



Akkinip Parabaikal

**FEBRUARY ISSUE
2022**

Puradsi Media.
Phoenix - the Next
Generation



**Review STFA 20 Years Anniversary Tournament
13.02.2022**

SC Phoenix

Proceed to page 03 for more on our sports' division's most recent tournament in Switzerland.

Eelam's "Divide and Rule"

Sri Balandran Ravichandran and Senchudar
Gemini

Historically, various civilisations have been dismantled at the mercy of "Divide and Rule" - Eelam Tamils are of no exception. What ensues when the conquerors could be conquered?

Proceed to page 11 for more.



"It is our aim to live with peace, with independence, with honour and with security in our motherland, our own land which has become ours historically. This is our national aspiration."

National Leader of Tamil Eelam

Review STFA 20 Years Anniversary Tournament

13.02.2022

SC PHOENIX

The first opponent at this tournament was a competitive team and we faced a few difficulties to begin with. However, we won the game with 3:1 in our favour. The first three points were in our pocket. We were very proud of the result, but not of the way we played, as we knew that we could do better.

The next game was against a tough opponent, SC Royal Bern. We were motivated on the field but made a few careless errors and were immediately punished with goals conceded. For a while, we were locked in a stalemate of 1:1. However, after a falter from our end, we lost our focus and conceded some goals causing us to lose the second game.

It now all depended on the last game - we had to win to remain in the tournament and the opponent was not an easy target. Blue Star Lausanne had a lot of speedy players and were very effective before goals. We knew that it would be a hard-fought game as it was about getting through to the round of 16 for both of us. Unfortunately, we were also very unlucky. If you do not complete it in front, you get it in your own goal at the back. We had to accept the second defeat and were eliminated in the group phase of the tournament.

The bottom line of this tournament is that we tried hard but unfortunately did not get rewarded for our effort. However, since this was only our second tournament overall, we are not disappointed and are in fact proud of our performance. We were able to gain a lot of experience and can now improve upon our flaws with regular training. Hopefully in the next tournament we can correct our mistakes and attain better results. The Coordinator of SC Phoenix, Biranavan Vadivelu commented that, "Until then we will give our best to improve ourselves and get better and better. That's our way of fight."



International News

01.02.2022: **Amnesty** - Amnesty International's South Asia Activist, Tyagi Ruwanpathirana had made a tweet emphasising that Sri Lanka's (SL's) attempt to investigate enforced disappearances and provide compensation to families rather than identifying those responsible for such disappearances remains shameful, reports Virakesari.

01.02.2022: **North Korea** - According to Tamil Guardian, SL has yet again denied purchasing arms from North Korea. SL's foreign minister denied this just days after Basil Rajapaksa reportedly admitted to buying arms on the black market.

01.02.2022: **Canada** - According to Virakesari, the Provincial Government of Ontario, Canada has allocated USD 48,950 to conduct psychological counselling required to rehabilitate students psychologically affected by Tamil Genocide in the occupied Tamil Homeland. Reports indicate that the funds will be transferred to the "Canadian Tamil Academy" which is based in Scarborough, Ontario with other diaspora organisations involved in the process through funding.

Organisations:

- ♦ National Canadian Council of Tamils (NCCT)
- ♦ Canadian Tamil Youth Organisations
- ♦ Canadian Tamil Academy

03.02.2022: **UK** - According to Tamil Guardian, the UK expressed concern over torture and rape by SL security

forces. Amanda Milling, Minister of State at the Foreign Commonwealth and Dev Office, said there is 'serious concern' over sexual violence.

05.02.2022: **Genocide** - SL's High Commission in Ottawa released a statement citing the use of the word "genocide" by Tamils in Canada particularly Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough - Rouge Park to be inaccurate noting that Bill 104 on "Tamil Genocide Education Week" which passed in Ontario, Canada strains intercommunal relationships among the various communities of the island reports the Consulate General of SL in Toronto. Further, they note actions undertaken by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) in the final stages of the armed conflict were humanitarian efforts on its country's end and underestimated the total human loss and disappearances of Tamils in the final stages of the armed conflict.

07.02.2022: **Switzerland** - Colombo's High Court Judge, Namal Pallalla has ordered the hearing of the Swiss Embassy Official case to begin on 05.08.2022, summoning the first and second witnesses to appear at the court on the same date. According to Virakesari, officials from SL's Attorney General's Department had submitted an English translation of the indictment to the accused Swiss Embassy Official in an open court session on 07.02.2022. The Swiss Official is accused of providing false confessions to SL's CID in relation to an abduction by an unidentified person.

08.02.2022: **PTA** - According to a 59-page report titled, "The Sri Lankan Government's Failure to Amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act" published by Human Rights Watch (HRW), the EU and other SL trading partners must pressure GoSL to abolish the PTA within a specified period of time, reports Virakesari. Earlier reports indicate that the International Commission of Jurors has indicated that the proposed amendments to the PTA are insufficient and has urged GoSL to take steps to abolish the PTA completely. Further, The Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organisations UK (COSMOS UK) has also demanded over 300 individuals detained under the PTA to be released and for the PTA to be abolished

09.02.2022: **BIMSTEC** - The 5th Bengal Initiative for Technology and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Conference is set to be held in March 2022 in SL, reports Virakesari.

12.02.2022: **ILO** - According to Virakesari, health unions had stated that they would seek the assistance of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as their rights and democratic demands were being stifled through SL's court proceedings.

22.02.2022: **EU** - An EU-funded EUR 18 million-worth "Justice Reform Project" was launched in SL on 21.02.2022 by SL's Ministry of Justice, the UNDP and UNICEF to enhance transparency and accountability in SL's judiciary, reports Virakesari.

Bilateral Discussions

01.02.2022: **India** - According to Milinda Moragoda, the High Commissioner of SL to India, India and SL need to work on eight key areas. While presenting his policy map "Integrated Country Strategy for Sri Lanka Diplomatic Missions in India 2021/2023", he stated that the Indo-SL relations needs to move from a transactional phase to a strategic phase.

- ♦ petroleum
- ♦ electricity
- ♦ ports
- ♦ tourism
- ♦ ICT
- ♦ exports
- ♦ manufacturing
- ♦ agriculture

Moragoda claimed that the oil tankers in Trincomalee and the port of Trincomalee could become an energy hub for both countries, reports Colombo Gazette.

02.02.2022: **Nigeria** - The Defence Adviser of the Nigerian High Commission accredited to SL visited the Commander of the SL Navy and later called on Shavendra Silva on 04.02.2022, report Navy and Army LK.

02.02.2022: **Turkey** - The Military Attaché of the Turkish Embassy Colonel Can Gokcen Gokkaya called on the Commander of the SL Navy and later called on Shavendra Silva on 04.02.2022, report Navy and Army LK.

02.02.2022: **Diplomats** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL's Prime Minister M. Rajapaksa met diplomats from Gambia, Indonesia and Israel.

Following topics were discussed:

Gambia:

- ♦ Enhancing corporation between SL and Africa overall
- ♦ SL's assistance with scholarships, technical expertise in rice cultivation

Indonesia:

- ♦ Greater corporation in trade, tourism and investment
- ♦ Considering SL's ports as transshipment hubs
- ♦ Green economy
- ♦ Converting fuel-powered bike to electric

Israel:

- ♦ Additional corporation that Counterterrorism
- ♦ Water-management
- ♦ Drip irrigation
- ♦ Desalination
- ♦ Water reuse

03.02.2022: **Maldives** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL and Maldives' presidents have met and discussed the relation between both countries. In particular, the fields of education, health, as well as bilateral trade and investment were covered in the talks.

04.02.2022: **US** - The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken congratulated SL on its 74 Anniversary of Independence from colonial rule, reports Colombo Page.

04.02.2022: **Denmark** - M. Rajapaksa met with the Ambassador to SL from

Denmark, Freddy Svane, at the Temple Trees where the two individuals discussed potential investment in SL, reports Colombo Page. Accordingly, SL has requested the representative from Denmark to promote SL as an investment destination amid the ongoing economic crisis.

05.02.2022: **India** - According to Virakesari, G.L. Peiris is scheduled to leave for Delhi on a two-day official visit on 06.02.2022 to meet with many dignitaries to gain support for SL at the upcoming UNHRC Session.

07.02.2022: **India** - According to Virakesari, Peiris met with India's Foreign Minister, Jaisankar during his official visit to India and held talks on 07.02.2022. Areas of mutual interest were discussed - especially in relation to SL's economic crisis:

- ♦ Investment efforts to strengthen SL
- ♦ Improve SL's energy security
- ♦ Fishermen issue
- ♦ Improve SL's tourism for economic recovery

08.02.2022: **EU** - SL and the EU held the 24th meeting of the EU-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. In the joint-press release, it was further noted that the meeting reviewed bilateral relations and entailed an exchange of views and updates on a wide range of topics of bilateral interest - ranging from governance, reconciliation and human rights, to trade, development cooperation, climate change and environment, sectoral cooperation, security and counterterrorism, and cooperation in multilateral fora. It is noteworthy that this meeting was co-chaired by Admiral

Jayanath Colombage from SL's Foreign Ministry. He was the Former Commander of SL's Navy and was part of their Navy during all the Eelam Wars.

08.02.2022: **India** - According to Peiris, the relationship has evolved from a transactional relationship to a strategic partnership. In addition, Peiris had appreciated the financial assistance provided by the Government of India to SL to the tune of USD 2.4 billion. Further, discussions were made on economic cooperation, cooperation in power and energy, connectivity and tourism, Economy Next reported.

08.02.2022: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan has provided SL equipment worth JPY 1 billion to support the fight against terrorism. It has also provided equipment worth JPY 200 million to combat illegal drugs.

10.02.2022: **Pakistan** - The newly appointed High Commissioner of Pakistan in SL met the Commander of the SL Navy and discussed several matters of bilateral importance, reports Navy LK.

10.02.2022: **South Korea** - Maithripala Sirisena left for South Korea on the morning of 10.02.2022 to attend the 2022 World Peace Summit which is being held on the Korean peninsula after being invited by former UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon to address the Opening Ceremony of the Summit. Sirisena is scheduled to return to SL on 11.02.2022, reports Virakesari.

11.02.2022: **Pakistan** - K. Gunaratne and Pakistan's High Commissioner to SL, Major General (Retd) Omar Farooq Burki held

discussions at SL's Defence Ministry on 11.02.2022 drawing attention to long-standing security ties between SL and Pakistan in areas of mutual interest, reports Virakesari.

12.02.2022: **India** - A special meeting was held between the Union Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman and SL High Commissioner to India, Milinda Moragoda in New Delhi to finalise the USD 1 billion loan from India to SL for the purchase of essential commodities such as food and medicine, reports Virakesari.

12.02.2022: **GSP-Plus** - According to Economy Next, SL is prepared to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) to extend access to the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP+). This move comes just days before the upcoming session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

13.02.2022: **Indonesia** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL's Trade Minister and the Indonesian ambassador to SL have met and agreed upon a Preferential Trade Agreement. Through this, both sides intend to boost trade between both countries.

14.02.2022: **Belarus** - SL's Ambassador to Russia went to Belarus and held talks with Belarussian authorities, Colombo Gazette reports. In these meetings, both sides have agreed to enhance and reactivate bilateral cooperation between both countries. The following topics were discussed:

- ◆ cooperation in the sphere of medical education
- ◆ postgraduate programmes
- ◆ students and lecturers' exchange

- ♦ scientific and research collaboration
- ♦ engineering specialties
- ♦ IT
- ♦ agriculture
- ♦ joint programmes and mutually beneficial projects
- ♦ tourism

It is noteworthy that a large number of students from SL are studying at the State Medical Universities of Belarus.

14.02.2022: **Belarus** - SL's Ambassador to Russia, Janitha A. Liyanage met with Belarussian authorities between 02.02.2022-05.02.2022, reports Colombo Page. Accordingly, conversations were held with several individuals regarding bilateral cooperation.

15.02.2022: **South Africa** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL's ambassador to South Africa held several meetings with South African authorities. In these meetings, SL requested for South Africa's support in the upcoming session of the UNHRC.

15.02.2022: **Vatican** - According to Economy Next, SL's Catholic Church is working with the Vatican. They are working on a secret procedure to seek justice for the victims of the Easter 2019 bombings.

19.02.2022: **Australia** - According to Economy Next, Australia is supporting SL in developing a national mechanism for maritime disaster-preparedness. This is being conducted in response to the MV X-Press Pearl disaster, which caused a terrible environmental catastrophe.

22.02.2022: **Turkey** - In a bilateral meeting held between Turkey's Ambassador to SL and Maldives, Rakibe Demet Şekercioğlu

and SL's Minister for Public Security, Sarath Weerasekara was held at SL's Ministry where the two parties reaffirmed historical ties. According to Virakesari, Turkey had committed their allegiance to strengthen their security and political assistance to SL.

23.02.2022: **India** - According to Colombo Gazette, India is willing to invest in SL to ease the financial crisis in SL. SL's Financial Minister, Basil Rajapaksa is to visit India. In that meeting, a financial assistance deal worth USD 1 billion is to be signed.

23.02.2022: **Pakistan** - The Naval Commanders of SL and Pakistan met during the SL Commander, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenna's official visit to Pakistan, at Pakistan's Naval Headquarters on 22.02.2022, reports Virakesari. Ulugetenna and Pakistan's Admiral M. Amjad Khan Niazi discussed issues of bilateral significance including regional security.

24.02.2022: **UK** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL and UK discussed Security and Migration in a meeting between the UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel and SL's High Commissioner to the UK, Saroja Sirisena.

24.02.2022: **Netherlands** - The Foreign Minister of Netherlands, Wopke Hoekstra met with SL's Foreign Minister in Paris to discuss ongoing collaboration efforts, reports Colombo Page. Among the discussion special interest was given to the preservation of heritage sites and cultural artefacts.

24.02.2022: **Rome** - The Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, is in

Rome on his annual visit. Cardinal will meet the Pope. Earlier on 15.02.2022, Cardinal Ranjith said he is working with the Vatican to bring justice to the victims of the Easter 2019 bombings, Economy Next reports.

25.02.2022: **India** - According to Athavan News, B. Rajapaksa's trip to India has been cancelled.

25.02.2022: **Japan** - The Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Hideaki Mizukoshi carried out visits to its Official

Development Assistance sites in Kandy on 24.02.2022, reports Colombo Page. The visit was to determine the status of the Greater Kandy Water Supply Project and Kandy City Wastewater Management Project.

28.02.2022: **France** - SL and France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand Franco-SL economic relations, reports Virakesari. The MoU was reportedly signed during bilateral talks held between Peiris and French Business representatives.

Military News

01.02.2022: **MRAPV** - SL's Army has manufactured a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle (MRPV) titled "Unicob" built with diesel-powered 6-cylinder engine, reports Colombo Page. Production of the vehicle totalled at LKR 10 million and was manufactured by SL's Electrical Mechanical and Engineering Regiment (SLEME).

04.02.2022: **SL Independence Day** - G. Rajapaksa announced during colonial SL's Independence Day that the country will safeguard the rule of law and respect international conventions and human rights highlighting it will not leave way for extremism, reports Colombo Page.

09.02.2022: **Renovation** - According to Airforce LK, the renovation of the Vavuniya Nedunkulama Government Sinhala Mixed School as the 25th phase of the Guwan Mithudam project was completed. This Project was funded by the SLAF Seva Vanitha Unit and SLAF Base Vavuniya.

21.02.2022: **Aircrafts** - GoSL set to receive two free maritime aerial surveillance aircrafts from US which will be directed to the SLAF, reports Colombo Page. Accordingly, SLAF has requested for Beechcraft 360ER twin-turboprop aircraft produced by Textron Aviation.

WHAM

05.02.2022: **Batticaloa** - According to the SL Army, Troops of the 11 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment under command to the 231st Brigade of the 23rd Division under the Security Force HQ-East with patronage provided by a social service activist gave away nutrients, dry ration packs and baby care equipment to some 60 pregnant women.



Caricature

Vavuniya University was reopened by SL President G. Rajapaksa. On the main street of Vavuniya Mannar there were tensions between the police and the demonstrators. The demonstrators were relatives of missing Tamils and were protesting Gotabaya's visit. Usually, the Universities have signs in Tamil, English and Sinhalese. However, at Vavuniya University the Tamil signage was removed.



Eelam's "Divide and Rule"

SRI BALANDRAN RAVICHANDRAN & SENCHUDAR GEMINI

"Divide and Rule" or "Divide and Conquer" is an ancient strategy of society and politics, which tries to divide one or more groups to be subjugated and incite them against each other to position and strengthen its own power. This prevents the subjugating groups from uniting and fighting back against the oppressor.

A strategy that has been used throughout human history and has always proved effective. Eelam is no exception, where the Tamils have suffered the most at the hands of various powers. It was even this strategy used by the European colonial powers that even triggered the conflict between Tamils and Sinhalese in the first place.

Pre-Colonial Settings

Before European colonisation, the island was not governed by a central state, as is the case today, but three kingdoms independently ruled three autonomous areas on the island since the 15th Century.

The Aryachakravarti Dynasty ruled the Tamil Jaffna kingdom in the North while the Sinhalese Kotte kingdom was in the South-west. In the east ruled the Sinhalese Kandy Kingdom, which split from the Kotte Kingdom in the 15th Century under the rule of King Parakramabahu VI.

Due to the geographic separation of the vast forest area in Vanni between the North and the South, and due to internal tensions between the two Sinhala kingdoms, the Tamil kingdom and the Sinhala kingdoms lived together in relative peaceful coexistence.

British Rule

With the Colebrooke-Cameron Commission introduced by the British in 1833, the previously separately administered regions of the former kingdoms were placed under one central government and the island thus became the central state as it is known today. The British expanded and perfected the plantation economy in Ceylon, giving rise to famous consumer products such as Lipton Ceylon Tea. The production of these goods increased the need for labour, which is why the Tamils from Tamil Nadu were brought to the plantations.

The administrative, political and economic restructuring of the Colebrooke-Cameron Commission, which paid little attention to the cultural peculiarities of the population groups, laid the foundations for antipathy between the Sinhalese and Tamils from the foreign rule of the British colony.

With administrative work being handled more efficiently across the island, British civil servants lacked skilled workers to cope with the increased workload, forcing them to resort to educated local civil servants.

Educational Advantage and Migration

Institutions of missionary schools were built throughout the colonial period, particularly on the Tamil-inhabited Jaffna Peninsula. A large number of Tamils, who have always cultivated a high level of educational morale, take the opportunity to rise economically through the institutions, opening up the way to the civil service professions, as well as the newly emerging professions in the legal and health care sectors.

This educational advantage of the Tamils compared to the Sinhalese led to a radical change in social structures, so that the Tamils were over-represented in privileged positions. The new opportunities that this opened up for the Tamils, who were cosmopolitan at the time and ready to adapt, also led to extensive internal migration of Tamils in the administrative centres of the Sinhalese areas such as Colombo.

In addition to the already mentioned Tamil plantation workers from southern India, the new free trade policy of the British brought wealthy Tamil traders and moneylenders from Madras, who maintained good relations with the East India Company. These traders were known for their high interest rates and strict debt collection practices and soon dominated the import and export trade in large parts of the island. This led to the dependence of the Sinhala elite and middle class on the Tamil moneylenders.

The increasing political and social advantage of the Tamils by the British, their entry into the Sinhala areas and the economic dependence on the Tamils increased Sinhala dislikes towards the Tamils and an anti-Tamil Sinhala nationalism arose. This was additionally strengthened by the racial theories that came from Europe and were taken with them by the colonial powers. As the Sinhalese themselves are members of the Indo-European family, Sinhalese nationalists saw their claim to be the superior race to the Tamils, entitled to rule their home island, justified by Sinhalese nationalists, and the handling of foreign British rule is unjustified and discriminatory towards the Sinhalese.

Europeans Race Theory

In addition, these chauvinistic-racist beliefs were attempted to legitimise in the 20th Century through the Sinhalese chronicles, the Dipavamsa, the Mahavamsa and Culavamsa, which, as forgotten testimonies of the once glorious past of the Sinhalese, came back to the public through the English translation. However, Sinhalese nationalists often like to overlook the fact that even if a lot of incidents actually did occur, some of them remain as mere myths. By deliberately misinterpreting the chronicles, the struggles depicted in the chronicles between the Tamil empires of South India and Sinhala empires attempted to prove that the Tamils had been invaders in Sri Lanka since ancient times - hostile and destructive to Sinhala culture. As an example, King Dutugemunu, who appears in the Mahavamsa, is often portrayed as a Sinhala hero who dethroned the

Tamil King Ellalan in the Sri Lankan city of Anuradhapura. However, it is omitted here that King Ellalan is described in the Mahavamsa as a just and people-oriented king who treated the interests of the Buddhist Sinhalese on an equal footing with those of the Tamils.

The British had no interest in improving this troubled relationship and encouraged it all the more as it helped them rule the island for over a hundred years.

Sri Lankan Rule

After England left the island, Sinhala chauvinists, shaped by their hatred during the Colonial era, adopted this strategy to weaken the power of the Tamils.

During the armed struggle, Sri Lanka, like India, rallied the various Tamil militant factions to their side - playing them off against each other. This drastically reduced our resilience as well as our chances of victory and yet we were able to resist for about 25 years and fight for an independent Tamil Eelam as we lived like 400 years ago, until the tragic end in 2009.

And even now, 13 years later, division within Tamil society is being encouraged in order to prevent another Tamil uprising.

Abaya

Religious divisions have often been instigated amongst Tamils to further instil discrepancies. This has historically been the case with Muslim Tamils. Whilst the historic Pottuvil to Polikandy (P2P) mass protest had seen the amalgamation of all Tamils in their collective demands, discrepancies between Saiva Tamils and Muslim Tamils have been instigated in Trincomalee over religious attire.

Earlier in February 2022, we covered the incident of protests opposite Sreesanmuga Women's College in Trincomalee where students and parents at the school had protested a teacher wearing an Abaya - Islamic cultural attire. It is notable that the teacher had only just returned to teach at the school after a similar issue against her attire in 2019. These protests echo a similar crackdown on the wearing of religious Islamic attire in India due to BJP influences.

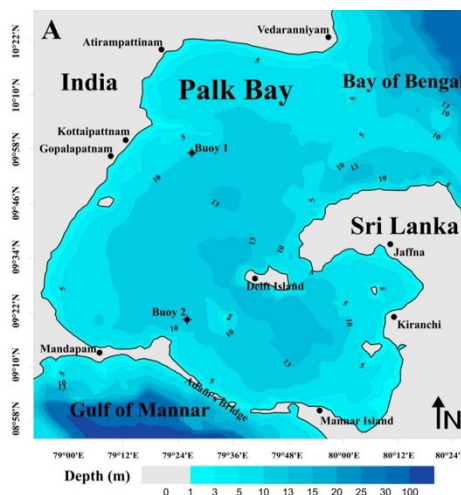
Such conflicts amongst Tamils where their collective grievances as Eelam Tamils are cast aside to prioritise other issues, misdirects them away from their acknowledgement of the need to resist. This remains favourable to the genocidal Sri Lankan state as it would essentially have similar effects to COIN methods.

Fisheries

Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar are two sea bays located between South India and North Eelam, separated by the Adam's Bridge. Due to their geographic location and the

diverse and natural ecosystems within them, they are one of the richest tropical rainforests underwater and thus of high ecological, economic and geopolitical importance.

A dispute between the fishing communities of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Eelam has been reported in the media in these waters since December 2021. Increasing numbers of fishermen from Tamil Nadu have been pursuing their activities on the coasts of Eelam, which was considered to be outside their competence due to the fixed sea borders between India and Sri Lanka. Therefore, the fishermen from Tamil Nadu were arrested for illegal fishing in Jaffna. The Tamil Nadu fishermen's Trawlers were confiscated and put up for auction. An action that only further provokes the Tamil Nadu fishermen.



On the other hand, the fishermen from Tamil Eelam, who have already been badly affected by the consequences of the war, fear that their resources will be lost by the Tamil Nadu fishermen.

However, this dispute is not new. It has appeared several times over the past few decades, which has always strained the millennia-old relationship between Tamilakam and Tamil Eelam. The governments of India and Sri Lanka in particular are to blame for this split.

In 1974 and 1976, Sri Lanka and India negotiated an agreement defining the maritime boundaries between them. The aim of these talks is said to have been to prevent disputes between the different fishing communities. However, the Tamils of India and Eelam, who are clearly the most affected by this agreement, have not been included in the talks and have been ignored.

It was only through this agreement that the problems between Eelam-Tamils and India-Tamils, who until then had been fishing peacefully in each other's waters for the last few centuries, began.

After the end of the war in 2009, Tamil Nadu fishermen were repeatedly attacked and killed by the Sri Lankan Navy in order to protect the defined sea borders. However, the attacks were fears of another Tamil insurgency as Eelam fishermen were also affected by the Sri Lankan Navy's Atrocities. Now, SL's Fisheries Minister, Douglas Devanandada is being criticised for inciting the two Tamil communities against each other. Devanada was appointed minister by Gotabaya, since he is a member of the EPRLF which has carried out paramilitary action for the Sri Lankan government in the past.

Combined with the current boat auctions, these indicate that the conflict is in the interests of the Sri Lankan government, as buyers in particular from the south and west of the island have travelled north to purchase the boats. This can be seen as a real example of the proverb "When two quarrel, the third rejoices."

Enforced Disappearances

Enforced Tamil disappearances are often portrayed as issues concerning families rather than a collective. However, the forcible disappearance of Tamils continues to occur as SL's genocidal tool to deprive Tamils of an efficient future leadership.

Due to the split in perspectives - one of victimisation vs collective genocide - the genocidal state attempts to develop various methods through which they approach such groups. Their application of divide and rule methodologies are evident through G. Rajapaksa's response to two various groups at the inauguration of Vavuniya University.

On the one hand, the mothers of forcibly disappeared Tamils who attempted to visit G. Rajapaksa to notify him of their grievances, an occupational police blockade was set up to prevent them from doing so. As a result, many Tamils were pushed back. However, G. Rajapaksa had simultaneously set up a brief public grievance meeting with representatives on the grounds of Vavuniya University where he had requested the Tamils to notify him of their concerns. It is notable that he had drawn attention to their issues pertaining to land and missing persons calling on them to elaborate on such issues.

The discrepancies with how each group of Tamils were handled during this particular incident is a classic example of Divide and Rule. Through alienating the mothers and tokenistically speaking with representatives at the same time, animosity is encouraged amongst both parties. Hence, through diverting the focus of the mothers, it may be implied that their drive to resist may be diminished, hence raising concerns.

Conquer

Historically, the stratagem to divide and conquer has proved to be crucial in asserting authority across various civilisations hence allowing power dynamics to be further cemented between the oppressed and the oppressor. However, to truly conquer a collective's goals, it becomes crucial to mitigate how such divides could be countered in effect to resist efficiently. Whilst these theories have been dissected to examine such effects, in practice, response to such methods must be carefully considered and executed in a timely manner to ensure that we do not remain the ones who are conquered.

Domestic News

Tamil Eelam

02.02.2022: **Inauguration** - According to Virakesari, Kurunakal's Pradesiya Sabha which was newly constructed as a three-storey building under G. Rajapaksa's "Prosperity Vision Policy Statement", was inaugurated on 02.02.2022 by B. Rajapaksa. The LKR 215 million building was constructed within 2 years.

Ground Floor

- ◆ Public health office
- ◆ Warehouse
- ◆ Restaurant
- ◆ Gymnasium

First Floor

- ◆ Technical section
- ◆ Corporate section
- ◆ Social Development & Environmental section
- ◆ Revenue Development section
- ◆ Printing section
- ◆ Head Office

Second Floor

- ◆ Auditorium
- ◆ Meeting Hall

04.02.2022: **Box** - The 59th Division HQ under the SFHQ-MLT on 01.02.2022 welcomed with vehicle parade and felicitated Ganesha Indikadevi who won a Gold in the Kick Boxing Tournament, held recently in Lahore, Pakistan, reports Army LK.

05.02.2022: **Environment** - According to Athavan News, the divisional secretariat of Mannar Town organised under the slogan "We will protect our environment" a clearing action to clean the coast from

littering. With the help of the villagers, they cleaned 4km of the coast from Saudhpar to Thazhvupadu. It is planned to keep this measure and conduct it every month.

Arrest

06.02.2022: **Arrest** - An individual suspected of breaking and entering many houses in Kattankudy has been arrested by occupational Kattankudy police on 04.02.2022 with a hand grenade was produced before the Batticaloa Magistrate's Court on 05.02.2022, reports Virakesari. Further reports indicate that the accused has been ordered by the Magistrate to be remanded in police custody for three days for interrogations.

17.02.2022: **Arrest** - According to Virakesari, a 24-year-old youth was arrested with a locally made gun by Ayithyamalai occupational police on 16.02.2022 after they received a tip-off from a Special Investigation Unit.

17.02.2022: **Arrest** - A woman was arrested with cannabis and liquor in a raid across three residences in the Eravur area on SL's Poya Day. According to Virakesari the following were seized by occupational officials:

- ◆ 43 bottles of liquor

- ◆ 3,350 mg of cannabis

24.02.2022: **Arrest** - According to Virakesari, two individuals were arrested for illegally smuggling teak wood boards from Kalladi to Mullipuram.

06.02.2022: **Train** - According to Virakesari, the Udayadevi train from Colombo to Batticaloa derailed between Punana and Welikanda on the evening of 05.02.2022 when a tipper truck carrying sand from Kadawathamadu to the main road collide with the train, causing train services to be cancelled. The driver of the tipper truck was injured and admitted to the local hospital for treatment. Services cancelled:

- ◆ 05.02.2022: 19.00 Colombo Departure service
- ◆ 05.02.2022: 20.15 Colombo Departure service
- ◆ 06.02.2022: 01.15 Colombo Departure luxury service

06.02.2022: **13th Amendment** - An alliance of five Tamil Political Parties is to address a letter to G. Rajapaksa to fully implement the 13th Amendment, reports Virakesari. The Tamil Liberation Alliance (TLA) has formed the All India Mahasabhairupavi Tamil People's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (TPLTL) and the Tamil Social Equality Party (SEP).

- ◆ Chairman - V. Anandasangaree
- ◆ Coordinator - Dr. K. Vigneswaran

07.02.2022: **Appointment** - According to Virakesari, the Chief Secretary of the Eastern Province, Dusaitta B. Vanikasinghe has been re-appointed by G. Rajapaksa. Vanikasinghe received his

letter of appointment from G. Rajapaksa at SL's Presidential Secretariat on the afternoon of 07.02.2022.

Fishermen

01.02.2022: **Fishermen** - Local Suppamadam and Paruthithurai fishermen intercepted 9 Indian boats which were trawling in Tamil Eelam's occupied territorial waters on the evening of 31.01.2022 and seized nets and fish from their boats. According to Virakesari, occupational SL Navy officials swiftly arrived at the scene and arrested 21 Indian fishermen and seized 2 boats.

06.02.2022: **Auction** - According to Athavan News, 135 Indian boats, which were caught at the coast of Jaffna were sold at auctions in 5 ports. People from all over the Tamil Homeland came to attend the auctions.

07.02.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Virakesari, the interrogation of 21 Tamil Nadu fishermen arrested in waters near Paruthithurai has been extended. Further reports indicate that the Paruthithurai Court has ordered the fishermen to be detained until 21.02.2022 when the case was heard in court on 07.02.2022.

07.02.2022: **Auction** - According to Virakesari, Indian fishermen's trawler boats detained in Karainagar and four other locations will be auctioned between 07.02.2022-12.02.2022. 135 boats were auctioned in

Karainagar on 07.02.2022 with an 88-feet long boat sold for a maximum amount of LKR 13 lakhs 50,000.

08.02.2022: **Fishermen** - According to the Tamil Guardian, the SL Army have detained navy boats belonging to Tamil Nadu fishermen. Eleven of them were also arrested over allegedly crossing the maritime border between India and SL.

09.02.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Virakesari, 11 Tamil Nadu fishermen and three boats were arrested by SL's occupational Navy on the night of 07.02.2022 near the coast of Long Island.

12.02.2022: **Fishermen** - Douglas Devananda led a discussion at the Mannar District Secretariat from 09.00 local time on 12.02.2022 to discuss the grievances of fishermen in Mannar, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that Douglas had assured to restructure the administration of the Rural Fishermen's Association and Fishermen's Co-operative Society in Mannar to strengthen the Fisheries Welfare Act to ensure that the fishery community's grievances were met as soon as possible.

13.02.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Virakesari, 12 Indian fishermen were arrested with two trawlers during a patrol operation conducted by SL's occupational Navy in Talaimannar on the night of 12.02.2022.

19.02.2022: **Fishermen** - Six Indian trawlers had been arrested by occupational SL Navy for illegally fishing in Tamil Eelam's occupied territorial waters off Karanaigar, reports Virakesari. The arrested individuals have been shifted to the Myliddy Fishing Harbour to be tested for Malaria and COVID-19 before being handed over to SL's Fisheries' Authorities for further legal action.

21.02.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Athavan News, 21 Tamil Nadu Fishers, who have been caught by Paruthithurai Authorities on 31.01.2022, were sentenced for 3 Years of prison from 2023.

23.02.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Athavan News, 22 Tamil Nadu Fishers have been caught illegally fishing in the premises of Paruthithurai. The caught boats were transferred to the Myliddy Port.

11.02.2022: **Fashion** - According to Athavan News, United Congress Party leader Mubarak Abdul Majeed made comments on clothing of modern women and denounced them as non-virtuous and lascivious. He, who is known for several controversial statements in public, was criticised by some that statement like these are contributing to make a rift between the Tamil and Muslim Communities.

13.02.2022: **Explosion** - According to Virakesari, a gas stove had exploded in a residence in Vavuniya on the morning of 13.02.2022.

13.02.2022: **Agriculture** - According to a Lankadeepa, Shavendra Silva has mentioned that in the next cropping season (Yala), a soldier would be deployed to every farm on the island to assist farmers. The involvement of the military in civilian tasks in free countries is controversial. Moreover, increasing militarisation is viewed with concern, Economy Next reports.

Elephants

15.02.2022: **Elephants** - An elephant which had fallen into a pit in the Pankulam area of Trincomalee prior to 09.02.2022 has been struggling for its life with no assistance from authorities despite local concerns and requests, reports Virakesari. Later reports indicate that the elephant died on 20.02.2022.

17.02.2022: **Elephants** - A 46-year-old female farm-owner has been arrested by occupational Oddusuddan Police after an elephant which was around 08 years old was found electrocuted and dead in Mullaitivu and is due to be produced before the Mullaitivu Magistrate's Court, reports Virakesari.

20.02.2022: **Elephants** - According to Virakesari, statistics from SL's Department of Wildlife indicate that human-elephant conflicts are on the rise. Most of these incidents are concentrated within the Tamil homeland. No permanent solutions have been sought for the issues caused by these conflicts to

neither the locals nor the wildlife. Deaths in 5 years - 558 Individuals and 1,678 Elephants

21.02.2022: **Elephants** - Over 650 coconut trees have been destroyed by wild elephants in Kilinochchi, affecting the livelihood of over 200 local families, reports Virakesari. Authorities' negligence and failure to provide compensation for the losses has prevented the locals from engaging in agricultural cultivation.

14.02.2022: **Myliddy** - According to EPDP MP Douglas Devananda, the second phase for the renovation of the Myliddy-Port has begun. The work of the second phase will be concluded probably at the end of this year, which will initiate the third phase, reported Athavan News. According to Virakesari, It is notable that 60 acres of land in Myliddy has been cleared and 100-125 acres of lands are to be released in the refurbishment process.

15.02.2022: **Agriculture** - In order to assist the low-income farmers, the Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) has conducted a rice harvesting programme. The programme was launched on 12.02.2022 in Morawewa, Trincomalee. This project was to provide incentives to farmers to increase their income by reducing the cost of harvesting, Economy Next reports.

Theft

01.02.2022: **Shooting** - In a cordon operation to round up alleged thieves who were engaged in

robberies across Tamil Eelam in November 2021 and 18.12.2021 at the Akkaraipattu Magistrate's residence, occupational police have been reported to have opened fire at two men around 22.00 local time near the Karaitivu Junction, reports Virakesari.

Reports indicate that the operation was carried out through the formation of a special team of 4 special police units. The two were arrested by occupational police whilst further investigations are underway.

01.02.2022: **Robbery** - According to the occupational Omanthai police, a residence in the Veppankulam area of Vavuniya had been broken into at noon local time with jewellery and money stolen, reports Virakesari.

02.02.2022: **Break in** - According to Virakesari, Kopay's occupational police had arrested three individuals on the basis of CCTV footage for breaking in and attacking a residence in Kondavil, Jaffna.

06.02.2022: **Crime** - According to Virakesari, a man who was following a woman on a motorcycle in the Kokuvil area cut off a gold chain around the woman's neck and fled around 18.30 local time on 05.02.2022. The suspect was later tracked down by the woman's son who handed him over to the occupational Kokuvil police. Reports indicate that the suspect was produced before the

Batticaloa Magistrate's Court on 06.02.2022 where the Magistrate ordered the suspect to be further remanded until 08.02.2022 for further investigations to be conducted by occupational police.

16.02.2022: **Theft** - Reports indicate that thieves broke into a residence in Arali, Jaffna and stole jewellery worth LKR 15 lakhs, reports Virakesari.

24.02.2022: **Robbery** - According to the Tamil Guardian, an elderly woman from Jaffna was robbed and murdered on Tuesday. Mariyanayakam Kanikkai Amma, 72, according to Jaffna's occupational police, was attacked with flowerpots by a young man who came to work at her house, who then fled with her gold jewellery.

16.02.2022: **Stamp** - A commemorative stamp was launched in Colombo to commemorate the birth centenary of Tamil veteran journalist, S.T. Sivanayagam. Many SL Parliamentarians attended the stamp launch event, reports Virakesari.

20.01.2022: **Maithri** - According to Athavan News, Maithripala Sirisena travelled to the North of the Tamil homeland to attend the local conference of the SLFP-Party. On 19.02.2022 it has been reported that the SLFP-Conference disturbed the AL-exams of the Saivapragasa Ladies College in Vavuniya. He stated that he is thankful to the Tamil people since they were a

contributor to his election as SL President in 2015. He also noted that it was always the SLFP who fought for the disadvantaged and took action. Further reports indicate that he went to the Nallur Kandaswamy Temple to attend the rituals there.

Accident

01.02.2022: **Accident** - Reports from Virakesari indicate that one individual had been injured in an accident between two tipper vehicles and a parked motorcycle on the A9 Road opposite the Vavuniya District Secretariat on the evening of 01.02.2022. The injured individual was admitted to the Vavuniya District General Hospital whilst occupational Vavuniya Traffic Police conduct further investigations.

06.02.2022: **Explosion** - According to Virakesari, a gas stove explosion was reported around 12.30 local time on 06.02.2022 at a residence on the Valaichenai-5 Postal Road. Reports indicate that occupational police are conducting further investigations.

07.02.2022: **Accident** - Two individuals have been admitted in Vavuniya's hospital after sustaining injuries when a Kendra vehicle carrying iron rods lost control of its speed and collided with a tree in the Pambaimadu area on the afternoon of 07.02.2022, reports Virakesari.

10.02.2022: **Accident** - 18-year-old Sasikumar Lisan of Ilavalai was killed on the spot when a tipper truck collided with a motorcycle in Varuthalaivilan. According to Virakesari, another youth was admitted to Tellipalai Base Hospital with serious injuries.

15.02.2022: **Accident** - A woman was killed in an accident near Ariyambathi Maha Vidyalaya on the Batticaloa-Kalmunai Road where a pedestrian and vehicle collided. According to Virakesari, the collision resulted due to the negligence of the driver.

15.02.2022: **Accident** - According to the occupational police of Nellikulam, a youth was killed and two were injured in a three-motorcycle accident on Marakkarambalai Road in Vavuniya, reports Virakesari.

21.02.2022: **Tamil Journalists** - According to Virakesari, the new Executive Committee of the Tamil Journalists' Union were elected during the union's Annual General Meeting at 10.00 local time on 20.02.2022 at the Colombo Tamil Sangam Kalavinodan Hall.

Positions

- ♦ Chairman - S. Srikajan (Virakesari)
- ♦ Deputy Chairman - Leo Nirosha Darshan
- ♦ Secretary - K. Jayanthiran (Dinakkural)
- ♦ Deputy Secretaries - Dharmini Pathmanathan & S. Sivasanmuganathan

- ◆ Treasurer - P. Vigneswaran (Suriyaan FM)
- ◆ Deputy Treasurer - S. Vaas Kunjai
- ◆ Northern Provincial Coordinator - Ganapthy Sarvananda
- ◆ Hills Country Coordinators - Saravanan & Sivalingam Sivakumaran
- ◆ Board of Directors
 - ◆ Sivarajah
 - ◆ S. Anantha Bala Kitner
 - ◆ N. Jayakanthan
 - ◆ V. Priyadarshan
 - ◆ R. Sethuraman
 - ◆ K. Laxman Cecil
 - ◆ Priyanka Chandrasekaran
 - ◆ K. Harendran
 - ◆ K. Prasanna Kumar

Mining

08.02.2022: **Demining** - The Government of Japan has provided LKR 128 million to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to continue demining activities in Tamil Eelam, reports Colombo Page. The grant contract was signed virtually by the Ambassador of Japan, Mizukoshi Kideaki and Cristy McLennan, Country Director of MAG virtually on 01.02.2022.

10.02.2022: **Treasure** - According to Virakesari, six individuals have been arrested in a raid conducted by the occupational Mannar police to capture individuals involved in allegedly digging for treasure. The suspects are to be produced before the Mannar Magistrate on 10.02.2022.

15.02.2022: **Treasure** - According to Virakesari, a man was arrested on 15.02.2022 for suspected involvement in treasure-hunting activities involving illegal digging for treasure in the Kuruvil area of Mannar after occupational police received a tip-off from SL intelligence. Reports indicate that six other suspects had fled.

21.02.2022: **Sand Mining** - Two tipper trucks and a tractor involved in illegal sand mining activities in Akkarayan, Kilinochchi have been seized during a special operation conducted by occupational police, reports Virakesari. The drivers of the vehicles were also arrested.

23.02.2022: **Abduction** - A 21-year-old girl was abducted by a gang of teachers whilst returning from a high school examination at Arasadithivu School in Batticaloa, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that the abduction had occurred as one of the teachers had fallen in love with the student. Further investigations are being conducted by occupational Kakkadicholai Police.

Contraband

10.02.2022: **Drugs** - Following information received from SL's Army Intelligence, SL police arrested a suspect selling small packages of cannabis in Jaffna, reports Virakesari.

22.02.2022: **Cannabis** - A shop owner was arrested by occupational police with 1,700g of Kerala Cannabis on the night of

21.02.2022 in Eravur, reports Virakesari.

26.02.2022: **Hospital** - A 3-storey gynaecological ward complex was co-inaugurated by the MJF Foundation Fund and the Ian & Barbaragan Fund at the Paruthithurai Base Hospital, reports Virakesari. It is notable that many SL Health Ministry officials and local political representatives were present at the inaugural event.

Deaths/Injuries

07.02.2022: **Body** - The body of 33-year-old father of two from Sannar village, K. Baskaran was found near Pallamadu-Vidathaltivu Main Road in Manthai West on the morning of 07.02.2022, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that Baskaran had left his residence on 06.02.2022 and was reported to have been returning home. Occupational Atampam Police are conducting investigations to determine whether the cause of death was murder or an accident.

07.02.2022: **Injury** - 33-year-old Subramaniam Kannan from Chettikulam was rescued from the Kankankulam area of Vavuniya on the morning of 07.02.2022 with head injuries and admitted into Vavuniya's hospital by ambulance. According to Virakesari, Kannan who left his residence around 16.00 local time

on 06.02.2022 did not return home causing concerns. Reports indicate that occupational Vavuniya police are conducting further investigations.

07.02.2022: **Body** - The body of 69-year-old Seenithambi Yogarasa of Thiyavattavan - Mayilankarai who was missing for 15 days was found in the Punana field, reports Virakesari.

09.02.2022: **Suicide** - According to occupational Eravur Police, a 17-year-old girl from the Kaluvankerni area of Batticaloa had completed suicide by consuming poison on the night of 08.02.2022 when her father objected to her love relationship. The girl's 53-year-old father, Muthu Krishnakumar completed suicide on the morning of 09.02.2022 after locals accused the father of causing the young girl's death. According to Virakesari, autopsies and investigations are underway.

10.02.2022: **Assault** - According to Virakesari, an employee at a store in Vavuniya has assaulted an individual who went to purchase items at the Vavuniya Sathosa outlet when an argument broke out between the employee and customer regarding the pricing of items. Vavuniya police are conducting further investigations into the incident and the customer received treatment for his leg injury.

Sri Lanka

01.02.2022: **Appointments** - According to Virakesari, seven newly appointed Ambassadors to SL and two High Commissioners had presented their credentials to G. Rajapaksa at SL's Presidential Secretariat on the afternoon of 01.02.2022.

Ambassadors

1. Denmark to SL - Mr. Freddy Svane
2. Estonia to SL - Ms. Katrin Kivi
3. Kazakhstan to SL - Mr. Nurlan Zhalgazbayev
4. Philippines to SL - Mr. Alan Deniega
5. Austria to SL - Ms. Katharina Wieser
6. Iceland to SL - Ms. Katni Prakashan
7. Israel to SL - Mr. Naor Gilon

High Commissioners

1. Pakistan to SL - Major General (Retd) Umar Farooq Burki
2. Gambia to SL - Mr. Mustafa Jawara

01.02.2022: **MV Express Pearl** - According to Virakesari, SL has planned to remove waste from the ship's wreckage within 120-days. SL's Cabinet has also been considering the following propositions made by SL's Minister for Justice:

- ♦ A Monitoring Committee led by the Director General of the Merchant Shipping Secretariat has been appointed to oversee the waste management process to ensure that waste disposal does not continue to pollute the oceans.
- ♦ The first instalment of compensation has been paid to all the fishermen affected thus far.
- ♦ Complete removal of the fishing ban imposed upon the Kalutara district.

- ♦ The ban on Colombo and Gampaha districts will be lifted once the waste disposal process is completed.
- ♦ A portion of SL's Fisheries and Marine Environment Monitoring Authority's stake of USD 3.7 million has been deposited to GoSL and discussions with the Be & I Company are being conducted to acquire the remaining stake.
- ♦ Sending specimens to foreign laboratories for the analysis of anatomical specimens and other specimens of marine life.
- ♦ Legal advice on environmental impact will be provided by the Helmore Company of Australia.

03.02.2022: **Ragama** - Sri Lanka's State Minister of Coconut, Kithul and Palmyrah Cultivation Promotion and Related Industrial Product Manufacturing and Explore Diversification, Arundika Fernando resigned from post until further notice following assault on Ragama Medical students by his son Avinda Randila Jehan Fernando reports the Colombo Page. The assault carried out by 15 persons on 02.02.2022 at Kelaniya University's Faculty of Medicine in Ragama resulted in injury to 3 medical students with one student transferred to Negombo Hospital for treatment.

SL's Independence Day

03.02.2022: **Pardon** - According to Virakesari, 197 prisoners are set to be released on 04.02.2022 under a Presidential Pardon by SL's President, G. Rajapaksa in light of SL's 74th Independence Day.

- ♦ Mahara Prison - 20 prisoners
- ♦ Kegalle Prison - 18 prisoners
- ♦ Welikada Prison - 17 prisoners
- ♦ Kalutara Prison - 13 prisoners
- ♦ Bokambara Prison - 11 prisoners
- ♦ Batticaloa Prison - 11 prisoners
- ♦ Wariyapola Prison - 10 prisoners

04.02.2022: **Investment** - On the occasion of the 74th Independence Day celebrations, G. Rajapaksa stresses the importance of foreign investment, which is particularly important for large projects, industries that require modern technological know-how. He thus defends himself against trade unions and some opposition parties criticising the following agreements:

- ♦ Agreement with Indian Oil Corporation on the Trincomalee oil tank farm.
- ♦ Agreement with an Indian conglomerate on the joint development of the eastern container terminal of the port of Colombo
- ♦ Agreement to hand over the gas supply for the Kerawalapitiya power plant to an energy company based in the USA.

To mobilise the entire economic process, the legal framework should be ensured, Economy Next reported.

04.02.2022: **Promotions** - Shavendra Silva promoted 11,027 SL personnel with the approval of G. Rajapaksa in light of SL's 74th Independence Day, reports Virakesari.

- ♦ 8,513 Military personnel
 - ♦ 480 Army Officers
 - ♦ 7 Senior Brigadiers to Major General
 - ♦ 16 Colonels to Brigadier

- ♦ 36 Lieutenant Colonels to Colonel
- ♦ 50 Majors to Lieutenant Colonel
- ♦ 207 Captains to Major
- ♦ 94 Lieutenants to Captain
- ♦ 70 2nd Lieutenants to Lieutenants

- ♦ 8,034 Soldiers
- ♦ 2,513 Air Force personnel
 - ♦ 175 Officers
 - ♦ 2,338 Other Ranks

07.02.2022: **Meeting** - According to Virakesari, G. Rajapaksa and M. Rajapaksa headed a Ruling Party Members' Committee Meeting for the SLPP at the Temple Trees on 07.02.2022.

Issues discussed:

- ♦ SL's Upcoming Parliamentary Proceedings
- ♦ S's Power Crisis
- ♦ Renewable Energy Source Usage
- ♦ Improvement of SL's Export Economy

Attendees:

- ♦ Dinesh Gunawardena
- ♦ B. Rajapaksa
- ♦ Johnston Fernando
- ♦ SL Ministers of State
- ♦ SL Members of Parliament
- ♦ Additional Secretary to SL's Prime Minister - Saminda Kularatne
- ♦ Coordinating Secretary to SL's Prime Minister for Parliamentary Affairs - Priyantha Ratnayake

08.02.2022: **Trincomalee** - The agreement on the development of the Trincomalee Oil Farms was tabled in SL's Parliament by SL's Minister of Power and Energy, Udaya Gammanpila on 08.02.2022 in Sinhala, Tamil and English, reports Virakesari.

08.02.2022: **Customs** - In a special meeting on the release of essential items in the possession of SL's Customs Department held at SL's Presidential Secretariat on the afternoon of 07.02.2022, G. Rajapaksa called for the release of containers. Further steps have also been taken to appoint a committee led by B. Rajapaksa to ensure an uninterrupted supply of essential commodities such as food, reports Virakesari.

Attendees:

- ♦ B. Rajapaksa
- ♦ Bandula Gunawardena
- ♦ Rohitha Abeygunawardena
- ♦ Ajith Nivaad Cabraal
- ♦ Lasantha Alagiyawanna
- ♦ Gamini Senarath
- ♦ S.R. Attygalle

08.02.2022: **Court of Justice** - SL will establish a Supreme Court for investment disputes for large investors and a new arbitration law for foreign investors. This will hear and decide cases relating to amounts of 50 million rupees arising from an initial investment of 100 million or more, Economy Next reports.

09.02.2022: **EU** - EU calls on SL to lift import restrictions "without delay" and calls for better amendments to an anti-terror law. Further, SL welcomes that the EU continues to classify the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a terrorist organisation and want to keep the fight against terrorism, Economy Next reports.

10.02.2022: **PTA** - The amended PTA (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 48 of 1979 was presented by Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris to SL's

parliament reports the Colombo Page. The discussions regarding the bill will be undertaken at another date.

10.02.2022: **Appointment** - According to Virakesari, Anura Priyadharshana Yapa was unanimously elected as the Chairman to the Committee on Public Finance on 08.02.2022. Further reports indicate that Professor Tissa Vitharana was elected as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) during the same session.

10.02.2022: **Petroleum exploration** - According to Economy Next, the government of India has been talking to SL about petroleum exploration. In March 2022, exploration block M2 will be auctioned for investors, which was not awarded then. Besides, possible oil blocks in the country and in the waters of the Mannar, Cauvery and Lanka basins will be redefined into 270 blocks.

13.02.2022: **Crisis committee** - According to Economy Next, G. Rajapaksa has a crisis committee to ensure that consumers are supplied with essential goods without creating shortages during the New Year in April 2022. Due to the shortage of foreign exchange, it should be ensured that essential goods are available.

15.02.2022: **Law** - According to Virakesari, SL's Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena certified the Mahapola Higher Education Scholarship Trust (Amendment) Bill as SL's first legislation of 2022 which would come into effect from 14.02.2022.

15.02.2022: **COPE** - SL's Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE) has summoned

many of SL's Enterprises to appear before them across the next few weeks, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that COPE's chairman, Professor Charita Herath was re-elected on 10.03.2022 at an SL Parliamentary session.

Summons:

- ♦ 23.02.2022 - Bureau of Geological Survey of SL
- ♦ 24.02.2022 - SL Standards Orders Company
- ♦ 10.03.2022 - Development Lottery Board
- ♦ 11.03.2022 - Marine Economic Protection Authority
- ♦ 23.03.2022 - State Compensation Investment Bank
- ♦ 24.03.2022 - Export Development Board
- ♦ 25.03.2022 - People's Bank

15.02.2022: **SL Cabinet** - According to Virakesari, the following decisions were made during an SL Cabinet Session held on 14.02.2022.

- ♦ Research Cooperation between Sri Jayawardenapura University and Texas A&M University, USA within the area of autism and biochemical trends
- ♦ Home Economic Security (Relief Package) Program for 40 low-income families in each Grama Niladhari
- ♦ Establishment of a network of small shops for female entrepreneurs
- ♦ Provision of Wheat Flour relief for plantation workers
- ♦ Green SL: "One for One - One Sapling" National Program
- ♦ Strengthen activities of SL Climate Change Fund (PVT) Company under SL Ministry of Environment

- ♦ Preparation of Road Map and Strategy Plan to make SL a Carbon Net Zero by 2050
- ♦ Integration of non-motorised modes of transport within SL's transport infrastructure
- ♦ Request for
 - ♦ Sales Terminal Volume (POS) for Consumer Outlets in Multipurpose Co-operative Societies
 - ♦ Receipt of knot type treatment masks
- ♦ Regulation of distribution of essential consumer goods to market
- ♦ 2022 Economy and Forward Journey initiative in consultation with China, Japan and Middle East
- ♦ Untruthful campaign on Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Liability Fund Overpayment

16.02.2022: **Petrol price** - According to Economy Next, Sri Lanka Ceylon Petroleum Corporation wants to seek a price increase or a tax cut. This should reduce losses.

16.02.2022: **Bribery** - According to Virakesari, SL Minister Keheliya Rambukwella and Chandrapala Liyanage were released on bail after being acquitted of bribery charges on 15.02.2022 by Colombo Chief Justice, Buddhika C. Ragala.

16.02.2022: **Conference** - According to Virakesari, the 9th National Conference of the All-Ceylon Professional Resources Association was held on the afternoon of 16.02.2022 under the chairmanship of G. Rajapaksa at the Mahindha Rajapaksa Hall, Colombo Lotus Pond.

17.02.2022: **Inquiry** - According to Virakesari, Ranjan Ramanayake was presented before an SL Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCol) into allegations of political revenge on the morning of 17.02.2022 by SL's Prisons Authorities.

18.02.2022: **Easter attack** - SL's Colombo High Court called for the acquittal and release of the country's former Defense Secretary Hemasiri Fernando and former IGP Pujith Jayasundera of charges related to the Easter Attacks following initial charges in connection to failing to act as it relates to the attack reports Colombo Page. The acquittal and release were urged to take place without a defence statement.

20.02.2022: **Reconciliation** - According to Virakesari, The Basic Report for The Public 2020-2021 of SL's Barometer was released - emphasising the strengthening of a reconciliation mechanism in SL.

21.02.2022: **Judicial Reform** - According to Economy Next, the Ministry of Justice of SL is launching a Judicial Reform (JURE) programme. This reform will be funded with EUR 19 million from the EU and the UN.

22.02.2022: **SL Cabinet** - G. Rajapaksa chaired a Special SL Cabinet Meeting on 22.02.2022 to discuss SL's fuel and electricity crisis, reports Virakesari.

22.02.2022: **Easter Sunday** - According to Virakesari, the PCol appointed to examine the Easter Sunday Attacks of

2019 had submitted a collection of survival attack evidence and witnesses to SL Parliament. The complete report included 88 volumes.

23.02.2022: **New Delhi** - According to Economy Next, Peiris addressed the diplomatic corps in New Delhi on 18.02.2022 and briefed 83 envoys on the progress made on human rights and post-war reconciliation as part of the continued engagement ahead of the upcoming UNHRC session. Similarly, he said, the PTA would be amended.

23.02.2022: **Fuel** - The chairperson of the All Ceylon Private Bus Owners Association is demanding that private buses and container transport service providers be given preference in the release of diesel. Moreover, the country's imports and exports would be severely affected by the fuel shortage, Economy Next reports.

28.02.2022: **Facebook** - 'Facebook Protect', a programme that offers a higher level of protection from hacking attacks, is now available for SL. This serves human rights defenders, journalists and government officials who have a high likelihood of being attacked by hackers, Economy Next.

28.02.2022: **Corruption** - According to Athavan News, B. Rajapaksa has been acquitted from a charge of misappropriating state funds from the Kaduwela Court. There is another Case on pending for misappropriating funds in the Divineguma Department.

Economic News

Economic Profile – February 2022

Inflation	December 2021	↑ to 14.2%
	January 2022	↑ to 16.8%
Money Printing	Year 2021	LKR 1.2 trillion
Central bank credit to the government	Year 2021	↑ to LKR 2,093 billion
Gross official foreign reserve	December 2021	about USD 3,137 million
	January 2022	↓ by 24% to USD 2,361 million
Gold reserves	December 2021	about USD 175 million
	January 2022	↓ to USD 92 million
Trade Exports Imports	January 2022	↑ by 42.2% compared to January 2021
	December 2021	↑ to USD 2.2 billion
	Year 2021	about USD 20.6 billion
BOP Deficit	Year 2021	about USD 3,961 million
Remittances	January 2022	↓ by 61.6% to USD 259.2 million

SL's economic developments reported within the month of February 2022.

01.02.2022: **Oil** - According to Virakesari, SL's Cabinet has approved a proposal submitted by SL's Minister for Energy to implement the distribution of lubricating oil to Sappugaskanda oil with necessary steps taken to supply oil required to the refinery by July 2022.

01.02.2022: **Super tax** - The Cabinet of Ministers has approved SL's Finance Minister's proposal that companies and individuals who earned more than LKR 2,000 crore in 2020/2021 will be slapped with an additional super tax of 25%. According to Economy Next, several other taxes have also been proposed to raise revenue.

01.02.2022: **Cyprus** - According to Economy Next, Terra Nevis Group in Cyprus SL has offered to supply 450,000 barrels of crude oil needed for the Sapugaskanda refinery with a 180-day credit. The solo refinery has had to close twice since November 2021 due to lack of foreign currency to import.

01.02.2022: **Emergency power** - According to Economy Next, G. Rajapaksa has ordered tenders for procurement of emergency power. There could be a capacity shortfall of 300 megawatts in March 2022, peak of the dry season.

02.02.2022: Government bonds -

According to Economy Next, SL has sold LKR 88.5 billion worth of government bonds. This was to increase the total volume of the three-month paper.

02.02.2022: MV X-Press Pearl - In May 2021, the Singapore-flagged container ship MV X-Press Pearl started a fire, carrying hundreds of tonnes of chemicals and plastic sponges. The wreckage is being removed by Chinese salvage company Shanghai Salvage Company, Economy Next reports.

02.02.2022: Fuel credit line - According to Economy Next, SL signs USD 500 million with the Indian Export-Import Bank (EXIM) for the purchase of petroleum products. The agreement was signed in the presence of B. Rajapaksa. The High Commission of India is determined to help SL, closest neighbour and long-time partner in economic recovery.

02.02.2022: IMF - According to Economy Next, SL has written to the IMF for technical advice. Nivard Cabraal, the Governor of the Central Bank tweeted that it was a technical assistance (TA) mission. Whether the advice will be accepted will have to be decided together later.

03.02.2022: Debt - B. Rajapaksa has mentioned that SL's total debt of USD 6.9 billion will be repaid. For this purpose, these loan repayments will be divided into quarters, Economy Next reports.

03.02.2022: Kuwait - Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has agreed to provide the University of Moratuwa LKR 6600 million to construct

and equip the faculty reports Colombo Page. The loan agreement was signed between Sri Lanka's Ministry of Finance S.R. Attiygalle, and Nedhal, A. Al-Olayan, Deputy Director General on behalf of KFAED with the project being conducted by the Ministry of Education between 2022-2026.

05.02.2022: IMF - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is ready to discuss options if the government asks for financial support. On 02.02.2022, M. Rajapaksa had requested the fund for advice and was considering requesting an international bailout.

06.02.2022: Credit - According to Economy Next, SL is requesting for a credit line of USD 200 million from Australia to buy lentils and other food items. In addition, SL has also requested for over USD 200 million from Pakistan due to SL's shortage of foreign exchange. A credit line of USD 500 million has already been granted by India for fuel and a swap of USD 400 million for SL's Central Bank.

05.02.2022: CEB - According to Virakesari, the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has incurred an additional cost of around LKR 2,000 million due to SL's current power crisis with overhead prices ranging from mid-December 2021-early January 2022.

07.02.2022: BOI - According to Economy Next, G. Rajapaksa has appointed Renuka Weerakone as the acting director general of the state Board of Investment (BOI). Weerakone has worked for the Board of Investment for more than 27 years. She has served at

the Sino-SL Free Trade Agreement in Beijing, the Joint Council under the US-SL Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in Washington, and investment promotion missions to China, the UK, the US, Japan, Russia and other countries.

08.02.2022: **Japan** - According to Virakesari, the Government of Japan has donated LKR 700 million worth vehicles and equipment to SL to thwart drug and terrorist activities in the second phase of Japan's assistance program. The donations were handed over to G. Rajapaksa at the premises of SL's Presidential Secretariat by Japan's Ambassador to SL, Mizokuni Hideaki on the morning of 08.02.2022.

- ♦ Land Cruiser 28
- ♦ Prado Vehicle
- ♦ Scanners for detection drugs and ammunition

10.02.2022: **Exchange rate** - To defend peg of 200 to USD, SL sells foreign exchange reserves to commercial banks. To maintain this fixed policy rate, money must be printed. In November and December of 2021 alone, USD 664 million in reserves were sold to commercial banks, Economy Next reports.

10.02.2022: **Repo** - According Economy Next, SL's Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) is promoting the establishment of a vibrant REPO market for debt securities listed on the CSE. The debt instruments will be conducted on the Over The Counter (OTC) platform.

13.02.2022: **Statement** - According to Virakesari, representatives of SL's political parties had joined to comment on SL's

deepening economic crisis in a joint-statement. Signatories include:

- ♦ Sajith Premadasa
- ♦ Kabir Hashim
- ♦ Harsha de Silva
- ♦ Eran Wickramaratna
- ♦ A.S. Rauf Hakeem
- ♦ Rishad Bathiudeen
- ♦ Mano Ganesan
- ♦ Karu Jayasuriya
- ♦ R. Sampanthan
- ♦ M. A. Sumanthiran
- ♦ R. Chanakiyan
- ♦ Tissa Vidarana

15.02.2022: **Fuel** - According to Virakesari, India's High Commissioner had handed over 40,000 metric tonnes of fuel on behalf of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to SL's Energy Minister Gammanpila.

19.02.2022: **Fuel crisis** - According to The Hindu, SL is out of cash to buy oil. Gammanpila has mentioned 'earlier, we were short of dollars to import oil. Now we don't have the rupees to buy the dollars.'

20.02.2022: **Trains** - According to Colombo Gazette, Indian trains have completed a trial run successfully. The air-conditioned Diesel trains have been provided to SL from India under a USD 318 million line of credit. Railway tracks have also been upgraded through the deal.

20.02.2022: **BOI** - G. Rajapaksa in his Independence Day speech urged the SL diaspora to invest their savings in their homeland. In view of this, SL's state-led Board of Investment (BOI) is to come up with an incentive package for Sri

Lankans with foreign citizenship,
Economy Next reports.

20.02.2022: **World Bank** - According to Virakesari, World Bank had announced that they are willing to assist SL to develop their agriculture, dairy and fisheries industries. The announcement was made during an address made at "The Road to Success in 2022" Panel Discussion which was co-organised by The Daily Financial Times and the University of Colombo's MBA Alumni Association.

20.02.2022: **Oil prices** - SL has the highest ever crude oil price which is LKR 19,285 per barrel. This is due to the sharp depreciation of the rupee, Economy Next reports.

24.02.2022: **Financial facilities** - According to Economy Next, talks have been initiated with banks in the Middle East for financial facilities worth USD 2.0 billion.

25.02.2022: **Price control** - G. Rajapaksa has ordered price controls on milk. Price differences in the purchase of liquid milk should be eliminated. This decision comes after a visit to Milco, a state-owned dairy, and was meant to support dairy farmers, reports Economy Next.

28.02.2022: **Imports** - According to Economy Next, SL imports more than half of its soya beans, sunflower oil, peas and asbestos from Russia and Ukraine. In addition, Russia and Ukraine are major importers of tea from SL. Due to the war, SL's trade was negatively affected.



News about Oppression & Resistance

Protests Timeline

- ▶ 01.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest is being conducted for the second consecutive day by locals in the areas of Vadamarachchi, Paruthithurai and Supermadam against Indian fishermen's encroachment activities. Reports indicate that the locals had set up their nets, boats and tents whilst bearing a banner commemorating the death of two youth, Premkumar and Thanikaimaran. The protest has caused traffic to come to a standstill resulting in the deployment of occupational police to the site.
- ▶ 01.02.2022: **Vadamarachchi** - A sit-in protest was staged opposite the Vadamarachchi East Maruthankerni Secretariat from 07.30 local time, blocking traffic and secretariat officials from entering their office. According to Virakesari, the protest was against Indian fishermen's encroachment and demanded justice for the death of Premkumar and Thanikaimaran who went fishing from the Vathirayan area to obstruct Indian encroachment.
- ▶ 02.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, students of the Sreesanmuga Women's College in Trincomalee had staged a mass protest opposite the school on 02.02.2022, condemning a teacher who had attended the school wearing the Islamic culture attire, Abaya despite being instructed not to. The teacher has been admitted into hospital after being attacked by the school's principal during an argument between the school's administration and the teacher. It is notable that the teacher was returning to teach at the school after an issue had emerged regarding the Abaya at the school in 2019. Occupational police and the Eastern Provincial Department of Education are conducting investigations.
- ▶ 02.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Ranmuthukala Sankaratne Thera had led a public protest on 02.02.2022 claiming that the area is affected by sewage from the Islamabad Housing Project in the Kalmunai Divisional Secretariat Division of Amparai. Immediate waste disposal was demanded, causing relevant officials to arrive at the site for discussions. Whilst the officials assured that the disposal would be conducted with the assistance of the Municipal Council, the protestors denied the promise and demanded a permanent solution.
- ▶ 02.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Jaffna fishermen had besieged the Paruthiththurai Divisional Secretariat in a protest staged opposite the Secretariat and the Jaffna-Paruthiththurai Main Road

blocking traffic and office operations. The protest was staged against Indian encroachment in Tamil Eelam's territorial waters. Nets and boats damaged by the Indian fishermen were strewn across the roads and across the entry of the Divisional Secretariat in protest. Further reports indicate that a heavy occupational police presence was evident at the sites of protest.

- ▶ 02.02.2022: **Protest** - In a media briefing in Supermadam, protesting fishermen mentioned that their struggle will proceed until competent authorities provide a written order permanently preventing Indian boats encroaching in Tamil Eelam's occupied territorial waters, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 03.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, the Jaffna District Fishermen's Association had staged a protest condemning Indian encroachment in Tamil Eelam's waters through blocking the A9 Road and all three gates leading to the Jaffna District Secretariat. Occupational police and traffic police have been diverting traffic travelling along the A9 to take an alternate route.
- ▶ 03.02.2022: **Protest** - A protest was staged opposite the Mankadu Saraswathi Maha Vidyaalayam, Batticaloa questioning many administrative issues in the education system, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 03.02.2022: **Protest** - Parents of students attending the Sreesanmuga

Hindu Women's College staged a protest on 03.02.2022 demanding the immediate transfer of a teacher who attended school wearing an Abaya, reports Virakesari.

- ▶ 04.02.2022: **Black Day** - Relatives of the disappeared in Tamil Eelam have declared SL's 74th Independence Day as the Tamil Nation's Black Day and have launched mass protests across the occupied Tamil Homeland bearing black flags, reports Virakesari.
 - Mullivaikkal** - protest staged at Mullivaikkal's shores from 10.00 local time.
 - Jaffna** - protest staged at Jaffna Central Bus Stand from 10.00 local time.
 - Kurunthoormalai** - a flame was lit in protest at Kurunthoormalai by locals and Tamil politicians despite the SL Archaeology Department's affidavit which prevented worship at the site.
- ▶ 04.02.2022: **Protest** - Vadamarachchi fishermen have altered their method of protest after protesting for 5 consecutive days and have gone to sea to carry forth their struggle, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 05.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Athavan News, ITAK Party collected signatures in Kilinochchi to abolish the PTA.
- ▶ 05.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest was staged by locals in Trincomalee opposite the Kachchakodi Island Pradesiya Sabha on the Colombo-Kinniya Main Road

at 09.00 local time on 05.02.2022 against the construction of a shop where a Children's Park is located. Further reports indicate that the protest was co-organised by five associations. It is notable that the Kinniya Divisional Secretariat had sent a letter to the Kachchakodi Island Rural Development Association on 31.01.2022 to suspend the construction of the shop building. Clashes ensued between locals and contractors at the construction site.

- ▶ 06.02.2022: **PTA** - According to the Tamil Guardian, those in Kilinochchi have launched a signature campaign demanding for the PTA to be repealed.
- ▶ 06.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, M.A. Sumanthiran is leading a signature campaign demanding the removal of the PTA.
- ▶ 07.02.2022: **Strike** - According to Virakesari, nurses and doctors at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital have gone on strike regarding many issues including wages on 07.02.2022. It is notable that the strike is being conducted in conjunction with many other medical officials across the island.
- ▶ 08.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, Woman Life and Rights Association Kilinochchi conducted a protest in Jaffna. They demanded protection for female children and control over rising prices.
- ▶ 09.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, the Ceylon Workers

Red flag union and the Ceylon Federation of trade union protested in front of the District labour office of Hutton. They demanded the rights of the labourer should be protected by a union contract and a raise of 1000 rupee in the salary. 50 individuals attended the demonstration.

- ▶ 09.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, plantation workers staged a protest in Hutton co-organised by the Ceylon Workers Red Flag Union and Ceylon Federation of Trade-Unions on 09.02.2022, demanding the renewal of the collective agreement in the interest of the workers. It is notable that a memorandum containing the demands of the workers was handed over to SL's Minister of Labour.
- ▶ 09.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, Preschool teachers from Mannar, Nanaddan, Madu, Musali and Mandhai conducted a protest to demand permanent occupation and higher salaries instead of the LKR 6,000 per month.
- ▶ 09.02.2022: **Strike** - Health workers are reported to continue their strike for the third consecutive day after discussions with SL's Health Minister ended in disagreement, Virakesari reports.
- ▶ 09.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest was staged on 09.02.2022 opposite the Nuwara Eliya District Secretariat demanding the establishment of five new Divisional Secretariats in Nuwara Eliya as per an SL Gazette Notification issued in 2019.

- ▶ 10.02.2022: **Protest** - A demonstration was staged opposite the Vavuniya Hospital on 10.02.2022 in support of the island-wide health strike since 07.02.2022, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 11.02.2022: **Public Grievance Meeting** - In a visit to Vavuniya, G. Rajapaksa has been reported to have held a public grievance meeting where he had questioned locals who had visited the Vavuniya University grounds regarding their concerns. However, according to JDS Lanka, relatives of disappeared Tamils in Vavuniya protested and attempted to break through a police blockade in Vavuniya on 11.02.2022 to demand the fate of their relatives. Reports indicate that occupational Vavuniya police had formed a blockade preventing the relatives from proceeding to meet G. Rajapaksa who was visiting Vavuniya.
- ▶ 12.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, locals staged a protest opposite the Kokkilai Ilmenite Corporation against the occupation of privately-owned lands belonging to Tamils from Kokkilai to Semmalai East, bordering Mullaitivu. Reports indicate that SL Mineral Sands Ltd had set up a plant in Kokkilai in 2018 under the instructions of SL's Ministry of Industry with the intent of expropriating 44 acres of lands belonging to 16 Kokkilai residents without their permission. Within the past few weeks fences and land surveying had commenced causing local discontent.
- ▶ 12.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, Tamils from Kokkilai, Mullaitivu had staged a protest march against the appropriation of over 1,000 acres of lands within the Vanni region by state-owned companies operating under SL Minister Wimal Weerawansa.
- ▶ 13.02.2022: **Protest** - A signature campaign calling for the abolition of the PTA which was initiated by M.A. Sumanthiran in Mullaitivu is scheduled to occur in Colombo suburbs from the morning of 15.02.2022, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 15.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, the people from Kallundai Valley blocked the main road Jaffna-Ponnalai-Point Pedro in protest of the long lasting drink water problem, with no solution provided as of yet.
- ▶ 15.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, a signature protest was staged opposite Fort Railway Station from 11.00-13.00 local time on 14.02.2022 calling for the repeal of the PTA.
- ▶ 17.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Jaffna University students blockaded the entrance of Jaffna Uni premises, demanding the recognition of their student union. Reports indicate that the Vice Chancellor, S. Sri. Sargunarahah attempted to engage in tokenistic negotiations about exams with the students by requesting them to open the gates. Further reports indicate that the students abandoned their protest after the Vice Chancellor had pledged to form a student union

between 09.00-16.00 local time on 18.02.2022.

- ▶ 17.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, a signature protest was staged at the Achchuveli Main Road Bus Stand from 07.00 local time calling for the repeal of the PTA.
- ▶ 18.02.2022: **Protest** - According to JDS Lanka, Tamil media representatives in Jaffna wore black badges to protest the unresolved crimes against journalists when they attended the inauguration of the Jaffna branch of SL's Publications Unit on 18.02.2022.
- ▶ 21.02.2022: **Army Intimidation** - According to the Tamil Guardian, a SL soldier photographed Tamils in Jaffna as they were signing a petition for the PTA to be repealed.
- ▶ 21.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, Preschool teachers have protested in Jaffna and Vavuniya. They complained that the salary is much below the average and demanded a raise for financial security. They condemned the actions of SL's politicians who ignored their voices and complaints for years and instead financed the development of private schools.
- ▶ 22.02.2022: **Child Assault** - According to Athavan News, the citizens of Watawala protested in outrage of a Bhikku who assaulted a child. The Bhikku has been arrested by the police. The citizens demanded that proper punishment be imposed upon the Bhikku, and that justice and

protection should be maintained for all the children.

- ▶ 23.02.2022: **Protest** - According to JDS Lanka, three Tamil political prisoners detained at Jaffna prison commenced a hunger strike on 23.02.2022. Reports indicate that their relatives joined them in a protest fast outside the prison. Further reports from Virakesari indicate that the protest was temporarily halted from 25.02.2022 after the Governor of the Northern Province met with the protestors and their relatives. According to Athavan News, the political prisoners were arrested in 2020 under the PTA for conducting a Black Tigers' Remembrance Event.

Political prisoners on hunger strike:

- ◆ Rathinasingham Kamalakaran
 - ◆ Vaithiyalingam Nirmalan
 - ◆ Padmanathan Aingaran
- ▶ 23.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, Tamil MPs protested in Colombo to stop ceasing Tamil land in the North and the East in the guise of Archeology. CV. Wigneswaran and Shanakiyan were also present. Shanakiyan stated that they will also go so far to protest in front of the house Gotabaya Rajapaksa. According to Virakesari, Shanakiyan had warned G. Rajapaksa that they would storm his house if sufficient action was not taken in support of the Tamil fishermen. Further reports also indicate that he had mentioned that Tamil protestors were the ones protesting in Colombo as well.

- ▶ 24.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, the relatives of the disappeared in Vavuniya are reaching their 5th Jubilee. For 5 Years - 1,833 days, they have been protesting to get justice by the ICC and to investigate the atrocities of GoSL.
- ▶ 24.02.2022: **Protest** - Many Tamil political representatives joined a protest against the appropriation of Tamil lands by SL's Mahaweli Development, Archaeological and Wildlife Conservation in the North and East Department outside SL's Presidential Secretariat, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 25.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, a signature protest was staged in the Manipay and Sangana areas of Jaffna by ITAK's Youth Front calling for the repeal of the PTA.
- ▶ 27.02.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, The ITAK youth front has organised a protest in Batticaloa to repeal the PTA. It is notable that Tamils and Muslims participated in this protest. Further, Muslim women were noted to have expressed discontent and rage towards Ali Sabry.

01.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, the Centre for Policy Alternatives Sri Lanka (CPA-SL) cited in a published report that the amendments proposed to the PTA are mostly an attempt to counter international pressure but do not pose as an effective measure to resolve the practical issues with the legislation, thus emphasising the need to abolish it.

02.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, four individuals arrested and detained under the PTA were released on bail by the Eravur Tourism Court's Chief Magistrate, Karuppaiya Jeevarani on 02.02.2022 on the advice of SL's Attorney General. Reports indicate that the four individuals are to pay LKR 2 lakhs each and sign at the Eravur Tourist Court on the last Sunday of each month before 12.00 local time. Individuals released:

- ◆ K. Jagan - arrested for uploading a photograph of the National Leader of

Tamil Eelam, V. Prabhakaran onto Facebook.

- ◆ Yogeswaran
- ◆ W. Vivek
- ◆ K. Sopanandan

02.02.2022: **Missing** - A 15-year-old boy from Chandiveli, Batticaloa has been missing from his home since 28.01.2022, reports Virakesari.

02.02.2022: **Visit** - According to Virakesari, G. Rajapaksa made a monitoring visit to Mannar's "Thambapavani" Wind Farm operated by the Ceylon Electricity Board. The Wind Farm is the largest on the island. By 2030, GoSL aims to generate 70% of their total electricity through renewable energy sources. Sites such as Thambapavani indicate that such sources will be extracted from occupied Tamil Eelam, depriving locals of the environmental benefits.

03.02.2022: **LTTE** - In a public address made in Kolonnawa, the head of SL's One Country, One Law Task Force, Gnanasara Thero has called on G. Rajapaksa to release those arrested and detained for suspected links to the LTTE in light of SL's 74th Independence Day, reports Virakesari.

03.02.2022: **Ban** - According to Virakesari, fishermen continued to protest despite the removal of tents they had set up on Paruthithurai-Ponnalai Road by occupational SL police, and riot police who were deployed to the site after the Paruthithurai Magistrate's Court imposed a court injunction preventing the protests against Indian fishermen's encroachment in Tamil Eelam's waters.

04.02.2022: **Journalist** - According to JDS Lanka, an independent Tamil journalist and media activist, Punniyamoorthy Sasikaran was issued a restraining order by occupational Batticaloa police on 04.02.2022 to ban him from covering a protest organised to raise awareness regarding Tamils' grievances.

05.02.2022: **PTA** - Colombo's Chief Magistrate, Chandima Liyanage issued an order on 03.02.2022 to further remand seven individuals arrested and detained under the PTA on suspicion of aiding and abetting the Easter Sunday Bombings of 2019, reports Virakesari.

05.02.2022: **Visit** - Occupational SL soldiers appropriated 400 metres of Kattuvan Myliddy Road on the way to Jaffna Airport where new roads are being constructed without the consent of private landowners. According to

Virakesari, M.A. Sumanthiran visited the road to inspect the soldiers' activities.

05.02.2022: **Denial** - According to SLPP MP K. Masthan, in a media conference in Vavuniya, the government is trying its best to release the political prisoners and is holding talks with Tamil MPs. He also added that he believes that human rights issues will be dealt with soon and properly. Further he expressed his dismay about the Indian fishermen violating SL rights, reports Athavan News.

06.02.2022: **UN** - R. Sampanthan has confirmed that it has been decided that three additional letters will be sent to the UNHRC on behalf of Tamils, reports Virakesari.

- ◆ Recent Issues signed by
 - ◆ Vigneswaran
 - ◆ Suresh Premachandran
 - ◆ Selvam Adaikalanathan
 - ◆ Siddharthan
 - ◆ Srikantha
- ◆ On Behalf of Tamil Civil Societies in occupied Tamil Eelam
- ◆ On Behalf of Relatives of the Forcibly Disappeared

06.02.2022: **EU** - According to Virakesari, a virtual discussion was held where it was decided that C.V. Vigneswaran would be responsible for drafting a letter on behalf of Tamil political parties, to the member states of the UNHRC and European Union (EU) to encourage them to pressure SL to lift the PTA.

- ◆ TELO
- ◆ PLOTE
- ◆ EPRLF
- ◆ Tamil People's Alliance
- ◆ Tamil National Party

06.02.2022: **Statement** - Many have jointly-released a statement condemning SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement which refuted comments made by Ambika Satkunanathan regarding SL's Human Rights situation at the EU Parliamentary Subcommittee's virtual session on 27.01.2022. Statement signed by:

- ♦ 161 civil society activists
- ♦ 47 organisations

06.02.2022: **Demographics** - According ITAK MP Charles Nirmalanathan, the committee for development of Vavuniya district announced that the Sinhalese Villages Kanagawa, Kebitigolawa and Kambelya, Padawiya will disintegrate from the Anuradhapura district and be integrate in the Vavuniya District. Nirmalanathan sees here an attempt to raise the demography of the Sinhalese in Vavuniya and decrease the Tamil population, reported Athavan News.

07.02.2022: **PTA** - According to the Tamil Guardian, eight individuals arrested under the PTA in January 2019 have been released on bail. The five men and three woman received legal support from the Centre for Human Rights and Development in SL.

07.02.2022: **STF** - According to Athavan News, two persons were attacked in Varani, Thenmaradchi by two STF-soldiers in civilian clothes. One of them was shot in the hand by the STF and was brought to Chavakachcheri Emergency Hospital for treatment. The soldiers claimed that they acted in self-defence, when they pursued them for alleged involvement in illegally brewing alcohol.

07.02.2022: **Kurunthoormalai** - According to Virakesari, many SL officials and monks paid an unscheduled visit to Kurunthoormalai on 05.02.2022 in a "Prithvi Othal" worship practice between 07.00 - 00.00 local time. Attendees:

- ♦ SL's Wildlife and Forest Conservation Minister - C.B. Ratnayake
- ♦ SL's Foreign Minister - Professor Channa Janasumana
- ♦ More than 40 Buddhist monks

07.02.2022: **PTA** - SL's Court of Appeal judges, Maneka Wijesundera and Neil Ittawela issued a court order to the Puttalam High Court on 07.02.2022 to release Hejaaz Hizbullah, reports Virakesari.

08.02.2022: **PTA** - Eight individuals arrested and detained under the PTA for the possession of a Claymore bomb on 05.01.2019 were released on bail by a Vavuniya Court on 07.02.2022, reports Virakesari.

09.02.2022: **Release** - According to Virakesari, Francis Muni who was arrested and detained in relation to the grenade found at the All-Saints Church in Borella was released after Colombo's Chief Magistrate, Rajindra Jayasuriya ordered his release on 09.02.2022 after Colombo's Crime Prevention Unit notified the court that there were not enough charges to detain Muni further.

09.02.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, Karuppaiyya Jeevarani ordered the remand of Batticaloa Tamil Awareness Organisation's leader, Ganavathipillai Mohan who was arrested under the PTA on 03.05.2021 for uploading LTTE images onto websites until 23.02.2022.

09.02.2022: **Ban** - According to Virakesari, Rajindra Jayasuriya lift the travel ban imposed on MP Rishad Bathiudeen and released his passport after the restrictions were imposed upon Bathiudeen in connection with the death of a 16-year-old girl.

09.02.2022: **CID** - The Secretary of the Batticaloa District Tamil Journalists' Association and Batticaloa Press Club, Selvakumar Nilanthan was interrogated for 2 hours by SL's CID officers attached to Eravur's occupational police station on 09.02.2022, reports JDS Lanka.

11.02.2022: **Commemoration** - According to the Tamil Guardian, Tamils in Trincomalee commemorated the 26th Memorial of the Kumarapuram massacre. 26 civilians were killed by the SL Army in the massacre and a 15-yr-old was gang raped. Families of those killed gathered to commemorate their lives.

11.02.2022: **PTA** - Lanka eNews Website correspondent, Keerthi Ratnayake who was arrested and detained under the PTA was released on bail after 6 months, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that the Colombo Fort Magistrate, Priyantha Liyanage had issued the bail order on the condition that LKR 50,000 was paid. It is notable that Ratnayake has filed a Fundamental Rights Violation Petition at SL's High Court seeking LKR 10 crores compensation against his arrest and detention with 20 individuals cited as defendants in the case.

12.02.2022: **Remembrance** - According to the Tamil Guardian, a journalist who was killed in February 2009 in the No Fire Zone was remembered in Tamil Eelam.

Tamil journalist Punniyamoorthy Sathiyamoorthy was commemorated in events held by the TNPF and Jaffna Press Club. He wrote the military column daily for the 'Eezhanaatham.'

12.02.2022: **Accident** - According to Virakesari, 22-year-old Kandasamy Nirojan and another youth from Vaddukottai were involved in an accident at the Araali Chettiar Matam Junction on the morning of 12.02.2022. Reports indicate that Nirojan was killed, and the other youth has been admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital with serious injuries. Locals expressed discontent with SL's authorities as a boundary line should have been laid on the side of the road at the site of incident as it was a point of a dangerous curve. Locals have also indicated that a speed limit should be imposed in the area to prevent such accidents.

11.02.2022: **Ban** - Colombo's District Court issued two restraining orders against the Chairman of the Government Nurses' Association, Saman Ratnapriya to prevent further union actions, reports Virakesari.

12.02.2022: **Health** - According to SL President's Attorney, U.R. De Silva had mentioned that health unions engaged in protests outside of a restraining order could be sued for contempt of court, reports Virakesari.

13.02.2022: **CID** - According to the Tamil Guardian, SL's CID interrogated a Tamil journalist for two hours. Selvakumar Nilanthan, Batticaloa Press Club Secretary, was questioned after two CID officers from Eravur police station visited

his house and ordered him to go to the station to be interrogated over links to Tamil diaspora.

15.02.2022: **PTA** - A special petition was filed on behalf of the Central Policy Centre for Alternative Policies at SL's High Court on 14.02.2022 calling for a declaration that the proposed amendments to the PTA were unconstitutional, reports Virakesari.

16.02.2022: **Political prisoner** - According to the Tamil Guardian, Tamil political prisoner Khandappu Rajasekar was acquitted of all charges and released after being detained under the PTA for 12 years. Rajasekar, from Karaveddy, was arrested in October 2010 and kept in detention since.

17.02.2022: **TNA intimidation** - According to the Tamil Guardian, the TNA said Sri Lankan intelligence officers attempted to kidnap a Tamil Activist. TNA's Shanakiyan Rasamanickam mentioned that SL Intelligence attempted to kidnap the ITAK youth wing assistance secretary in Kalmunai in a white van.

18.02.2022: **PTA** - The President of the Organisation for the Right to Life of the Tamil Nation, V.S. Sivakaran was interrogated by SL's CTID, reports JDS Lanka.

18.02.2022: **Trincomalee oil Tanks** - According to Athavan News, Members of the Trincomalee United People's Organisation members, Anandha Keerthi Therar and Father George Dissanayake conveyed their discontent to Eastern Province Minister Anuradha Yahambath about the sell-out of the Trincomalee Oil tanks to foreigners.

18.02.2022: **Presidential Commission** - According to Colombo Gazette, the Presidential Commission of Inquiry for Appraisal of the Findings of Previous Commissions and Committees and the Way Forward has submitted a second report to G. Rajapaksa. The report recommends that the financial status of the relatives of the Enforced Disappeared, who have testified, should be uplifted. The reports also recommends that "terrorists" should not be permitted to be commemorated. However, relatives who died in the war, could be commemorated in private.

19.02.2022: **Letter** - Former SL MP, M. Chandrakumar has written a letter to G. Rajapaksa on 18.02.2022 called on SL's President to intervene in the mass illegal sand mining, which is being conducted in Kilinochchi, to protect the district from further damage, reports Virakesari.

19.02.2022: **Easter Sunday** - According to Economy Next, the then Director of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Shani Abeysekara, notified SL's Supreme Court that intelligence operatives actively prevented investigators from tracking down the Easter Sunday bombers. The Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) and the State Intelligence Service (SIS) conspired to ensure that the murder of two policemen in Vavunathivu was portrayed to be committed by LTTE cadres and not by Islamic extremists.

20.02.2022: **MTI** - According to Economy Next, MTI, a Sri Lanka-based consultancy, has prepared a five-year strategic plan for the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory

Authority (RURA). Given Kigali's strategic location, they plan to access key markets in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia.

21.02.2022: **PTA** - According to JDS Lanka, former Tamil political prisoner from Thonikal, Selvanayagam Aravinden has been instructed by SL's TID to provide information on family members who attended a memorial event in May 2021.

22.02.2022: **Commemoration** - According to Economy Next, a commission appointed by G. Rajapaksa to examine human rights violations has proposed allowing people in the Tamil homeland to commemorate the deaths of relatives who died in the war in private. It also recommended that the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) investigate the findings of the Paranagama Commission set up in 2015.

22.02.2022: **Mahaweli** - According to Munza Mushtaq, traditional agricultural lands and harvest from Bibila, Akiriyankumbura and Dehigama are being destroyed. Reports indicate that the destruction is being conducted after SL's Mahaweli Authority issued an eviction notice to clear the area for the establishment of a sugar cane factory by December 2022.

22.02.2022: **Mass grave** - According to JDS Lanka, Mannar's High Court Judge, Manikkavasagam Ilanchelian had ordered the excavations of a mass grave in Mannar to recommence.

22.02.2022: **War Crimes** - According to London's Metropolitan Police, officers from their War Crimes Team had arrested a 48-year-old from Northamptonshire in a proactive operation. Reports indicate that the suspect was arrested under Section 51 of the International Criminal Court Act 2001 in relation to the assassination of Tamil journalist Mylvaganam Nimalarajan in 2000.

23.02.2022: **Journalists** - The SL Working Journalists' Association penned a letter to SL's IGP to complain regarding threatening calls received by SL senior journalist and news editor at Anidda Newspaper, Lasantha Ruhunage, reports JDS Lanka.

26.02.2022: **Media** - According to JDS Lanka, IBC Tamil journalist, Lakshmanan Devapratheepan was admitted to Chenkalady Divisional hospital after being assaulted by SL MP, S. Viyalenthiran's supporters near the Eastern University in Vanthaaramoolai.



Signs of Structural Genocide

02.02.2022: **Kurunthoormalai** - According to Virakesari, a Buddhist monk squatting in Kurunthoormalai has banned locals from engaging in agricultural cultivation in the area, threatening their arrest. Reports indicate that the monk and SL's Archaeological Department since November 2021 have sought to expropriate 36 acres of land belonging to seven local families. The ban against cultivation has affected the families' livelihood, causing them to demand that they be permitted to work on their agricultural lands without hindrance. The occupation and appropriation of Tamils' lands disrupts the territorial integrity of the Tamil homeland and thus perpetuates genocidal ideology.

11.02.2022: **Vavuniya University** - According to Virakesari, there has been a sudden change in the Tamil language inscription Vavuniya University which was inaugurated by G. Rajapaksa on 11.02.2022. A sign leading to the entrance of the university had initially included tri-language displays. However, the Tamil signage was hastily removed before G. Rajapaksa's arrival by helicopter, hence reflective of heritage genocide. It is also notable that journalists were not permitted to attend the event, thus representative of a repression of freedom of expression.

11.02.2022: **Land** - M. Rajapaksa instructed the Ministry of Buddha Sasana Religious and Cultural Affairs on the conservation of sacred lands in the Northeast during a meeting at Temple

Trees on 10.02.2022. Subsequently, a meeting will be held in March of 2022 at Nainativu Rajamaha Vihara in Occupied Tamil Eelam.

12.02.2022: **Buddhification** - According to Virakesari, occupying Mullaitivu troops had cut down a neem tree located at a crossroads between Mullaitivu to Kokkilai to plant a royal tree sapling at the same location. The Junction is also being renamed to the Hokumbagus Junction with 3 occupational barracks set around the junction on lands confiscated from local Tamils over the past decade by SL's Departments. Locals have expressed concerns that the planting of the tree is a precursor to the establishment of a Buddha statue under the tree soon. The impending Buddhification combined with Militarisation through land appropriation is a sign of structural genocide through disrupting the territorial integrity of Tamils' territorial integrity hence reflective of genocidal ideology.

12.02.2022: **Militarisation** - According to Shavendra Silva, an SL army officer would be allocated to each paddy field and farmland to provide agricultural assistance to farmers. According to JDS Lanka, this policy was already implemented in the Tamil Homeland. Militarisation is used to disrupt the Tamils' territorial integrity.

18.02.2022: **Kumalamunai** - According to the Tamil Guardian, SL's Department of Archaeology aided the Buddhist monk in banning water cultivation in the fields of

Kumulamunai belonging to Tamils. The Divisional Secretariat confirmed the 36 acres of land belong to seven Tamil families yet the monk, Galgamuwa Chandabothi Nayaka Thera has stopped them from cultivation.

20.02.2022: **Code of Ethics** - According to Colombo Gazette, a code of ethics for social media has been proposed. Through this the Image of SL should be safeguarded, the news further reports.

20.02.2022: **Mahaweli** - An urgent call has been issued to eight district secretaries to join a special discussion on the implementation of activities under the Mahaweli Authority and administrative boundaries, reports Virakesari. This may impact the territorial integrity of the Tamil homeland where boundaries are breached through the activities of the authority. Summoned districts include:

- ♦ Vavuniya
- ♦ Mullaitivu
- ♦ Anuradhapura
- ♦ Hambantota
- ♦ Moneragala
- ♦ Ampara
- ♦ Badulla
- ♦ Nuwara Eliya

25.02.2022: **UN** - According to Colombo Gazette, Michelle Bachelet, the UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights, has published a report on SL. This report tables SL on the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The report also recommends following:

- ♦ Ensure the drafting of a new constitution based on a broad consultation, devolution of political authority, reconciliation and Human Rights
- ♦ Avoid interference of the military on civilian life
- ♦ Establishment of a moratorium on the use of PTA
- ♦ Investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of International Crimes with the cooperation of the victims through domestic jurisdiction
- ♦ Sanctions on perpetrators
- ♦ Review asylum mechanism for SL nationals

27.02.2022: **Human Burial** - According to Athavan News, the Vavuniya High Court has ordered the resumption of investigations and excavations into the Mannar human burial ground, which had been suspended for three years. As of 08.03.2019, 342 human bones had been unearthed during a 156-day excavation at the site. 330 of them have been excavated. The area of the burial ground is currently under police and military protection.



Akkinip Paravaikal

The service is provided by:

Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter

Overseen by Puradsi Media - the media outlet of
Phoenix - the Next Generation

Address:

Phoenix TNG
Hängertstrasse 1
3114 Wichtrach
Switzerland

Phone: +41 79 618 10 33

Email: ap.puradsimedia@gmail.com

© Copyright 2019 - 2022

Puradsi Media

Puradsi Media is the media outlet of
Phoenix-the Next Generation

Puradsi Media URL: <http://www.puradsimedia.com/>

Email: contact@puradsimedia.com

Copyright © 2016 - 2022

Facebook page created: 29.02.2016
Puradsi Media's first article: 04.01.2017