

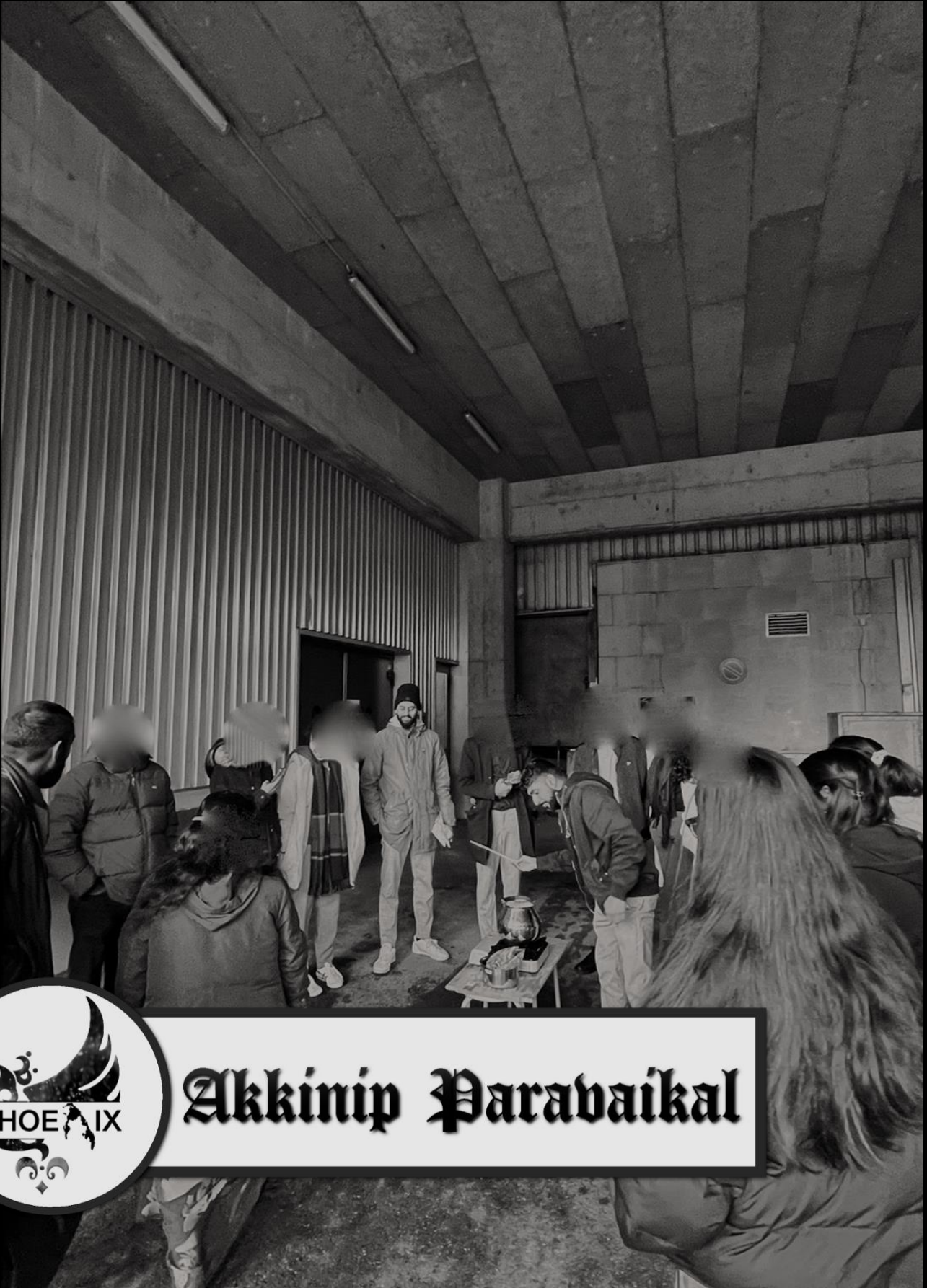
PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE

42

January 2023



Akkinip Paravaikal

“*What you have to assess is whether you have the will to fight.*”

National Leader of Tamil Eelam

**Pongal 2023
– The Birth
of a New Era**
Phoenix-the
Next
Generation

“The beginning of the appreciation of an opportunity to grow and foster growth for and with our community.”

Proceed to page 03 for more.

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PONGAL 2023 – THE BIRTH OF A NEW ERA

PHOENIX TNG

“You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot keep Spring from coming.”

Phoenix TNG celebrated Pongal 2023 through self-initiated events and active participation in communal events. In Switzerland, Phoenix TNG officially opened its first office on this occasion on 15.01.2023. Simultaneously, Phoenix TNG’s Australia Division had also participated in Pongal events in Sydney and Melbourne. Further on 28.01.2023, Phoenix TNG was invited to the Pongal Event conducted in Graubünden, Switzerland organised by the Tamil Association of Graubünden.

Phoenix Office

On 15.01.2023, Phoenix TNG celebrated Pongal at their office. Pongal was boiled on Phoenix Office premises and was shared amongst members, coordinators and supporters. In addition, the Phoenix’s Office was officially opened to the public on this occasion. Pongal and snacks were consumed and shared with attendees whilst games were played in celebration.

Australia

On 15.01.2023, Phoenix TNG actively assisted with local Pongal Event

organised in Merrylands, Sydney. Namely, Phoenix TNG assisted with leading the presentation of appreciation certificates for students who had completed Tamil as a subject for their Year 12 University examinations - the HSC in 2022. Phoenix members also assisted with the preparation of decorations for the Pongal event conducted in Parramatta, Sydney on 20.01.2023. Further, Phoenix TNG’s Melbourne members had participated in the thematic presentation, “Tamizh Oli Potru” - an ode to the Sun deity and the Tamil language. This performance was staged by Nadanalaya Academy at the Tamizhar Thirunal Festival on 22.01.2023 at Gaelic Park, Keysborough in Melbourne.

Switzerland

The Pongal Event in Graubünden, Switzerland was organized by the Tamil Association of Graubünden. Phoenix TNG was invited to the event and was requested to conduct a speech regarding the current situation and Phoenix’s perspective regarding it. In addition to the speech, several cultural programs were held at this event. Phoenix TNG used the event as an opportunity to

connect and to network with the Tamil Community.

Savour the Sweetness

2023 has commenced with immense success for Phoenix TNG in not only asserting a permanent political space through our first official office in Switzerland, but also through connecting and networking with the

wider Tamil community in an active manner through celebrating our shared language, culture and identity. Thus, this marks the beginning of the appreciation of an opportunity to grow and foster growth for and with our community.



10.01.2023: **Canada** - According to Economy Next, Canada imposes targeted sanctions on 04 Sri Lankans, including 02 of its former presidents - G. Rajapaksa (2019-2022) and his older brother M. Rajapaksa (2005-2015) - for "gross and systematic human rights violations". In addition to the Rajapaksas, SL Staff Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake and First Lieutenant Chandana Prasad Hettiarachchi were also named in the sanctions list. The sanction prohibits any transactions with the 04 Sri Lankans, including ownership, while the listed individuals are barred from entering Canada under their Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

17.01.2023: **India** - According to The Hindu, India had sent financing

Bilateral

02.01.2023: **UK** - According to Economy Next, former British Prime Minister David Cameron has met SL President R. Wickremesinghe in Colombo. Cameron is in SL for a private visit. According to analysts, Wickremesinghe is seeking assistance from the West to resolve the ongoing currency crisis in SL and spur development in SL.

assurances to the IMF to officially back SL's debt-restructuring programme as the first of its creditors.

19.01.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, the United States (US) welcomes India's decision to support SL's debt restructuring plans and stands ready to help SL use the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) Extended Fund Facility (EFF). In addition, US Ambassador Julie Chung said that the US is prepared to assist SL to benefit from IMF assistance if all creditors agree to fair and equitable treatment.

22.01.2023: **China** - According to Sunday Times LK, China's EXIM Bank had mentioned in a letter to R. Wickremesinghe that the 2-year moratorium with SL would function

as a short-term suspension of SL's debts to China.

24.01.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, the IMF has accepted a restructuring pledge from India and expects similar pledges from other creditors. China is expected to provide such an assurance directly to the IMF so that the program can be implemented.

24.01.2023: **India** - India's Supreme Court has passed an order to permit purse-seine fishing beyond Tamil Nadu's territorial waters yet within the mutually established Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) between SL and India following a ban imposed against it by India in February 2022, reports Lanka Files.

03.01.2023: **FTA** - According to Economy Next, the SL Cabinet spokesperson supports a protracted Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China to overcome SL's ongoing, unprecedented economic crisis. SL is working on several FTAs with countries such as China and Singapore.

05.01.2023: **Demands** - According to NewsFirst LK, the SL President along with various Tamil politicians have met to discuss demands, they have agreed to discuss the release of political prisoners and land grabs amongst other issues on 10.01.2023. The SL President is set to visit Jaffna on 15.01.2023.

05.01.2023: **USA** - According to Economy Next, Karma Services LLC - Florida, USA-based healthcare staffing agency, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Agency (SLFEA) has offered 550 jobs for SL nurses, lab technicians and nursing assistants.

09.01.2023: **Canada** - According to Economy Next, in response to humanitarian appeals from the United Nations (UN) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Canada mentioned that it is providing USD 3 million to assist vulnerable people. The project aims to provide food, safe water, health and nutrition services and other essential services.

09.01.2023: **Thailand** - According to Economy Next, the delegation led by Auramon Supthaweethum, Director General of Thailand's Trade Negotiations Department will hold talks with SL officials on 09.01.2023 and 10.01.2023. They will discuss a free trade agreement to be implemented by the first quarter of 2024.

09.01.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, India has provided SL with more than USD1 billion for railroad modernisation in SL. Another USD 180 million is to be invested in ongoing or planned projects to improve transportation infrastructure.

11.01.2023: **Canada** - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the acting Canadian High Commissioner to express SL's displeasure over Ottawa's targeted sanctions. SL's Foreign Ministry mentioned that the decision was based on "unfounded allegations."

11.01.2023: **US** - According to Economy Next, Rear Admiral Eileen Laubacher, the senior US director for South Asia at the National Security Council met with R. Wickremesinghe. She discussed maritime issues including GoSL's increased efforts to crack down on drug trafficking.

12.01.2023: **EXIM** - According to Economy Next, the Chinese Embassy in SL mentioned that R. Wickremesinghe held a video conference with the Chairman of the Chinese Export-Import Bank (EXIM), Wu Fulin, on bilateral cooperation and debt issues. Discussions were held on the restructuring of SL's USD 07 billion to Beijing. Further reports indicate that the talks were "positive"

16.01.2023: **Pakistan** - According to Economy Next, Pakistan's Ambassador to SL, General Umar Farooq Burki and SL Chamber Association President Elect Keerthi Gunawardane met to boost trade between the 02 countries. There was a detailed discussion on various obstacles to bilateral trade and formulation of a strategy to overcome these obstacles through joint efforts.

18.01.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in SL, Hu Wei, has mentioned that "the Chinese people, including the Tibet Autonomous Region, strongly oppose a foreign country receiving the Dalai Lama in any name. Both sides, especially the Buddhist

communities, must prevent a clandestine visit by the Dalai Lama to SL in order to promote "Tibetan independence" and protect historical relations between China and SL from harm. The Chinese Embassy in SL is outraged at the US Ambassador to SL Julie Chung's remarks over an alleged "China-China-China" mantra and calling Beijing a spoilsport. She mentioned why the US has not taken decisive action in the IMF to find a more comfortable solution for SL or supported SL with the large number of US dollars it prints every year, instead of sowing discord between China and SL.

19.01.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar has arrived in Colombo for a two-day official visit shortly after writing to the IMF assuring it of India's strong support for SL's debt restructuring plans. Jaishankar's entourage includes senior officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs, and he is expected to meet with R. Wickremesinghe, D. Gunawardena, Ali Sabry and other SL officials. The Indian government informed the IMF that it strongly supports SL's efforts to restructure its debt. According to the official, India will continue to negotiate with the GoSL and the Paris Club on medium- to long-term debt treatment through maturity extension and interest rate reduction or other financial operations. Further reports indicate that India will encourage greater investment in SL's economy, especially in energy, tourism and infrastructure development. They believe SL will create a more business-friendly environment to create a strong pull factor.

20.01.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, India and SL have signed an agreement to raise the cap on high-

impact community development projects (HICDP) supported by the Indian government. Among the other issues Wickremesinghe and Jaishankar discussed at the meeting was India's pledge to support SL's debt restructuring plans.

21.01.2023: **SL Constitution** - According to Lanka Files, Jaishankar emphasised India's stance on the role of the 13th Amendment to SL's Constitution as a political solution. The Tamil parties were encouraged to reject any proposal based on a unitary state structure and adopt a federal structure during a meeting between all Tamil political parties and Jaishankar.

24.01.2023: **Saudi Arabia** - According to Economy Next, SL is seeking Saudi Arabian investment in renewable energy, petroleum, real estate, hospitality and Port City. SL Foreign Minister Ali Sabry is on a 05-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 23.01.2023-27.01.2023 at the invitation of the Kingdom's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. He met with representatives of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and with Faisal bin Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud, governor of Madinah.

26.01.2023: **UK** - According to Economy Next, the UK is willing to consider funding commitments for SL to secure a USD 2.9 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the IMF. Minister of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Anne-Marie Trevelyan said constructive engagement among creditors is essential to secure a rapid and comprehensive IMF program for SL and ensure a sustainable economic recovery.

27.01.2023: **South Sudan** - According to SL Minister of State for Defence, the 09th SL Army Medical Corps (SLAMC) contingent is prepared to depart for the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. The 08th SL contingent (SRIMED), which is already serving in the UN mission in South Sudan, is expected to leave shortly after the new 09th contingent takes over its duties.

S
27.01.2023: **Netherlands** - According to the SL Army, Bonnie Horbach, Ambassador of the Netherlands to SL, visited the Security Forces HQ in Jaffna on 25.01.2023. They exchanged views on civil-military cooperation, social welfare projects, development aid and the reconciliation process.





21.01.2023
"Stateless Nations" ICA - London, UK



PHOENIX snapshot

28.01.2023
Bern, Switzerland
Swiss Boys Tournament



28.01.2023
"Freedom Only Freedom"
Book Launch
Sydney, AU

13.01.2023: **Military** - According to Economy Next, Minister of State for Defence Premitha Bandara Tennakoon has said SL will reduce its military by one-third over the next 02 years. The military's authorised cadre is now 200,783 and should be reduced to 135,000 by 2024.

16.01.2023: **Indian Ship** - According to SL's Ministry of Defence's (MoD) website, an Indian navy ship arrived at the Trincomalee port.

23.01.2023: **CARAT 2023** - According to SL's MoD website, the CARAT 2023 exercise has commenced in SL. The Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) exercises of MAREX were held at the beach area of Mullikulam. In this training both navies coordinated and communicated with one another in a simulated environment and improved each other's skills. CARAT is a bilateral training exercise between the US and SL.

23.01.2023: **Mannar** - According to SL Army, the 541st Infantry Brigade subordinate to

the occupational 54th Infantry Division of the Security Forces Headquarters in Mannar exchanged grievances with locals. Nanattan and Mannar had separate interactive meetings with their respective Grama Seva Niladharis (SL state officials).

25.01.2023: **Jaffna** - According to SL Army, Major General Nishantha Manage, Director General of General Staff (DGGS) arrived at the occupational Security Forces Headquarters Jaffna (SFHQ-J) on 24.01.2023. He briefed on the operational, training and administrative aspects.

27.01.2023: **CARAT** - According to SL Minister of State for Defense, the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) bilateral exercise between SL and the US was held in Colombo, Trincomalee and Mullikulam from 19.01.2023-25.01.2023. The goal is to promote regional security cooperation, maintain and strengthen maritime partnerships, enhance maritime interoperability, and maintain a free and

open Indo-Pacific region. According to SL Minister of State for Defense, the SL Navy's SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Samudura ships and the US Navy's "USS Anchorage" successfully conducted a series of naval exercises off Negombo on 22.01.2023 and 23.01.2022.

27.01.2023: **Mullaitivu** - According to the SL Army, Major General Nishantha Manage, Director General of General Staff (DGGS) continued security installations. Subsequently, he met Major General Darshana Wijesekara, the commander of SF-MLT on 25.01.2023.

27.01.2023: **IPKF** - According to the SL Army, the fallen soldiers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) who fought against the LTTE in the Tamil homeland between 1987-1990 were commemorated at the IPKF memorial in Palaly on 24.01.2023. The Jaffna Security Forces HQ organised the event in collaboration with the Jaffna office of the Consul General of India in SL.

WHAM

13.01.2023: **School** - According to the SL Army's website, 51 students from Mannar received free school aid from the occupying forces.

19.01.2023: **Auditorium** - According to SL's MoD website SL's occupational navy has built an auditorium for the Roman Catholic College in Mandaitivu, Jaffna.

23.01.2023: **Jaffna** - According to the SL Army, a team of Rotarians from Malaysia learnt about the occupational Security Forces HQ's in Jaffna during their visit to SL Rotary District 3220. The delegation then held a discussion on the SL Army's current missions and its commitment to the welfare of the people as well as promoting civil-

military cooperation in the Jaffna Peninsula with special emphasis on the reconciliation process through various development projects.

24.01.2023: **Mullaitivu** - According to the SL Army, children of soldiers and civilian employees belonging to the 57th Infantry Brigade of 57th Infantry Division of Security Forces Headquarters in Mullaitivu received school bags, school supplies and stationary worth LKR 125,000. During the same ceremony, on the instructions of the SL Army HQ, several civilian employees working for the 571st Brigade HQ were given dry rations as relief measures.

24.01.2023: **Nandikadal** - According to SL Minister of State

for Defence and SL Army, troops of the occupational 652nd Infantry Brigade built a badminton court for students of GoSL's Tamil Mixed School in Nandikadal, Manthai, at the request of school authorities. The GOC of the 65th Infantry Division attended the inauguration of the new badminton court as the guest of honour accompanied by the Commander of 652nd Infantry Brigade.

30.01.2023: **Water** - According to SL's Minister of State for Defense, a new reverse osmosis water treatment plant has been built by the SL Navy (SLN). It will provide easy access to clean drinking water for about 450 families in Sella Kataragama.

Tamil Eelam

Domestic News

06.01.2023: **Cargo** - According to NewsFirst LK, a new cargo ship with a 300-metric-tonne capacity is said to begin operation from India to Kankesanthurai harbour in Jaffna with the intentions of improving exports and foreign exchange.

07.01.2023: **Jaffna Mayor** - According to Kalaikathir, the new mayor of Jaffna will be selected on 19.01.2023.

11.01.2023: **Tourism** - According to Economy Next, SL's cabinet approved a South Korean-funded project to develop community-based tourism in Kuchchaveli, Trincomalee, at a cost of LKR 614 million. In the first phase, it was agreed to provide a grant of KRW 400 million for the preparation of the overall plan of the special tourism development project, the preparation of the training program and the implementation of a pilot training program.

14.01.2023: **New Alliance DTNA** - According to Kalaikathir, a new alliance has been formed in the Tamil political landscape. TELO, PLOTE, EPRLF, Tamil National Party and the Democratic Party of former LTTE members have formed this alliance for the coming local elections. Earlier reports from 12.01.2023 by Virakesari indicate that the split of ITAK from the TNA would not affect the operation of the TNA. Selvam Adaikalanathan mentioned this during a media conference at the TELO Office in Vavuniya.

16.01.2023: **SL Constitution** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has promised full implementation of the 13th SL Constitutional. TNA parliamentarian M. A. Sumanthiran told Economy Next on 16.01.2023, that successive GoSLs have made the same promise for 35 years, to no avail.

21.01.2023: **Rights** - According to Kalaikathir, SL's President R. Wickremesinghe met Tamil MP R. Sampanthan and told him that preparations are underway for the provision of the province's police and land rights. New rules for the replacement of the PTA and truth finding commissions are also in preparation SL's president has been reported to have mentioned.

27.01.2023: **SL Independence Day** - According to SL's Minister of State for Defense, a preliminary meeting was held at the SL Presidential Secretariat under the auspices of SL President R. Wickremesinghe to celebrate SL's Independence Day celebrations in a grand and proud manner. In conjunction with SL's 75th Independence Day celebration, many special programs will be held from 02.02.2023-19.02.2023, including the opening of the Jaffna Cultural Centre.

03.01.2023: **Suicides** - According to Kalaikathir, 180 individuals have completed suicide in the Batticaloa district in the year of 2022. It is noteworthy, that there are no suicide prevention services available in Batticaloa.

04.01.2023: **PAL** - According to Economy Next, SL has abolished the Port and Airport Development Levy (PAL) on static converters and inverters effective 01.01.2023 to promote renewable energy. 09 other commodities have been exempted from paying the levy, according to the decree issued on 31.12.2022.

05.01.2023: **UAE** - According to Economy Next, hundreds of SLs are discontent with G. Rajapaksa's trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a private visit. They reacted to a picture in which G. Rajapaksa was clutching a python at the Famed Park in Dubai.

05.01.2023: **Mahinda** - According to Kalaikathir, R. Sampanthan from TNA has met SL's Former President and Prime Minister M. Rajapaksa. In this meeting M.

Rajapaksa assured his support for the ongoing talks between the TNA and the current SL President R. Wickremesinghe.

10.01.2023: **Local government elections** - According to Economy Next, the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and the formerly rival center-right United National Party (UNP), the party of R. Wickremesinghe, will join forces to contest the local government elections. An agreement has already been reached to contest the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), traditionally a UNP stronghold, the Kandy Municipal Council and the Puttalam Urban Council under the elephant symbol, the former parliamentarian said.

16.01.2023: **Emigration** - According to Economy Next, despite stringent measures, illegal departures including the use of boats continues. Most recently, the French island of Reunion repatriated 46 individuals who had attempted to enter the country illegally. They were identified as residents of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu,

Mannar, Batticaloa, Chilaw and Negombo, ranging in age from 13-53.

17.01.2023: **Mechanism** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers have approved a consolidated resolution of SL's President, Prime Minister and 05 Cabinet Ministers to take measures necessary to implement the concept of the Truth and Reconciliation Mechanism. This is to advance and secure the peace that has been achieved after the end of 30 years of conflict. Talks between SL's President R. Wickremesinghe and SL's Opposition Tamil National Alliance (TNA) on a final solution to the decades-old conflict on SL remain uncertain.

23.01.2023: **Polls** - According to Economy Next, SL's local government elections will be held on 09.03.2022. In addition, SL Parliament will also need to be dissolved to reflect the new mandate.

26.01.2023: **SL Constitution** - According to Economy Next, SL's Constitutional Council held its first meeting. The 21st Constitutional

Amendment was intended to reinstate the Constitutional Council, which is tasked with making several high-level civil service appointments and giving at least partial independence to the civil service. R. Wickremesinghe has said he will fully implement an earlier constitutional amendment aimed at giving provinces more

autonomy to resolve SL's conflict. The 13th Amendment to SL's Constitution, which has been part of SL's constitution for 37 years, represents a solution that does not amount to a federal state. However, it has not been fully implemented, especially regarding police and land rights.

28.01.2023: Parliament
- According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has suspended SL Parliament until 08.02.2023. R. Wickremesinghe informed party leaders that he would deliver a speech officially declaring his intention to enact the 13th SL Constitutional Amendment on Provincial Councils.

Chronicles of **TAMIL EELAM**



Weekly on
@ap_newsletter

03.01.2023: **Exports** - According to Economy Next, China's General Administration of Customs and the Ministry of Fisheries will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish protocols in SL to promote exports to China.

09.01.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, local elections in SL may derail SL President R. Wickremesinghe's economic reforms aimed at overcoming SL's crisis. This could delay a key loan from the IMF.

12.01.2023: **World Bank** - According to Economy Next, the World Bank has projected that SL's economy will shrink by 9.2% in 2022 and by another 4.2% in 2023. SL's crisis and its effects have increased poverty and reversed much of SL's income gains over the past decade.

12.01.2023: **Debt** - According to Economy Next, the Central Bank of SL (CBSL) Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe has called on China and India to agree to write down their loans to SL to assist the

commencement of the repayment of their obligations.

17.01.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL expects good results from negotiations with bilateral creditors that may lead to approval of an agreement with the IMF.

17.01.2023: **Restructuring** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe told SL Parliament that debt restructuring talks with India and China are successful. SL will receive a response soon, he added.

19.01.2023: **Fitch** - According to Economy Next, Fitch Ratings said it downgraded seven Sri Lankan insurers after lowering the local currency rating to CC from CCC in December 2022. The ratings of the seven insurers were left at Rating Watch Negative (RWN). Earlier reports indicate that 10 SL banks were also downgraded with a negative rating following a recalibration of the local sovereign rating. National scale ratings are a risk ranking of issuers in a given market to help

local investors differentiate risk and take into account creditworthiness relative to other issuers in SL.

24.01.2023: **Inflation** - SL's 12-month national inflation has fallen from 65.2 % to 59.2 %.

26.01.2023: **ACU** - According to Economy Next, SL will discuss repayment of Asian Clearing Union emergency loans and other Indian loans made in 2022 separately from other defaulted debts. Sri Lanka owes about USD 1.9 billion in ACU loans extended by India, according to data shared with creditors.

28.01.2023: **Permira** - According to Economy Next, Permira, an investment fund active in Europe, the US and Asia, is acquiring an undisclosed sum for a majority stake in Acuity Knowledge Partners, which operates a 500-employee centre in SL. Equistone Partners Europe, from which Permira is acquiring the stake, will remain a minority investor. In 2019, Equistone supported a management buyout of Acuity by Moody's Corporation.

ECONOMIC PROFILE – January 2023

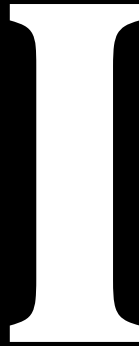
Gross FOREX Reserves	December 2022	↑ to USD 1,896 million
Trade	November 2022	
Exports		↓ by 17.9% to USD 994 million
Imports		↓ by 18.1% to USD 1,445 million
Trade deficit		about USD 450 million
BOP		USD 101 million
State		
Revenues	to October 2022	↑ 37% to LKR 1,596 billion
Current Spending		↑ 20% to 2,778 billion
Budget Deficit		↓ to 5.5% from 8.6% last year
Fitch Ratings	December 2022	↓ from 'CCC' to 'CC'
Remittances	December 2022	↑ to USD 476 million
Inflation	12 months to December	↓ to 59.2% from 65.2%

RANJINI
 AP Economic Analyst
 & Coordinator



PHOENIX snapshot





Black January

MULLAITIVU PRESS CLUB

24.01.2023

Commemoration of
assassinated journalists

S. Sugirdharajan,
Lasantha

Wickrematunge and
Prageeth Ekneligoda.

FLYERS

24.01.2023

Mullaitivu Press Club
distributed awareness
flyers.

BATTICALOA

27.01.2023

Mullaitivu Press Club
distributed awareness
flyers.

28.01.2023

Batticaloa and Colombo

Oppression & Resistance

03.01.2023: **GMOA** - According to Economy Next, SL's Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) has announced a "black protest week" for 23.01.2023 if the GoSL does not respond to their complaints about what they see as an unfair increase in income tax. Following the meeting with GMOA representatives and other professional associations, SL State Minister Siyambalapitiya defended the tax increase to reporters.

05.01.2023: **Protest** - According to Kalaikathir, a protest was staged in Kiran, Batticaloa. The protesters resisted attempts by SL's armed forces to grab the "Tharavai" - Thuyilum Illam. SL's occupying forces planted trees on the burial sites. These trees were removed by the protesters.

05.01.2023: **Buddhism** - According to Economy Next, SL's parliamentarians across all factional lines have jointly called for legal action against an ordinary citizen, Sepal Amarasinghe, for expressing an opinion

considered offensive to Buddhism. Sepal Amarasinghe is a popular YouTuber known for being a free thinker and non-believer. Further reports indicate that Amarasinghe has been arrested by SL's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further investigations.

05.01.2023: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, the 23rd commemoration of Mamanithar Kumar Ponnambalam was held at the Jaffna Cultural Centre.

07.01.2023: **Protests** - According to NewsFirst LK, Day 03 of protests ensued as people in 08 districts from the Tamil homeland demand and emphasise the importance of all Tamil political parties to unite and present a united front in order to come to a more unified solution for the Tamil struggle.

07.01.2023: **Hunger strike** - According to Kalaikathir, 38 Tamil refugees who are stuck in Karnataka, India, have launched a hunger strike and are demanding their release.

07.01.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, Batticaloa locals protested occupational SLA attempts to seize the lands of former local Maaveerar Thuyilum Illam to "Thoppigala Forest Reserve". They removed a notice of the renaming and pelted stones at the sign in resistance.

08.01.2023: **Disappeared** - According to News First LK, the relatives of the forcibly disappeared staged a protest in Matale as many of their family members are yet to be found and have just been abandoned.

09.01.2023: **Arrests** - According to Economy Next, SL arrested 1,507 people who tried to flee SL in 2022. According to official data, this is almost 11 times more than in 2021.

09.01.2023: **Appeal** - Tamil journalist B. Niroshkumar submitted an appeal through "Right to Information SL" calling upon the SL Army to provide details of surrendered LTTE cadres. The SLA mentioned that they would provide a written response by 23.01.2023 with no such response

received as of yet, reports Lanka Files.

09.01.2023:

Commemoration - According to Tamil journalist Kumanan, Occupational Mulliyawalai Police summoned 06 individuals and recorded their statements regarding their roles in the organisation of Maaveerar commemoration events 2022.

10.01.2023: **PTA** - According to Lanka Files, a draft of the National Security Act aimed at replacing the PTA was submitted to SL's Justice Minister by SL's Additional Solicitor General Nerin Pulle and SL President's Counsel Nalinda Indratissa.

10.01.2023: **Interrogation** - According to Kalaikathir, 06 members of the "Mulliyawalai Maveerar Thuyilum Illam Panikkulu" were interrogated by the occupational SL Police. The interrogation turned around some symbols such as the map of Tamil Eelam on the decorations.

12.01.2023: **Easter Sunday** - According to Lanka Files, a 07-judge-bench made a

judgement regarding the 2019 Easter Sunday bombing.

"We conclude that the former [SL] President Sirisena has been lax in affording the protection and guarantees enjoined under the Constitution and other laws and he has breached his duty to protect."

13.01.2023:

Commemoration - According to Lanka Files, Malayaga Martyrs' Day was commemorated at Jaffna University Campus by the Jaffna University Faculty of Arts Students' Union and the Highlands' Students Union.

13.01.2023: **Hunger strike** - According to Ceylon News, former LTTE cadre, Velupillai Madhavmajor ended a hunger strike unto death on 12.01.2023 in Puthukkudiyiruppu after he had commenced it on 09.01.2023 demanding the unification of Tamil politicians to achieve the aspirations of Tamils. The hunger strike ended after 05 Tamil political parties complied with his demand.

14.01.2023: **Protest** - According to Kalaikathir, a theatre

form of protest was organised at the University of Jaffna. The content of the theatre revolved around the subject of Tamil political prisoners.

15.01.2023: **Attack** -

According to Lanka Files, occupational STF and SL Police fired water cannons at relatives of the forcibly disappeared and locals protesting against R. Wickremesinghe's visit to Jaffna.

19.01.2023: **Arrest** -

According to Kalaikathir, Velanswami was arrested for the demonstration against the activities of GoSL in Jaffna. He was charged with 05 crimes and was presented before a judge. He was later released on bail. His bail was organised with the support of TNA's Sumanthiran, reports Kumanan. Earlier reports indicate that he was arrested by occupational SL Police for participating in a peaceful protest on 15.01.2023 in Jaffna.

19.01.2023:

Disappearances - According to JDS Lanka, SL's President of Families of the Disappeared demanded GoSL to commence a probe into the Matale

mass grave based on the JDS and ITJP report.

20.01.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, SL's Union of Engineers of the state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) are protesting the increase in income tax. SL is currently experiencing a new wave of protests tax increases as many people have never paid taxes in their entire lives.

25.01.2023: **Surrender Appeal** - Whilst the SL Army claims that no members of the LTTE had surrendered to the SLA, an appeal conducted by the Right to Information Commission found that the SLA had admitted during the hearing of a case at the Vavuniya High Court on 17.12.2022 that LTTE cadres had surrendered to them, reports Morning LK. The appeal will be readdressed on 28.03.2023.

25.01.2023: **Fishermen** - According to Lanka Files, the Jaffna District Fishermen's Association protest the establishment of mass sea-cucumber farms within the region as it affects the livelihood of thousands of local

dependent Tamil fisher families.

26.01.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, SL's Central Bank employees have joined a week-long "black protest" organised by SL state sector unions against an increase in personal income tax. Central Bank Executive Association President Jayadu Perera complained that SL's ruling class was maintaining a high standard of living and enjoying all the luxuries while workers like him were being hit with an "extremely unfair and unjust" tax.

26.01.2023: **Surrender** - According to Eelanadu, SL's truth commission has summoned SL's military on 28.03.2023 for a hearing. There the SL's military must explain what has occurred to the surrendered LTTE members.

27.01.2023: **No Federalism** - According to Kalaikathir, SL's President has denied federalism in the All Party Conference yet mentioned that he is prepared to share powers. According to Economy Next, SL's main opposition party, the Samagi Jana

Balawegaya (SJB) has mentioned at the All-Party Conference (APC) that it supports devolution of power. However, it is still unclear what its position is on the full implementation of the 13th Constitutional Amendment.

29.01.2023: **Protest** - Protests were staged demanding the rights of plantation workers in Hutton with a rally from Malliyappu Junction to Hutton demanding land and nationality rights. Solidarity protests were also staged in Negombo, reports JDS Lanka. The solidarity protest in Negombo on 28.01.2023 has been reported to have demanded land and national rights for Tamil plantation workers.

30.01.2023: **Protest** - Members of the Amparai District's Disappeared Persons' Association held a protest in Thirukkivil, demanding justice and an international probe into crimes whilst rejecting LKR 200,000 in compensation offered by GoSL, reports JDS Lanka. Earlier reports indicate that occupational SL intelligence officers were sighted photographing

protestors and later, the President of the Association, Thambirasa Selvarani was summoned to appear before the Pottuvil Magistrate's Court at 09.00 local time on 31.01.2023 for leading the protest.

31.01.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, hundreds of port workers in SL protested against R.

Wickremesinghe's tax hikes on 30.01.2023. Taxes on personal income were raised to 36 % and reduced the tax-free amount to LKR 100,000 per month from the previous LKR 250,000. The new tax-free threshold is still above the IMF recommendation of LKR 41,667.

31.01.2023: **Release** - According to Economy

Next, the Colombo High Court has ordered the release of jailed SL student leader Wasantha Mudalige from a terrorism trial. However, reports indicate that he will remain in custody due to a number of other ongoing cases.

SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

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

28.01.2023: **Withdrawal** - According to Kalaikathir, monks from 03 Buddhist clergies have written a letter to SL's President R. Wickremesinghe. In this letter, the monks requested to halt the withdrawal of SL's genocidal forces from the Tamil homeland. Further they wrote that it is the duty of the SL state to protect Buddhists sites in the Tamil homeland.

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