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The Indo-Pacific's Penrose Staircase

Gota has engaged in strategically formulating a blueprint for managing interregional and geopolitical powers through misdirection whilst furthering a Sri Lanka-centric policy on the other hand. However, an accumulation of policies and relations overtime indicate that the intricately spun plan has spiralled into a continuous loop folding in on itself as a Penrose staircase to disaster. Regardless of the outcome, the onus remains upon Eelam Tamils to determine a solution to safeguard Tamil sovereignty before the hotpot completely boils over.

Proceed to page 04 for more.

Conspiracy of India

Many countries assisted Sri Lanka in the war against Tamil people. Some by providing; men, material and training whilst others gave diplomatic cover to facilitate Tamil genocide. Under the guise of assisting the Tamils, India used and ended up turning against them through extending a friendly arm to the Sri Lankan government. Why should India get its hand dirty by rallying with the GoSL?

Proceed to page 08 for more.



"பெண்கள் சம உரிமை பெற்று - சகல
அடக்குமுறைகளிலிருந்தும்
விடுதலை பெற்று ஆண்களுடன்
சமத்துவமாக - கௌரவமாக -
வாழக்கூடிய புரட்சிகர சமுதாயமாகத்
தமிழீழம் அமையவேண்டும் என்பதே
எனது ஆவல்."

National Leader of Tamil Eelam

International News

01.10.2020: **Denial** - Referring to the recent Report to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Sri Lanka denies security forces and intelligence agencies' involvement in monitoring specific groups of people in the country, reports Colombo Gazette. The Acting Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva said,

"It is also reiterated that, apart from operating routine security networks in the interest of national security, particularly after the devastating Easter Sunday terrorist attacks, the Security Forces and intelligence agencies are not engaged in monitoring any specific group of people in the country. We believe that, for any country compromising its national security interests amidst looming sophistication of strategies of radical and extreme elements world around, is bound to face regrettable consequences. Hence, the GoSL requests all parties to be mindful of that ground reality in this context..."

04.10.2020: **National security** – According to Colombo Page, G. Rajapaksa had emphasised in a Facebook post that ensuring national security is his and the government's first priority noting steps have been taken to achieve this.

06.10.2020: **China** - The Chinese Embassy in Sri Lanka has accused the US Ambassador of violating diplomatic protocols in a previous interview. Colombo Gazette reported that the Chinese Embassy had stated that the US has no power or obligation to engage on China-Sri Lanka relations.

07.10.2020: **UK** - The British Company had dispatched 263 containers of unhygienic solid waste in 2017 and 2018 in violation of the Basel Convention. Consequently, Sri Lanka had demanded LKR 1,695 million, reports Daily Mirror.

08.10.2020: **India** - Deputy High Commissioner of India, Vinod K Jacob met with Sri Lanka's Prof. Kapila Gunawardena, Secretary, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to discuss the implementation of the USD 15 million, reports Colombo Gazette. Gunawardena has been reported to claim that the grant will be used towards finalising various projects.

13.10.2020: **China** - The Chinese Government announces that Sri Lanka will be supporting projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) following a meeting with G. Rajapaksa on 09.10.2020. Colombo Gazette reported that Sri Lanka is willing to make efforts to promote the joint construction of key cooperation projects under the BRI.

15.10.2020: **UN** – According to Colombo Page, the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka had emphasised the importance of e-

commerce and e-governance at the 75th UN General Assembly. He had also provided information on the plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 and underlined the need for climate financing, reports Sunday Times.

17.10.2020: **Sri Lanka's envoys** - Colombo Gazette reported that Sri Lanka's new envoys for; UN, Japan, China and Geneva had called on M. Rajapaksa for a courtesy meeting at the Temple Trees. During the meeting M. Rajapaksa was informed that former SL Minister Milinda Moragoda was approved as SL's new High Commissioner to India and former Foreign Secretary Ravinath Aryasinha is SL's new Ambassador to the US.

17.10.2020: **Persecution** - Journalist Frederica Jansz obtained US citizenship after fleeing to Sri Lanka. In July of 2012, she accused G. Rajapaksa of coordinating harassment via phone. Former writer for The Sunday Leader newspaper left the paper after refusing to alter her writing style or compromise her credibility, reports Colombo Gazette.

20.10.2020: **2SLGBTQIA+** - Human Rights Watch and EQUAL GROUND have claimed violation of human rights by SL authorities for subjecting seven people from the queer community to forced anal examination. Colombo Gazette reported that several laws have been utilised to systemically target the queer community in SL with testimonies dating back to 2017. Further reports on 30.10.2020 indicate that SL's Justice Minister Ali Sabry had considered looking into forced examinations of LGBT persons.

21.10.2020: **LTTE** - The British tribunal ruled against the ban on the LTTE following an appeal put forth by the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE), reports Colombo Gazette. The appeal was filed on 13.12.2018 at the Proscribed Organisations of Appeal Commission with confidential evidence heard by the Commission on 31.07.2020 leading up to the proceeding.

23.10.2020: **US Ban** - Sajith Premadasa urged the SL Government to push for the travel ban on Shavendra Silva to be lifted during a meeting with Pompeo next week, reports Colombo Gazette. A travel ban was imposed on Silva under Section 7031(c) by the US Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act due to gross violations of human rights and extrajudicial killings by the 58th Division of the SLA during the final phase of the armed conflict in 2009.

31.10.2020: **China** - According to Daily Mirror, the Chinese Embassy in Colombo announced the arrival of the new Ambassador-designate of China to Sri Lanka, Qi Zhenhong on 30.10.2020 and is expected to resume office following a fortnight of quarantine.

31.10.2020: **India** - According to Colombo Gazette, the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay had received blessings on behalf of India and its people from Kotugoda Ghammawansa Thera, the Mahanayake of Amarapura Nikaya. The High Commissioner had cited in his meeting that Buddhism was the strongest pillar connecting both nations.

Bilateral Discussions

Bilateral discussions were held between Sri Lanka and the following countries:

- ◆ 02.10.2020: Colombo Gazette reports that Korea is set to provide bilateral support to aid SL to combat COVID-19 and to uplift their public health.
- ◆ 06.10.2020: The Trade Minister of Sri Lanka and the Ambassador of Egypt met to promote and improve economic cooperation between the two countries, reports Sunday Times.
- ◆ 09.10.2020: Senior Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi and G. Rajapaksa had met in Colombo to discuss investment opportunities and the strengthening of bilateral relations, reports Economy Next.
- ◆ 12.10.2020: Indian High Commissioner to SL, Baglay and SL's Minister of Water Supply, Vasudeva Nanayakkara met to discuss strengthening bilateral relations with both countries, reports Colombo Gazette.
- ◆ 14.10.2020: Pakistan looks to strengthen bilateral ties with SL and met with Dinesh Gunawardena to discuss further trade and investment opportunities, reports Colombo Gazette.
- ◆ 16.10.2020: Gopal Baglay met with M. Rajapaksa at the Temple Trees on 15.10.2020 to discuss ongoing projects in relation to water and sanitation. Bilateral discussions regarding potential collaboration were underway with potential of addressing drinking water issues in the dry zones, reports Colombo Gazette.
- ◆ 20.10.2020: South Korean Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun was invited to Sri Lanka by M. Rajapaksa to strengthen bilateral interest. A bilateral phone conversation had occurred between the parties, reports Colombo Gazette.
- ◆ 28.10.2020: Reports from PMD News and Daily Mirror indicate that during his visit, the US Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo had presented his support to the SL government in the development of tourism which contributes to employment and income-generation. Having arrived on 27.10.2020, he had also mentioned that the US will help to strengthen the coastal guard services to combat drug trafficking and to cooperate on human rights issues. Moreover, both sides agreed to further strengthen SL-US defence cooperation which include training opportunities and material assistance from the US to security personnel in SL. G. Rajapaksa was reported to have added that they had "already begun to remove bureaucratic red tapes that hinder foreign investment". Colombo Gazette reported that Pompeo had announced that China was a predator during a joint media conference held at the Foreign Ministry in Colombo. Reports indicate that he had notified reporters that the ban on Shavendra Silva is a part of a legal process that will continue to be reviewed to obtain factually concise details. Further claims by an SL government

minister indicated that M. Rajapaksa had not wished to meet Pompeo during his visit.

The Indo – Pacific’s Penrose Staircase

SENCHUDAR GEMINI

Japan has been at the forefront of encouraging interregional cooperation to implement the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy (FOIP) to facilitate peace and sustainable prosperity within the region. Yet Gotabaya’s strategy with establishing naval dominance within the region under the guise of neutrality remains to be an enclosed circuit within the Penrose staircase which he has built for himself. The alignments of associated parties raise the question as to whether the staircase would be broken with the upcoming outcome of the US Elections.

With Pompeo’s impending visit to SL, great debate has been instigated around predictions concerning Gotabaya’s stance along the spectrum of balancing relations with US, China and India. In that regard, the Gotabaya administration’s stance regarding the Indo-Pacific region remains crucial in determining such processes and implications. Whilst the US maintain strong relations with Japan to facilitate the progression of the FOIP plan through joint training exercises and other operations via the US Indo – Pacific Command, as explored in an earlier article, “Imprisoned by Land, Trapped by Sea”, SL has been bent on denying any cooperation with Japan in regards to the FOIP due to claims to ensure that the “peace” of the region is maintained. The hypocrisy of such claims arises with the 4th SL-Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic Issues where SL had established their vision to become a maritime hub in the Indian Ocean hence cementing a strong stance regarding their position within the area.

Whilst the FOIP may not be of core concern during discussions with Pompeo, a return of the US democrats as well as increasing relations with Japan may dictate a necessity for Gotabaya to reconsider priorities in foreign relations if they are to pursue Gotabaya’s grand scheme of becoming a blue power within the region. Yet, “Gota’s Penrose staircase” will only stall the act for so long – until then, the region remains a hotpot where any move is a threat for Tamils who are interlocked from all directions. Despite the sluggish pace at which these regional issues progress, a consideration of each minor development remains essential to cement Tamil sovereignty through safeguarding our occupied territorial waters and lands. How Eelam Tamils intend to navigate these waters remain pertinent upon a collective commitment towards an inviolable Tamil sovereignty – failure to do so may endanger the future of our struggle on a magnified scale.

Military News

01.10.2020: **Japan** - The 4th SL - Japan Dialogue on Maritime Security, Safety and Oceanic Issues was held virtually with the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry, reports Colombo Gazette. During the meeting consisting of representatives from; ports and shipping, defence, navy and air force among others, SL emphasised quality infrastructure developments as a prerequisite to achieve SL's vision to become the trade and maritime hub of the Indian Ocean.

02.10.2020: **Security** – According to Colombo Gazette, the Information Technology Society of Sri Lanka (ITSSL) noted the use of Chinese technology poses a threat to SL's National security. The organisation had urged intelligence agencies to monitor the use of these technologies in the country.

04.10.2020: **Preservation** – Kamal Gunaratne stated that state intervention is essential to preserve the heritage of the past during a tour of Mihintale in Anuradhapura on 02.10.2020. Following directives from G. Rajapaksa, SL's Ministry of Defence is reported to renovate Mihintale Mihindu Maha Stupa, reports Colombo Page.

04.10.2020: **Training** - According to army.lk, 10,000 of 50,000 newly recruited graduates had achieved the first phase of the training course "Leadership and Motivation" which is implemented in 5 phases on 03.10.2020.

07.10.2020: **Denial** - Shavendra Silva has been reported to have denied claims

that Indians were brought to Minuwangoda Brandix facility without being quarantined, reports Colombo Gazette.

09.10.2020: **Military** - Cricketers Thisara Perera and Dinesh Chandimal were enlisted to the rank of Majors in the Sri Lankan Army during a ceremony held at the SL Army Commander's office this morning, Army.lk said.

10.10.2020: **Promotion** – SL's Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces had promoted a total of 514 Officers and 14,140 Other Ranks to their next upon recommendations from Shavendra Silva, to mark SL's Army Day, reports Colombo Gazette.

13.10.2020: **Ships** - Two SL Naval fleets have been decommissioned at Trincomalee Port. Colombo Gazette noted that the two ships were involved in Eelam War I in the early 80s off the Karainagar Island.

15.10.2020: **UN** - According to army.lk, Sri Lankan troops (majority from the Sri Lanka Army) have been deployed as either; military observers, Staff Officers, Staff Officer assistants or general contingent troops in:

- ◆ Lebanon (UNIFIL)
- ◆ South Sudan (UNMISS)
- ◆ Mali (MINUSMA)
- ◆ Abyei (UNISFA)
- ◆ New York (UNHQ)
- ◆ Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

◆ Western Sahara (MINURSO)

16.10.2020: **India** - According to Daily Mirror, India's federal counter-terrorist force NSG had trained a select group of personnel to protect M. Rajapaksa. Accordingly, Colombo Gazette reported that 21 personnel of the M. Rajapaksa's security division were given close protection skills. India's National Security Guard also known as the 'black cat' commandos was developed in 1984 to undertake specialist counterterrorist, counter-hijack and hostage rescue operations.

18.10.2020: **Training** - A three-day military exercise between India and SL's navies has been reported to commence off of Trincomalee on 19.10.2020 to display growing strategic interest and operational convergence, reports Colombo Page. Reports indicate that this is the eighth edition of the annual SLINEX exercise and will feature a series of surface and anti-air weapon firings and cross-deck flying operations. The Indian Navy is reported to deploy; anti-submarine warfare corvettes, INS Kamorta and INS Kiltan with light helicopters, Chetok helicopter and Dornier maritime patrol aircraft. The SL Navy plans to be represented by offshore patrol vessel Sayura and training ship Gajabahu.

20.10.2020: **Resignation** - The Sri Lankan Navy has confirmed that Yoshitha Rajapaksa has resigned from the forces following concerns raised around his position within the Navy after being appointed by his father as Chief of Staff on 15.10.2020. Colombo Gazette reported that the SLN Spokesman

Captain Indika de Silva disclosed a letter of resignation was given in writing 8 months ago. According to Indika, Yoshitha had served in the SLN from 2006 - 2020 and the discharge was subsequently approved on 10.10.2020. SL's cabinet of Ministers had approved Yoshitha's appointment as Chief of Staff on 12.10.2020.

20.10.2020: **Development** - Infrastructure development was undertaken by the SL Army following a visit by G. Rajapaksa on 02.10.2020 in the Himbilyakada, Wilgamuwa areas of Matale District, reports Colombo Page. The SL Army had engaged in the construction of a new classroom building and teacher's quarters in Himbilyakada Primary School. The SL Navy is presently installing a water purification machine at Nagawanaaraama Vihara in Himbilyakada as well among other projects.

23.10.2020: **COVID-19** - According to army.lk, Colombo-based Defence Advisors/Attaches of; Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, United States and the United Kingdom called on Shavendra Silva for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak at SL's Army HQ with an intention to keep them updated on current preventive efforts against COVID-19 and the status quo as regards its transmission and emergence of clusters etc.

25.10.2020: **Task Force** - The National Operations Centre for the Prevention of the COVID-19 Outbreak has agreed to constant review and close cooperation between health and security officials,

reports Colombo Page. Accordingly, Shavendra Silva stressed the importance of cooperation between health officials and the SL Army to evaluate the first and second contacts, self-quarantine process and tracing during the pandemic.

30.10.2020: **Appointment** - A new Chief of Staff of the Sri Lankan Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Sudarshana, was

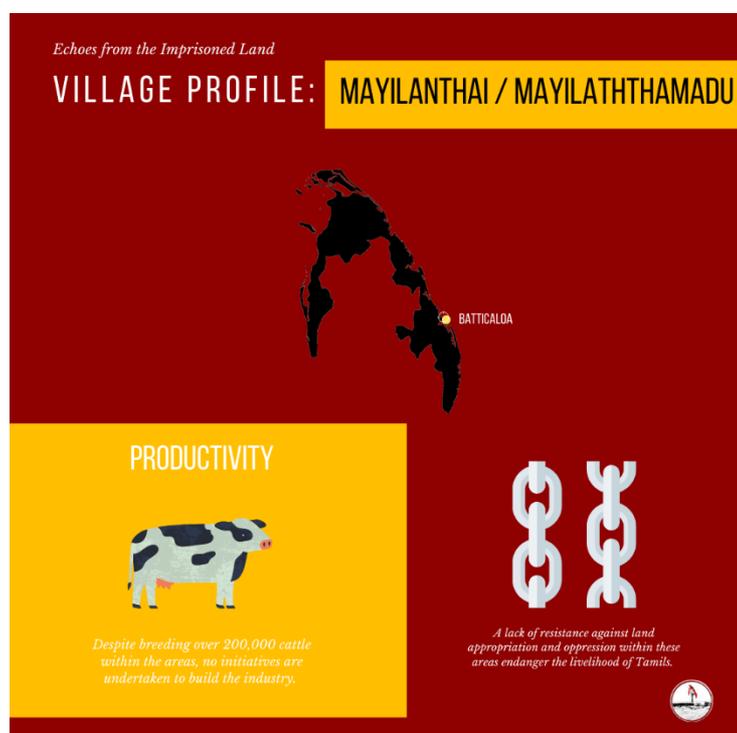
appointed as the 18th Commander of the SLAF, reports Daily Mirror.

31.10.2020: **Retirement** - Air Marshal Sumangala Dias, Commander of the SL Air Force paid a formal courtesy visit to the Army Headquarters on 28.10.2020 on the eve of his retirement and called on Shavendra Silva, reports army.lk.

Echoes from the Imprisoned Land

Mayilanthai/Mayilaththamadu

Editor's note: Information sourced from Ilakku.org.



The lands of these areas of the Batticaloa province have been progressively appropriated – especially by the occupational Sinhalese community. Whilst such initiatives had escalated since 2010, no attempts had been made to resist against such violations of Tamil-owned lands.

Whilst the lands of Mayilanthai and Mayilaththamadu are highly fertile especially for cultivation, a lack of evidence or paperwork to prove Tamil ownership has been a significant issue. On one hand reports indicate that over 200, 000 cattle were being bred within the area, yet no attempts are made to engage in the production of dairy products hence resulting in a waste of

resources. This vacuum of production is being exploited by the GoSL in a systematic manner under the supervision of the District Secretary where the settled Sinhalese have engaged in the cultivation of these lands and thus it becomes essential for such initiatives to be countered and immediately ceased to protect the territorial integrity of the occupied Tamil homeland.

Conspiracy of India

KAYALVIZHI

India, which has its own Tamil population in the south, deployed a peacekeeping force to Sri Lanka in 1987. Many talk about these actions as a peacekeeping intervention. However, like any other major power, India has its interest to win and use Tamil people struggle and the militant groups like their puppets in order to achieve their ends.

The death of the leading LTTE commander Charles Lucas Anthony (aka Lieutenant. Seelan), following an ambush by SL soldiers in Meesalai, was a big loss for the movement. The first major attack to retaliate the death of their comrades, with only thirty members, led by LTTE was the Tirunelveli attack in 1983. They accomplished their plan solely by their own means, without assistance from anyone. The *Four Four Bravo* SL army patrol and army personnel were which had sparked the Black July pogrom. The initial phase of the Tamils' armed conflict (Eelam War I) had commenced with this incident in which several members joined the LTTE.

Throughout the Cold War, as we know, India was the Soviet Union's staunch ally and Sri Lanka started aligning with the US and Pakistan. This raised concerns about national security for Indira Gandhi. In this case, India's Defence south coast is Sri Lanka - the rising militant groups proved an ideal folly for India to maintain control of it and to break the US-SL nexus.

In the 80's, India requested to lease a Trincomalee oil tank farm which was refused by the SL government. Moreover, Trincomalee is one of the largest natural harbours in the world, with significant economic and strategic potential allowing it to become one of the key commercial and strategic ports in the Indo-Pacific. The port of Trincomalee was perfect for deploying warships and submarines. India became concerned that the US Navy might gain access to Trincomalee and hence became suspicious about goodwill visits made by the US Navy to the port. Sri Lankan proposals to contract out the refurbishment of oil storage tanks and modernise port facilities at Trincomalee were also of concern for the regional power.

During the J.R Jayewardene (1978-1989) and Ranasinghe Premadasa's (1989-1993) tenures, Sri Lanka was chosen to build the Voice of America transmitting station which was suspected of being used for intelligence



gathering purposes and electronic surveillance of the Indian Ocean. Another reason for India's concern. To harm Sri Lanka [which in the Cold War opted for a pro-American policy during Indira Gandhi's tenure (1966-1977)], RAW - with the support of Tamil Nadu authorities, welcomed militant groups to training camps, trained them in military technology and equipped them with weapons.

"I am not worried about the opinion of the Jaffna people... now we cannot think of them, not about their lives or their opinion... the more you put pressure in the north, the happier the Sinhala people will be here... Really if I starve the Tamils out, the Sinhala people will be happy." - Sri Lanka's President J.R. Jayawardene, Daily Telegraph, July 1983

Operation Poomalai



In 1987, a blockade was imposed upon Jaffna by Sri Lankan troops as a part of Colombo's offensive against the Tamil liberation movement - but it had also cut off the basic supplies to the entire civilian population. As the Sri Lankan Army began making gains in the Jaffna peninsula, concerns were raised in India regarding the future of the Tamil people and mainly feared an impending loss of their

influence. The government of India informed Sri Lanka that it was sending a convoy of relief supplies to the Jaffna peninsula via a ship convoy for 'humanitarian reasons'. The SL Navy turned back the supplies as they approached the territorial waters of Sri Lanka. In response, India intervened more directly, by airdropping relief supplies to Jaffna residents. The clear message of this act is not an indication of the humanitarian side of India, but a threat to the Sri Lankan government to show them that dropping bombs was not a big deal. This prompted the SL government to accept the Indo-Lanka Accord. India continued to simultaneously supply militants whilst working with Colombo to broker a devolution deal and cease the fighting. In fact, India claimed to have intervened in Sri Lanka to secure Tamil interests but in reality India had entered the scene to secure their own interests.

இந்திய இராணுவம் எமது தாயக மண்ணில் காலடியெடுத்து வைத்த தினத்தையே எமது போராட்டத்தின் இருண்ட நாளாக நான் கருதுவேன், எமது போராட்டத்தில் இந்திய இராணுவம் தலையீடு செய்தது, ஒரு இருண்டு அத்தியாயம் என்றே சொல்ல வேண்டும். -தமிழீழ தேசியத் தலைவர் மேதகு வே. பிரபாகரன்

Then Sri Lankan President, Junius Richard Jayawardene agreed to negotiate with the Rajiv Gandhi administration. These negotiations culminated in the signing of the Indo-Sri

Lankan Accord on July 29, 1987 - an agreement to end the war in Sri Lanka, with the objectives of improving Indo-Lankan ties. It proposed a political solution to Sri Lanka's conflict by establishing a provincial council system and the devolution of powers for nine provinces in Sri Lanka. [This is popularly known as the Thirteenth Amendment (13A) to the Constitution of Sri Lanka.] In addition, the Trincomalee oil tank farm was also included in the Indo-Lanka peace accord signed in July 1987, barring other countries from taking over. Under the pact, the work of restoring and operating the oil tank farm was established as one which should be carried out as a joint venture between India and Sri Lanka.

Under the terms of the agreement;

- ◆ Colombo agreed to a devolution of powers to the provinces
- ◆ The Sri Lankan army would withdraw
- ◆ The Tamil guerrillas would surrender their weapons and be able to participate in a democratic political process aimed at determining how the Tamil regions of Sri Lanka were to be governed.
- ◆ India agreed to close training camps in its territory and organised maritime patrols to be carried out jointly with the Sri Lankan navy to combat smuggling between the island and Tamil Nadu.



The Accord also paved the way for the IPKF, which would pacify the different Tamil militant groups fighting in Tamil Eelam and get them to accept the terms of the accord. All groups agreed to put down their guns. The LTTE had also surrendered a part of their arms. However, the reality behind this is that an Indian influence caused most of the groups to become puppets of India. Aware of India's schemes, the only group which did not wish to dance to India's tune was the LTTE. It should be remembered that during discussions organised by the Indian government in 1985, none of the four cardinal principles were adhered to.

இந்திய – இலங்கை ஒப்பந்தத்தை ஒரு சமாதான உடன்பாடு என வர்ணிக்க முடியாது; அது ஒரு யுத்த உடன்பாடு. - தமிழீழ தேசியத் தலைவர் மேதகு வே.பிரபாகரன்

Sri Lanka's location is very crucial in the Indian Ocean from a geo-strategic perspective. Numerous trade sea routes pass around Sri Lanka. In terms of shipping, around two-thirds of the world's oil and half of the world's container shipment passes from the south of Sri Lanka, hence Sri Lanka becomes important for the security of Sea Lines of

Communications in the Indian Ocean. All the more so, the Chinese presence in South Asia and what was then the start of a strengthened Chinese maritime presence in the Indian Ocean became a source of concern in New Delhi. That is why India is trying to regain control over our people which will redirect us into the trap.

As we have witnessed through history, Western countries will not help us unless it is to their benefit and interest. This is why India and other great powers have allied themselves with Sri Lanka. On the one hand, for their own interests, and on the other hand, out of fear that other oppressed communities would follow our example and turn their power dynamic on its head if we obtained our rightful homeland - Tamil Eelam. As our leader warned us, our rights and our independence cannot be bought - we must acquire it by fighting.

இந்தியாவின் இராணுவத் தலையீடும் அதன் விளைவாக ஏற்பட்ட பேரழிவுகளும், தமிழீழ மக்களுக்கு ஒரு நல்ல பாடத்தைப் புகட்டியுள்ளது. அதாவது நாம் எந்த அந்நிய சக்திகளிலும் தங்கியிராது, எமது உரிமைகளை நாமே போராடி வென்றெடுக்க வேண்டும் என்பதுதான் இந்தப் பாடம்.
-தமிழீழ தேசியத் தலைவர் மேதகு வே.பிரபாகரன்

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

11.10.2020: **Mannar** - Colombo Gazette reported that two villages in Mannar had been isolated to prevent the spread of COVID-19 following a positive test of a construction worker at the Bishop's house on 09.10.2020. The two villages are Pattithottam and Periyakadai, reports Colombo Page.

11.10.2020: **Kankesanthurai** - Former SL Police Spokesman Jaliya Senaratne had been transferred to KKS as a personal assistant to SL's Senior DIG in charge of the Northern Province, reports Colombo Gazette. The SL Police Headquarters cited that the transfer was made for disciplinary reasons.

14.10.2020: **Media** – SL's Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella provided the British High Commissioner to SL, Sarah Hulton reassurance that the GoSL would not interfere in media freedom in SL. During the meeting at the SL Media Ministry, Rambukwella shared that it is the responsibility of the media to report with responsibility and shared the plans to establish 25 media schools on the island, with the first to be established in the North, reports Colombo Gazette.

28.10.2020: **Jaffna** - Travel restrictions have been placed on the Gurunagar and Passaiyoor areas of Jaffna following fears of the spread of COVID-19

following positive tests of 2 residents in the adjoining areas reports Colombo Gazette. Secretary to Sri Lanka's Public Health Inspectors Association, M. Balasuriya disclosed the two men had sold fish in both areas and thus the restriction was a precautionary measure.

Sri Lanka

20th Amendment

02.10.2020: The SJB had expressed concerns that according to SL parliamentarian, Mayantha Dissanayake, the amendment would be used as a means to prepare the stage for Namal Rajapaksa to become President, reports Colombo Gazette. He further went on to share that the GoSL must seek consensus in Parliament and not do what it wants.

05.10.2020: Colombo Gazette reported that SL's Supreme Court had concluded considering the petitions filed against the amendment and would communicate its decision to SL's Speaker of Parliament. The process of consideration was reported to have commenced on 30.09.2020 with a five-member Supreme Court bench chaired by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya.

12.10.2020: The Amarapura-Ramanna Samagri Maha Sangha Sabha (a Buddhist clergy) opposed the amendment citing that it undermines democracy, reports Colombo Gazette. The clergy urged the drafting of a new new constitution to ensure that democracy is upheld.

29.10.2020: **Japan** - The Government of Japan has provided LKR 115 million to the HALO Trust for humanitarian demining activities in the North. Colombo Page reported that the grant was signed remotely by the Ambassador of Japan, Sugiyama Akira and Belinda Vause - Programme Manager of the HALO Trust.

13.10.2020: According to Colombo Gazette, the Catholic Bishops' Conference in SL expressed their rejection of the amendment. A statement issued during the conference cited an Independent Constitutional Council to be appointed for a new Constitution to be drafted and that rules should not be changed for individual gain.

15.10.2020: A close confidant to M. Rajapaksa - former Parliamentarian, Sajin Vass Gunawardena noted the constitutional changes in question would be detrimental to the Rajapaksa family, reports Colombo Gazette.

20.10.2020:

According to the Supreme Court of SL some clauses within the amendment are inconsistent, reports Colombo Page. Reports indicate that they have called for a referendum to gauge public approval for those clauses or for changes to be made to those clauses.

Two Buddhist monks responsible for Malwatta and Asgiriya Maha Viharayas respectively, called on the need for a new constitution on the island, reports Colombo Page. They stressed the timely nature of the 20th Amendment and noted the need to expedite the amendments for the betterment of the country. Further, they noted the importance of ensuring the equal representation of all people under it.

21.10.2020:

According to Colombo Gazette, the GoSL tabled changes to the amendment during a two-day debate based upon alterations put forth by SL's Justice Minister, Ali Sabry.

According to Economy Next, the TNA had indicated that they would reject any constitution that does not have a substantial consensus of the entire people - including the Tamils.

22.10.2020:

G. Rajapaksa reassured that the amendment would also address dual citizenship following concerns raised against it by Sri Lanka's Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) leader, Tissa Vitharana and other MPs, reports Colombo Gazette. The assurance was accepted by those in opposition to the clause.

According to Daily Mirror, the amendment had been passed in SL Parliament with a 2 / 3 majority under G. Rajapaksa's government. Colombo Gazette reports that 156 MPs had voted

in favour of the bill with proposed changes whilst 65 MPs voted against it.

26.10.2020: Colombo Gazette reported that Basil Rajapaksa refused to respond to reports regarding his entrance into SL Parliament following decisions pertaining the 20th Amendment. It is notable that Basil is a dual citizen and has potential to be brought through the National List if one of SL's MPs resign.

Rishad Bathiudeen

06.10.2020: SL Minister, Chamal Rajapaksa had reported to SL Parliament that a Special Unit was established to engage in investigations regarding the release of Riyad Bathiudeen, reports Colombo Gazette. The new Director of the CID is reported to implement a new set of investigations into the Easter Attacks to determine if political motivation was present in the release of former MP Rishad Bathiudeen's brother following claims by the GoSL that there were none.

14.10.2020: SL's Fort Magistrates imposed a travel ban on Bathiudeen following a request by the CID, reports Colombo Gazette. On 13.10.2020 AG de Livera issued the Acting Inspector General of Police, C.D. Wickramaratne to obtain a warrant to arrest Bathiudeen as the Easter Attacks investigation continues.

15.10.2020: Bathiudeen has sought a counter petition in an attempt to prevent his arrest, reports Colombo Gazette.

19.10.2020: According to Colombo Gazette, Bathiudeen was arrested in Dehiwala by CID officers following information from the Police media unit

for the violation of Article 82 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 by misappropriating public funds of LKR 9.5 million when he was SL's Minister of Industry and Commerce. It is reported that he would be remanded until the 27.10.2020 and has been further accused of misusing 222 buses belonging to SL's Transportation Board to transport IDPs from Puttalam to polling stations in Silavathurai, Mannar during the 2019 Presidential Election.

22.10.2020: Colombo Page reported that prison officials in Colombo have brought Bathiudeen to SL parliament to attend sittings. Following SL Speaker Abeywardena and Parliamentarian Narendra Fernando's announcement to prison and health authorities, he was permitted to attend SL Parliament on 22.10.2020 and 23.10.2020 accordingly.

08.10.2020: **Random screening** – According to Shavendra Silva, random PCR tests will be carried out in all factories that have a large workforce, reports Colombo Gazette.

09.10.2020: **13th amendment** - According to Daily Mirror, SL's Local Government and Provincial Councils Minister, Weerasekara had mentioned in SL Parliament that India does not have any rights to interfere in SL's internal affairs - including the 13th amendment.

08.10.2020: **Arrest** - An 18-year-old youth was arrested by SL's CID for falsifying information on a Presidential Secretariat letterhead and circulating it on social media. The statement cited an implementation of curfew and the youth has been reported to be referred to the

Colombo Chief Magistrate on 09.10.2020 by Colombo Page.

13.10.2020: **Karuna** - Colombo Gazette reported that Karuna has been appointed as a District Coordinator in M. Rajapaksa's personal staff. Reports indicate that Karuna was appointed for Batticaloa and Amparai via a formal letter which stated that the role was temporary, and the term was up to M. Rajapaksa's discretion.

14.10.2020: **Political parties** - Colombo Gazette reported that six new parties were registered by SL's National Election Commission as parties in Sri Lanka for 2020. A total of 154 applications were reported to have been submitted earlier in the year and 121 parties were interviewed prior to the finalisation of these 6 parties. The newly registered parties are:

- ◆ The Pivithuru Hela Urumaya
- ◆ Sinhala Ravaya
- ◆ Arunalu Janatha Peramuna
- ◆ Peoples Servant's Party
- ◆ New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party
- ◆ Samaththuva Kachchi

15.10.2020: **Monetary aid** – M. Rajapaksa had presented 40 selected Hindu temples with LKR 50,000 each at the Temple Trees prior to Navaratri Pooja citing duty to protect Hindu religious values, reports Colombo Page. The Chairmen of the Boards of Trustees of these temples met at the Temple Trees to receive the grants.

16.10.2020: **Nepotism** – M. Rajapaksa had appointed his son, Yoshitha Rajapaksa as

Chief of Staff, reports Colombo Gazette and Sunday Times. Following the appointment, Y. Rajapaksa was congratulated by the Chinese official, Hu Wei via Twitter on 13.10.2020.

17.10.2020: **Muralitharan** – SL's cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan expressed on 16.10.2020 that he had never justified the killing of Tamils in a report to the New Indian Express, reports Colombo Gazette. A biopic titled "800" was set to be filmed with Kollywood actor Vijay Sethupathi playing Muralitharan bringing forth global criticism citing his support for the GoSL.

22.10.2020: **LTTE** - The GoSL is set to aid the UK Government in the case regarding the ban on the LTTE. According to Colombo Gazette, the GoSL would continue to put forth relevant information to the UK regarding terrorist activities, citing that they would continue to closely monitor this process. The Daily Mirror further reported that M. Rajapaksa had hoped that the British government would maintain the LTTE's proscription.

22.10.2020: **Indictment** – According to Colombo Gazette, AG Dappula de Livera filed indictments against the Swiss Embassy employee, Garnian Banniester Francis at the Colombo High Court for allegedly falsifying details of an abduction by the CID on 25.11.2019.

26.10.2020: **COVID-19** - According to Daily Mirror, SL would not be in lockdown, but routine economic activities would be carried out in accordance with health guidelines.

27.10.2020: **JVP Protest** - Colombo Gazette reported that the JVP had staged a protest across from the US Embassy in Colombo to express their opposition against foreign intervention – especially in regard to Pompeo's official visit. The JVP had subsequently issued a statement condemning the efforts undertaken by the US in interfering in Sri Lanka's independence and sovereignty. Reports indicate that Mangala Samaraweera had consequently questioned the JVP's decision to protest against the US visit but not that of a high-level Chinese delegation – hence questioning the party's supposed concerns regarding SL's sovereignty.

29.10.2020: **Presidential pardon** - SJB Parliamentarian and Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA) leader, Mano Ganesan has been reported to have withdrawn his petition calling for a Presidential pardon for Duminda Silva who was sentenced to death on 08.09.2016, reports Colombo Gazette. Silva had been convicted for the murder of SL politician, Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra. Ganesan further stated that the intentional signing for the document was to stimulate subsequent releases of Tamil political prisoners with the release of Silva.



US vs. China Meme
Source: Puradsi Media – Phoenix the Next Generation

29.10.2020: **COVID-19** - According to PMD news, a new app introduced by a team lead by the Western Province Health Services, would be instrumental in providing a wealth of vital data including

information on; COVID infected, their close associates, quarantine, PCR testing services, observations, decision making and areas closest to the infected.

Economic News

MT New Diamond

01.10.2020: According to the Colombo Gazette, the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) had informed SL's Attorney General, Dappula de Livera that the oil tanker was not permitted to leave until ongoing negotiations were settled. MEPA submitted further documents which stipulated that marine pollutions were found following the explosion.

05.10.2020: Owners of the MT New Diamond have paid Sri Lanka LKR 442 Million for the expenses incurred to control the fire, reports Colombo Gazette. Defying the directive from MEPA and the Attorney General, the ship was towed away with authorisation from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC).

14.10.2020: According to Colombo Gazette, de Livera had sought a court order for further compensation of LKR 200 million from the owners of the tanker. The outlet further went onto report that the captain of the MT New Diamond was also subsequently fined LKR 12 million following a guilty plea.

01.10.2020: Credit: According to Moody's, SL and India are among Asian countries worst affected by COVID-19, reports Economy Next. Fitch & Standard and Poor's have also been reported to have downgraded SL's credit rating from B- to CCC+. As a result of the pandemic, credit costs are reported to be rising and net interest margins, falling. It is predicted that Sri Lanka's GDP will shrink in 2020 and recover in 2021.

02.10.2020: Central Bank - According to Daily Mirror, the Central Bank of SL had settled a sovereign bond worth USD 1 billion which is scheduled to be matured on 04.10.2020 along with the coupon payments due on behalf of the GoSL.

04.10.2020: Trade - Colombo Gazette reported that Teplitz had questioned China's trade deals with SL. It was reported that she had highlighted that the US believed that the partnership should be open and transparent with mutual benefit - noting that if China-SL relations are of such a nature, the US would encourage it.

06.10.2020: Australia - According to Economy Next, Australia has expressed support for SL in tourism research.

09.10.2020: **China** - SL resumed talks on the FTA and plans to expedite work on the Hambantota industrial zone, reports Colombo Gazette. China assured that it would continue to support SL in the international arena and assist the country's development.

11.10.2020: **China** - The Chinese Embassy in SL is expected to sign another agreement worth funds of LKR 16.5 billion from China, reports Colombo Gazette. The agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation was signed between the two countries on 09.10.2020, citing priority for medical care, water supply and education in rural areas in SL.

12.10.2020: **Australia** - A webinar on "Market Enhancement for Sri Lankan Products and Services in Australia" was conducted on 07.10.2020 following collaboration with the Consulate General of SL in Sydney and the Export Development Board. The goal was reported to provide insight into the current market trends in Australia and outlined ways in which this could be expanded, reports Colombo Page.

13.10.2020: **COVID-19 Donation** - According to PMD News, the fund balance dedicated to healthcare and social security had reached LKR 1,659 million.

19.10.2020: **Employment** – The issue of letters of appointment to trainees from selected families with low income were initiated under the PMD. According to Colombo Page, the first phase of the program would train 34, 818 individuals with a monthly allowance of LKR 22, 500.

The goal is for 100,000 job programs to be developed with the goal of eradicating poverty on the island - the Multi-Purpose Development Task Force is reported to be responsible for the implementation of this initiative.

21.10.2020: **Debt**: A former head of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce of SL drew attention to SL's debt sustainability in a letter to SL's central bank governor, W.D. Lakshman. She was reported to have mentioned that the central bank should urgently raise awareness of any potential challenge or crisis regarding medium-term debt sustainability amongst government leaders and related key executives. Accordingly, Economy Next reported that issues related to; debt management, tax reforms, fiscal consolidation, economic growth and inflation control should be considered.

27.10.2020: **Shipping** - The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) inaugurated another terminal in Colombo with the arrival of its first cargo ship, reports Colombo Page. SL Minister of Port and Shipping, Rohitha Abeygunawardena was present during the inauguration ceremony. The port was completed in 2015 under M. Rajapaksa's presidency under the Mahindha Chinthana Vision – it was reported that the initiative was unable to contribute to SL's national economy at the time due to administrative complications

31.10.2020: **Construction** - The construction of Neluwa-Lankagama road has been reported to near its completion following a visit by G. Rajapaksa on 29.08.2020, reports Colombo Page. The construction was

commenced on 02.09.2020 by SL's Army Corps of Engineers after approval from SL's National Building Research Organisation with the target of

completing the 5.4 km stretch within 90 days.

Future Features

Stay tuned for next month's issue of Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter for our coverage of Phoenix the Next Generations – Rise of the Tigers Book Launch!



News about Oppression & Resistance

12.10.2020: **Arrest** - A suspect has been arrested for operating a drone in Thirukkivil, Amparai by SL's Police Special Task Force (STF). Colombo Gazette reports that the STF had been informed that the drone was taking pictures of the Thirukkivil area, citing that all drone cameras must be registered with SL's Ministry of Defence before use.

15.10.2020: **Attack** - On 12.10.2020 two Tamil journalists, Shanmugam Thavaseelan and Kanapathipillai Kumanan were attacked by timber

smugglers as they were working on a story pertaining to illegal deforestation and timber smuggling in the Murippu forest area in the Mullaitivu District, reports Colombo Page. The International Federation of Journalist (IFJ), Sri Lanka affiliates Free Media Movement (FMM) and Federation of Media Employee's Trade Union (FMETU) denounced the attacks and urged the GoSL to bring forth justice.

15.10.2020: **Land grab** –According to Colombo Page, Kamal Gunaratne cited

legal action for unlawful land grab practices during an address to SL's District Secretaries and Government Agencies at SL's Internal Security, Home Affairs and Disaster Management State Ministry in Narahenpita. He further cited the importance of vigilance about sites of archaeological value as those lands were also prone to unlawful acts.

16.10.2020: **Amnesty** - Amnesty International called for the release of SL human rights lawyer, Hejaaz Hizbullah, reports Colombo Gazette. Hizbullah had been detained under the PTA for over 6 months without charge or evidence following the Easter Attacks. Hizbullah's second period of detention expires on 17.10.2020.

17.10.2020: **Omanthai** - Colombo Gazette reported that two men aged 34 and 42 were found hacked to death in a house in Omanthai. Further reports indicate that one of the 2 injured men was a former LTTE cadre. A third person was found injured inside the house and was admitted to the hospital according to SL's Police media unit.

26.10.2020: **Police brutality** - According to the Colombo Gazette CCTV video footage had surfaced exposing SL police officers beating a young man with sticks on 24.10.2020. The location of the incident has not been identified yet it is suspected to be from an area where curfew was enforced.

28.10.2020: **Attack** - Colombo Page reported that occupational SL Navy officials had been accused of throwing stones and liquor bottles at Tamil Nadu fishermen while they were fishing off the Katchathivu island on 26.10.2020. The fishermen from Rameswaram noted that SL Naval personnel were involved. According to reports one of the fishermen had sustained a head injury due to the attacks.

29.10.2020: **Harassment** - Colombo Gazette reported that an occupational SL Military officer, Brigadier K.K.S. Parakum had verbally abused the Head of Sampathnuwara District Hospital in the Northern Province. According to SL military spokesman, Brigadier Chandana Wickremesinghe, a detailed letter to SL's Health Minister from SL's Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) cited the extent of the abuse and had also been communicated.

31.10.2020: **Detainee death** - A 25-year-old had died in SL police custody in Nawagamuwa, reports Colombo Gazette. SL's Police Spokesman, DIG Ajith Rohana announced that the detainee was arrested for several robberies and had been placed in a cell with four other suspects. Reports indicate that an investigation led by SL's Senior Superintendent of Police is underway.

Signs of Structural Genocide

30.10.2020: **Land appropriation** – SL's Fisheries Minister, Douglas Devananda has initiated the identification of locations for large-scale crop cultivation for exports within the Kilinochchi District, reports Colombo Page.

- ◆ 61 maps - Nachikuda and surrounding areas
- ◆ 28 maps - Pasal area
- ◆ 13 maps - Granch area
- ◆ 85 maps of 103 acres - Northern Diocese

Devananda plans to start 200 aquaculture units in Kilinochchi with plans to expand projects into Mannar and Jaffna Districts. There is a genocidal tendency that this act may have the intentions of appropriating Tamils' lands and stripping the Tamils of opportunities for self-sustenance.

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