virakesari, former MP C. Yogeswaran had mentioned that a Sinhala settlement scheme for 178 Sinhala families was set to be established in Kaaramunai, Batticaloa.

10.02.2021: **Excavations** - Following the commencement of archaeological excavations in Kurunthoormalai by the occupational army and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on

18.01.2021, suspicious archaeological ruins similar to a Sivalingam have been found - yet this factor remains undisclosed by the excavators, reports Virakesari.

18.02.2021: **Palai** - According to Virakesari, Suresh Premachandran - the leader of EPRLF, has stated that 3,000 acres of lands owned by the Land Reform Commission in Palai-Kilinochchi will be given to Chinese companies and Sinhala entrepreneurs. 287 acres of land near Outhukaddai Junction in Palai is also due to be handed over to Sinhala businessmen. Whilst reports indicate that entrepreneurs from Jaffna have already requested these lands due to the local coconut plantations, it has been transferred instead to a Sinhalese group. It is also notable that the regional office of the Land Reform Commission is also to be shifted from Jaffna to Anuradhapuram.

28.02.2021: **Land appropriation** - A local Tamil who was clearing privately-owned land in Thannimurippu, Mullaitivu was intimidated by a group of Buddhist monks led by the Archaeological Department who threatened the man not to engage in agricultural activities on

the land on 27.02.2021. According to reports from Virakesari, many locals who are attempting to resettle in the area following the war are being intimidated by authorities to appropriate the locals' lands.

P2P

அன்று முள்ளிவாய்க்காலில் முடிந்த
சதி இன்று பொத்துவிலில் இருந்து
பொலிகண்டி வரை வெற்றி.

நடந்ததை நினைத்துக் கலங்காதே
உன் குறிக்கோளை விட்டுக்
கொடாதே.

பொன் நேரம் இது நீ நிமிர்ந்திரு
நாளைய பலன் உனது!

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