

PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

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Akkinip Paravaikal

“ *International Solidarity – at its crux,
the Nandhikadal Principles.* ”

Phoenix TNG

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01.10.2023: **Maldives** - According to Economy Next, Mohamed Muizza of the Progressive Party of Maldives - People's National Congress (PPM-PNC) alliance won the country's presidential election with a majority of 54 %.

03.10.2023: **World Bank** - According to a World Bank report, SL's economy will contract by 3.8 % in 2023 and could grow by 1.7 % in 2024. Growth prospects will depend on progress in debt restructuring and the continued implementation of growth-enhancing structural reforms.

04.10.2023: **Geopolitics** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned that SL, as a middle-income country, must negotiate with several creditors concurrently, which is a complex process in part due to geopolitics. SL is required to engage with the Paris Club and India, then China, and tagain to the London Club regarding debt, he said.

10.10.2023: **Gaza** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned in a statement that SL will always support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He called for an immediate end to the fighting and expressed concern about fuel prices and the impact on developing economies.

11.10.2023: **IORA** - According to Lanka Files, India's Minister of External Affairs had made remarks at the conclusion of the 23rd IORA to emphasise, "our common objective is to promote greater prosperity in the region and of making the Indian Ocean region a free, open and inclusive space, based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) as the Constitution of the Seas. We will continue to progress in that regard."

15.10.2023: **Indian Ocean** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has mentioned that SL must position itself to take advantage of the shift in development from East Asia and Asia Pacific to South Asia by leveraging its ports and maritime industries. SL possesses its own identity in trade, he said. The significance of ports and strengthening maritime industries was underscored when he spoke of the emerging "New World Order" of the Indian Ocean, which is geopolitically independent of the mature world powers of the West.

16.10.2023: **AIS** - According to Economy Next, officials from SL participated in the Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum 2023 in Bali, Indonesia, between 10.10.2023-11.10.2023. The AIS Forum includes 51 archipelagic and island states from around the

world, as well as 04 international organisations working on issues related to the sustainable development of island nations.

19.10.2023: **Agri-food systems** - According to Economy Next, a group of UN food agencies has highlighted the urgent need for SL to transform its agri-food systems, as SL is an heavily water-stressed country that also ranks high on the Global Climate Risk Index. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) called for urgent action for sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture in SL at an event in Colombo to mark World Food Day.

19.10.2023: **Belt & Road** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickrmesinghe proposed debt relief, access to concessional loans, and additional financing through multinational organisations as part of a special program to help tropical countries address future climate change challenges at a Belt & Road event in China. Wickremesinghe pointed out that the most effective approach would be for the entire global community to join together to find solutions to this pressing problem.

Bilateral

03.10.2023: **USAID** - According to Economy Next, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said it has collaborated with the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) to launch a platform to track and benchmark energy efficiency initiatives. The National Energy Benchmarking Portal (NEBP) is designed to help companies reduce electricity consumption by promoting efficient practices and savings.

04.10.2023: **Singapore** - According to Economy Next, SL's LOLC Group, which operates in microfinance in several countries, will raise USD 100 million through the sale of bonds aimed at sustainable goals. LOLC Financial Sector Holding Private Limited, a Singapore-based entity that is the holding company of 21 microfinance entities, will be the issuer.

07.10.2023: **Malaysia** - According to Economy Next, Malaysian Foreign Minister Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir will certainly be in SL for a 5-day official visit. He is expected to hold bilateral discussions with Colombo authorities to discuss increased employment opportunities in SL.

10.10.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, operations at Palali International Airport in the occupied Tamil homeland continue to show remarkable success. Operations between Madras and Palali, which occur 03 times a week, have already completed a total of 200 flights, underscoring the airport's increasing importance and efficiency.

10.10.2023: **Australia** - According to Economy Next, Australian Deputy

Foreign Minister Tim Watts is visiting SL and plans to renew a framework agreement on trade and investment. The development program supports SL's inclusive economic growth in sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture and tourism.

10.10.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, Exim Bank of China, the main Chinese lender to SL, has reached a preliminary agreement with the island. China will work with the countries concerned and international financial institutions to jointly play a positive role in helping SL overcome the situation, reduce its debt burden and achieve sustainable development.

10.10.2023: **World Bank** - According to Economy Next, SL Finance Minister Shehan Semasinghe met with representatives of global lending institutions, including Martin Raiser, World Bank Vice President for South Asia, to discuss the progress of World Bank-supported reforms in SL. They discussed, among other things, increased support for agricultural and SME modernisation and other areas of ongoing cooperation.

11.10.2023: **Exim** - According to Economy Next, SL and China's Exim Bank have agreed on key principles to restructure USD 4.2 billion in loans. It is an important step towards restoring SL's long-term debt sustainability and will pave the way for a rapid economic recovery.

11.10.2023: **Milk** - According to Economy Next, an agreement to increase milk production involving SL's Cargills and India's Amul dairy group was signed during a visit by Indian

Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to SL President R. Wickremesinghe in Colombo. The main objective of this new project is to increase milk production by 53 % within the first 05 years and achieve SL's self-sufficiency in milk within 15 years.

12.10.2023: Shareholder Agreement - According to Economy Next, a shareholder agreement was signed with the National Dairy Development Board of India (NDDB) and the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) on 11.10.2023. The joint venture with Cargills stems from a MoU signed in July 2023 between the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying of India and the Ministry of Agriculture of SL to collaborate in the areas of animal husbandry and dairy.

15.10.2023: Japan - According to Economy Next, SL is engaged in attempts to establish a Japan-SL Investment Zone in the Bingiriya and Iranawila areas. They have expressed interest in establishing Free Trade Zones (FTZs).

15.10.2023: India - According to Economy Next, a ferry service has been established between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai (KKS) in the Jaffna Peninsula in the occupied Tamil homeland to strengthen people-to-people ties between the 02 countries. The high-speed ferry covered the first distance of 60 nautical miles in 04 hours, the Indian High Commission said.

16.10.2023: MoU - According to Economy Next, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan's IM Japan Institute on October 11 to bring more Sri Lankan professionals

to Japan. This collaboration will open doors for our skilled young people in the fields of nursing, food processing and agriculture and provide them with exciting employment opportunities.

16.10.2023: Palestine - According to Economy Next, SL's former President, MP Mahinda Rajapaksa, visited the Palestinian Embassy in Colombo to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. He is against war and believes that the problem must be solved through dialogue.

17.10.2023: Japan - According to Economy Next, SL's Water Supply and Drainage Authority is being helped to convert its current paper document system to a digital form to speed up its operations and make them more environmentally friendly. The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) will digitize its processes using the electronic document management system (EDMS) developed by Cyclomax, with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

17.10.2023: China - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has urged Chinese entrepreneurs to consider SL as a strategic hub for emerging green and digital business enterprises. Wickremesinghe emphasised SL's unique geographical advantage, which positions the country as a gateway to Western markets within the entire Asian region.

18.10.2023: Israel - According to Economy Next, SL's Office of Foreign Employment has provided USD 10,000 to the SL Embassy in Israel to provide necessary relief to SL workers in the midst of the armed conflict. The funds will be used to supplement food, medicine and other essential needs.

18.10.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, during Wickremesinghe's four-day visit to China, Chinese technology company Huawei signed an agreement with President R. Wickremesinghe to digitise schools in SL. Lin said Huawei has already worked with several SL universities, not only in academic support but also in providing technology and infrastructure.

18.10.2023: **Pakistan** - According to Economy Next, SL's R. Wickremesinghe and Pakistani Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will discuss the economic crises and recovery in their respective countries at a meeting in China. The 02 leaders are attending a summit focused on China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Both countries have borrowed from China to build infrastructure.

19.10.2023: **Vietnam** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe, and Vietnamese President, Vo Van Thuong, discussed closer trade and cultural ties during a meeting in China. The 02 leaders held detailed talks on building economic and trade ties between the two countries, as well as SL's program to modernise agriculture

19.10.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, during a meeting with SL President R. Wickremesinghe in Beijing, China's Finance Minister Liu Kun confirmed commitment to a medium and long-term program to "optimise" SL's debt. Minister Liu also referred to interactions that "emphasize cooperation with international organizations that are closely linked to China and aim to provide additional support to SL.

20.10.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, several Chinese institutions have expressed interest in

providing academic and technical support to the planned "International University for Climate Change" in SL. This information was disclosed during a high-level discussion in Beijing on 19.10.2023, attended by leaders of environmental universities and organisations involved in climate-related efforts.

20.10.2023: **Statement** - According to Economy Next, SL and China issued a joint statement after a meeting between Wickremesinghe, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang. Agreements were also signed between the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy of the SL Democratic Socialist Republic, under SL President Wickremesinghe.

21.10.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, the tender for SL's planned USD 4 billion oil refinery in the investment zone near the Chinese-built Hambantota port will be awarded within 03 weeks. China's Sinopec and Singapore-based Vitol Asia are the two firms shortlisted from 07 that responded to an expression of interest earlier in 2023.

22.10.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has reiterated his government's plans to link the India-Sri Lanka power grid, despite protests across SL over a recent increase in electricity tariffs. The Indian and SL power grids will be interconnected in Mannar. This area has great potential for a green economy and green energy, especially with available solar power. From Puttalam to Mannar, across the Jaffna Peninsula to Mullaitivu, there are great opportunities here and

we want to make Pooneryn the center of this development.

25.10.2023: **New Zealand** - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Labor and Overseas Employment will establish a Migrant Workers Resource Center in the Eastern Province with the help of a NZD 350,000 worth New Zealand Government grant. The resource center is intended to provide appropriate, timely and reliable information and guidance to reduce the risks and challenges faced by migrants, returning migrants and prospective migrants during their travel and stay abroad.

25.10.2023: **Labour Migration** - According to Economy Next, the Ministry of Labor and Foreign Employment in SL has presented its plan for labour migration for the period of 2023-2027. SL's national policy and action plan for labour migration was developed by SL's ministry with technical assistance from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

25.10.2023: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan will provide a grant of JPY 200 million (around LKR 435 million) to improve fisheries infrastructure in SL's northern and eastern provinces. Japan will provide freezer tractors to SL's Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, ice production machinery and digital scales to the Ceylon Fisheries Harbour Corporation, and nets to the National Aquaculture Development Authority.

26.10.2023: **Trade Agreements** - According to Economy Next, SL is not only seeking to strengthen ties with its largest traditional export destinations, the US and EU/UK, but also deeper

integration with South Asian, Southeast Asian, and East Asian countries. SL's engagement with ASEAN countries is increasing through free trade agreements. Negotiations are underway with other ASEAN countries, including Thailand and Indonesia, with the aim of expanding trade cooperation in various sectors.

26.10.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, the China Foundation for Rural Development said it would support SL's rural development program. Vice President Liu Wenkui said his foundation has expertise in rural development and can support SL's efforts to increase rural productivity to achieve its multiple goals of self-sufficiency, promoting low-income rural families, and increasing exports.

27.10.2023: **South Korea** - According to Economy Next, the South Korean ship Kwanggaeto the Great has arrived at the port of Colombo. This was the first visit of a Korean ship to the port of Colombo in 06 years. This port visit is a great opportunity for close exchanges with SL, a cooperative nation of the South Asian Indo-Pacific Strategy.

27.10.2023: **Italy** - According to Economy Next, SL's Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment met with the Italian Ambassador to SL, Damiano Francovich, to discuss labour migration. An important development of this dialogue was the emphasis on the establishment of a training center. This initiative, sponsored by the Italian government, is designed to provide pre-departure training to SL workers seeking employment in Italy.



Free Abdullah Ocalan Protest CH
10.10.2023



PHOENIX snapshot

Palestine Protest, UK
15.10.2023



Military News

11.10.2023: **Threats** - SLPP Ruling party MP and former SL Deputy Speaker MP Chandima Weerakkody complained to SL Parliament that SL's Defence Secretary and Army Chief had threatened him upon SL Parliamentary premises, reports Lanka Files. Reports indicate that the threat was made in response to Weerakkody's proposal to cutdown defence expenditure.

15.10.2023: **Blood Donation** - According to SL's MoD's website, occupational SL soldiers from Mullaitivu organised a blood donation to mark the

74th anniversary of SL's Army.

18.10.2023: **Talks** - According to SL's MoD's website, the Indian and SL navies held the 11th edition of their bilateral talks. This 3-day talk focused on enhancing bilateral relations, fostering cooperation and interoperability, facilitating training exchanges, promoting knowledge and information sharing, coordinating hydrography activities and planning joint exercises.

28.10.2023: **Korea** - The Republic of Korea Navy destroyer ROKS 'Kwanggaeto the Great'

arrived in Colombo on a formal visit on 28.10.2023, reports SL navy.

30.10.2023: **Naval** - According to Economy Next, SL and the United States of America will conduct joint naval exercises in 2024. CARAT is a bilateral exercise between SL and the US to promote regional security cooperation and strengthen maritime partnership.

Domestic News

06.10.2023: **Mannar** - According to Economy Next, SL plans to expand a project started in Mannar which aims to reduce GoSL spending on grain imports through the provision of seeds and market opportunities to rural farmers across SL. In the Mannar district, around

950 tonnes of green beans have already been procured under this initiative - contributing to significant foreign exchange savings on grain imports.

09.10.2023: **Viharai** - A Buddhist Temple has been installed in Mankollai, KKS. This

temple has been installed in front of the Varaivar Temple at this location. It's noteworthy that the area was under military control for the last 40 years.

16.10.2023: **Jaffna** - According to Economy Next, sour bananas are currently grown on 200

acres and TEJC mangoes on 500 acres in Jaffna. Together with the Rajangana sour banana project, about 10,000 kg of sour bananas are exported weekly to the Dubai market. These two projects are very successful.

19.10.2023: Fishing - According to Economy Next, SL needs to carefully manage the fishing industry in the northern sea between India and China as Beijing's sea cucumber business brings in more and more revenue in the face of increasing security concerns from Delhi and poaching among Indian fishermen. Depletion of fish stocks in the northern seas in the face of constant Indian bottom trawling has prompted some northern fishermen to take up China-funded sea cucumber farming.

20.10.2023: Agricultural Zone - According to Economy Next, farmers of Norochcholai and Kalpitiya have submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture to designate the area as an agricultural zone. In Norochcholai and Kalpitiya, vegetables and fruits are grown in large numbers. Both areas in Puttalam district have unique weather conditions, with predominantly dry and semi-arid climates.

23.10.2023: Airport - According to Economy Next, SL's smaller airports are to be upgraded due to the increase in air traffic. Passenger facilities at Palali International Airport will be upgraded, including expansion of the existing passenger terminal, creation of a

duty-free shopping center, better sanitation facilities, facilities for immigration and customs officials, and improved infrastructure.

27.10.2023: Racism - According to Economy Next, opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MP M. A. Sumanthiran wrote to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) that Mangalaramaya Ampitiya Sumana Thero had threatened to "cut to pieces" Tamils living in southern Sri Lanka. The MP described the monk's remark as a "flagrant offense" punishable under Section 3(1) and (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act No. 56 of 2007.

04.10.2023: CPA - According to Economy Next, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) has called on SL's government to withdraw the controversial online safety bill and instead draft a more

transparent law with the support of various stakeholders. The bill was introduced to SL Parliament on 03.10.2023, by Tiran Alles - SL's Minister of Public Security, amidst opposition protests.

10.10.2023: Data Protection - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has appointed directors to the board of the Sri Lanka Data Protection Authority (SLDPA). SL's Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022 ("PDPA") is of

Sri Lanka

utmost importance in light of GoSL and private sector digital strategies as well as global developments in data protection. It is expected to attract investment and boost the digital economy, in line with the National Digital Strategy and Sri Lanka's Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) project.

11.10.2023: SL Elections - SL Opposition Leader, Sajith Premadasa, strongly condemns R. Wickremesinghe and his government in a statement published on 09.10.2023, claiming that they were "scheming to postpone elections," reports Lanka Files.

12.10.2023: War - According to Economy Next, Sarath Weerasekara, head of the sectoral oversight committee on national security, has mentioned that SL's successive government has failed to explain the nature of the war between the state military and the LTTE to avoid the current situation where individual military and political leaders are targeted by select countries. Canada has banned former presidents M. Rajapaksa and G. Rajapaksa, who

played crucial roles in the final stages of the 26-year war, from entering the country, while Germany, the United States, and Australia have denied entry to several other senior military leaders without providing reasons, he claims.

17.10.2023: Central Bank Law - According to Economy Next, SL's Central Bank Law 2023, which legalized fully discretionary macroeconomic policy in a reserve-collecting central bank, is an unfortunate resurrection of original ideas proposed by classical mercantilists. The idea of output gap targeting with easy money goes back to the Scottish mercantilist John Law and the fully discretionary flexible policy to James Stuart.

18.10.2023: Tamils - According to Economy Next, Minister of State for Commerce S. Viyalanderan says Tamil political leaders in SL must work with President Ranil Wickremesinghe's "flexible approach to achieve national unity" and address the challenges facing the Tamil people. Viyalanderan told reporters on Tuesday,

17.10.2023, that it was commendable that Wickremesinghe had appointed a Tamil as governor of the Eastern Province for the first time in history.

24.10.2023: Visa - According to Economy Next, SL has approved the issuance of free visas to tourists from India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand. The Cabinet approved this as a pilot project until 31.03.2024 with immediate effect.

31.10.2023: World Bank - According to Economy Next, World Bank Managing Director for Operations Anna Bjerde called for more climate-resilient agriculture in SL during a site visit that included representatives from the Asian Development Bank and Japan. SL needs more initiatives to meet the challenges of climate change, both through mitigation and adaptation, she said.



Palestine Protest Syd, AU
21.10.2023



PHOENIX snapshot

Himpunan Malaysia for Palestine MALAYSIA
24.10.2023



Palestine Protest TN
29.10.2023

ECONOMIC PROFILE – October 2023

Remittances	September 2023	↑ by 34% from a year ago to USD 482.4 million
Gross FOREX Reserves	September 2023	↓ to USD 3.5 billion
Credit Private sector	August 2023	↓ by 6.8% to LKR 7,098 billion
Budget track	July 2023	
Tax revenues		↑ by 43 % from a year ago to LKR 1,376.9 billion
Current spending		↑ by 46% to LKR 2,674 billion
Interest costs		↑ by 89% to LKR 1,443 billion
Primary deficit		↓ to LKR 27.4 billion
Capital spending		↑ by 13 % from a year ago to LKR 312.9 billion
Overall deficit		↑ by 46% to LKR 1,47 billion
Trade Exports	September 2023	↓ by 11.8% from a year ago to USD 951.5 million
Inflation	October 2023	↑ by 1.5% in the 12-months to October 2023

RANJINI
AP Economic Analyst
& Coordinator

02.10.2023: **Money Creation** - According to Economy Next, SL has warned that the accumulation of foreign reserves has slowed and has renewed a warning against money printing. Given the ongoing uncertainty, it remains important to rebuild external buffers through strong reserve accumulation.

03.10.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL has not agreed to some recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as they would increase the burden on the population.

05.10.2023: **Key Interest Rate** - According to Economy Next, the Central Bank of SL has cut the key interest rate by 100 basis points to 10 and 11 % in order to push inflation to 5 % and achieve "potential growth." The Board reached this decision after a careful analysis of current and expected developments, including low inflation and favourable inflation expectations in the domestic economy.

10.10.2023: **Fitch** - According to Economy Next, Fitch Ratings has

upgraded Ceylon Electricity Board's (CEB) National Long-Term Rating and CEB's Senior Unsecured Notes Rating to 'BB+(lka)' from 'B(lka)'. The upgrade follows the upgrade of SL's local currency long-term issuer default rating (IDR) to 'CCC-' from 'Restricted Default (RD)' dated 28.09.2023.

13.10.2023: **Port City** - According to Economy Next, SL's Chinese-built port city has attracted USD 1.6 billion in investment for a range of projects, and investors are waiting for legislation to be finalised. However, criticism, including from the US, that the Chinese-built land could be used to launder money has affected the port city's ability to attract investment.

16.10.2023: **Hambantota** - According to Economy Next, China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC), a subsidiary of state-owned China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) Limited, has resumed talks on an investment zone in Hambantota promised by the SL government. GoSL has promised the Chinese company 6,070

hectares of land in an industrial zone adjacent to the Hambantota port. If talks are successful, a decision will be made on where the new zone will be built.

16.10.2023: **BOI** - According to Economy Next, SL's Board of Investment (BOI) is analysing the financial capabilities of applicants bidding for mining licences after the award criteria were changed. The cabinet in August approved several proposals by R. Wickremesinghe aimed at encouraging foreign and domestic investment in SL's extractive sector to boost revenues in a corrupted sector.

21.10.2023: **Debt** - According to Economy Next, China will assist its financial institutions in reaching an early agreement on the treatment of SL's debt. The Export Import Bank of China, the main lender, had already reached a preliminary agreement on USD 4.2 billion in debt, which is classified as bilateral. A USD 535 million loan from the China Development Bank and a USD 2.1 loan from the CDB, also classified as commercial, are still outstanding.

HUMAN CHAIN

Unified Resistance

Tamil lawyers announce a court boycott and protest rally on 09.10.2023 and a subsequent fortnight of a black-mask protest in solidarity with T. Saravananarajah, reports Lanka Files.

“This threatening message goes against the entire minority citizens to say that, if y’all go against us, this will happen to you.”

Further reports indicate that a human chain protest was held in Marudanarmadam to Jaffna with participation from locals and Tamil political representatives demanding the protection of the judiciary.

Oppression & Resistance

01.10.2023: **Censorship**

- Journalist Elke Scholiers from India who is a photojournalist in international media reports that they had been blocked from reporting Irainaitivu's occupation by SL's occupational Navy and Ministry of Defence military authorities, reports Lanka Files.

02.10.2023: **Protest** -

According to Kalaikathir Relatives of the Enforced Disappeared staged a protest at Nallur, Jaffna. This protest was organized at the International Children Day to mark Enforced Disappeared children.

03.10.2023: **Protest** -

According to Eelanadu a protest was held in Kilinochchi in support of the judge T. Saravanarajah, who had to flee the country due to threats from SL State. In Jaffna Tamil Lawyers are striking in support of the judge.

04.10.2023: **Human Trafficking** -

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) has responded to a query from Economy Next, stating that SL's Anti-Trafficking Unit has received 44 complaints of human trafficking as of August 2023. The

responsibilities of SL's Anti-Trafficking Unit are to identify and refer victims of illegal labor migration and human trafficking to SL's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and to coordinate investigations with them.

05.10.2023: **Death threats** -

Civil society activist, V. Lavakumar who had received death threats commented on Karuna & Pillaiyaan's abduction of youth in the Tivuchenai area citing during a press conference at the Batti Press Club that, "We are forced to dust off our old weapons due to you." (Directed at Karuna and Pillaiyaan), reports Lanka Files.

06.10.2023:

Disappearances - Prageeth Ekneligoda's wife staged a vigil to mark 5,000 days since the forcible abduction and disappearance of her husband and journalist, reports Lanka Files. "I want perpetrators to be punished. Therefore, I urge deities Kali and Paththini who were with me to give life to the virgin of justice who should not stay helpless and blindfolded." Tamil journalists and media activists had also

marked the date demanding international justice at the fallen journalists' monument in Batticaloa under the coordination of the Batti Press Club.

06.10.2023: **Protest** -

Tamil lawmakers including R. Shanakiyan shouted slogans in SL's Parliament to demand an urgent solution for the rights of Mayilaththamadu Farmers. According to Lanka Files, the protest was in solidarity with a protest conducted by dairy farmers of 400,000 cattle who have been deprived from their pasturelands. Further reports indicate that the occupying Buddhist monks led by Ambitiya Sumanaratna Thera in Batticaloa staged a protest on 07.10.2023 against R. Shanakiyan's protest and mentioned that they "will beat Shanakiyan until the broomstick breaks." It is notable that occupational Santhaveli Police had also obtained a court injunction from Eravur court against the ongoing peaceful protest of Mayilaththamadu farmers, reports K. Kumanan.

07.10.2023: **Mass Grave**

- According to Lanka Files, the

recommencement of exhumation work at the Kokkuthoduvai Mass Graves are further delayed due to a lack of funds from SL's President's Office as pledged by OMP SL.

07.10.2023: **Bombings** - According to Lanka Files, SL's President had reconfirmed that international investigations into the Easter Sunday bombings of 2019 will be rejected by GoSL.

08.10.2023: **Intimidation** - According to Lanka Files, occupational SL Police use violence against Tamil families of the forcibly disappeared and farmers of occupied pasturelands in Mayilathamadu who had staged a protest to seek answers from SL's President R. Wickremesinghe who was visiting Batticaloa on 08.10.2023.

09.10.2023: **Mullaitivu** - According to Economy Next, lawyers from Mullaitivu held a protest march followed by a demonstration in Aluthkade in connection with the controversial resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge T. Saravanarajah. Politically active southern lawyers such

as Nuwan Bopage and Sunil Watagala also participated in the protest.

11.10.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, SL's Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) organised a protest in Colombo over a number of concerns, including tax and salary issues. The demonstration took place opposite the Colombo National Hospital on 11.10.2023.

11.10.2023: **Shutdown** - According to Lanka Files, Tamil political parties had united in Jaffna of the occupied Tamil homeland to declare 20.10.2023 as a day of total shutdown to urge international intervention against the continued deprivation of justice for Tamil due to Sinhala Buddhist domination.

11.10.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, a youth group in Mullaitivu tied their mouths shut with black cloth to engage in a silent vigil during the submission of a petition to SL judicial authorities requesting a probe into the forced resignation of T. Saravanarajah.

13.10.2023: **Commemoration** -

Locals commemorate the 36th memorial of the Pirambadi, Kokuvil Massacre where around 55 Tamils were killed by the occupational IPKF, reports Lanka Files.

14.10.2023: **Protest** - Local fishermen of the Pallimunai village staged a sit-in protest opposite the Mannar District Secretariat to demand an abolition of the commercial pass system which affects the livelihood of small-scale fisheries communities, reports Lanka Files.

14.10.2023: **SL Presidential Pardon** - According to Lanka Files, SL's Supreme Court decided on 12.10.2023 that it would hear an appeal against a Presidential Pardon granted during G. Rajapaksa's rule to genocidaire Sunil Ratnayake who was infamously involved in the Mirusuvil Massacre.

14.10.2023: **Protest** - Buddhist monks staged a protest in support of Israel bearing lion flags and Israeli flags in Colombo, reports Lanka Files. Senatipatiye Ananda Thera mentioned that "at a time when the international community did not help us, the state of Israel

helped us unconditionally to save us from terrorism.”

18.10.2023: **Palestine** - Tamils held a protest in Jaffna at the bus depot in solidarity with Palestine.

20.10.2023: **Hartal** - 07 Tamil parties have announced a hartal in support of the Tamil judge V. Saravananarajah. This hartal was held across the Tamil homeland.

20.10.2023: **Commemoration** - The remembrance of the journalist Nimalarajan was held at the Jaffna Presse Club. Nimalarajan was killed 23 years ago, as an emergency law was declared in Jaffna.

24.10.2023: **Mass Graves** - CCTV cameras were installed at the Kokuthoduvai Mass Grave excavation site in increasing surveillance.

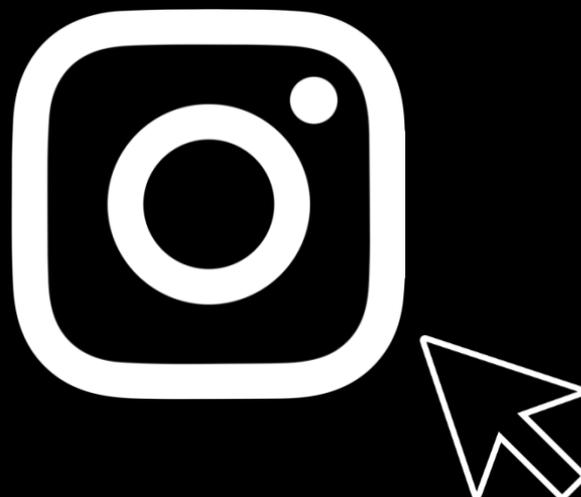
25.10.2023: **Protest** - 58 Tamil farming families from Vannivilankulam staged a protest opposite Manthai east local government office demanding proof of ownership for paddy fields provided to them 9 years ago, reports Lanka Files.

28.10.2023: **Intimidation** - Tamil journalists Shashi Tamil and V. Krishnakumar who had covered the protests of farmers in Batticaloa on 08.10.2023 against land grabs were summoned, interrogated and statements were recorded by occupational Batticaloa police, reports JDS Lanka.

31.10.2023: **Mass Graves** - Excavation of the Kokuthoduvai Mass Graves has been further postponed until 20.11.2023.

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SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

Any occurrence which reflects the implementation of Tamil genocidal ideology in a structural manner.

05.10.2023: **Chettikulam** - According to Kalaikathir several temple statues were destroyed by unknown at the Sri Muthukumari Amman Temple in Chettikulam, Vavuniya.

06.10.2023: **Landgrab** - According to a complaint made by MP Imran Maharooof to SL's Minister of Tourism and Lands, Fernando Harin, a Buddhist monk had allegedly appropriated privately-owned lands owned by Muslims from the Kuchchaveli and Pulmoddai area when only women were at home and the men had left their residences to attend work, reports Lanka Files.

06.10.2023: **Mayilaththamadu** - According to Eelanadu Tamil Cattle farmers from Mayilathamadu told, that 50 buddhist monks and 400 hunderts Sinhalese have arrived at Mayilattamadu, Batticaloa and trying to seize tamil lands.

15.10.2023: **Buddhist statue** - According to K. Kumanan, a new Buddhist statue was placed in the Mathavanai, Mylaththamadu area under the leadership of Ampittiya Sumanarthna Thero. Further reports indicate that former Eastern Province Governor Anuratha Yahampath had also participated in the event.

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