



# Akkinip Parabaikal

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Generation



### **Phoenix TNG 2021 Financial Report**

Tamil Economic Forum

Proceed to page 03 for Phoenix TNG's Financial Report for 2021.

### **Foreign Exchange and Homeland Sustainability** Vithusa

As the island of Sri Lanka sinks further into its own economic crisis and the rate for market goods increases under the Rajapaksa regime, we can look to the diaspora's response and incoming remittances to determine Tamil Eelam's sustainability.

Proceed to page 26 for more.



**"History is not a divine force outside man. It is not the meaning of an aphorism that determines the fate of man. History is an expression of the dynamism of man. Man creates history. Man, also determines his own fate."**

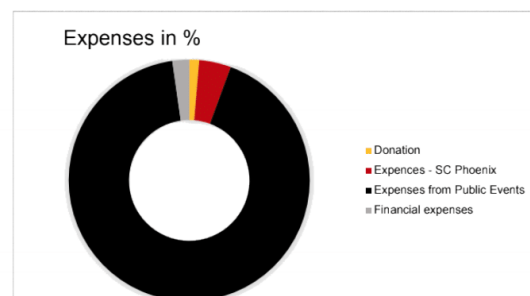
**National Leader of Tamil Eelam**

# Phoenix TNG 2021 Financial Report

Avinash, TEF Coordinator

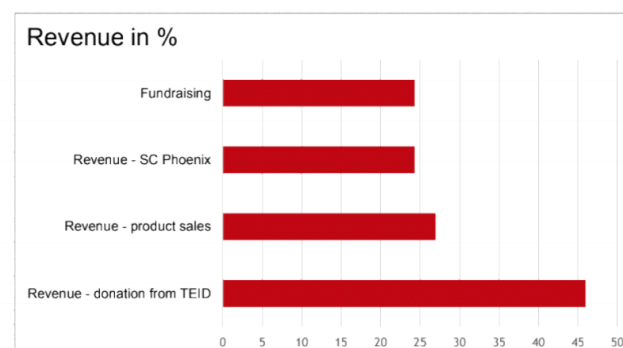
## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2021

		31.12.2021
<b>Assets</b>	Cash	1265,9
	Bank	5041,27
	Investments	3880,83
	Creditcard	-951,08
	Tam Karten	440,85
		<b>9.677,77</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	Capital	12.189,40
	Annual profit	-2.511,63
		<b>9.677,77</b>



## Income Statement for the Period 1 January to 31 December 2021

		2021
<b>Expenses</b>	Donation	150,00
	Expenses - SC Phoenix	480,00
	Expenses from Public Events	10.351,53
	Financial expenses	253,10
		<b>11.234,63</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	Revenue - donation from TEID	4.010,00
	Revenue - product sales	2.353,00
	Revenue - SC Phoenix	2.120,00
	Fundraising	240,00
		<b>8.723,00</b>
<b>Profit</b>		<b>-2.511,63</b>



Another difficult year for Phoenix TNG. We have invested a lot in projects and commenced new projects, despite an extraordinary situation - we are very proud of this achievement. However, the pandemic has also hit us hard. Many of our public events could not take place because of COVID-19. If they did, then only with restrictions, which created additional work for us.

Since direct contact with supporters and the public was difficult, sales also suffered. This is also apparent in the figures. The expenses are higher than the income this year. Despite these circumstances, all TEF as well as Phoenix TNG members have shown full commitment and implemented many things. TEF has added many new products to our range which reconnects the younger generation with Tamil Eelam. For example, we now distribute Tamil Eelam necklaces and our national flag. We can be proud that we have made a lot out of a little. However, we will continue to do our best and improve even more to grow.

The conclusion for 2021 is that we have had many obstacles - external, as well as private setbacks. However, giving up has never been an option for us and never will be. Phoenix TNG is only getting stronger and is growing further and further. Even if we have not achieved certain goals, we work with full commitment and try to learn from mistakes to optimise ourselves. With full motivation and confidence, we say that the future looks bright for Phoenix TNG and all Tamils of Tamil Eelam. Tamil sovereignty is sacrosanct, and we will fight and struggle until we achieve it.

## International News

01.03.2022: **Referendum** - A letter addressed to the High Commissioner for the HRC, Michelle Bachelet from 5 Tamil political parties had outlined that a referendum should be held to prevent violence against Tamils, reports Virakesari.

**UNHRC** - Harin Fernando and Manusha Nanayakkara, two MPs from the opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) party, have flown to Geneva in Switzerland to lobby for the release of imprisoned former SJB MP Ranjan Ramanayake. The extent to which the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) can intervene in this matter is undisputed, Economy Next reports. Further reports indicate that Sri Lanka (SL) will face a tough session at the UNHRC for failing to implement the UN resolution passed in 2021. Human rights violations including the suppression of freedom of expression, suppression of subjugated communities through the Prevention of Terrorism (PTA) and land grabbing are also issues that would be examined. Reports from 03.03.2022 indicate that the UNHRC had called for an immediate moratorium on the implementation of the PTA. 31 out of 47 member states of the UNHRC have expressed support for SL during the

session, whilst countries such as the UK and US have expressed concerns over a lack of progress in accountability. It was also decided that SL would receive cross-regional support from a wide range of states from South, Southeast and Central Asian countries as well as African states.

SL Brief to the UNHRC:

- ◆ G. Rajapaksa had ignored requests, including from the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) to pardon Ramanayake, who is serving a four-year sentence for contempt of court
- ◆ there is still no justice for the victims of the Easter Sunday bombings.
- ◆ SL's government is reluctant to make meaningful changes to Sri Lanka's anti-terrorism law, Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)
- ◆ ethnic and religious minorities live in fear
- ◆ expression of opinion is restricted for citizens
- ◆ militarisation of civilian administration is a feature of the government
- ◆ it calls on the international community to support the people of SL and ensure human rights



08.03.2022: **BIMSTEC** - GoSL has decided to sign the BIMSTEC Agreement on Mutual Legal Cooperation in Criminal Matters, reports Virakesari. Additional reports indicate that the SL Cabinet is also considering the submissions made by SL's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Justice to sign individual MoU's with each BIMSTEC Member State at the Bay of Bengal Conference on Initiatives for Multidisciplinary Technical and Economic Cooperation on 30.03.2022.

11.03.2022: **IMF** - According to the Tamil Guardian, SL had turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for assistance as they commenced talks. The IMF has mentioned that any bailout will require a comprehensive debt restructuring programme.

16.03.2022: **Canada** - According to Athavan News, like Britain, Canada has also issued travel advice to its citizens travelling to SL, citing the deteriorating economic crisis. Canada has also advised that there is a high potential for terrorist attacks, based on past attacks.

16.03.2022: **Diaspora** - A few Tamil Diaspora organisations have called on the IMF to impose conditions against SL in an open letter, reports Virakesari.

19.03.2022: **Ukraine** - The Ambassadors of 14 Western Countries to SL called on SL to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine in a joint-statement, reports Virakesari.

Ambassadors:

- ♦ Australia
- ♦ Canada
- ♦ European Union

- ♦ Germany
- ♦ Italy
- ♦ Netherlands
- ♦ New Zealand
- ♦ Norway
- ♦ Japan
- ♦ Romania
- ♦ Switzerland
- ♦ Britain
- ♦ United States

21.03.2022: **IPU** - According to Athavan News, the 144th Session of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) is in session in Bali, Indonesia until 24.03.2022. It is notable that SL MPs Kavinda Jayawardena and TNA MP R. Shanakyan are also present at this session. Kavinda Jayawardena had stressed that countries that respect human rights should join hands with the IPU to seek solutions for Tamil grievances. Chanakyan also spoke on the issue of those arrested in previous years under the PTA and the enforced COVID-19 cremation of Muslims in violation of their faith.

24.03.2022: **Overseas missions** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL is reviewing the necessity of all its 65 overseas missions.

26.03.2022: **Tax** - The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is seeking a global minimum tax of 15 percent. According to Economy Next, SL's China-backed Colombo Port City Special Economic Zone, which provides long-term tax exemption, will come under pressure.

28.03.2022: **BIMSTEC** - The 5th BIMSTEC Conference commenced in Colombo

on 28.03.2022 with participation with signatures from member states under the leadership of G. Rajapaksa, reports Virakesari. The first day of the conference was launched with a meeting of high-

ranking BIMSTEC member states which was chaired by SL's Foreign Secretary, Colombage. It is to be noted that the 6th BIMSTEC Conference is to be hosted by Thailand.

## **Bilateral Discussions**

01.03.2022: **Country manager** -

According to Economy Next, the Washington-based International Finance Corporation appointed Lisa Kaestner as country manager for SL and the Maldives. She has worked for several non-profit development organisations in the Caucasus region.

01.03.2022: **Vatican** - The Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, has met with Pope Francis at the Vatican. The statement from the House of Bishops mentioned that the Pope would assist SL's Catholic community in the investigation into the bombings and would inquire about the Government of SL's (GoSL's) alleged lethargy in identifying and prosecuting the "real criminals". Moreover, clarification should be made for the justice of the victims, Economy Next reports.

02.03.2022: **China** - According to Economy Next, Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong met G. Rajapaksa and discussed bilateral and diplomatic relations. Among the issues they will discuss is the Belt and Road project. The meeting occurred a week after India pledged financial assistance to SL.

02.03.2022: **Australia** - According to

Colombo Gazette, Australia has donated three explosive trace detectors to SL. Australia will also be providing training for the usage of these detectors to SL.

03.03.2022: **US** - B. Rajapaksa met with the US Ambassador at SL's Finance Ministry to discuss issues of mutual interest, reports Virakesari.

07.03.2022: **Japan** - According to Athavan News, the "Zen - The Essence of Japanese Beauty" painting exhibition was organised by the Japanese embassy in SL to mark the 70th anniversary of Japan-SL diplomatic relations. The exhibition was inaugurated by M. Rajapaksa on the afternoon of 07.03.2022 at the Thimbrigasyaya.

09.03.2022: **Iran** - According to Economy Next, SL's Embassy in Tehran is in talks with the Tea Association of Iran, Tea Exporters Association of SL and the SL Tea Board to expand the market for tea in Iran. Alireza Bardai, the Chief Executive Officer of Fan Company, pointed out opportunities in the West Asian region to SL and assured its full support.

09.03.2022: **China** - The Chinese Ambassador to SL met with SL's Parliamentary Speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to strengthen various sectors between the two parliaments, reports Virakesari.

10.03.2022: **US** - According to Virakesari, the US Ambassador to SL, has assured that the US will continue to work to promote a strong political and economic partnership with SL to contribute to its prosperity. The commitment was made during her meeting with SL's Foreign Minister, Professor G.L. Peiris on 09.03.2022 at SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to Colombo Gazette, the 4th session of the SL-US partnership dialogue is being arranged for March, 2022.

11.03.2022: **ADB** - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Chairman, Masatsuku Asakawa mentioned in a meeting at SL's Presidential Secretariat on 10.03.2022 that SL has made great progress in implementing the proposed projects and have expressed their commitment to further support SL's development efforts, reports Virakesari. According to Economy Next, Asakawa also mentioned that SL requires sound macroeconomic management and structural reforms to emerge from current economic difficulties and assured that the ADB is determined to support GoSL.

11.03.2022: **India** - According to Colombo Gazette, India and SL have signed an agreement to develop a solar power plant in Sampur. This agreement was signed between NTPC Limited – India's largest integrated energy company and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB).

13.03.2022: **London** - According to Economy Next, SL's Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE), with the Securities and Exchange Commission and nine stock brokerage firms, will host an investor forum in London between 28.03.2022-30.03.2022. The event aims to attract rural investment from the SL diaspora and foreign funds.

13.02.2022 - **India** - According to Tamil Guardian, the Sunday Times LK accused India of 'diplomatic blackmail' for its statement at the UN Human Rights Council calling for Sri Lanka to meet 'the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community.' It believes India is keeping urgent economic aid as 'a carrot at the end of the list of conditions.'

14.03.2022: **Saudi Arabia** - According to Colombo Gazette, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud has met G. Rajapaksa during a one-day official visit. In this meeting Saudi Arabia has assured SL to assist with renewable energy. It is notable that the Saudi representative further emphasised commitment and economic cooperation of the Government of Saudi Arabia to further deepen the existing bilateral relations between SL and Saudi Arabia during a meeting with Peiris at SL's Foreign Ministry on 14.03.2022, reports Virakesari. G. Rajapaksa has pointed at several investment opportunities such as:

- ◆ agriculture
- ◆ renewable energy
- ◆ technology based development
- ◆ Colombo port city

14.03.2022: **Iran** - The Defence Attaché at the Iranian Embassy to SL, Col. Homayoun Aliyari called on Ulugetenne

at the SLN-HQ on 14.03.2022 to discuss issues of bilateral importance, reports Navy LK.

15.03.2022: **IMF** - A meeting was held between representatives of the IMF and G. Rajapaksa at SL's Presidential Secretariat on the morning of 15.03.2022, reports Virakesari.

15.03.2022: **Russia** - The Ambassador of Russia to SL, H.E. Yury Materiyy met with Ulugetenne at the SLN-HQ on 15.03.2022 to mark their first official interaction, reports Navy LK. It is notable that the Military Attaché at the Russian Embassy to SL was also present at this meeting where issues of mutual interest were discussed.

15.03.2022: **UAE** - SL Cabinet approves the purchase of fuel and lubricating oil from the United Arab Emirates, reports Virakesari. According to Economy Next, the SL Cabinet has awarded a long-term diesel import contract to UAE-based, Coral Energy DMCC Company. The contract was to be awarded for a period of eight months between 01.03.2022-31.10.2022.

15.03.2022: **India** - According to Virakesari, it is expected that during his visit to India, B. Rajapaksa would sign deals with India to construct a thermal power plant especially in Mannar and Trincomalee alongside various other development programs within the region. B. Rajapaksa and Secretary, S.R. Attiygalle left for India on 15.03.2022 to India on a two-day official visit.

16.03.2022: **India** - B. Rajapaksa met Indian Prime Minister, Modi during Rajapaksa's official visit to India. According to Virakesari the following areas were addressed during the meeting:

- ♦ simplification of implementation of short- and medium-term projects between Indo-Lanka
- ♦ emergency Food and Health Services Project Fuel Import Energy Security Scheme
- ♦ modernisation of Trincomalee Oil Tanks
- ♦ loan extension for import of essential commodities from India to SL
- ♦ incentives through currency exchange and economic development
- ♦ facilitation of Indian investment across various sectors in SL to expand employment
- ♦ signing of a USD 1 billion credit line with India for the supply of essential goods to assist in the recovery of shortages in fuel, food and medicine

17.03.2022: **India** - According to SL's Finance Minister, S.R. Attiygalle, the GoSL has requested India to raise their current fuel-credit from USD 500 billion to USD 750 billion, reports Athavan News.

19.03.2022: **India** - In response to requests from SL's Ministry of Education, five leadership development training courses were conducted by the Indian High Commission under the Indian Institute of Technology and Economic Cooperation with hopes that around 200 SL officers would benefit from these courses which were inaugurated on the 14.03.2022, reports Virakesari.



20.03.2022: **Port** - According to Economy Next, defence attachés from several embassies in Colombo visited SL's Chinese-backed port at Hambantota International Port. The visiting group represented:

- ♦ United States
- ♦ Maldives
- ♦ France
- ♦ Germany
- ♦ Kenya
- ♦ Republic of Korea
- ♦ Mexico
- ♦ Netherlands
- ♦ Poland
- ♦ Switzerland

20.03.2022: **Indonesia** - According to Colombo Gazette, Indonesia's Ambassador to SL and SL's Foreign Secretary have met. In this meeting the process to commence the Indonesia-Sri Lanka Preferential Trade Agreement (ISL-PTA) negotiations were discussed.

20.03.2022: **US** - Three high-ranking US diplomats from the US State Department for Security and Political Affairs will pay an official visit to SL on 21.03.2022, reports Virakesari.

Diplomats:

- ♦ Victoria Nuland - Secretary of State for Political Affairs, US Department of State
- ♦ Tony and Donald Lou - Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs

21.03.2022: **Netherlands** - According to SL's Plantation Minister, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, the Government of the Netherlands has decided to provide SL financial assistance for model

afforestation on tea and coconut plantations, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that Netherlands intends to fund a Model Agriculture Pioneer Project which is to be carried out in collaboration with the Tea and Coconut Research Stations and the University of Peradeniya with assistance from the Netherlands' Moganigan University. It is notable that an agricultural pilot project had also been awarded to the Kurunegala Plantation Company.

21.03.2022: **FTA** - According to Peiris, the 7th round of negotiations on the SL-China Free Trade Agreement was set to commence soon with the respective institutions of China and SL, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that the issue was discussed in a recent meeting between Peiris and the Chinese Ambassador, Qi Zhenhong. According to Economy Next, the FTA would immensely benefit SL's local market and products.

22.03.2022: **China** - According to Virakesari, the Chinese Embassy to SL mentioned that GoSL had requested an additional USD 2.5 billion in loans from China in exchange for an assurance from China that they would not take advantage of SL.

22.03.2022: **Italy** - The GoSL has decided to sign an agreement between SL and Italy for the extradition of convicted felons in accordance with Act No.5 of 1995 which allows the extradition of a convicted felon imprisoned by an SL court to allow the sentence to be served in the convicts' country of citizenship, reports Virakesari.

23.03.2022: **Qatar** - Qatar's Ambassador to SL, Soror has pledged to promote strong economic partnership and friendship with SL for mutual benefits during a bilateral meeting which occurred between Peiris and Soror at SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo on 22.03.2022, reports Virakesari.

23.03.2022: **India** - The TPA submitted a letter to Gopal Baglay to be handed over to Modi on behalf of Eelam Tamils during a meeting between Baglay and a TNC delegation led by Mano Ganesan, reports Virakesari. The grievances of plantation workers and their development in society was at the forefront of discussions.

23.03.2022: **US** - According to Virakesari, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Victoria Nuland called on G. Rajapaksa at the SL Presidential Secretariat on 23.03.2022. G. Rajapaksa briefed Nuland of the All-Party Conference. Nuland mentioned the following:

- ♦ SL consultation with diaspora in Canada, US and EU countries
- ♦ US introduction of green technology to support advancement of SL's cyber and IT sectors
- ♦ Expansion of higher education opportunities with participation of private sector
- ♦ Praise for the amendments introduced to PTA

23.03.2022: **India** - According to Economy Next, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce Chairman Vish Govindasam expresses gratitude for the provision of the USD 2.4 billion in loans, swaps and

delayed payments. He lists the investment opportunities for India in SL.

24.03.2022: **Japan** - R. Sampanthan called on Japan's Ambassador to SL, Hideki Mizukoshi to make Japanese investments in the Tamil homeland during a bilateral meeting between the leader of TNA, M.A. Sumanthiran and Mizukoshi, reports Virakesari.

25.03.2022: **TNA** - The official meeting between the TNA and G. Rajapaksa occurred at SL's Presidential Secretariat between 10.30-13.30 local time, reports Virakesari.

Attendees:

- ♦ Mavai Senathirasa - leader of SL Tamil National Party
- ♦ R. Sampanthan - leader TNA
- ♦ M.A. Sumanthiran
- ♦ R. Kalaiyarasan

27.03.2022: **India** - According to Athavan News, Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Subramaniam Jaisankar arrived in SL on a three-day official visit to attend the BIMSTEC Ministerial Conference in Colombo. He has met G. Rajapaksa and B. Rajapaksa to discuss the current economic crisis in SL.

27.03.2022: **South Africa** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL's Foreign Minister and South Africa's Ambassador to SL have met. The South African experience of Truth and Reconciliation were the main focus of the talk.

28.03.2022: **India** - S. Jaisankar met B. Rajapaksa on 28.03.2022 to discuss SL's economic situation and the importance

of Indian cooperation with SL in the pursuit of a “neighbourhood priority” policy, reports Virakesari. G. Rajapaksa further thanked Jaisankar for their loans and discussed many milestone events that were to be organised between SL and India such as the 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two.

28.03.2022: **USAID** - In a meeting between Julie Chung and G. Rajapaksa at SL's Presidential Secretariat on the morning of 28.03.2022, Chung had mentioned that initiatives would be undertaken to provide credit facilities to SL through USAID for renewable energy projects, reports Virakesari.

28.03.2022: **India** - According to Virakesari, the TNPF had sent a letter to S. Jaisankar urged him to stop GoSL from adapting a unified constitution and rather suggested the adoption of the Tamil-recognised federal constitution.

28.03.2022: **India** - S. Jaisankar met with the Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA) where the TPA requested India to assist Tamils to become equal citizens to Sri Lankans, reports Virakesari.

Attendees:

- ♦ Mano Ganesan
- ♦ Palani Thigambaram
- ♦ Radhakrishnan
- ♦ M. Udayakumar
- ♦ S. Jaisankar
- ♦ Gopal Baglay
- ♦ Vinod K. Jacob
- ♦ Banu Prakash

28.03.2022: **India** - S. Jaisankar met with the TNA at around 16.30 local time at the

Indian House in Colombo, reports Virakesari. The discussions paid attention to the TNA's meeting with G. Rajapaksa and addressed the Tamils' grievances. S. Jaisankar mentioned that G. Rajapaksa had also briefed him of the contents of his discussion with the TNA and that the TNA should seize the opportunity presented before them now.

TNA requests:

- ♦ Government should pay close attention to the formation of a new political system
- ♦ India should speak to GoSL about
  - ♦ Release of political prisoners
  - ♦ Truth of missing persons
  - ♦ Release of Tamil homeland locked in development programs
- ♦ Full implementation of 13th Amendment
- ♦ Response to letter submitted to India by Tamil parties

29.03.2022: **Saudi Arabia** - According to Athavan News, Saudi Ambassador to SL, Abdul Nasser Hussein Al Hardi has notified G. Rajapaksa that he intends to continue to provide assistance from the Saudi Development Fund to SL. Reports indicate that a high-level Saudi delegation would soon visit SL to explore investment in the renewable energy sector and other investment opportunities in SL. G. Rajapaksa thanked the Saudi Development Fund for its assistance in developing SL's infrastructure.

29.03.2022: **Bangladesh** - According to News First LK, SL has sought another USD 250 million in foreign exchange from Bangladesh to address the country's financial crisis, reports Virakesari.

30.03.2022: **India** - According to Virakesari, following a meeting between Jaisankar and Peiris, six MoUs were signed between the two countries to strengthen bilateral relations.

- ♦ Establishment of Modern Computer Labs and Smart Boards with Customized Curriculum Software in 200 Schools in Galle District
- ♦ Implementation of SL Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) Programme with GOI's Grant Assistance
- ♦ Between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), India and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI)
- ♦ Provision of Marine Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)
- ♦ Implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in Three Islands of Jaffna
- ♦ Cooperation in Development of Fisheries Harbours in SL

31.03.2022: **USA** - According to Colombo Gazette, the US ambassador to SL has mentioned SL's strategic location. This remark was made at the "A shared vision for the Indo Pacific " conference, which was hosted by the controversial "The General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University" in partnership with the US Embassy.

## **Ukraine**

01.03.2022: **Evacuation** - According to Economy Next, SL is attempting to evacuate 40 SL nationals from Ukraine invaded by Russia via Poland. In addition, the SL embassy in Moscow is in contact with 1,600 SL nationals in neighbouring Belarus.

01.03.2022: **Ukraine** - SL is to grant a free visa extension of up to two months to Ukrainian and Russian tourists in SL. This extension will apply to 11,463 Russians and 3,993 Ukrainians. Ukrainian tourists are also protesting outside the Russian Embassy in Colombo requesting support for Ukraine's "freedom struggle", Economy Next reports.

03.03.2022: **UN** - According to Economy Next, SL abstained from voting on a UN resolution on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh also abstained. On the other hand, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan voted in favour of Ukraine.

04.03.2022: **Trade** - Putin's invasion of Ukraine threatens SL's USD 461 million foreign trade with Russia and Ukraine. According to Economy Next, total exports to Russia and Ukraine amount to USD 179 million per year, or 1.4% of total SL exports.

07.03.2022: **Return** - Peiris has advised SL students in Belarus who wish to temporarily return to SL to travel via Moscow. There, they should contact the SL Embassy in Moscow, which is in close contact with all universities in Belarus, Economy Next reports.



09.03.2022: **Ukraine** - According to the Tamil Guardian, at least 27 SL have reportedly chosen to remain in Ukraine rather than return to SL despite the Russian invasion.

18.03.2022: **Ukraine** - According to Economy Next, diplomats from key Western nations, the US and Japan, have called on SL to be vocal in its support for Ukraine and international law, including the UN Charter. SL has been encouraged to follow suit and call on Russia to immediately cease its hostilities, they said.

18.03.2022 - **Ukraine** - According to the Tamil Guardian, the heads of 14 embassies have called on GoSL to call on Russia 'to end its hostilities

immediately.' The heads of Western embassies urged the SL government to support Ukraine.

19.03.2022: **UNHRC** - According to Economy Next, Peiris met the representatives of the UNHRC. Informal discussions were held with the core group consisting of Canada, Germany, Northern Macedonia, Malawi, Montenegro, the United Kingdom and the United States.

28.03.2022: **Russia** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned carrier SriLankan Airlines has suspended its flights to Moscow, Russia, effective immediately. This is due to operational restrictions beyond the airline's control.

## Caricature

The caricature indicates the injustice of actions. Tamils have been fighting for years to be independent. Many people are still traumatised by the war, yet the hope for peace remains. The Ukrainian war, which commenced recently, has received rapid aid from all major global powers. Of course, it is important to assist people, however everyone should be treated equally in this regard. We should not be concerned only with problems in our vicinity. The suffering is the same. Geographical location does not matter. We all have the right to the same opportunities in any situation.



# Military News

02.03.2022: **Japanese Ship** - According to Defence LK, two Japanese Navy ships arrived for a formal visit to the Colombo Port. Both ships belong to the Minesweeper Division One of the Japanese Navy.

02.03.2022: **New doctrine** - According to Defence LK, SL's Air Force released their new doctrine. It is named the "Air Power doctrine" and was formed based on the experience of the war. It is noteworthy that this doctrine is a supplement to the existing doctrine.

07.03.2022: **Indian Naval Exercises** - According to Defence LK, SL's Navy (SLN) participated in two Indian naval exercises. One is named "MILAN-2022" and the other "SLINEX". While MILAN-2022 is a multinational naval exercise, SLINEX is a bilateral naval exercise between India and SL.

07.03.2022: **Milan** - According to Navy LK, the SLNS Sayurala participated in a multilateral naval exercise, MILAN-2022 - the 11th edition of MILAN, which was hosted by the Indian Navy at the Visakhapatnam Port between 25.02.2022-04.03.2022. It is notable that the theme of the exercise was "Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration".

08.03.2022: **Appointment** - Rear Admiral Pradeep Rathnayake assumed office as SL's Occupational Commander North Central Naval Area at the Command HQ in Talaimannar, reports Navy LK. Further reports indicate that Rear Admiral Jayantha Kularathna had taken over as

the Occupational Commander Eastern Naval Area at the Command HQ in Trincomalee on 08.03.2022.

09.03.2022: **Retirement** - According to Navy LK, Rear Admiral Sanjeewa Dias was honoured in a farewell salute and Guard of Honour by the SLN after 34 years of service.

- ♦ 1987: Joined SLN as Officer Cadet of the 16th intake
- ♦ Held command appointments of many ships
- ♦ Naval Armament Officer
- ♦ Commanding Officer 04th Fast Attack Flotilla
- ♦ Director Commercial Explosives Fire Arms and Ammunition Procurement Unit
- ♦ Naval Officer in Charge - Trincomalee South
- ♦ Deputy Area Commander Southern Naval Area
- ♦ Commandant SLNS Nipuna
- ♦ Port Facility Security Officer - Galle
- ♦ Naval Officer In Charge - Welisara Naval Complex
- ♦ Director Sports
- ♦ Director Naval Operations
- ♦ Director Maritime Special Forces
- ♦ Director Naval Foreign Cooperation
- ♦ Director Maritime Surveillance and International Ship and Port Facility Security Coordinator
- ♦ Director Naval Weapon
- ♦ Deputy Area Commander Eastern Naval Area and Port Facility Security Officer - Trincomalee and and Commander North Central and Eastern Naval Areas

10.03.2022: **Visit** - Four naval ships belonging to three navies arrived at SL's Hambantota and Colombo Ports on official visits, reports Navy LK. It is notable that the French and Indian ships are due to engage in separate naval exercises with the SLN during their visit.

- ♦ 08.03.2022: French Naval Support and Assistance Ship "Loire" arrived at Colombo Port.
- ♦ 09.03.2022: BNS "Prottasha" of the Bangladesh Navy arrived at Colombo Port alongside a duo of Indian Frigates, INS "Talwar" and "Brahmaputra" arrived at Hambantota Port.

10.03.2022: **India** - According to Navy LK, the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet of the Indian Navy, Sameer Saxena called upon Ulugetenne at the SLN HQ on 10.03.2022 to discuss issues of bilateral significance. It is notable that Saxena had arrived in SL with the INS ships "Chennai" and "Teg".

10.03.2022: **Foreign Naval vessels** - According to Defence LK, four naval ships from three countries have visited the Colombo and Hambantota ports. The ships were from France, India and Bangladesh.

11.03.2022: **Retirement** - Rear Admiral Bandula Senarathne was farewelled by the SLN after he retired from his position after 34 years of service in the SLN, reports Navy LK. Senarathne was honoured with a Guard of Honour and was sent off with a motorcade.

- ♦ 1987: Joined SLN as an Officer Cadet of the 05th intake of the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

- ♦ Naval Officer in Charge - Welisara Naval Complex
- ♦ Deputy Director Naval Operations
- ♦ Deputy Director Maritime Special Forces
- ♦ Deputy Director Maritime Surveillance
- ♦ Head of Naval Research Wing
- ♦ Deputy Area Commander North Central Naval Area
- ♦ Assistant Director Naval Policy and Plan
- ♦ Deputy Area Commander Northern Naval Area and Port Facility Security Officer- Kankesanthurai
- ♦ Deputy Area Commander Western Naval Area and Port Facility Security Officer- Colombo
- ♦ Director General Administration
- ♦ Commander Northwestern and North Central Naval Areas

13.03.2022: **Visit** - According to Navy LK, USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer of the US Navy arrived at Trincomalee Port on 13.03.2022 and is expected to participate in many camaraderie programmes organised by the SLN before its departure on 16.03.2022.

13.03.2022: **US Naval ship** - According to Colombo Gazette, a US naval ship arrives at Trincomalee. This ship will be part of several programs organised by SL's navy.

16.03.2022: **India** - Five sail training boats of the Indian Navy which arrived at Trincomalee Port on 10.03.2022 to provide training experience to SLN trainees arrived at Colombo Port on 16.03.2022, reports Navy LK.

21.03.2022: **India** - According to the Indian High Commission, the visit of

Indian naval vessels to SL was a sign of close security and defence cooperation between the two countries, in-line with India's foreign policy, reports Virakesari.

21.03.2022: **INTERPOL** - Dr. Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi, the head of INTERPOL (International Police) has mentioned that it was appropriate to establish a joint-monitoring group in connection with the increase in the drug and arms trade in the Indian Ocean following the Taliban's occupation of Afghanistan, reports Virakesari. This was established in a discussion between SL's Public Security Minister, Sarath Weerasekara and the INTERPOL chief in a meeting which occurred in Dubai.

Further discussions:

- ◆ Enhancing cyber activities of SL Police
- ◆ Identification of terrorist and fundamentalist threats
- ◆ Cooperation in enforcing the law and preventing crime through social networking sites

26.03.2022: **India** - According to Virakesari, the Indian Navy ship, "Sharatha" arrived at Colombo Port on 23.03.2022 with a state-of-the-art light helicopter. Further reports indicate that an event was also held on 24.03.2022 where India's Deputy High Commissioner, Vinod. K. Jacob handed over spare parts for the SL Navy's Ocean Vessel under the Government of India's Priority Policy to External Affairs Policy.

## WHAM

02.02.2022: **Army** - According to Army LK, the occupational 4th Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment from Chavakachcheri, Jaffna, launched several welfare projects on 26.02.2022 under the slogan "Army with a Heart". These projects include:

- ◆ the provision of 20 pregnant women from Chavakachcheri LKR 7,000 worth nutrition
- ◆ the presentation of a scholarship of LKR 50,000 to an outstanding student of Mattuvil
- ◆ the opening of a newly constructed Civil Staff accommodation building

07.03.2022: **Mullaitivu** - According to Army LK, civilian sponsors provided gifts to children of soldiers serving in Mullaitivu

under a program called "Ranaviru Abhianandana Pooja-2022".

08.03.2022: **Anuradhapura** - According to Army LK, all 28 holy Buddha statues were placed around the 'Salapathalamaluwa' on the site of Sandahiru Seya Stupa in Anuradhapura. After the installation of the Buddha statues, religious rites and rituals were offered.

08.03.2022: **Ampara** - In the octagonal corners of the historic Deegawapiya Raja Maha Viharaya in Ampara, gold caskets deposited, and armorial stone brought to historic "Deegawapiya". Restoration of the Maha Stupa in the East is being carried out under the guidance of SL's



Maha Sangha and Presidential Task Force Chairman, reports Army LK.

08.03.2022: **Jaffna** - A patriotic soldier from Muthumari Amman Kovilladi area of Atchchuveli, who had joined the occupational SL Army and served SL for more than eight years as a dedicated soldier of 2 SL Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME), passed away. He was laid to rest with military honours, Army LK reports.

12.03.2022: **Health programme** - The Occupational SLN provided assistance to SL's Health Sector to conduct community health programmes on 06.03.2022, 08.03.2022, 10.03.2022 and 11.03.2022 in Sampur, Trincomalee and Mullaitivu.

- ♦ 06.03.2022: Sampur Divisional Hospital held a non-communicable disease screening programme at Kunnithiva Nawalar Vidyalya, Sampur.
- ♦ 08.03.2022 and 11.03.2022: Trincomalee MOH and Eastern Naval Command jointly launched COVID-19 vaccination programmes for school children in Trincomalee.
  - ♦ Sri Sanmuga Hindu Ladies College - Over 650 students
  - ♦ Orr's Hill Vivekananda College and St. Joseph College - Over 550 students
- ♦ 10.03.2022: Blood Donation at Mullaitivu District General Hospital

12.03.2022: **Vanni** - The Occupational Security Forces Headquarters in Vanni (SFHQ-W) continued to expand its house-building project for needy families. Another house was handed over to a widowed mother of seven children in Mahakanadarawa in Rambawa district, Army LK reports.

12.03.2022: **Jaffna** - A group of SL Army personnel from the 515th Brigade of the 51st Division found a wallet containing cash at Kankesanthurai - Point Pedro Road and handed it over to the owner. The information about the owner was obtained in consultation with the Grama Seva Niladhari in charge, Army LK reports.

14.03.2022: **Batticaloa** - 501 students from low-income families studying at Karadiyanaru Hindu College and three other schools in the Batticaloa district received teaching aids and supplies under the occupational SL Army's initiative. The project was signed off by Maj. Gen. Lal Chandrasiri, commander of the Security Forces East, reports Army LK.

15.03.2022: **Vakarai** - The Occupational security forces HQ in the East supervised a coaching session of cricket at Vakara Maha Vidyalya for the students.

15.03.2022: **Vanni** - In order to introduce organic fertiliser for rice cultivation in the upcoming Yala season, troops from the Occupational 65th Division of the Security Forces Headquarters in Vanni produced organic fertiliser. This was handed over to Ceylon Fertiliser Company (Lak Pohora) for further distribution.

16.03.2022: **Kilinochchi** - According to Army LK, low-income school children, adults and underprivileged elderly in Kilinochchi area received free eyeglasses through the SL Army. The project was launched in two phases after eyes were examined in January, 2022.

19.03.2022: **Jaffna** - Brigadier Udaya Herath of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment takes office as the 28th Commanding General of the 52nd Division at the Occupational Security Forces Headquarters in Jaffna. Brigadier Udaya Herath served as director of concept and supervision in the Army Training Command prior to his appointment, Army LK reports.

19.03.2022: **Jaffna** - According to Army LK, ten more bicycles were distributed free of charge to students of needy families in the Sittankerny area of Jaffna Peninsula by the Occupational 51<sup>st</sup>

Division under the Security Forces Headquarters in Jaffna. This community project was to meet the transportation needs of school children.

19.03.2022: **Jaffna** - The SL Army Chess Committee conducted a chess training workshop in Tamil under the guidance of head coach Sanjula Ravinathh. Participating students were from 10 schools in Jaffna, Army LK reports.

21.03.2022: **Paruthithurai** - According to Army LK, the Occupational security forces HQ in Jaffna has constructed a new house in Paruthithurai for the family of a former female LTTE cadre.

## Domestic News

### *Tamil Eelam*

05.03.2022: **COVID-19** - According to Amalini, the Oddamavaddi COVID-19 burial ground would cease its operation from 05.03.2022 after the final refrigerator truck left the site after the last burial was conducted at 17.30 local time, reports JDS Lanka.

### **Explosives**

03.03.2022: **Mullaitivu** - According to Virakesari, grenades were found buried in the Mullivaikkal area whilst an individual was clearing land near Mullivaikkal East Sana Community Hall on 02.03.2022. When occupational Mullaitivu police were notified, they retrieved 176 grenades from the site.

12.03.2022: **Jaffna** - An unexplored hand grenade was recovered by SL's STF in Eechamottai, Jaffna after employees engaged in plumbing work had identified the presence of suspicious material while digging at a warehouse, reports Virakesari.

23.03.2022: **Mannar** - A gun was recovered from the Madukkarai forest area around 18.30 local time on 22.03.2022 based on a tip-off received from the occupational Mannar Taladi Army Intelligence, reports Virakesari.

10.03.2022: **Donation** - According to Athavan News, a Canadian expatriate

family has donated LKR 5 Million to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. This assistance had been provided by the Sukumar family in memory of the recently deceased Sheila Sukumar. A media briefing by the Canada-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce was also held at the Jaffna Media Centre.

11.03.2022: **Festival** - According to Athavan News, the annual festival of the St. Anthony shrine visited by both Indian and Eelam Tamil fishers on the island Kachchativu has begun. Three ships belonging to the Indian Coast Guard and one ship belonging to the Indian Navy have been on intensive patrol in the Indian Ocean from Mandapam to Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi since 10.03.2022.

## **Accident**

04.03.2022: **Kopay** - Kanakasabai Baskaran, a senior lecturer at the Jaffna National College of Education was killed in a road accident within the Kopay area of Jaffna, reports Virakesari.

20.03.2022: **Mullivaikkal** - A private bus travelling from Jaffna-Mullaitivu crashed in the Mullivaikkal area where 1 individual was declared deceased and 21 wounded, reports Virakesari. The injured were admitted to the Mullaitivu District Hospital for further treatment.

20.03.2022: **Jaffna** - According to Virakesari, one individual was killed and another was injured in a two-

motorcycle collision in the Moolai area of Jaffna on the night of 20.03.2022. 49-year-old accountant, Sankarappillai Nithiyanandarasa of Karainagar was killed and university student, Ananthakumar Gajeeban was admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital with injuries.

23.03.2022: **Kodikaamam** - According to Virakesari, the driver of a three-wheeler was admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital after being injured in a collision between a three-wheeler and an air conditioner in the Kodikaamam area of Jaffna.

24.03.2022: **Batticaloa** - According to Virakesari, 32-year-old Shivalingam Bhavanandakumar of Mavadvembu was killed on the spot in a road accident that occurred on the afternoon of 24.03.2022 on Mavadvembu Farm Road in Batticaloa.

12.03.2022: **Construction** - At the request of the Kinniya City Council Chairperson, Eastern Province Governor Anuradha Yagambath visited the Kinniya City Council on 11.03.2022 to inquire their shortcomings and inspect the construction work at the Kurinjakkerni Bridge, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that she had also provided assurances to expedite the construction.

## **Fuel Crisis**

06.03.2022: **Fuel Crisis** - According to the Tamil Guardian, the fuel

crisis has left farmers in Mannar unable to harvest crops. Farmers in the Nanattan and Musali areas are unable to work their tractors and harvesters without fuel.

10.03.2022: **Fuel tokens** - According to Virakesari, a token refuelling operation is being conducted by the Visuvamadu Petrol Station, Mullaitivu with occupational police protection where fuel is provided in exchange for tokens to address the current fuel shortage.

10.03.2022: **Fuel Crisis** - According to Athavan News, people were waiting in long queues to purchase gas cylinders in Jaffna, which led to traffic congestion. Token systems for obtaining fuel has been implemented in Kilinochchi. Due to the current fuel shortage in SL, occupational police security is in place at the Visuvamadu petrol station in the Mullaitivu district and token procedures are also in place. Fuel is being provided only to those who have received the token. As well as being provided with limited fuel, taxi drivers are queuing up for hours several hours daily to refuel.

13.02.2022: **Gas shortage** - According to the Tamil Guardian, several restaurants in Mannar were forced to shut down this week due to SL's cooking gas shortage. Businesses on the island as a whole are struggling to remain open, with almost 1,000 bakeries on the verge of closing down.

16.03.2022: **Fuel Relief** - According to Virakesari, a special mechanism was developed during the Jaffna District Coordinating Committee's meeting on 15.03.2022 to provide kerosene and diesel to petrol stations for agricultural purposes to alleviate the grievances of Jaffna farmers.

23.03.2022: **Fuel shortage** - According to the Tamil Guardian, long queues were seen in Vavuniya at petrol stations due to fuel shortages. The stations have had to implement a limit of purchases and at one, the limit was LKR 1,000 per card for a family.

24.03.2022: **Gas Cylinder** - According to Athavan News, there is a continuous shortage of cooking gas cylinders in most parts of the Trincomalee district. While the distributors mentioned that all the cylinders imported and assigned to Trincomalee would be kept there and delivered on a daily basis, the public could be seen waiting in long queues to transport the gas cylinders amidst great difficulties.

13.03.2022: **India** - India's High Commissioner to SL, Baglay in collaboration with SL's Douglas Devananda commenced a project to provide food and other essential items to 1,000 families in the Northern Province of occupied Tamil Eelam, reports Virakesari.

16.03.2022: **Sea Transport** - According to Jaffna District Coordinating Committee's



Co-chairman, Angajan Ramanathan, SL's Roads and Transport Authority is liable if any danger is to befall public involved in the Kurikkattuivan Neduntivu Sea Transport, reports Virakesari.

## **Fishermen**

11.03.2022: **Fishermen** - A goodwill meeting was held between local and Indian fishermen attending the Kachchativu St. Anthony's Temple Festival on 11.03.2022 to discuss mutual grievances, reports Virakesari. Both parties agreed to resolve issues as soon as possible.

13.03.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Athavan News, the Indian high commissioner has given packages of dried food to 600 Eela-Fishers in Jaffna with the Presence of Minister Douglas, Jaffna District Government Agent and representatives of the Jaffna District Fishermen's Co-operative Societies Association.

16.03.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Athavan News, an event to hand over dry food parcels to the affected fishermen in the Mannar district with the assistance of the Government of India was held at the Mannar District Secretariat. SL's Minister of Fisheries, Douglas Devananda was also present at the event.

22.03.2022: **Fishermen** - According to Athavan News, representatives of the Jaffna District Fishermen's Association met with the Indian

Ambassador to Jaffna, Rakesh Nataraj Jayabaskaran. During the discussion, they called for action to curb the increase in the number of Indian trawlers entering Tamils' territorial waters - especially in Eluvaitivu, Analaitivu, Nainativu and Neduntivu.

28.03.2022: **Crisis** - According to Athavan News, fisheries, and related hatcheries in Mannar district have been severely affected due to the ongoing economic crisis and fuel shortages in SL. Overall production has been severely affected by the increase in fish prices due to the lack of fish and the prices of eggs have also increased.

18.03.2022: **Visit** - During an official visit to Jaffna, SL's Minister of Commerce, Bandula Gunawardena visited the Chavakachcheri Sathosa outlet to conduct an inquiry into the sale and stock of essential items in Jaffna, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that Gunawardena would engage in meetings to explore the current trade situation. Whilst addressing a discussion on industry and trade at the Jaffna District Secretariat, Gunawardena has been reported to have mentioned that 20 new Sathosa outlets were to be opened across Jaffna and Kilinochchi.

## **Crime**

01.03.2022: **Smuggling** - Two individuals were arrested around 02.20 local time on 01.03.2022 in the Ilupakkadavu Area's Mannar-Jaffna Main Road with 22 stamped

logs worth many LKR lakhs in a joint-operation by SL's Special Forces and Madhu Forest Conservation Department. According to Virakesari, the suspects are to be produced before Mannar Court.

03.03.2022: **Pills** - According to occupational SL troops, around 60,000 pain-relief pills which had been hoarded in the forests of Nadukuda, Talaimannar had been found in a search operation conducted by occupational Mannar Army investigators based on confidential information shared with them, reports Virakesari.

08.03.2022: **Robbery** - A 22-year-old who snatched money from an elderly man travelling from Mannar to Vavuniya was caught and apprehended by local youth near Mannar, reports Virakesari. Further reports indicate that the youth handed over the stolen money to the occupational Murungan Police who had come to the scene after they had been informed of the incident.

09.03.2022: **Abduction** - An 18-year-old boy has been arrested for kidnapping a 15-year-old girl from her parents' care in Kayts after the two had fallen in love and the girl had been deemed missing for a few weeks, reports Virakesari.

09.03.2022: **Fake ID** - According to Virakesari, a young woman who was boarding at the Jaffna University Medical Faculty

residences under a fake ID was detained on a court order for 14 days after appearing before the Jaffna Magistrate.

10.03.2022: **Theft** - The Jaffna Magistrate's Court has extended the interrogation of nine women accused of stealing from a Tirunelveli temple to 23.04.2022, reports Virakesari.

11.03.2022: **Theft** - According to Virakesari, an individual who stole and sold roof tiles has been ordered to be detained until 23.03.2022.

11.03.2022: **Arrest** - A 22-year-old from Anuradhapura had been arrested by the occupational Vavuniya Crime Prevention Unit under the allegations of stealing a chain that had been stolen on 04.03.2022 from a jewellery shop on Market Ring Road in Vavuniya, reports Virakesari.

15.03.2022: **Murder** - According to Virakesari, the culprit guilty of killing a young girl in Neduntivu was also found to be guilty of the murder of a pregnant woman in Kayts on 24.01.2017 and had been arrested 5 years later and produced before Kayts Magistrates' Court on 14.03.2022.

15.03.2022: **Body** - According to Virakesari, a farmer guarding a shed in the Irakkulam field was found dead with cuts on his body

on 14.03.2022 by occupational Karadiyanaru police.

16.03.2022: **Robbery** - According to Occupational Vavuniya police, a home robbery was conducted in Ukulankulam, Vavuniya where a woman residing at the residence was also assaulted, reports Virakesari. It has been reported that at least 2 pounds of jewellery had been stolen and cut off the woman.

18.03.2022: **Arrest** - The 22-year-old alcoholic son of the 54-year-old farmer who was killed earlier this month, has been identified to have provided LKR 50,000 to a friend to hack his father to death, reports Virakesari. Accordingly, two individuals had been arrested on 17.03.2022 in the Batticaloa Karadiyanaru.

18.03.2022: **Drugs** - According to Navy LK, a special operation was executed by the occupational SLN in seas off Oluthuduwai, Mannar on 18.03.2022 where 175 kg of Kerala Cannabis in wet weight was seized with two suspects and a dinghy.

21.03.2022: **Robbery** - Occupational Kattankudi police arrested 7 individuals in connection with the robbery of 43 phones worth LKR 24 Lakhs from a mobile shop in Kattankudi, Batticaloa, reports Virakesari.

21.03.2022: **Stabbing** - According to Virakesari, two individuals were

admitted to hospital after being stabbed and wounded in a clash between two groups at the Navatkerni Junction in Batticaloa on 20.03.2022.

22.03.2022: **Smuggling** - According to a report obtained by the Human Trafficking and Maritime Crimes Investigation Division, investigations are underway in Jaffna regarding gold smuggled from Dubai to Jaffna and from Jaffna to India, reports Virakesari.

22.03.2022: **Body** - According to Virakesari, the body of a 25-year-old unidentified woman was found dead in a ditch under the Kalladi bridge in Batticaloa around 12.00 local time.

24.03.2022: **Looting** - The computer equipment at the Achchuveli Central College was stolen by an unidentified person on the evening of 23.03.2022, reports Virakesari. It is notable that occupational police sniffer dogs and forensic police collected clues inside the school premises.

25.03.2022: **Assault** - 45-year-old schoolteacher, S. Chandrakumar was attacked by three individuals including the father of a schoolboy had entered the school premises at 08.40 local time causing serious head injuries. According to Virakesari, Chandrakumar was admitted to Chettikulam Base Hospital with the assistance of colleagues for treatment. Later reports from 28.03.2022 indicate

that three individuals were arrested in relation to the attack by occupational Chettikulam police.

25.03.2022: **Attack** - According to Occupational Nelukulam Police, a group of youth with swords had forcibly entered a residence in the Veppangulam area in Vavuniya to execute an attack, reports Virakesari. Household belongings were hacked and a woman residing in the house was chased out of the home and questioned as to the whereabouts of her husband.

28.03.2022: **Theft** - Two individuals were arrested for stealing and selling iron at Kankesanthurai Cement Factory, reports Virakesari.

29.03.2022: **Logs** - According to Virakesari, Occupational Bandarikulam Police mentioned that logs worth LKR 10 Lakhs were recovered from Kumankulam, Vavuniya and a 32-year-old man had been arrested.

18.03.2022: **Farming** - Farmers and tractor drivers engaged in ploughing and sowing activities for small scale farming on over 180 acres of land across Pattianur and Sunkankuzhi in Kinniya are facing difficulties in obtaining diesel for agricultural purposes, reports Virakesari.

18.03.2022: **Planting** - A special program to plant 2,700 herbs in the Maha Oya Blue Forest in Ampara was launched by

the Governor of the Eastern Province, Anuradha Yahambath on 17.03.2022 in line with G. Rajapaksa's Vision for Prosperity Policy Statement, reports Virakesari. The event included the distribution of medicinal plants to school children.

## **Elephants**

12.03.2022: **Death** - According to Virakesari, two 13-year-olds were killed when an elephant was trapped in an electric fence in the Sammanthurai area.

18.03.2022: **Elephant** - According to Virakesari, an elephant entered a residence in Mannar Murungan in the Adampan area, attacked and killed 46-year-old mother of three, Sadananthan Sudha. The injured Sudha was admitted for treatment to the Mannar Hospital and transferred to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital for further treatment where she passed away.

21.03.2022: **Elephant** - According to Virakesari, a 68-year-old was killed on the spot when a wild elephant attacked him in a field in Sammanthurai.

19.03.2022: **Winds** - According to Virakesari, the regular life of locals in the Kilinochchi district has been affected due to sudden heavy rains and winds causing damages to houses in the Selvanagar and Krishnapuram areas.



22.03.2022: **Exhibition** - According to Athavan News, an exhibition on the display and documentation of heritage symbols organised by SL's Department of Archeology and the Central Cultural Fund was inaugurated at the Jaffna Fort by the Ambassador of the Netherlands and the Maldives, Tanja Gonggrijp.

23.03.2022: **Consumers** - According to the Jaffna District Consumer Affairs Authority, 78 cases have been registered upto 21.03.2022 based on the inspections conducted in February and March 2022, reports Virakesari.

24.03.2022: **Death** - According to occupational Vavuniya Police, 32-year-old Chandrasekaran Yogeswaran was killed in an electric fence set up for a pig in the Komathalaveli Grama Sevaka Division, reports Virakesari.

25.03.2022: **Water** - Locals of Nachikuda Jayampuram in Poonakari mentioned that they face great difficulties in obtaining drinking water daily due to drinking water shortages in the region,

reports Virakesari. Further, it has been noted that the Pradesiya Sabha's supply of drinking water to the area has been insufficient.

25.03.2022: **Condolence** - Members of SL Parliament expressed a motion of condolence during their parliamentary session on 24.03.2022 to former Tamil SL MP's Ms. K. Thangeswari and M.S. Sellachamy, reports Virakesari.

28.03.2022: **Cultural Centre** - According to Virakesari, the Jaffna Cultural Centre which was constructed with an LKR 1.6 billion grant from India was inaugurated with the presence of Jaisankar, Peiris and M. Rajapaksa.

31.03.2022: **Thanthai Selva** - According to Athavan News, the 124th birth anniversary of S.J.V Selvanayagam (Thanthai Selva), the founding leader of the ITAK was celebrated at the Thanthai Selva Memorial in Jaffna.



# Foreign Exchange and Homeland Sustainability

Vithusa

It was only four months ago that the price of sugar was going for LKR 95 per kilogram; it now sells for LKR 170 - closing in on double the going rate. Price of diesel rather than the existence of it and overall fuel on the island falls to a redline of extreme storage with lines of transport vehicles bumper-to-bumper across the island. Parallels with the situation in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia, global nations fall into a similar economic crisis. Globally all nations remain in the position of uncertainty, Sri Lanka included. However, life in Tamil Eelam continues.

Admitting the ongoing financial strife, Tamils across occupied Tamil Eelam continue to go about life. A habituated experience of survival. Counter to this, in the Sinhala south, suicide plagues the Colombo core. It is through this a question of capacity to survive arises. Uniquely, Tamils continued existence stems from availability of resources and experienced ability to make do. The armed conflict curated a system within the global Eela Tamil diaspora of checks and balances whereby, the Tamil nation even while existing globally is determined to take care of its own.

While we explore the system of care, we must also remember the system only operates in proximity to relation. Many who receive these remittances are fortunate to have loved ones and friends abroad. Others garnish support through established/known welfare systems. Well, the remainder rely on their own internal means of survival. We must also account for those whose internal means of survival no longer exist and remember those lives that were taken as a result of incompetent occupying governance.

When considering Anderson's imagined communities, we are reminded that such communities exist through actionable outcomes. With the plight of Tamils throughout the armed conflict the Tamil community exists in multiple places outside of the Tamil homeland. As such, the maintenance of Tamil Eelam becomes the responsibility of those transnationally alongside those in Eelam. In part, we must recognize the LTTE which fortified and backed such remittance plans. It was through such previous plans the institutional structures of the nation were built. The moment's legacy evidently carries forward 13 years post armed conflict.

When considering the Sinhala nation, its singular existence and limited external imaginability it has rendered the nation unable to independently and collectively take care of itself. Early last month a call for foreign aid was placed to the Sinhala populace alongside other citizens of the island. Unbalanced influx of foreign aid coming into the island is an advantage for the Tamil nation. However, it has potential to be capitalised by GoSL.

The core understanding of Anderson's imagined community hinges on the capacity to believe. It is within these desired beliefs the nation becomes a possibility. However, when these communities exist outside of the capacity to believe under defined means of existence such as borders and existing ideologies, these communities become limited to singular perspectives. Ultimately fixed to land-based features.

In our experience, Tamils' commitment to safeguarding our lands and the people who inhabit our traditional territories purposefully reinforce the existence of our homeland of Tamil Eelam. This continues to be done through continued advocacy for the rights of our people and to gain a system that is defined by us. It is through this continued fight that our ratio-ed advantage of being Eelam Tamil in the diaspora benefits us. This same advantage aids us to continuously witness the survival of our nation, Tamil Eelam.

## **Obituary**

# **கண்ணீர் அஞ்சலி**

**24.02.1941-21.03.2022**



**KAMALAMBIKAI KANDASAMY**

**MOTHER OF LT.COL.VICTOR AND ACTIVE  
NAATUPATRAALAR RESIDING IN CANADA  
HAS PASSED AWAY.**

**CANADA**



## **Sri Lanka**

01.03.2022: **SL Constitution** - According to Virakesari, 11 partner parties of the SLFPA met and will release their National Policy Plan on 02.03.2022. The objective of the plan is to urge GoSL to expedite the drafting of the new version of the SL Constitution and make its contents public to the SL Parliament and the citizens of SL.

### Parties:

- ♦ Democratic Left Front
- ♦ Lanka Sama Samaja Party
- ♦ Sri Lanka Freedom Party
- ♦ Sri Lanka Communist Party
- ♦ National Freedom Front
- ♦ National Congress
- ♦ Pivithuru Hela Urimaiya
- ♦ Sri Lanka Mahajana Party
- ♦ Tharani National Council
- ♦ United Mahajana Party
- ♦ Yudugama National Organization

01.03.2022: **Task Force** - According to Virakesari, the tenure period of SL's "One Country One Law" Task Force was extended by three months in an Extraordinary Gazette Notification issued by G. Rajapaksa to allow the Task Force to complete assigned tasks within an appropriate action plan.

01.03.2022: **Lease** - According to Economy Next, SL will lease a disused paper mill owned by the state-owned National Paper Company and 111 hectares of land to Korean Spa Packaging (Pvt) Ltd. This was to revive the mill, which closed in 2012, as a public-private partnership.

03.03.2022: **PTA** - According to the Tamil Guardian, UN experts have called for an immediate moratorium on SL's use of the PTA. They urged the government to review and revise the act to ensure it complies with international human rights law.

03.03.2022: **Appointments** - 13 new SL High Court Judges were provided appointment letters by G.Rajapaksa at SL's Presidential Secretariat on the morning of 03.03.2022, reports Virakesari.

- ♦ A.G. Aluthge - District Judge
- ♦ R.R.J.U.D.K. Rajakaruna - District Judge
- ♦ R.A.D.U.N. Ranatunga - Magistrate
- ♦ T.M.C.S. Gunasekara - District Judge
- ♦ M. Prabhat Ratnasinghe - District Judge
- ♦ R.M.S.P. Chandrasiri - Chief Justice
- ♦ R. Weliwatta - District Judge
- ♦ G.L. Priyantha - Magistrate
- ♦ A. Nishantha Peiris - District Judge
- ♦ S.M.A.S. Manjanayake - District Judge
- ♦ I. Samath Madanayake - District Judge
- ♦ V.M. Weerasuriya - Senior State Counsel
- ♦ H.A.D.N. Hewawasam - Senior State Counsel

03.03.2022: **Removal** - According to Virakesari, G. Rajapaksa had removed Udaya Gammanpila and Wimal Weerawansa from their positions as they were critical of the government. G. Rajapaksa later swore in Gamini Lokuge as SL's Energy Minister, Pavithra Vanniyarachchi as SL's Power Minister in

Lokuge's place and S.P. Dissanayake was sworn in as SL's Ministry of Industry.

03.03.2022: **Easter Sunday** - According to Economy Next, the Archbishop of Colombo, Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith met with the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet. Among other things, he spoke about the GoSL's investigation into the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings.

05.03.2022: **Development** - According to Athavan News, Mahinda Rajapaksa stated at a building opening function in Narammala, that their government is dedicating their energy to prosper SL by constructing new effective roads and buildings, since even at the end phase of the 30 year-war, which they ended successfully. Therefore, every person of the island of SL should support the goals of G. Rajapaksa. In addition, M. Rajapaksa mentioned that drug sale must be curbed to protect future generations, reported Athavan News.

06.03.2022: **Fuel Crisis** - According to News First LK, M. Rajapaksa had stated that there was no fuel crisis in SL and misleading statements were being circulated to escalate panic amongst citizens.

07.03.2022: **Electricity crisis** - M. Rajapaksa has appealed to all heads of local government agencies, faction leaders and opposition leaders to turn off streetlights by 31.03.2022 to save electricity. He also points to the lack of rainfall, the rise in global oil prices and the shortage of foreign currency, Economy Next reports.

08.03.2022: **COPE** - According to Virakesari, the first report of the COPE Committee on the second session of the Ninth SL Parliament was tabled by the Committee's Chairperson, Professor Charitha Herath. Reports indicate that the report referred to 12 GoSL Agencies which were summoned and investigated by COPE.

08.03.2022: **Abortion** - According to Economy Next, SL's Justice Minister, Ali Sabry mentioned that SL should consider legalising abortion for rape victims. Attempts to legalise abortion in 1995, 2011, 2013 and 2017 all failed.

08.03.2022: **Police** - SL Cabinet Spokesman and Media Minister, Dullas Alahapperuma says that SL police is responsible for investigating the attack on journalist Chamuditha Samarawickrama's house. If the police fail to do so, the responsibility will inevitably fall on the government, Economy Next reports.

09.03.2022: **Economic Council** - G. Rajapaksa appointed an 11-member Economic Council to address SL's Economic Crisis. SL's following ministers were appointed:

- ♦ Prime Minister - M. Rajapaksa
- ♦ Commerce Minister - Bandula Gunawardena
- ♦ Highways Minister - Johnston Fernando
- ♦ Finance Minister - B. Rajapaksa
- ♦ Agriculture Minister - Mahindananda Alukkamage
- ♦ Plantation Minister - Ramesh Pathirana
- ♦ Central Bank - Governor Ajith Nivaad Cabraal



- ♦ Secretary to SL's President - Gamini Senarath
- ♦ Treasury Secretary - S.K.R. Attygalle
- ♦ Central Bank Deputy Governor - Dammika Nanayakkara

09.03.2022: **Luxury Cruise** - According to SL's Tourism Development Authority Chairman, Kimarli Fernando, the Luxury Cruise Service from Tamil Nadu to SL has been launched by the Indian Government with the maiden trip due to occur soon, reports Virakesari.

09.03.2022: **Resignation** - SL Ministry of Warehousing Facilities, Container Terminals, Port Supply Facilities and Shipping Development, Jayantha Samaraweera mentioned that he resigned from his position as the GoSL was acting against the people, reports Virakesari.

09.03.2022: **Privacy Bill** - According to Virakesari, SL's Information Technology Advisory Committee met on 08.03.2022 to approve the tabling of the Personal Data Protection Bill in SL Parliament for a second reading. According to Economy Next, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) and seven media groups affiliated with the SL Press Institute are critical as it could potentially impact and violate the rights of professional journalism and media freedom. In addition, the new law could have a negative impact on SL's Right to Information Act.

10.03.2022: **Fishermen** - Five fishermen from the island were arrested by the Indian Coast Guard during their routine patrol in Kanyakumari waters for trespassing into India's territorial waters

and seizing their fishing boat, reports Virakesari.

10.03.2022: **Tenure** - According to Economy Next, G. Rajapaksa appointed Lohan Ratwatte as SL's new Minister of State for Container Storage, Container Yards, Port Supply Facilities and Boats and Shipping. He had resigned from his portfolio in the State Ministry of Prison Administration in September 2021 following a controversial incident in Anuradhapura prison.

11.03.2022: **Energy** - SL's Secretary to their Ministry of Energy mentioned in a press conference held at SL's Presidential Media Centre on 10.03.2022 under the theme of "Strength is a strength for the country" that the fuel crisis in SL would be resolved by 12.03.2022 with the country reverting to usual operation by 14.03.2022. According to Virakesari, the commitment was made as one of four diesel vessels with 172,000 metric tonnes of diesel had already arrived at Colombo Port. It was also noted that 30,000 metric tonnes of lubricating vessels had also been procured for power plants with more expected to arrive by 20.03.2022.

12.03.2022: **Land Development** - SL Parliament passed a land development bill that equalises genders in the inheritance of land to reduce future disputes. In addition, other changes were made regarding the appointment of additional land commissioners and other officials, allowing an owner to mortgage a farm without SL's Divisional Secretary's approval, and prohibiting a grant for unimproved land, Economy Next reports.

12.03.2022: **Conversion Therapy** - According to Economy Next, a private motion has been introduced in SL Parliament to ban the unscientific practice of conversion therapy by unregistered clinics to "cure" LGBTQI people. This involves attempting to change gay or transgender people's sexual orientation or gender identity.

15.03.2022: **SL Cabinet** - According to Colombo Gazette, SL's cabinet has approved to commence talks with the IMF to sort out SL's economic crisis. It is noteworthy that SL's Finance minister had already spoken with IMF officials prior to the approval. The formal negotiation will commence in April 2022.

16.03.2022: **Special Address** - According to Athavan News, G. Rajapaksa had made a special address to the citizens of SL. He urged everyone to unite and not to lose courage during SL's current crisis. He said "We are a nation that has fallen and risen many times in history. We have faced and recovered from foreign invasions, famines, natural disasters, and terrorist threats."

16.03.2022: **Land** - According to Virakesari, SL's Land Ministry Advisory Committee had agreed to submit two disciplinary provisions relating the Land Ordinance for review to SL Parliament.

17.03.2022: **Sacking** - According to Colombo Gazette, Parami Ranasinghe, a presenter at SL's State TV Rupavahini, has been sacked due to a Facebook post in which she criticised the GoSL for the current crisis.

17.03.2022: **Resignation** - According to SL's Presidential Media Unit, allegations that SL's Central Bank Governor Cabraal was to resign soon under the advice of Gotabaya and M. Rajapaksa were false, reports Virakesari.

19.03.2022: **COPE** - According to Virakesari, the COPE Group has made recommendations to SL's Ministry of Energy and the CPC to resolve SL's fuel crisis.

Recommendations:

- ♦ CPC urged to reduce late payments to oil tankers
- ♦ CPC to implement technical plans based on time available for the fuel to be procured in the country
- ♦ Outline of massive corruption scandals as more likely to occur if due process is not adhered to.
- ♦ SL Ministry of Energy was instructed to appoint a technical team to store and distribute fuel for emergencies and implement a plan to ensure uninterrupted supply of fuel.

19.03.2022: **Paper shortage** - Due to paper shortages in SL, final exams for grades 9, 10 and 11 in Western Province schools have had to be postponed. As a result, schedules also must be altered, Economy Next reports.

19.03.2022: **Diesel** - According to SL's Ministry of Power, 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel will be available in SL from 20.03.2022 under the Indian Loan Scheme thus allowing the country's fuel supply structure to return to normal from 21.03.2022 onwards, reports Virakesari.

21.03.2022: **Bills** - Abeywardena has attested to three bills that were taken up for debate and passed during the SL Parliament's recent Parliamentary session, reports Virakesari.

- ♦ Personal Data Protection Bill
- ♦ Employee Compensation (Amendment) Bill
- ♦ Land Development (Amendment) Bill

21.03.2022: **Press** - According to Virakesari, the SL Press Institute has expanded its agreement with the Colombo Hilton to facilitate the operation of its Press Club which was established in 2021 with the objective of hosting public events for the SL Press Institute.

21.03.2022: **Embassies** - In a media briefing conducted by Peiris, he announced that it had been decided by SL's Ministry of External Affairs to temporarily close two SL embassies and one consulate abroad from 31.03.2022 due to a shortage of foreign reserves, reports Virakesari.

- ♦ SL Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq
- ♦ SL Embassy in Oslo, Norway
- ♦ Consulate General in Sydney, Australia

22.03.2022: **Resignation** - SL Minister for Rural Roads and Other Infrastructure, Nimal Lanza has handed in his resignation letter to G. Rajapaksa, reports Virakesari.

22.03.2022: **Digital ID** - According to Economy Next the Cabinet of Ministers of SL has approved the creation of a digital identity for every citizen, which will be financially supported by India. Activists oppose it as it would provide the GoSL

with unlimited powers to monitor citizens and invade their privacy.

22.03.2022: **Marriage Ordinance** -

According to Virakesari, the SL Cabinet has approved the introduction of a new legislation relating to the registration of foreign divorce, termination of marriage or acceptance of legal separation to be included in SL's Marriage Registration Ordinance.

23.03.2022: **Conference** - An All-Party Conference to be chaired by G. Rajapaksa on 23.03.2022 to resolve SL's deepening economic crisis has been boycotted by SL's main opposition parties in SL Parliament, reports Virakesari. According to Athavan News, representatives of 26 parties were present at the conference.

- ♦ R. Sampanthan mentioned that devolution was necessary as the factors that led to the war were still in practice today.
- ♦ Ranil mentioned that the GoSL had created an unsolvable problem with China
- ♦ B. Rajapaksa mentioned that it is welcome that Tamil and Muslim representatives have made suggestions to develop the SL government
- ♦ G. Rajapaksa assured that all ideas put forth at the conference would be implemented to allow SL to recover from its economic crisis
- ♦ Cabraal mentioned that SL was currently in a critical state and the resolution would be influential for the country
- ♦ Maithri mentioned that SL's budget must be reconsidered to provide relief

to the people through their new budget

**Attendees:**

- ♦ UNP
- ♦ SL People's Alliance
- ♦ Tamil National Alliance
- ♦ SLFP

**Boycott:**

- ♦ UPP
- ♦ JVP
- ♦ CWC
- ♦ 11 partner parties in ruling coalition
- ♦ People's Liberation Front
- ♦ TNPF
- ♦ Tamil Progressive Alliance
- ♦ TELO
- ♦ C.V. Wigneswaran
- ♦ All Ceylon People's Congress - Rishad Bathiudeen
- ♦ SL Muslim Congress - Rauf Hakeem

25.03.2022: **Paper shortage** - According to Colombo Gazette several national dailies are facing problems due to soaring prices for papers. Two outlets have suspended their print editions.

25.03.2022: **ITEC** - Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Day (ITEC) was celebrated on 23.03.2022 at Hotel Taj Samudra by the Indian High Commission with 125 guests' participation, reports Virakesari. It is notable that 402 seats with full financial support are allocated to SL every year with the aim of enhancing the professionalism of GoSL.

26.03.2022: **Visit** - According to Virakesari, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaisankar is scheduled to make a two-

day official visit between 28.03.2022-30.03.2022.

26.03.2022: **China** - China has announced that it has decided to donate 2,000 tonnes of rice worth USD 2.5 million to SL to assist in their food shortages, reports Virakesari.

26.03.2022: **TNA** - According to Economy Next, G. Rajapaksa has been working on the following issues:

- ♦ releasing suspects who are in long-term detention.
- ♦ taking further action on suspects who have not been charged or prosecuted
- ♦ initiation of a truth-seeking mechanism
- ♦ modification of the PTA
- ♦ resolve issues related to missing persons.

G. Rajapaksa promotes cooperation with the people of the Tamil homeland so that SL can develop.

27.03.2022: **Case** - According to Virakesari, no further lawsuit is to be filed against B. Rajapaksa and Thirukumar Nadesan for allegedly purchasing 10 acres of land in the Mapitigama area and misusing SL state funds to build a luxury mansion on it.

28.03.2022: **Music festival** - According to the Tamil Guardian, a large music festival was held in Colombo while locals still struggled to get access to basic supplies and endured power cuts. The 'Road to EMF' festival at Port City had international acts and pyrotechnics.

29.03.2022: **CPC** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) lost at least LKR 250 billion in three weeks due to the devaluation of the LKR. As a result, it owes SL state banks at least USD 2.745 billion.

30.03.2022: **Press** - At the SL Press Institute's "Freedom of Information" Q&A Session held at the Hilton Hotel in Colombo on 28.03.2022, Lord Naseby spoke of the freedom of information law introduced in the UK in the name of Freedom of Information and the issues surrounding it; reports Virakesari.

30.03.2022: **Power outage** - According to Economy Next, SL is planning power outages of up to 13 hours in some areas of SL. This will mark the first time that power will be cut off from 12am-8am local time in the ongoing power crisis.

31.03.2022: **Flag** - According to the Tamil Guardian, SL's Public Security Minister, Sarath Weerasekera, proposed a bill on Twitter to criminalise the defacement of the SL flag. He tweeted: 'You are supposed to love & protect the country known as your 'Motherland' as one's own mother.'

## Economic News

### Economic Profile – March 2022

<b>Inflation</b>	February 2022 March 2022	about 15.1 % ↑ to 18.8%
<b>Foreign Exchange Liabilities</b>	January 2022	↑ by LKR 662 billion (USD 3.29 billion)
<b>Gross official foreign reserve</b> Net reserves	February 2022 January 2022	↓ by 2% to USD 2,361 million about minus USD 3.9 billion
<b>Debt to the IMF</b> Extended Fund Facility Special Drawing Rights		USD 1.3 billion USD 903 million
<b>Exports</b>	February 2022	↑ by 9.91% to USD 1,046 million

01.03.2022: **Rupee** - According to Economy Next, the LKR further appreciated against the Russian Rouble to 1.96 from 2.36 on 25.02.2022 and 2.66 on 24.02.2022. In neighbouring Belarus, 1,600 nationals were contacted by the SL Embassy in Moscow. The devaluation of

the Russian Rouble is making it more expensive for Russia to import tea. In 2021, Russia exported 29.7 million kg of tea and was SL's third largest buyer. Due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and sanctions, SL's tea sector will be affected, Economy Next reports.



01.03.2022: **Petrol** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned CPC has awarded a long-term contract for the supply of 1.8 million barrels of petrol for eight months to UAE-based OQ Trading Limited. Thus, OQ Trading will supply petrol from 15.02.2020-14.10.2022.

02.03.2022: **IMF** - The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce urges the SL government to immediately engage with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It wants an immediate end to the power and foreign exchange crisis, which is affecting industry and tourism, Economy Next reports.

03.03.2022: **IMF** - The IMF has mentioned that SL's public debt is unsustainable. Therefore, the IMF recommends SL to cease the printing of money and raise interest rates and taxes. This can prevent monetary instability, Economy Next reports.

04.03.2022: **Debt restructuring** - According to Economy Next, nine of SL's chambers of commerce are calling for a debt restructure. They are calling for the following:

- ♦ introduction of a market-based pricing formula for fuel, gas and electricity
- ♦ allowing flexibility in the exchange rate
- ♦ restructuring of commercial and non-commercial debt

04.03.2022: **IOC** - The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) agreed to supply SL with 12-13 fuel tanks to assist SL in its energy crisis. According to Virakesari, the IOC is set to provide petrol and jet fuel to SL within the next 4-5 months under the

USD 500 million loan tax provided by India to SL for the purchase of fuels.

04.03.2022: **IMF** - The IMF estimates that continued money printing to finance deficits could lead to monetary instability. This would eventually shrink trade and private credit, Economy Next reports.

04.03.2022: **CBSL** - According to Economy Next, the CBSL has requested GoSL to take the following measures so that the currency crisis can be brought under control.

- ♦ introduce measures to urgently prevent non-essential and non-emergency imports, based on the CBSL's earlier recommendation
- ♦ immediately increase fuel prices and electricity tariffs to reflect the cost
- ♦ further incentives for foreign remittances and investments
- ♦ implement energy conservation measures while accelerating the shift to renewable energy sources
- ♦ increasing government revenues through appropriate tax increases on a sustainable basis
- ♦ urgent mobilisation of foreign financial resources and non-debt foreign exchange inflows
- ♦ monetising non-strategic and underutilised assets- Deferring non-essential and non-urgent capital projects

06.03.2022: **CBSL**- According to Economy Next, SL and Pakistan have the worst central banks in South Asia. As the CBSL attempts to maintain the peg to the exchange rate (external anchor) while printing money to maintain the policy rate, the currency is collapsing.

08.03.2022: **Exchange rate** - According to Economy Next, the CBSL mentioned on 07.03.2022 that it would allow greater flexibility in the exchange rate. In addition, CBSL has proposed to the GoSL to increase taxes and fuel prices, which will lead to tighter monetary policy and reduce domestic credit.

09.03.2022: **Rupee** - According to Economy Next, opposition SL MP Harsha de Silva mentioned that the one percent rate hike is insufficient considering double-digit inflation. He added that the current devaluation of the LKR serves to satisfy Indians and that the foreign exchange market is not functioning.

09.03.2022: **Economic Committee** - G. Rajapaksa has established an 11-member Economic Committee under his chairmanship with key ministers and secretaries which is set to convene on a weekly basis. The SL Cabinet approved this decision. The committee will include:

- ♦ M.Rajapaksa
- ♦ B. Rajapaksa
- ♦ Trade Minister - Bandula Gunewardene
- ♦ Highways Minister - Johnston Fernando
- ♦ Agriculture Minister - Mahindananda Aluthgamage
- ♦ Plantation Minister - Ramesh Pathirana. They will formulate and implement economic policies, Economy Next reported.

09.03.2022: **Rupee** - According to Economy Next, CBSL Governor Nivard Cabraal gave an indicative exchange rate of USD 230 to the LKR. Thus, the official rate of the LKR fell to 229.99 to the USD on 08.03.2022.

09.03.2022: **IMF** - Chairman of SL Parliament, Dinesh Gunawardena urged SL's government to immediately submit the report with relevant IMF data on SL's ailing economy to parliament before the all-party conference. The copies had been sent only to SL's Ministry of Finance and the CBSL, Economy Next reported.

10.03.2022: **Monetary Policy** - According to Economy Next, SL needs to raise the policy rate and eliminate the surrender obligation to stabilise the rupee in free circulation. The CBSL has already decided to end subsidies for foreign workers and stop printing money. Furthermore, the exchange rate problem must be ended so that debt can be restructured.

10.03.2022: **Monetary policy** - According to Economy Next, SL's Former Deputy Governor of CBSL, W.A. Wijewardena, says that SL needs another interest rate hike so that monetary expansion can be contained, and inflation curbed. This may, moreover, positively support the LKR exchange rate.

10.03.2022: **India** - According to Economy Next, India has approved a USD 500 million credit line through which SL can import oil. SL can utilise the credit line to purchase oil from India (75%) and from third countries (25%). This line of credit was sanctioned in February, 2022.

11.03.2022: **IMF** - According to sources, SL may apply for an International Monetary Program as efforts are underway to free up the exchange rate. This is because the foreign exchange shortage is leading to high budget deficits and rising oil

prices, which are causing additional deficits in state energy companies. An IMF program includes both a monetary policy program and a complementary fiscal policy program, Economy Next reports.

11.03.2022: **Airline tickets** - Due to the devaluation of the LKR, airline ticket prices in SL will increase from 25% to 27%. The devaluation has impacted many industries and consumer goods prices have increased due to higher costs, Economy Next reports.

11.03.2022: **Price increase** - On the evening of 11.03.2022, prices of basic food items increased by at least LKR 10-30 per item. Global commodity prices have increased due to the Russian-Ukrainian war. The price increases are likely to fuel inflation, Economy Next reports.

11.03.2022: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL will begin debt restructuring talks with the IMF in April, 2022 on a plan to address its debt crisis. This will include help with debt restructuring and addressing the foreign currency shortage. Reuters reported this, citing three unnamed sources.

12.03.2022: **Fuel Prices** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned CPC has increased the price of gasoline (Octane 92) by LKR 77 to LKR 254 rupees per litre, and diesel (Auto) by LKR 55 to LKR 176. This price increase comes after the 30 % devaluation of the LKR.

12.03.2022: **Exports** - According to Economy Next, CBSL has granted permission to exporters supplying local

suppliers to be paid in foreign currency. In addition, companies licensed under SL's Strategic Development Act have also been granted exemptions from the mandatory conversion of foreign currency.

12.03.2022: **Drug Prices** - According to Economy Next, the Sri Lanka National Medicine Regulatory Association (NMRA) has allowed private importers to increase drug prices by 29 %. Federation for Health Professionals (FHP) has stated that there is a shortage of more than 50 essential medicines in GoSL state hospitals. As a result, free health care in the country is at risk.

14.03.2022: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, a senior IMF official is in SL to brief G. Rajapaksa about his assessment of the country. The IMF has stated that SL's debt is unsustainable under the current economic and monetary conditions. To counter this, taxes must be increased, and policy interest rates raised. In addition, the IMF warns of monetary instability and an economic implosion. A tight monetary reserve program is needed to solve these problems.

15.03.2022: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL will seek advice from the IMF and advance its conditions to support the country. IMF Asia Pacific Chief, Changyong Rhee is in SL for a two-day visit and met G. Rajapaksa and B. Rajapaksa.

16.03.2022: **IMF** - G. Rajapaksa met the IMF Asia Pacific Director after SL's Cabinet of Ministers approved it. The IMF has already determined that SL's debt is

unsustainable and needs to be restructured, Economy Next reported.

16.03.2022: **Credit** - According to Economy Next, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Finance Minister B. Rajapaksa to finalise a USD 1 billion credit line agreement from India to SL. Before India provided its financial assistance, SL had to conclude lengthy deals. According to Virakesari, the agreement was signed for the purchase of wheat, sugar, rice, and pharmaceuticals required by SL.

19.03.2022: **Oil Refinery** - According to Economy Next, SL will close its state-owned refinery from 21.03.2022 as it runs out of crude oil stocks. Due to the shortage of foreign currency, SL has been unable to unload shiploads of refined fuel.

21.03.2022: **China** - Beijing's Ambassador to Colombo, Qi Zhenhong is considering the provision of USD 2.5 billion in loans and buyer's credit to SL. USD 1 billion would be allotted as a loan and USD 1.5 billion as credit for the purchase of goods and services from China's, Economy Next reports.

21.03.2022: **Reform Program** - G. Rajapaksa has appointed a panel of 16 businessmen and professionals who are now proposing that SL hire a financial and legal advisor and a technical team for a reform program. This team made following recommendations:

- ♦ immediate appointment of a Technical Team consisting of officials representing the CBSL and SL's Treasury to formulate programmes

proposing international financial assistance

- ♦ appointment of a financial adviser immediately and a legal adviser
- ♦ the Technical Team should immediately formulate a reform programme to propose international financial assistance
- ♦ identify an expert team to assist SL's Finance Minister
- ♦ focus on confidence-building measures after solving supply-related issues

In addition, G. Rajapaksa has stated that it will also approach the IMF, Economy Next reports.

22.03.2022: **Foreign Debt Payments** - Cabraal mentioned that as of 21.03.2022 there are no more outstanding payments from GoSL. Bilateral debts, including to China, have been settled, he said. The repayment of bonds has also taken place and they have been reinvested, Economy Next reports.

22.03.2022: **Line of Credit** - According to Economy Next, SL will introduce a program to provide foreign exchange from a USD 1 billion Indian loan. This should be used to unload containers stuck at the port, releasing enough consumer goods and medicines.

22.03.2022: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL will appoint a technical committee to assist in negotiations with the IMF. A law firm will also be hired to assist in the process. This process will also be accompanied by:

- ♦ Peiris
- ♦ Sabry
- ♦ Cabraal

♦ B. Rajapaksa.

23.03.2022: **FOREX** - According to Economy Next, the CBSL permits SL's forward transactions to importers and lifts the ban on foreign exchange (FOREX) transactions. In addition, bond price controls have already ended and in March 2022 CBSL ceased the peg to the USD.

24.03.2022: **Economy** - Due to tighter fiscal and monetary policy, the SL economy is expected to slow down. Foreign funds are required for debt repayment, macroeconomic and financial sector stability. The GoSL has now decided to use a facility from the IMF and by linking with the IMF, investor confidence will be boosted, Economy Next reports.

24.03.2022: **IMF** - IMF agreement requires SL to take policy measures to reduce fiscal deficit, public debt and inflation, implement reforms, increase foreign exchange reserves and make debt sustainable. Possible implications according to Economy Next are:

- ♦ the government must reduce spending and borrowing
- ♦ increase tax or cut government spending so that revenues increase
- ♦ stop investments such as infrastructure projects
- ♦ sell or lease government assets to the private sector or to foreigners to reduce the budget deficit
- ♦ tight monetary policy by increasing market interest rates and reducing cash available in the banking system, which can restrict the flow of money
- ♦ better government policies that encourage foreign investment and

reduce trade restrictions so that business is conducted more efficiently, thus encouraging exports

26.03.2022: **IMF** - According to IMF, SL's public debt is unsustainable despite possible budget improvements. Moreover, the IMF warns that with the scarcity of financial resources SL will experience a significant decline in imports and private credit growth and monetary instability will prevail. Contingent liabilities of state-owned enterprises could also become an additional burden, Economy Next reports.

26.03.2022: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL's government and the CBSL are ready to seek closer cooperation with the IMF. CBSL has already made several policy adjustments.

- ♦ tightening monetary policy
- ♦ allowing exchange rate flexibility
- ♦ lifting restrictions on foreign exchange market transactions
- ♦ implementing planned revenue-increasing measures
- ♦ allowing market-based price adjustments.

27.03.2022: **Capacity** - According to Economy Next, the CBSL owes the IMF about USD 1.3 billion from the last Extended Fund Facility, or USD 903 million Special Drawing Rights. According to the IMF, SL's precarious reserve position, debt overhang, and persistent fiscal and balance of payments deficits pose high risks to SL's ability to repay the Fund.

28.03.2022: **Russia** - According to Colombo Gazette, Srilankan Airlines has suspended their service to Russia. The



reasons are the current sanctions on Russia.

31.03.2022: **Medicines** - According to Economy Next, SL's State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC) has tendered a list of medicines to India to avail the Indian medicines credit. Of the USD 1 billion credit line, USD 200 million is allotted for the purchase of medical supplies.

31.03.2022: **Currency** - According to Economy Next, SL's Institute of Policy Studies has discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a currency board. Currency board is a consistent, neutral monetary policy regime with a single anchor that behaves in practice in the same way as dollarisation. It involves the use of a strong foreign currency within a country.

## News about Oppression & Resistance

### Protests Timeline

- ▶ 01.03.2022: **Surveillance** - According to M.A. Sumanthiran, an occupational SL soldier was surveilling those involved in a petition campaign against the PTA at Kodikaamam Market. In the photograph posted, an SL soldier was seen photographing the public.
- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest was organised by JVP on 03.03.2022 in Hutton to protest against fuel shortages, power outages and increased workload.
- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Colombo Police, a heavy traffic jam was caused at Delwatta Junction on Negombo Road due to protests staged by Colombo fishermen. According to Virakesari, Colombo police had concentrated within the area to address the situation.
- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - A demonstration was staged by the Vavuniya District Association of the Disappeared at Vavuniya Old Bus Stand on 03.03.2022. According to Virakesari, the relatives had emphasised that the forthcoming UNHRC Session in Geneva should pave the way to justice for them.
- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, the health unions have launched a nationwide strike on 03.03.2022 for the second consecutive day over various demands, including pay raises. The daily services of the Nuwara Eliya District General Hospital have been affected due to union action, however emergency and maternity care at the hospital is running as usual.
- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, a demonstration was

held in Vavuniya by the Association of Relatives of the Disappeared. They stated that the forthcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council should pave the way for justice for them by ICC prosecuting the Rajapaksa family and Commanders who were responsible for the genocide.

- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, in Jaffna and Batticaloa the people lit up torches and candles to protest the power cuts ordered by the SL Government.
- ▶ 03.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a protest was staged opposite the UN Office in Colombo demanding the removal of the PTA.
- ▶ 04.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Jaffna locals staged a protest against electricity cuts by bearing candles at around 20.30 local time on the night of 03.03.2022 at the Semmani Junction on the Jaffna-Kandy Main Road.
- ▶ 06.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, in the prelude of the International Woman's day, the Dabindu Collective organised a protest in Kilinochchi for female workers' protection and the ratification of the ILO C190 Convention to address and prevent violence and harassment at work.
- ▶ 07.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, the relatives of the disappeared conducted a protest march at the Mahatma Gandhi Park in Batticaloa and simultaneously in Jaffna. They demanded from the

international community, justice for the disappeared, the unconditional release of political prisoners, international justice for the Tamil genocide and the repeal of the PTA. Despite occupational police and intelligence presence the people joined the protest. The women took part in the struggle by holding a gas cylinder to express the economic crisis faced by women due to the economic crisis in SL as a result domestic violence is on the rise. Therefore, they requested that all women observe this Women's Day as a black day to express the crisis facing women.

- ▶ 08.03.2022: **Protest** - The students of Southeastern University staged a demonstration opposite the University on the night of 07.03.2022 demanding the privatisation of the Sir John Kotelawala University and the admission of new students. According to Virakesari, the protesting students bearing torches had also demanded the re-opening of the University.
- ▶ 08.03.2022: **Protest** - The Mullaitivu Relatives of the Forcible Disappeared marked the fifth anniversary of their ongoing awareness protests and marked International Women's Day as a Black Day by protesting with black flags. According to Virakesari, the protest was initiated at the Mullaitivu St. Rajapaksa Temple and concluded at the Mullaitivu District Secretariat.
- ▶ 08.03.2022: **Protest** - An awareness protest was staged opposite the Vavuniya Old Bus Stand by relatives of

the forcibly disappeared, reports Virakesari. The protestors demanded the whereabouts of 29 children who surrendered and what had been done to the girls who were handed over to the SL state in 2009. A similar march was also staged in Lindula, Nuwara Eliya to mark International Women's Day by raising awareness against illegal abortion.

- ▶ 08.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, relatives of those who were forcibly disappeared in Mullaitivu and Trincomalee staged a protest on International Women's Day. Former member of the Northern Provincial Council, Durairasa Ravikaran mentioned that there were about 90,000 widows in Tamil Eelam and that the international community should respond to their tears.
- ▶ 08.03.2022: **Black Day** - According to Tamil journalist Kumanan, the families of the disappeared marked five years of their protest and International Women's Day as a Black Day, reports JDS Lanka.
- ▶ 10.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Mullaitivu Pradesiya Sabha members travelled in cattle carts towards the Sabha to raise awareness regarding rising prices, shortages and power cuts.
- ▶ 12.03.2022: **PTA** - A petition-signing action was held in Urumpirai demanding the removal of the PTA, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 14.03.2022: **13th Amendment** - A rally was staged against the 13th

Amendment at the Thandikulam Iyenar Sports Club Grounds in Vavuniya on the evening of 13.03.2022, reports Virakesari. According to G. Ponnambalam, due to SL's current crisis, the Sinhala and Muslim people were beginning to realise the legitimate demands of the Eelam Tamils.

- ▶ 14.03.2022: **Civil Society** - According to Athavan News, Civil society organizations and village organisations held a special discussion at the Mannar Municipal Hall on various issues prevailing in the Mannar district, such as the demarcation of public lands by SL's Archaeological and Forestry Departments, mining of mineral sands, and the impact of wind power on marine resources and the general public.
- ▶ 14.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, EPDP staged a protest opposite the Jaffna District Secretariat condemning the arbitrary activities of the Jaffna District Secretariat during the activities for the development of the division. They stated that it is only in the Jaffna district that people's representatives are completely ignored, especially in development projects centred on the Pradeshiya Sabha under the Gotabaya government.
- ▶ 15.03.2022: **Political Solution** - According to Athavan News, G. Rajapaksa has again postponed the planned meeting with the TNA-Party to 25.03.2022. Demands for a coalition meeting to discuss a political solution to the grievances prevalent in Tamil

Eelam, including land appropriation have been rejected for nearly three years after G. Rajapaksa's victory in SL's 2019 Presidential Election.

Following this, members of SL Parliament representing the Tamil-speaking people staged a protest opposite SL's Presidential Secretariat on 24.02.2022, which has been declared by SL's Presidential Media Unit as a conspiracy to misrepresent GoSL at the UNHRC.

- ▶ 15.03.2022: **Protest** - A mass uprising was organised by the United People's Power (UPP) in Colombo on 15.03.2022 to urge the GoSL to address the rising living costs, reports Virakesari. Further reports indicate that tens of thousands of protestors had besieged SL's Presidential Secretariat, propelling an-anti GoSL movement. It is notable that Sajith Premadasa had also stated at the rally that the leadership must resign immediately and then hold a presidential election.
- ▶ 15.03.2022: **PTA** - SL's Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee has approved the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Bill to be tabled in SL Parliament for a second reading, reports Virakesari.
- ▶ 15.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, a mass protest was staged in Colombo on 15.03.2022 by SL's major opposition - the United People's Force. Large numbers of citizens from various parts of SL gathered to express their discontent with GoSL. The public gathered before SL's Presidential Secretariat

chanted anti-government slogans and carried placards critical of GoSL's actions.

- ▶ 16.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, members of the Valikamam North Pradeshiya Sabha in Jaffna staged a bicycle rally to protest against the rise in prices of essential commodities and fuel.
- ▶ 16.03.2022: **Strike** - According to Virakesari, the Ceylon Petroleum Private Tank Owners' Association went on strike from the midnight of 15.03.2022 in condemnation of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's failure to adequately increase its transportation allowances. The strikers demanded transportation allowances to be increased by 60%. Further reports indicate that the strike was concluded by noon local time on 16.03.2022 following assurances provided by the CPC to increase transport payments from 01.04.2022.
- ▶ 17.03.2022: **Protest** - The JVP launched island wide anti-government protests to demand an immediate solution to the economic crisis and the resignation of the Rajapaksa Government, reports Virakesari. Protests are scheduled as follows:
  - ◆ 17.03.2022: From 15.00 local time - Kalutara.
  - ◆ 18.03.0222: From 15.00 local time - Colombo, Purakottai.
  - ◆ 23.03.2022: Nugegoda.
  - ◆ 29.03.2022: Polannaruwa.
- ▶ 18.03.2022: **Protest** - Socialist youth groups had staged a massive demonstration in Colombo from 10.00

local time opposite SL's Presidential Secretariat in Colombo on 18.03.2022, demanding a swift solution for the current economic crisis, reports Virakesari. Reports indicate that an argument ensued between protestors and a bhikku who attempted to attack a police officer. SL Security Forces, including special forces and police were put on duty at the Secretariat as it was besieged by the public within a few hours. Traffic jams and heavy traffic brought traffic to a complete halt on Maradana Technical Junction Road, Outer Railway Station Road and the Presidential Secretariat Complex Road. The closure of Lotus Roundabout also caused many to travel via bus and other vehicles, causing a rise in discontent. It is notable that many demonstrators disguised themselves as the three Rajapaksa brothers (G. Rajapaksa, M. Rajapaksa, B. Rajapaksa) and held logos of the CPC. According to SL's Presidential Media Unit, the protestors were merely causing a tense situation around the Secretariat and had not attempted to enter the premises.

#### Demands:

- ◆ no fuel line
- ◆ recall oil tankers supplied to India and the Yugadanavi power plant supplied to the US

- ▶ 18.03.2022: **Rally** - A motorcycle rally from Mirigama to Anuradhapura via Karapitiya which was organised by private motorcycle organisation, Spin Rider Club between 17.03.2022-19.03.2022 has been halted by police

following public protests, reports Virakesari.

- ▶ 19.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, M. Rajapaksa visited Nainativu during a two-day official visit to Jaffna where he is said to be making visits to Buddhist viharais in Jaffna. Further reports indicate that the media has been denied permission to cover events that he attends. The TNPF staged a protest opposite the Jaffna District Secretariat against the visit of M. Rajapaksa to Jaffna, despite occupational police surveillance, reports Virakesari. Further reports indicate that M. Rajapaksa had abandoned his visit to Kantarodai to lay the foundation stone for a Buddhist viharai following a protest staged by the TNPF and locals in Kantarodai. Whilst addressing a function at the Nagadeepa Viharai in Jaffna, M. Rajapaksa has mentioned that they have protected the people of the North and intend to accelerate development work for the Northern Province.

#### Demands:

- ◆ refer M. Rajapaksa to ICC
- ◆ abolition of PTA
- ◆ release political prisoners
- ◆ international inquiry into disappearances
- ◆ international inquiry into genocide
- ◆ condemnation of laying of foundation stone for Viharai in Kantarodai
- ◆ condemnation of various Sinhala settlements in Navarai



▶ 20.03.2022: **Protest** - Demonstrators travelling towards the Mattuvil Economic Centre which M. Rajapaksa was to inaugurate on 20.03.2022 by bus to demonstrate against his visit to Jaffna and put forth their demands were intercepted by occupational police and subject to serious investigations. According to Virakesari, some of those on the bus were families of forcibly disappeared persons who were enraged by their treatment and got off the bus in defiance to the police's instructions resulting in a brawl. It is notable that some individuals lay before the bus in defiance too. Further reports indicate that occupational Mullaitivu police in riot uniform had stormed a protest in Mullaitivu on 18.03.2022 - forcibly removing hundreds of protestors.

▶ 22.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, Nallur volunteer teachers staged a protest on 22.03.2022, besieging the Northern Province Education Ministry office to demand their permanent appointment. It is notable that 186 volunteer teachers had applied for their appointment.

▶ 23.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, locals engaged in a mass protest on 22.03.2022 demanding the immediate reconstruction of the Poonakeri Granchi Vera Road in Kilinochchi.

▶ 23.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Virakesari, a rally was organised in Jaffna by the National Fishermen's Cooperative Movement putting forth various demands. The protest commenced at 10.00 local time from

Jaffna Central Bus Stand and concluded at the Northern Provincial Secretariat.

Demands:

- ◆ Release of political prisoners
- ◆ Justice for enforced disappearances
- ◆ Release of land
- ◆ Detention of Indian tugboats

▶ 24.03.2022: **Protest** - Members of the Pasarai Pradesiya Sabha staged a protest opposite the Sabha, reports Virakesari. Notably, S. Karthiswaran shaved his head in condemnation of GoSL's mismanagement.

▶ 24.03.2022: **Rally** - According to Athavan News, an awareness rally was held in Vavuniya today on World Tuberculosis Day. The awareness rally was organised by the Tuberculosis Control Unit of the Vavuniya District Hospital with the aim of creating awareness among the people regarding tuberculosis.

▶ 26.03.2022: **Protest** - The TNPF organised a demonstration against price hikes and economic degradation around 10.00 local time in front of the Jaffna Central Bus Stand, reports Virakesari.

▶ 28.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, the locals from Madhura Nagar and Ithikulam conducted a protest against the closure of the grazing ground for livestock by SL's Forestry Department. The villagers mentioned that due to this, there was a shortage of food for

their livestock. SL's Forestry Department headed by a GoSL Agent would meet the villagers on 06.03.2022 to resolve the issue.

- ▶ 31.03.2022: **Protest** - According to Athavan News, a protest was staged in Vavuniya under by the New Democratic Maxi-Leninist Party against a rise in the cost of living, food prices and to oust the GoSL.

06.03.2022: **Imprisonment** - According to the Tamil Guardian, former LTTE intelligence operative, Thangavelu Nimalan was sentenced for life for allegedly being in possession of 2kg of high explosives. The sentence was delivered on 04.03.2022 after a case was filed against him in 2011.

### **Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)**

01.03.2022: **Intimidation** - According ITAK MP R.Shanakiyan, the GoSL is intimidating the youth who are collecting signs to abolish the PTA, reported Athavan News.

01.03.2022: **PTA** - According to the Tamil Guardian, a former PTA detainee, Poet Ahnaz Jazeem, signed a petition against the PTA in Mannar. He was detained for 19 months under the Draconian Act and was released in December 2021.

07.03.2022: **PTA** - According to JDS Lanka, the Tamil journalist, Murugapillai Kokulathasan from Batticaloa who was arrested under the PTA on 28.11.2020 in relation to sharing a Facebook post about the Tamil martyrs, was released on bail on 07.03.2022 - after 15 months of detention. It is notable that

Kokulathasan was arrested by the occupational Valaichchenai police. The next hearing of his case is scheduled for 13.06.2022. Further reports indicate that RSF International had condemned his extended detention and called for all charges to be dropped immediately.

08.03.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, SL's Parliamentary Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena had informed SL's Parliamentary House that SL's High Court had declared that a two-thirds majority was required to pass certain sections of the PTA. Reports indicate that the remarks were made by Abeywardena during a special joint-sitting of SL's Parliament on the morning of 08.03.2022.

23.03.2022: **PTA** - According to Virakesari, the Second Reading of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Amendment Bill was passed by SL Parliament by a majority of 51 votes despite protests.

Votes:

- For - 86
- Against - 35

**23.03.2022: Intelligence -**

According to Virakesari, Ranil Wickremesinghe has mentioned that a modern intelligence unit should also be established to allow the PTA to be enacted in such a way that it could confront international terrorism.

**24.03.2022: PTA** - The Eravur Tourism Magistrate, Karuppaiya Jeevarani ordered in a video on 23.03.2022 that the leader of the Batticaloa Tamil Awareness Organization, Ganavathipillai Mohan who was arrested under the PTA to be kept in remand until the 06.04.2022, reports Virakesari.

**12.03.2022: Sampur** - According to Virakesari, India and SL signed a bilateral agreement to establish a Sampur Solar Power Plant to strengthen the Indo-Lankan economic partnership. Reports indicate that the agreement was signed between the Ceylon Electricity Board and the National Thermal Power Corporation of India. According to Sri Gnaneswaran, the Deputy General Secretary of the TNPF, this situation must not become a threat to the existence of the Tamil people, reported Athavan News. Reports from Economy Next indicate that the power plant will be 100 MW in accordance with the Joint Venture & Shareholders' Agreement (JVSHA) that India signed with SL on 11.03.2022. In 2011, India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC) and Sri Lanka's state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) similarly signed an agreement for a USD 500 million coal-fired power plant in Sampur.

**03.03.2022: Assault** - According to video footage from MP Chanakyan, SLPP/EPDP Vanni District MP Thileepan assaulted a group of students in Vavuniya whilst SL's MSD officers observed without intervention.

**Enforced Disappearances**

**15.03.2022: Allowance** - According to Virakesari, GoSL had decided to provide a one-off payment of LKR 1 Lakh to rehabilitate the families of missing persons. A joint announcement by the leaders of the Association of Missing Persons of the Tamil homeland was released condemning the payment.

**22.03.2022: Attack** - According to Virakesari, Eeswari, the Coordinator of the Mullaitivu Missing Person's Association was injured during when police attacked demonstrators in Mullaitivu and was later admitted to Mullaitivu District Hospital after she fainted after vomiting once she had returned to her home from the protest. Eeswari was one of those who had laid before the bus in resistance to police obstructions.

**24.03.2022: Visa denial** - According to Thambirasa Selvarani, Ampara district president of the Association of Disappeared Persons and Eastern Provincial Coordinator, the Vavuniya District Secretary was denied a visa while on his way to Geneva to meet with

representatives of other countries, including the Missing Persons Committee and the Missing Persons Working Group. At the same time visas were issued to all relatives from the southern region, reported Athavan News.

26.03.2022: **Meeting** - Relatives of the missing conducted a meeting at Nallur Youth's Hall on 26.0.3.2022 to discuss the attacks made against them by occupational SL security forces during their protests and came to the conclusion to conduct another protest in defiance of such attacks, reports Virakesari.

19.03.2022: **India** - According to Colombo Gazette, India's senior police officers and the coastal security agencies have been put on alert. The reason is the possibility of entering a man from Kilinochchi to Tamil Nadu. The man went missing with his boat. An abandoned vessel was found later.

22.03.2022: **Surveillance** - According to SL Army Spokesperson, Brigadier Nilantha Premaratne, the armed forces would be monitoring petrol stations operated by the CPC where each petrol station would be manned by two soldiers, reports Virakesari.

## **Land**

04.03.2022: **Land issue** - According to Athavan News, in request of G. Rajapaksa, a discussion was held in Vavuniya covering the Vavuniya and Mullaitivu districts to identify

and resolve land-related issues that have not yet been resolved by the departments under the SL Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation.

11.03.2022: **Attack** - According to Virakesari, a landlord who attempted to prevent illegal sand miners from trespassing was attacked in the Kodikaamam area of Jaffna and his motorcycle was burnt causing him to be admitted to Chavakachcheri Hospital for treatment.

16.03.2022: **Sand mining** - According to the Mannar Diocesan Bishop, Emmanuel Fernando, the citizens of Mannar should unite to resist illegal sand excavations which were threatening their livelihood in Mannar, reports Virakesari.

22.03.2022: **Attack** - An activist who was protesting against illegal sand mining in the Dharmapuram Uzhavanar area of Kilinochchi and their relative have been attacked by a group of seven people on 12.03.2022 near a military checkpoint on Chundikulam Cemetery Road near the Kallar Chundikulam Occupational Army checkpoint, reports Virakesari. The injured individual was admitted to Dharmapuram Hospital for treatment and later returned home.

27.03.2022: **Land grabs** - Following the TNA's meeting with G. Rajapaksa, where the TNA has

been reported to have called for a cessation of land grabs by SL troops in the Tamil homeland, Shavendra Silva had a telephone call with M.A. Sumanthiran. According to Virakesari, Silva had claimed that his soldiers did not seize land. When Sumanthiran cited that the land grabs had been ceased by public protests conducted by the public, Silva requested Sumanthiran to provide information and data on all confiscated lands to which Sumanthiran responds that he is in possession of data and Jaffna but would update Silva with details of other districts as well.

24.03.2022: **Refugee** - According to Virakesari, a Ramewaram Court ordered the 10 individuals who went to Rameswaram by boat from Talaimannar to reside at the Mandapam Tamil Refugee Camp. It is notable that due to SL's economic crisis, 16 Tamils from Mannar and Vavuniya had sought refuge in Tamil Nadu.

25.03.2022: **TNA** - According to TNA spokesman M.A Sumanthiran, M. Rajapaksa, Sabry, Peiris and C. Rajapaksa were present at this special meeting between the TNA and G. Rajapaksa to discuss a political solution for the Tamils' issues. The next meeting shall be scheduled in two months when the report of SL's Presidential Commission has been translated into Tamil and Sinhala. The TNA has put forth 4 demands that must be implemented immediately before the next scheduled meeting, reported Athavan News.

- ♦ immediate release of the political prisoners arrested under the PTA
- ♦ cease militarisation, land grabbing, archaeological excavations and demographic changes in the Tamil homeland
- ♦ initiate a full investigation, rather than compensate for the loss of the disappeared through payments
- ♦ make special allocation for the development of the Tamil homeland and to encourage the investment of the Tamil diaspora

GoSL has assured that actions on these issues would be taken.

28.03.2022: **India** - According to Colombo Gazette, India's Foreign Minister Jaishankar met the TNA delegation. In this meeting Jaishankar welcomed the talks between SL and TNA.

29.03.2022: **Britain's Denial** - According to Army LK, British Conservative Party Politician and Joint-Chair Member of the All-Party Group in SL, Michael Naseby, released his book in SL titled, "Sri Lanka: Paradise Lost; Paradise Regained" in the presence of Peiris, Kamal Gunaratne and Shavendra Silva. In his book he denounces any allegations of war crimes and genocide against the Tamils by GoSL, as false propaganda by the LTTE terrorist group and defends the actions of SL in the last phase of the war - citing that the estimated civilian death count by the UN is a hopeless exaggeration.

30.03.2022: **NIA** - According to Colombo Gazette, India's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) has filed charges against



six individuals. These six are accused of reviving the LTTE.

31.03.2022: **Britain** - According to Athavan News, TNA MP Sivagnanam Sritharan has called on the British High Commission's Secretary in Colombo for Political, Peacebuilding and Human Rights, Henry Donati, to help Britain seek an autonomous solution for the Tamils. He further mentioned that Tamils lived in this land with sovereignty before the arrival of Portuguese, Dutch, and British in SL and that it was only after

"independence" that GoSL had usurped Tamil sovereignty. Thus, Britain also has a responsibility to press the SL government to find an autonomous solution with Tamils' distinct sovereignty claims Sritharan.

31.03.2022: **Facebook** - According to Economy Next, G. Rajapaksa has restricted the commenting function on his official Facebook page. There are protests and agitations in social media, hence causing the restriction.

## Signs of Structural Genocide

08.03.2022: **Land appropriation** - According to Virakesari, a writ petition filed by the MPs Chanakiyan and Govindan Karunakaran was heard at the Batticaloa Main Court of Appeal on 07.03.2022. The hearing established that 32 illegal occupants had settled in lands reserved for cattle grazing in the left bank of Mahaweli in Mayiladuthurai, Madhavana. The writ petition is adjourned until 21.07.2022.

09.03.2022: **Land acquisition** - According to the Chairman of Valikamam North Saba S.Sugirthan, the land in Keerimalai which should have been released in 2019, has not been released yet to this date. There is fear among the locals as letters had been sent that the lands of the people who were supposed to be liberated will also be appropriated by SL's Department of Land Survey. Sugirthan demanded that lands not covered by SL's Presidential Palace

should be handed over to the people immediately. He further said that a letter had been sent to SL's Land Survey Department requesting them to withdraw letters sent to the uninvolved public regarding land acquisition, reported Athavan News.

18.03.2022: **Buddhicisation** - According to Virakesari, a delegation of Tamil representatives had observed the situation in Kantarodai after a complaint was filed by a local youth that a Buddha statue was erected in the area. On arriving at the site, it has been reported that a bhikku and many occupational soldiers were at the site.

- ◆ S. Sukirtan - former member of the Northern Provincial Council
- ◆ T. Prakash - former chairperson of the Vali South Pradesiya Sabha
- ◆ M.A. Sumanthiran - TNA Jaffna District MP



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