

PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

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November 2023



Akkinip Parabaikal

“
*Commemoration, resistance and
resilience from the ashes.*”

Phoenix TNG

International <i>Bilateral</i>	03-07 03	Economic	14-16
Military	09	Oppression & Resistance	17-21
Domestic	09-12	Signs of Structural Genocide	22
Phoenix Snapshot	08 & 13		

02.11.2023: **Interest rates** - According to Economy Next, the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged at its November meeting. However, it will continue to withdraw excess liquidity from the money markets at the previously announced rates.

06.11.2023: **US** - US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) CEO, Scott Nathan, will visit Colombo to participate in a launch event for a new DFC investment at the Port of Colombo that will provide critical infrastructure for the South Asian region, reports Daily Mirror.

08.11.2023: **Immigration** - According to the Human Rights Law Centre, Australia's High Court has ruled indefinite immigration detention unlawful. Countless Eelam Tamils have been indefinitely detained in Australia for over a decade.

12.11.2023: **India** - Major Indian trade unions oppose the allocation of construction workers from India to replace Palestinian workers in

Israel, while SL is set to send 10,000 as farm workers, reports Lanka Files. The trade of employees was agreed upon by Israel's Minister of Interior Moshe Arbel and SL's Ambassador to Israel Nimal Bandaranaike.

27.11.2023: **UK** - An SL official mentioned that SL wants equal treatment from the UK when re-engaging with them in the UNHRC process, rather than revisiting past events. The UK is at the forefront of the group of countries that suggested the 2021 resolution, which aims to investigate allegations of human rights violations and accountability issues. It was revised the previous year to more accurately reflect the economic crisis, reports Daily Mirror.

27.11.2023: **COP28** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe will address the globally important issues of the Tropical Belt Initiative and the Forum for Climate Justice (CFJ) at the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), which begins on 01.12.2023 in Dubai. This year's climate summit will

address a range of issues where countries are required to seek common ground to tackle climate change.

28.11.2023: **Japan** - Japanese Ambassador to SL Mizukoshi Hideaki signed the grant contracts of 02 demining projects under the scheme of "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects." The Government of Japan has provided a total sum of USD 729,925 (approximately LKR 238 million) for these 02 projects with MAG and the HALO Trust to extend its support for humanitarian demining activities in Tamil Eelam, reports NewsFirst LK.

30.11.2023: **Palestine** - According to Economy Next, SL MPs Rauff Hakim and Dilan Perera expressed their support for Palestine at an event organised by the Palestinian Embassy in SL on 29.11.2023. 29.11.2023 is upheld as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - a day organised by the UN.

Bilateral

01.11.2023: **JICA** - According to Economy Next, SL's Energy Minister is requesting SL's Japan International

Cooperation Agency (JICA) for further support for renewable energy integration and financing for residential

and commercial rooftop solar. In addition, SL and Japan have discussed ongoing electricity sector reforms, renewable energy policy plans and future developments.

01.11.2023: **World Bank** - According to Economy Next, World Bank Managing Director for Operations Anna Bjerde has said that it is critical that SL stays the course on reforms for recovery as well as sustainable and inclusive growth, whilst strengthening governance, citizen engagement and social cohesion. She also emphasised the World Bank's continued commitment to investing in people, strengthening human capital and creating jobs.

01.11.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, the State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest public sector bank will open 02 new branches in SL, expanding its services to occupied Jaffna and Trincomalee. SBI SL has a product range that includes all types of deposit accounts, working capital, term loans, vehicle and housing loans and trade finance.

02.11.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, SL has resumed talks with India on the Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) for the first time in 05 years. Both sides recognised the great potential of the trade partnership between India and SL and the opportunities for enhanced economic ties in areas of mutual interest.

02.11.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, India will send teachers to improve education standards and meet the growing needs and aspirations of Tamil students in upcountry SL. Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is on a 03-day official visit to SL and was the keynote speaker at

the 'Naam 200' event to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Indian-origin Tamil (IOT) community in SL.

03.11.2023: **Buddhism** - USD 15 million was granted from the Government of India to bolster the longstanding Buddhist connections between India and SL, underscoring the deep historical and cultural ties that bind these 02 nations together.

03.11.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, the Indian government has donated USD 15 million to SL to promote Buddhist relations between the 02 nations. The grant could be used for various initiatives including construction and renovation of Buddhist monasteries, capacity building, cultural exchange, archaeological cooperation, mutual exhibition of relics and other areas of mutual interest.

06.11.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, the CEO of the international US Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Scott Nathan, will visit Colombo to attend a launch event for a new DFC investment at Colombo Port. The investment will create critical infrastructure for the South Asian region. Nathan will also attend a signing ceremony for DFC's investment commitment to Citizens Development Business Finance (CDB), which will work with USAID SL to promote inclusive lending in SL.

06.11.2023: **Italy** - According to Economy Next, the SL Minister of Power and Energy, Kanchana Wijesekera, has met with the Italian Ambassador, Damiano Francovich, in SL. They discussed sector reforms and investment opportunities in SL's power and energy sector.

07.11.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, the Chinese ambassador to SL has visited the Northern Province. He invited locals to export seafood to China, while assuring them that Beijing would not export fishery products to the province.

08.11.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, the US International Development Finance Corporation will invest USD 53 million in the Colombo Ports West Terminal. The terminal is a joint venture between SL's John Keells Holdings and India's Adani Ports.

08.11.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, the United States International Development Finance Corporation is looking to finance more businesses and banks in SL after building a USD 1 billion portfolio at a time when the economy was struggling. The DFC had a portfolio of USD 09 billion in the Indo-Pacific region.

10.11.2023: **World Bank** - According to Economy Next, SL will receive 150 million US dollars from the World Bank for deposit insurance. Strengthening the deposit insurance system will help protect the savings of smaller depositors, including women and people in rural areas. It will also boost confidence in SL's financial system, which is crucial for the country's recovery.

15.11.2023: **Deloitte** - According to Economy Next, Romal Shetty, the Chief Executive Officer of Deloitte South Asia, will visit SL in November 2023 to meet with business leaders and staff on the island and in the Maldives. His visit was announced on the day more than 500 professionals were welcomed to Deloitte's network units in SL and the Maldives, marking one of the largest

mergers in the history of professional services in the South Asia region.

15.11.2023: **Debt** - According to Economy Next, SL is hoping for an early agreement with official creditors in the Paris Club and India. An agreement with the official creditors will assist SL to meet the IMF's debt targets. The Chinese Exim Bank has already reached an agreement with SL on such a debt settlement.

16.11.2023: **UNESCO** - According to Economy Next, SL was elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the period 2023-2027 with 144 out of 188 votes. This is the third UN body or committee SL has been elected to in recent months: the other 02 are the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW).

16.11.2023: **EU** - According to Economy Next, the European Union (EU) delegation in SL has launched its "Let's Go Green" campaign. Over the past 06 weeks, the campaign has shown examples of what responsible green behaviour means in practice.

17.11.2023: **Paris Clubs** - According to Economy Next, details of SL's agreement with China Exim Bank have been shared with Paris Club creditors, raising expectations of a bilateral loan restructuring. SL expects the IMF program to be approved before the end of the year.

17.11.2023: **Food Aid** - According to Economy Next, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) SL

has committed USD 32.5 million to the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, a US food aid initiative, for a period of five years. According to the US Embassy in Colombo, the program is a food aid initiative designed to combat hunger and improve literacy and primary education.

18.11.2023: **Maldives** - According to Economy Next, Ranil Wickremesinghe and Maldivian President Dr. Muizzu have held bilateral talks. Following Dr. Muizzu's swearing-in ceremony, he met with the head of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Samantha Power, in the capital Malé.

20.11.2023: **Bangladesh** - According to Economy Next, SL-Bangladesh Business Council (SBBC) is to promote trade, investment and tourism relations between the 02 countries. The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce highlighted the potential Bangladesh has as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, offering a huge market, investment-friendly policies, robust infrastructure, skilled workforce and rapid digitalisation.

20.11.2023: **ADB** - According to Economy Next, representatives of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) met with GoSL officials at SL's Presidential Secretariat to discuss the upcoming reform program for the water supply sector in SL. The reforms will focus on improving the management of climate resilient, safe and environmentally sustainable water supply systems.

20.11.2023: **BRI** - According to Economy Next, SL is among the countries ready to join the second phase of China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), with a free trade agreement between

the 02 countries also to be expedited. China is also prioritising the extension of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor to the island nation, according to the Chinese President's Special Envoy, State Councilor Shen Yiqin.

21.11.2023: **Thailand** - According to Economy Next, SL's cabinet has approved a free trade agreement that will liberalise 80 % of tariffs over a 15-year period. The agreement is expected to be signed in February 2024.

21.11.2023: **Israel** - According to Economy Next, SL has signed an agreement on the secondment of workers to Israel. The workers are needed for agricultural activities in Israel. Security is guaranteed for workers sent to Israel from SL.

22.11.2023: **Oil refinery** - According to Economy Next, an agreement for a USD 05 billion refinery to be built by China in SL's Hambantota district will be presented to the cabinet for consideration next week. If approved by the cabinet after the deal is signed, it will be the largest single investment project ever.

22.11.2023: **Energy** - According to Economy Next, SL can transition to green energy exports by becoming a regional hub for green hydrogen supply, said R. Wickremesinghe. US Ambassador Julie Chung, Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and British High Commissioner Andrew Patrick, who also spoke at the symposium, pledged their support for SL's commitment to a Green Hydrogen transformation.

22.11.2023: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japan has allocated a grant of JPY 200 million to promote fisheries infrastructure in the northeast of the country and JPY 160 million to

establish a Doppler weather radar network. This investment aims to strengthen the fishing industry through the expansion of freezing facilities and the supply of modern equipment to ultimately increase the value of fisheries production and improve the living conditions of fishing communities in the occupied Tamil homeland.

26.11.2023: **World Bank** - According to Economy Next, SL has received USD 495.6 million in interest-free budget support loans from the World Bank until September 2023. This came after the country was de-graduated to be eligible for soft loans from the International Development Association (IDA).

27.11.2023: **UAE** - According to Economy Next, bilateral trade between SL and the UAE has surpassed USD 3.9 billion. The UAE is one of SL's largest trading partners in the Middle East.

27.11.2023: **EU** - According to Economy Next, SL has signed a funding agreement with the European Union to promote sustainable food consumption. The EUR 15 million EU grant aims to increase the availability of food for people in need through more efficient food distribution, preventing food waste or converting food waste into much-needed agricultural inputs such as organic fertiliser, animal feed, etc.

27.11.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL is optimistic about China's Myanmar Corridor proposal, which will boost trade between the 02 countries as well as trade between Beijing and African nations. The Myanmar Corridor Economic Corridor is an infrastructure development plan to build road and rail transportation from China's Yunnan province through parts of Myanmar.

28.11.2023: **ADB** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the signing of a loan agreement with the ADB to borrow USD 60 million for urgent works. The relevant loan agreement for the Second Integrated Road Investment Program (Tranche 4) was signed on 28.11.2023 by the Secretary to SL's Ministry of Finance, K. M. Mahinda Siriwardana and the Director of the ADB Mission in SL, Takafumi Kadono.

28.11.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL expects the official creditors committee representing bilateral creditors to follow China with an agreement in principle soon. China Exim Bank was the first to submit an agreement in principle to SL.

29.11.2023: **ADB** - According to Economy Next, the ADB, SL could provide around USD 400 million once a review by the IMF and some reforms are completed. A USD 200-million-dollar budget support loan could be made available as early as December 2023, once the IMF review is completed.

29.11.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, the Indian High Commission has signed 02 agreements for the construction of 10,000 houses in the plantation areas of SL under Phase IV of the Indian Housing Development Project. Separate agreements with the two executing agencies, the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) and the State Engineering Corporation (SEC), are aimed at starting construction soon.

National Protest for Palestine CH
04.11.2023



Anti-Colonial Resistance Graffiti CH
11.11.2023



50+ Event, CH
12.11.2023

Military News

15.11.2023: **France** - According to SL's MoD's website the French Ambassador to SL met SL's State Minister of Defence. Enhancing strategic cooperation in defence, maritime security and High Availability Disaster Recovery (HADR) were discussed in this

20.11.2023: **Mitra Shakti** - According to SL's MoD's website the 09th edition of the Mitra Shakti exercise has started in Pune, India. This is a joint venture between India and SL's Armed and Air forces. One of the intentions of this exercise is to train the joint response to

counter-terrorism operations.

24.11.2023: **Civil Defense Forces** - According to Economy Next, SL will prematurely retire 3,400 men from the Civil Defense Force that protected villages from the LTTE. SL Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa mentioned that there are plans to pay a compensation of LKR 03 million for the early retirement of a member of SL's Civil Defense Force.

24.11.2023: **Military** - According to Economy Next, SL has already started to gradually downsize its strong

military to 150,000 troops by 2030 without compromising SL's national security. According to SL Defense Minister Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, the GoSL is in the process of reducing the SL Army to 100,000, their Navy to 30,000 and the SLAF to 20,000 by 2030, although he did not provide the current figures. It is notable that in spite of the downsize, modern technologies would be acquired.

Domestic *Tamil Eelam*

01.11.2023: **EU** - According to Eelanadu, a 06-member delegation of the EU has visited SL. There they met members of the Tamil civil society. The European delegation was informed of the increased land grab issue across the Tamil homeland.

07.11.2023: **Tourism** - According to Economy Next, the authorities of SL's North Western Province want to highlight lesser known tourist attractions in the region and organise a Street Food Festival from 10.11.2023-12.11.2023 to attract tourists to the region.

The tourist attractions selected for the promotion of spiritual tourism in the province include the Munneshwaram Kovil, Na Uyana Monastery, Ridee Viharaya, Rankala and St. Anne's Church in Thalawila.

09.11.2023: **Jaffna** - According to Economy Next, SL's government is in talks with various bodies to ensure water supply to the north of the island through the 'River for Jaffna' policy proposed by an engineer decades ago. There is an acute shortage of water in the north.

12.11.2023: **Teachers** - According to Economy Next, SL has launched a program to recruit graduate teachers and teaching assistants to fill vacancies in Tamil-speaking schools in the

01.11.2023: **Census** - According to Economy Next, SL has commenced a census that will be supported by computers for the first time. The population and housing census comprehensively records all persons and existing residences in a country within a certain period of time.

03.11.2023: **Malaiyaha** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned that GoSL is determined to give land titles to Malaiyaha Tamils and ensure their right to education. The

settlement sector. However, due to budget constraints, this was done in consultation with SL's Ministry of Finance.

18.11.2023: **Power grids** - According to Economy Next, World Bank officials have discussed SL's proposed interconnection of power grids with India. The Indian and SL power grids will be connected through Mannar. From Puttalam to Mannar, across the Jaffna peninsula to Mullaitivu, there is a great opportunity and

Naam Irannura event held at the Sugathadasa Stadium on 02.11.2023 commemorated 200 years since the arrival of Indian-origin Tamils in SL. A project to build 10,000 houses with Indian assistance was also launched in Kotagala.

07.11.2023: **Online Safety Law** - According to Economy Next, SL's Supreme Court has ruled that the controversial "Online Safety Law" is not inconsistent with SL's Constitution and can be passed by a simple

Pooneryn is expected to be made the centre of this development.

25.11.2023: **Trinco** - According to Economy Next, SL requires India's permission to develop the Trinco Oil tank. The 2022 agreement with India states that the consent of the CPC or the LIOC and CPC Joint Venture and the LIOC must be obtained when conducting business - especially in the Trincomalee district.

Sri Lanka

majority in SL's Parliament if 31 provisions are amended. Otherwise, according to the court's find, the aforementioned provisions of the Bill must be passed by a special majority in SL's Parliament in accordance with Article 84(2) of the SL Constitution.

10.11.2023: **Court system** - According to Economy Next, SL's court system urgently needs to be digitised to position SL as an attractive destination for foreign investment

and to preserve the integrity of SL's judiciary. The IMF diagnostic report on SL has analysed how the delays in the judiciary have impacted SL's economy. The IMF diagnostic report recognises that the SL legal system makes it easy for lawyers to request additional days and thus prolong court proceedings.

10.11.2023: **Card Registration** -

According to Economy Next, SL's government has requested the public to update their Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card registration and ensure the details are correct. The call is made ahead of the introduction of a unique identity card to facilitate the digitisation of taxation and other GoSL services.

13.11.2023: **De-radicalisation**-

According to Economy Next, SL's Supreme Court has ruled that the Counter-Terrorism (De-Radicalisation of Followers of Violent Extremist Religious Ideologies) Regulations No. 1 of 2021 violate Articles 10, 12(1) and 13 of the SL Constitution and are null and void. The provision in the guidelines would have

amounted to pre-trial punishment and would have allowed for an abuse of power that would have allowed the SL state to control the people's freedom of thought and conscience, according to the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA).

15.11.2023: **Censorship** - According to Economy Next, SL plans to replace the existing Public Performances Board with a new 'Public Performances Classification Board'. R. Wickremesinghe calls for a culture of free expression in film and art without censorship and criminalisation.

16.11.2023: **Financial crisis** - According to Economy Next, SL's former President M. Rajapaksa does not accept the recent SL Supreme Court verdict holding him, 02 of his brothers and officials linked to their government responsible for SL's financial crisis. Speaking to reporters in Kandy on 15.11.2023, after a religious ceremony at the Temple of the Tooth, Rajapaksa said they will respond to the judgement in court when the opportunity arises.

17.11.2023: **English** - According to Economy Next, SL aims to improve English proficiency at school and university level by 2030 with the "English for All" initiative and also plans to improve literacy in other world languages. Education should go beyond Sinhala and Tamil to include languages such as English, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic and Korean.

22.11.2023: **Children's Rights** - According to Economy Next, SL has made remarkable progress in immunisation, access to primary education, child mortality and access to safe drinking water since signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). According to the national assessment conducted by SL's Ministry of Education for the years 2021-2022, only 14 % of third grade students achieved all essential learning competencies in reading and writing.

22.11.2023: **People's Law** - According to Economy Next, SL's Indigenous community, estimated to number 0.5 million, have demanded a special law to safeguard their

traditional rights at a meeting with SL's Justice Minister Wijedasa Rajapaksa. Uruwarigaye Wannielaththo, the de facto leader of SL's indigenous community, mentioned to Rajapaksa that there was a community of about 500,000 people in the Badulla, Moneragala, Amparai, Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa regions.

24.11.2023: Racism - According to Economy Next, Manusha Nanayakkara, SL's Minister of Labor and Foreign Employment, warned of rising racism in SL targeting ethnic minorities ahead of the 2024 elections. Simultaneously, he regrets past racially motivated events such as riots and uprisings since SL's "independence" in 1948.

27.11.2023: Nuclear power plants - According to Economy Next, SL is developing a legal framework for nuclear power, which is required to invite formal expressions of interest. The Atomic Energy Authority and international organisations will assist SL to determine the best technology.

27.11.2023: Sinopec - According to Economy

Next, SL has granted approval to China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC) to set up a new oil refinery in the southern port of Hambantota. SL Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera mentioned that the GoSL expects to invest at least USD 4.5 billion in the new refinery, which is intended for both export and the local market.



Meet Munnal Porazhi, CH
19.11.2023



PHOENIX snapshot

Participation at Maaveerar Naal (INT)
27.11.2023



Armenian Genocide Lecture AU
30.11.2023

ECONOMIC PROFILE – October 2023

Remittances	October 2023	↑ by 46% from a year ago to USD 517.4 million
Gross FOREX Reserves	September 2023	↓ to USD 3.5 billion
Credit Private credit	September 2023	↑ by LKR 69.9 billion
Inflation	November 2023	↑ to 3.4 % from 1.5% in October
BOB surplus	July 2023 September 2023	about USD 2,078 million ↓ to USD 1,863 million
FOREX	October 2023	↑ to USD 3,562 million
Policy rate	November 2023	↓ to 9%

RANJINI
AP Economic Analyst
& Coordinator

06.11.2023: **Central Bank** - According to Economy Next, SL's Central Bank lost around LKR 230 billion in September 2023 due to domestic debt restructuring. Yet it made profits from foreign exchange gains and interest income during the year.

08.11.2023: **Economic Commission** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved a proposal to set up an Economic Commission to replace and merge the Board of Investment (BoI) and the Export Development Board (EDB). An Export and Import Monitoring Committee was appointed, composed of "persons with expertise in the relevant areas" and reporting to SL's Presidential Secretariat.

11.11.2023: **Remittances** - SL's remittances through official channels rose to USD 517.4 million dollars in October 2023, up 46 % from USD 355.4 million a year earlier.

13.11.2023: **Budget** - According to Economy Next, SL will increase state salaries by LKR 10,000 by raising the cost of living to LKR 17,800. SL's 2024

budget aims to increase tax revenue by 47.1 % to LKR 3,820 billion compared to the estimated LKR 2,596 billion this year. Income tax is to be increased by 25 % to LKR 1,080 billion while levies on foreign trade are to be raised by 41.5 % to LKR 505 billion compared to LKR 854 billion this year. The budget plan also envisages a 62.4 % increase in taxes on goods and services to LKR 2,235 billion compared to this year's estimated LKR 1,376 billion.

In addition, LKR 450 billion are to be spent on recapitalising the banks. As a first step to improve SL's connectivity to foreign trade and global markets, measures will be taken to abolish non-tariff import taxes, including the CESS, port and airport taxes.

SL will abolish "almost all" exemptions from VAT, with the exception of health, education and some food items. The VAT rate will be increased to 18 %, as previously announced. SL is targeting an overall deficit of 9.1 % of GDP in 2024, with LKR 450 billion earmarked for bank bailouts.

SL plans to issue 02 million land titles to

rural families across SL, for which LKR 02 billion will be allocated. SL plans to borrow LKR 2,125 billion from domestic markets to close a budget deficit of LKR 2,851 billion, of which LKR 450 billion is earmarked for a bank bailout.

15.11.2023: **Stabilisation** - According to Economy Next, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce views Budget 2024 as a crucial step towards continuing the macroeconomic stabilisation measures that commenced in late 2022. Key measures include the enforcement of fiscal forbearance in monetary policy through the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) Act and the strengthening of fiscal rules through the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act.

15.11.2023: **Fitch** - According to Economy Next, SL's 2024 revenue target is ambitious even if there is an economic recovery, says Fitch Ratings. Fitch believes there are significant risks to the government's 2024 revenue target.

24.11.2023: **Central Bank** - According to

Economy Next, the Central Bank of SL has lowered its key interest rate, at which money is injected into the banking system, to 10 % and the lower corridor to 09 % at a monetary policy meeting in November 2023. The Board of Directors expects a rapid, significant and broad-based reduction in general market interest rates for loans in line with the monetary easing measures implemented since June 2023.

27.11.2023: Direct Investment - According to Economy Next, the SL Board of Investment has attracted investments worth USD 1.8 billion, of which USD 1.5 billion is FDI. Foreign investment projects recorded an increase of 122% compared to the previous year.

29.11.2023: Debt restructuring - According to Economy Next, SL and the official creditors' committee have agreed on a debt restructuring agreement. This agreement will allow the IMF staff to submit the first review of SL's EFF arrangement to the IMF Executive Board and pave the way for the approval of the second

disbursement under the arrangement.

30.11.2023:

Infrastructure - According to Economy Next, SL will resume its suspended road infrastructure projects with LKR 20 billion of funding and strict guidance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). SL has signed an agreement worth around LKR 20 billion with ADB and has surveyed the country to find out which roads need to be repaired.

MAAVEERAR NAAL

Across the Tamil homeland

BATTICALOA

- ◆ **Mavadimunmaari** – participants were surrounded, intimidated & photographed by SL's Police
- ◆ **Tharavai** – a night before decorations were destroyed by the unknown. During the event SL's Police stormed the event and destroyed decorations
- ◆ **Thaandiyadi**
- ◆ **Vaakarai** – a night before decorations were destroyed by the unknown
- ◆ **Kandaladi**

TRINCOMALEE

- ◆ **Sampur**
- ◆ **Alankulam** – 17 individuals were banned by the court from attending

AMPARAI

- ◆ **Kanjikudichchaaru**

JAFFNA

- ◆ Koppai
- ◆ Kodikaamam
- ◆ Ellankulam
- ◆ Uduthurai
- ◆ Saaddi
- ◆ Nallur
- ◆ Jaffna University

MULLAITIVU

- ◆ Mullaitivu Beach
- ◆ Idaddaivaaykaal
- ◆ Thevipuram
- ◆ Kalikaadu
- ◆ Suthanthirapuram
- ◆ Alampil
- ◆ Vannivilankulam
- ◆ Mulliyawalai
- ◆ Aalankulam
- ◆ Iranaipalai
- ◆ Mullivaikkal

MANNAR

- ◆ Aadkaddiveli
- ◆ Periyapandivirichchaan
- ◆ Mullikulam

VAVUNIYA

- ◆ Eechankulam

KILINOCHCHI

- ◆ Kanakapuram

Oppression & Resistance

02.11.2023: **Warning strike** - According to Economy Next, a 24-hour warning strike has begun in the province of Uva, which is to be extended to the provinces of Central and Eastern on 08.11.2023. The strike is directed against GoSL's "inability to keep doctors in the country to alleviate the problems in the health sector".

02.11.2023: **Vannivilankulam** - According to Eelanadu, preparations for Maveerar Naal have commenced at the Vannivilankulam Thuyilum Illam in Mullaitivu.

04.11.2023: **Tannimurippu** - According to Eelanadu, the occupational SL police have arrested several Sinhalese settlers from Weli Oya, who were illegally fishing at the Tannimurippu lake. Only local Tamil fishermen have the right to fish in the lake. It is noteworthy that several Sinhalese fishermen were arranged before this incident too, where they were submitted to the court, and promised that they would obey the law.

05.11.2023: **Palestine** - According to Kalaikathir, a pro-Palestinian demonstration was held in Vavuniya. A similar protest was held in Kinniya.

05.11.2023: **Maveerar Naal** - According to Eelanadu, Maaveerar were commemorated at the Mulliyuwalai Thuyilum Illam. Afterwards the ground was prepared by locals for the upcoming Maaveerar Naal commemorations.

06.11.2023: **Arrest** - According to Eelanadu, 05 students from Jaffna university and 01 from Eastern university were arrested by SL's occupational police. These students participated at the protest against the land grab in Sittandy, Batticaloa.

07.11.2023: **New Police Station** - According to Eelanadu, a new occupational Police Station has been integrated at Mayilithamadu, Batticaloa.

08.11.2023: **Bail** - According to Lanka Files, courts in Eravur granted bail to Jaffna university undergraduates

arrested while extending their solidarity to Tamil dairy farmers of Mylaththamadu, Mathavanai.

09.11.2023: **Intimidation** - Occupational SL police and military in Mylaththamadu, Mathavanai Batticaloa block group of journalists from Colombo on their way to interview Tamil dairy farmers and Sinhala settler cultivators involved in long drawn dispute over thousands of acres of grazing land, reports Lanka files.

10.11.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, ITAK organised the 17th commemoration of the assassination of Tamil parliamentarian Nadaraja Raviraj during M. Rajapaksa's first SL Presidential rule.

10.11.2023: **Protest** - Tamil fishermen stage a protest opposite Jaffna's secretariat in a mass lament against a loss of livelihood due to unhindered poaching in Tamil Eelam's occupied territorial waters by Indian trawlers with illegal means including dragnets, reports Lanka Files.

10.11.2023: Release

- Three Tamils held in SL custody for almost 15 years for the alleged 2006 assassination attempt of the Pakistani envoy to SL, were released by the Colombo magistrate due to an absence of evidence, reports Lanka Files.

- ◆ Yogarajah Nirojan aka Star
- ◆ Subramaniam Surendraraja aka Karan
- ◆ Kanagaratnam Adithyan aka Giri

12.11.2023: Theravil -

According to Kalaikathir, a protest was held in Theravil, Mullaitivu. The demand was for the release of the land of the Theravil Thuyilum Illam, which was seized by SL's genocidal forces.

12.11.2023:**Commemoration -**

According to Lanka Files, locals staged a protest demanding the release of lands at the Mullaitivu Theravil Maaveerar Thuyilum Illam which was the resting site for over 4,500 LTTE martyrs.

14.11.2023:

Compensation - SL's Supreme Court ordered the SL state to pay LKR 1 million for the violation of the fundamental rights

of activist Ramzy Razeek, reports Lanka Files. Razeek was arrested under the ICCPR Act and held in detention for 05 months for a Facebook post on an "ideological jihad."

15.11.2023: Education -

According to Lanka Files, the mother of a child who is undergoing his 05th grade education at Kombavil Vigneswara Vidyaalayam in Mullaitivu had filed a complaint to HRCSL at the Vavuniya Office. She had filed a complaint as her son was prevented from undertaking the 5th grade proficiency examinations in October 2023 by the school's principal.

15.11.2023:

Disappeared - During a press conference at the Mullaitivu Press Club, the ARED's Mariasuresh Easwari rejected the SL President's proposal to pay a compensation to victims of enforced disappearances.

According to Lanka Files, she had mentioned that, "we think that it is for the expenses for themselves and those around them."

16.11.2023: Land -

According to Lanka Files, the Eravur Circuit

Magistrate Court has upheld a case filed to remove 13 occupational Sinhalese individuals who illegally occupied land earmarked as grazing lands for local cattle farmers.

17.11.2023: Land -

According to Ceylon News, Sinhala encroachers in Mylathamadu were ordered to vacate occupied grazing land, reports Lanka Files.

18.11.2023: Arrests -

According to Eelanadu, 02 individuals were arrested in Batticaloa related to the shooting of cattle in Mayilathamadu.

20.11.2023: Death -

26-year-old Nagarasa Alex who was arrested on 08.11.2023 by occupational SL police in Vaddukoddai was found dead when brought to Jaffna teaching hospital on 19.11.2023 with multiple injuries, reports Lanka Files.

20.11.2023: Mass

Graves - Excavations at the Kokuthoduvai MassGraves recommenced under the supervision of JMO Dr. Kanagasabai Vasudeva, reports Lanka Files.

21.11.2023: **Protest** - Transgender activists conducted an awareness protest in Northern Jaffna, reports Lanka Files.

21.11.2023: **Commemoration** - Mallakam magistrate court reject occupational police request to ban commemoration of Tamil martyrs while undergraduates, dons and non academic staff mark the first day of the Tamil Martyrs Week within University of Jaffna premises, reports Lanka Files.

23.11.2023: **Mass Graves** - 05 human skeletons, LTTE ammunitions and name tags have been uncovered on 03rd day of 02nd stage excavations at the mass grave site.

24.11.2023: **Commemoration** - Muttur district judge instructs 17 Tamils including 02 TNPf MPs to 'avoid any activity that will endanger public health & public life' when commemorating Maaveerar on Martyrs' Day, either at the Alankulam cemetery in Sampur East or any other public cemetery, reports JDS Lanka.

25.11.2023: **Ban** - According to Eelanadu, the court of Kilinochchi has denied the request of 07 police stations to ban the Maveerar Naal Commemoration in Kilinochchi.

25.11.2023: **Protest** - Fishers protested in Mullaitivu demanding authorities take action to halt Indian trawlers from poaching in SL's northern waters and depriving locals of their livelihood, reports Lanka Files.

25.11.2023: **Protest** - SL telecommunication workers from several districts rallied in Colombo against GoSL moves to sell off SL Telecom and denying rights, reports Lanka Files.

26.11.2023: **Arrest** - According to Lanka Files, 04 occupational policemen including a sub-inspector of the Vaddukoddai Police station have been arrested in Jaffna after the local Magistrate's order in the murder of Alex.

26.11.2023: **Mass Graves** - 05 more skeletons were recovered today from the Kokkuthoduvai mass grave, reports Lanka Files. Ammunition,

explosives, name tags and a wristwatch were found, while scanning continued to find the extent of the burial site.

27.11.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, the Kayts court dismissed the occupational SL Police's petition to ban Maaveerar Naal commemorations. TNPf's spokesperson Sugash mentioned that "If Red and Yellow is to be banned, then the first to be banned is the SL national flag." Jaffna's Magistrate had also dismissed ban petitions.

27.11.2023: **Commemoration** - Occupational SL police obstructed a group of Tamil mothers and youth in Alankulam, Muttur Trincomalee district as well as SL parliamentarian G.G. Ponnambalam in Kanjikudichchiaru, Amparai district, when they were on their way to attend Maaveerar Naal commemoration events, reports Lanka Files.

28.11.2023: **Commemoration** - Catholics congregated for a special memorial service for Tamils killed in war at Our Lady of Victory Church, in

Pesalai, Mannar with prayers offered for the forcibly disappeared and political prisoners, reports Lanka Files.

28.11.2023:

Commemoration - According to Lanka Files, Oddusuddan, Mullaitivu marked the 33rd commemoration since 12 civilians were killed by an SLAF bombing.

28.11.2023: **Press** - According to Lanka Files, Thangarajah Prabhakaran, chief editor of Uthayan newspaper was questioned for over 04 hours in Colombo by SL's Counter Terrorism Investigation Department (CTID) over a Maaveerar Naal article he published 03 years ago by Dileep Amuthan, despite the journalist been released by court in 2021.

29.11.2023:

Appointment - Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith condemns the appointment of Deshabandu Tennakoon as SL's acting police chief as a 'barbaric act,' reports Lanka Files.

30.11.2023: **Assault** -

According to JDS Lanka, Dineth Kumara, SL state operated

Rupavahini correspondent in Udubaddawa, Kuliypitiya, was arrested while on duty & severely assaulted by officers of the Bingiriya police on 30.11.2023. He was granted bail on 01.12.2023 by Hettipola Magistrates Court.

30.11.2023: **Arrests** -

According to Eelanadu, 07 Tamils were arrested by SL's occupational police in Batticaloa. 04 were arrested for organising Maaveerar Naal in Tharavai. Another 03 were arrested for lighting a candle opposite the occupational police station.

30.11.2023: **Missing**

Persons - According to Economy Next, around 700 families of missing persons from around the world met from 21.11.2023-23.11.2023 at the 03rd International Conference for Families of Missing Persons to share their experiences. The forum brought together families whose loved ones have disappeared due to armed conflict, migration or other situations of violence.



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SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

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

07.11.2023: **Iluppaikulam** - Despite the protest of the local Tamil residents, 02 Buddhist statues have been installed in Illuppaikulam, Trincomalee.

13.11.2023: **Landgrab** - According to Eelanadu, a new settlement is planned in Pulipaynthakal in Mullaitheevu. Local residents told the media that 100 acres are going to be used for building settlements for sinhalese fishermen, who will be coming from the South.

Puradsi Media

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