

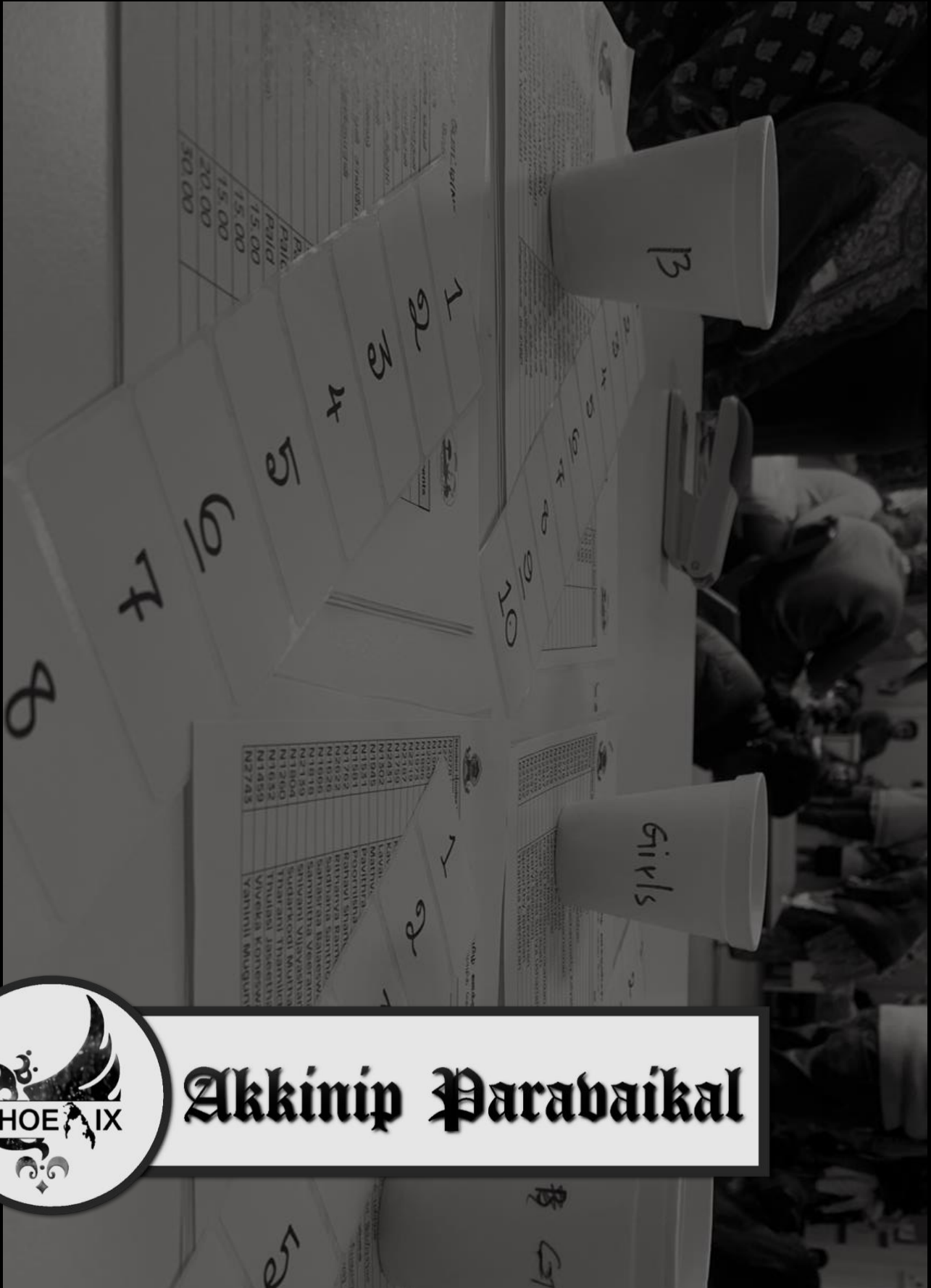
PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

ISSUE

49

August 2023



Akkinip Paravaikal

“
The flame burns incessantly.
 ”

Phoenix TNG

A Beacon to Conquer Demons

Australia Team, Phoenix TNG

Her light of life may be extinguished but Pyrawy's soul and vision lives on through all those she touched – a pioneer in social change to spearhead an internal cultural revolution.

Proceed to Page 03 for more.

International	05-07	Economic	14-15
<i>Bilateral</i>	05		
Military	09-10	Oppression & Resistance	16-20
Domestic	10-12	Signs of	21-23
<i>Tamil Eelam</i>	10	Structural	
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	11	Genocide	
Phoenix Snapshot	08		

A Beacon
to Conquer Demons

(1989-2023)



A Beacon to Conquer Demons

Pyrawy Sivarajah

Australia Division,
PHOENIX TNG

Editor's Note: Amongst many, Pyrawy was a pioneer in the Tamil community to end the stigma of suicide to raise awareness on suicide prevention. We attach mental health resources and support services to this tribute. Do not hesitate to reach out to end the stigma.

We are saddened to hear the passing of Pyrawy Sivarajah, a remarkable individual who made invaluable contributions to the Tamil community. Pyrawy's legacy will be cherished and remembered for years to come, as her dedication and commitment to the Tamil struggle were exceptional.

Pyrawy Sivarajah's tireless efforts in advancing the community's well-being exemplified her unwavering commitment to making a positive impact. She was a beacon of hope and inspiration, tirelessly working to uplift those around her. Her passion for the Tamil struggle, cultural preservation, women's rights, mental health advocacy and community development was evident in her every endeavour. She was not only a leader but also a compassionate advocate for the Eelam Tamil Community around the globe and her ability to connect with people, irrespective of their backgrounds, was a testament to her inclusive and empathetic nature.

In addition to her advocacy, Pyrawy's contribution to music and art culture

left an indelible mark on the Tamil community. Her love for poetry, music and art served as a source of inspiration and knowledge, encouraging individuals to explore and celebrate their talents.

As we mourn the loss of a true leader and advocate, let us remember and celebrate Pyrawy Sivarajah's life and her significant contributions to the Tamil Community. Her memory will live on, inspiring us to continue the important work she began, ensuring that her vision becomes a reality. Pyrawy's legacy will continue to inspire and guide us. Her unwavering dedication to our community has set a high standard for us to follow.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sivarajah family during this difficult time. May you find strength and solace in the knowledge that Pyrawy's impact on our lives and the Tamil community is immeasurable.

With heartfelt condolences,
Phoenix- The Next Generation

வெல்வது உறுதி

01.08.2023: **Canada** - During a meeting with foreign envoys at the High Commission of Canada in SL, representatives of the Association of Relatives of Enforced Disappearances (ARED) emphasised their commitment to continue to struggle until they gain international justice, reports Lanka Files. Reports indicate that leaders of the Association, Thambirasa Selvarani of Amparai, Sivanandan Jenita of Vavuniya and Manuel Uthayachandra of Mannar mentioned this.

05.08.2023: **IMF** - R. Wickremesinghe warned that SL Parliament would exercise all its powers against those who seek court intervention against SL's IMF-led debt restructuring, reports Lanka Files.

04.08.2023: **HRC** - According to Economy Next, a SL citizen has filed a petition with SL's Human Rights Commission against a proposed restructuring of SL's pension fund debt. Although there are other bondholders such as banks, primary dealers, insurance companies,

investment companies and high net worth individuals, trustees and agents of individuals would not be covered by the same regulation, the petitioner said.

15.08.2023: **Indo-Pacific Environmental forum** - The Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF) 2023, co-hosted by the US Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), and Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) commenced at Shangri-La Colombo on 14.08.2023. Over 140 senior officers from defence forces and top-level environmentalists across 28 countries in the Indo-Pacific are also reported to be in participation, reports Defence LK.

19.08.2023: **UNICEF** - UNICEF cites that SL has allocated less than 2% of its GDP on education which is below the international benchmark of 4-6% of GDP, thus making it one of the lowest countries within the South Asian Region, reports Lanka Files.

23.08.2023: **Lyca** - According to Economy Next, Lyca Productions SL, a unit of the U.K.-based communications and Indian entertainment conglomerate, has mentioned it has financed 06 films in the South Asian island for release in the Middle East, Europe and North America. Of the 06 films to be produced, 05 will be in Sinhala and 01 in Tamil.

29.08.2023: **IORA** - According to Economy Next, SL will host the 23rd Ministerial Council Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in October 2023. Established in 1995, IORA is an intergovernmental organisation focused on strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region through its 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners. SL will chair the organisation for the period 2023-2025 under the theme 'Strengthening the Regional Foundation, Reinforcing the Indian Ocean Identity'.

Bilateral

02.08.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, China's Sinopec has begun unloading its first fuel shipment to SL. In May 2023, a contract was signed with Sinopec to distribute fuel locally to an initial 150 service stations

to ensure a steady and uninterrupted supply of fuel in SL. The entry of new retail suppliers into the domestic market will reduce the need for foreign exchange for petroleum products, as suppliers will import their products

with a 12-month financing facility from their main investors without requiring foreign exchange from domestic financial institutions.

05.08.2023: **Iran** - According to Economy Next, SL's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry met with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and discussed bilateral relations as SL is about to commence a crude oil payment by exporting tea to Tehran. SL signed an agreement in December 2021 to offset tea exports to Iran with an old oil loan from the state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to the National Iranian Oil Company without violating US sanctions.

10.08.2023: **Cooperation** - According to Economy Next, SL intends to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and sign free trade agreements (FTAs) with ASEAN member states after the debt restructuring is completed. A statement from SL's Presidential Media Department (PMD) mentioned the proposed collaborations underscore SL's commitment to fostering economic cooperation and trade ties that will open new avenues for growth and development.

11.08.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, on 09.08.2023, the "Invest Sri Lanka" event was organised by the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Chennai. This is aimed at promoting investment in SL. This is aimed at promoting investment in SL.

12.08.2023: **Australia** - According to Kalaikathir, officers from Australia's Border Force have met the Northern Provinces Governor on various topics including illegal migration to Australia.

16.08.2023: **Iran** - According to Army LK, the Military Attaché at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Colombo, Colonel Homaoun Ali Yari paid a courtesy visit to the Commander of SL's Army, Lieutenant General Vikum Liyanage RWP RSP ndu on 15.08.2023 at the SL Army Headquarters.

16.08.2023: **Briefing** - According to SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali Sabri had briefed a Colombo-based diplomatic corps on SL's current developments. Heads of the following foreign missions were present at the briefing:

- ◆ OMP
- ◆ OR
- ◆ ONUR
- ◆ TRC
- ◆ OOSLA

16.08.2023: **Pakistan** - According to Defence LK, Pakistan's Defence Advisor to the High Commission in SL, Colonel Muhammad Farooq met K. Gunaratne at SL's Defence Ministry on 16.08.2023. During this meeting, they expressed their wishes to work towards strengthening the existing bilateral defence ties.

18.08.2023: **Sinopec** - According to Economy Next, SL will open bids to construct a refinery in Hambantota, after the extension of the deadline to 30.08.2023. China's Sinopec and Singapore-based Vitol Asia were requested to bid after the 02 firms were shortlisted from 07 that had responded to an expression of interest.

22.08.2023: **Singapore** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe, has discussed security and defense cooperation between the 02 countries with Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen. They have emphasised the need for consistent communication and

coordination to effectively address common security concerns.

22.08.2023: **Bangladesh** - According to Economy Next, SL has begun the repayment of a swap with SL's Central Bank of Bangladesh, from which USD 200 million was borrowed during the worst currency crisis in SL's history. SL's central bank repaid USD 50 million on 17.08.2023.

22.08.2023: **Singapore** - According to Economy Next, SL and Singapore have signed an agreement on a joint venture for carbon credits under a provision of the Paris Climate Agreement following a meeting between R. Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. This strategic partnership not only demonstrates both countries' commitment to environmental protection, but also establishes means for further cooperation in various sectors.

25.08.2023: **Switzerland**- The Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Oliver PRAZ and the First Secretary (Political), Mr. Justine BOILLIAT of the Embassy of Switzerland in SL made a courtesy visit to the occupational SL Security Force HQ - Jaffna (SFHQ - Jaffna) on 23.08.2023 and discussed reconciliation, development, assistance to agriculture, security and other general matters, reports Army LK.

25.08.2023: **ID Project** - According to Economy Next, SL's decision to hire an Indian company to develop a digital identity card project poses no threat to SL's national security. India has already provided Wickremesinghe's government an advance of INR 450 million to fund the digital identity project, which will collect biographic and biometric data, including facial, iris and fingerprint data.

30.08.2023: **UN** - According to TNA Media, the new Resident Coordinator of the UN in SL, M.A. Franche had met with TNA's R. Sampanthan and M.A. Sumanthiran to discuss the Tamils' grievances.

31.08.2023: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL is granting access to a Chinese research vessel in accordance with SL's non-aligned stance. The vessel is to dock SL's reserves in conjunction with the National Aquatic Research Authority. SL is committed to maintaining friendly economic, social, political and cultural relations with all neighbouring countries in the region.

31.08.2023: **Netherlands** - According to Economy Next, the Netherlands will assist SL to unlock the full potential of their female workforce with a feminist foreign policy. The feminist foreign policy includes protecting human rights and promoting meaningful participation and decision-making by women and LGBTQ-plus individuals.

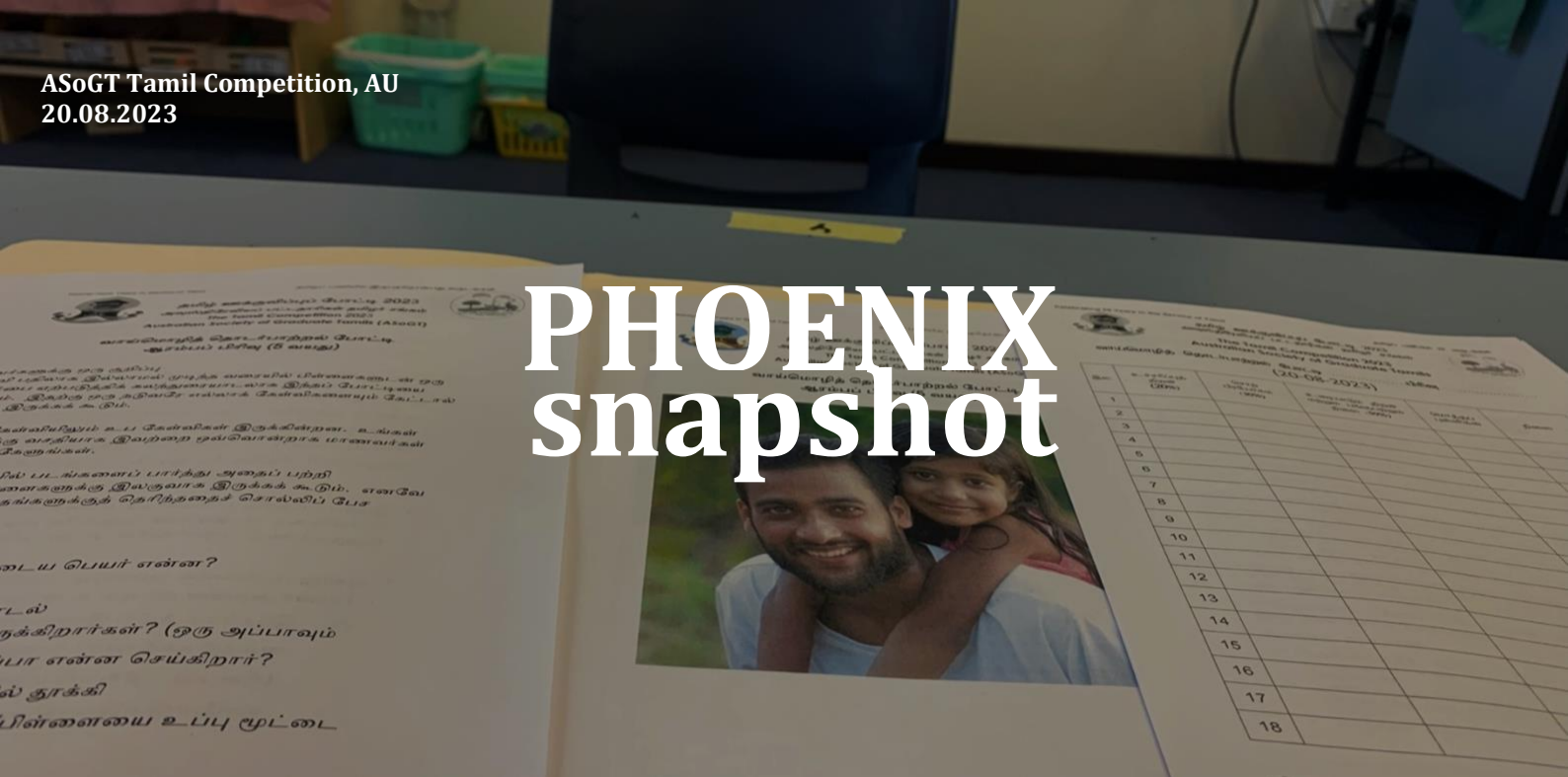
HUNGER STRIKE FOR THILEEPAN 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				SEPT 01	SEPT 02	SEPT 03 Grill (CH) on 15TH
SEPT 04	SEPT 05	SEPT 06	SEPT 07	SEPT 08	SEPT 09	SEPT 10 Workshop (AU) International Women's Day NZ Film (CH)
SEPT 11	SEPT 12	SEPT 13	SEPT 14	SEPT 15 Vigil (AU) Rohingya Community	SEPT 16 Demo (AU) Indian Embassy	SEPT 17 Workshop (AU) Vera's Vegans
SEPT 18 PING OFFICE PUBLIC VIGIL CH	SEPT 19	SEPT 20	SEPT 21	SEPT 22 Poosal (AU) CH	SEPT 23 OpenSage (CH) Michele	SEPT 24
SEPT 25 PING OFFICE PUBLIC VIGIL CH	SEPT 26 Hunger strike (UK, CH, SG, TH, IN, AU, NZ)	SEPT 27	SEPT 28	SEPT 29	SEPT 30	

வெவ்வுது உறுதி



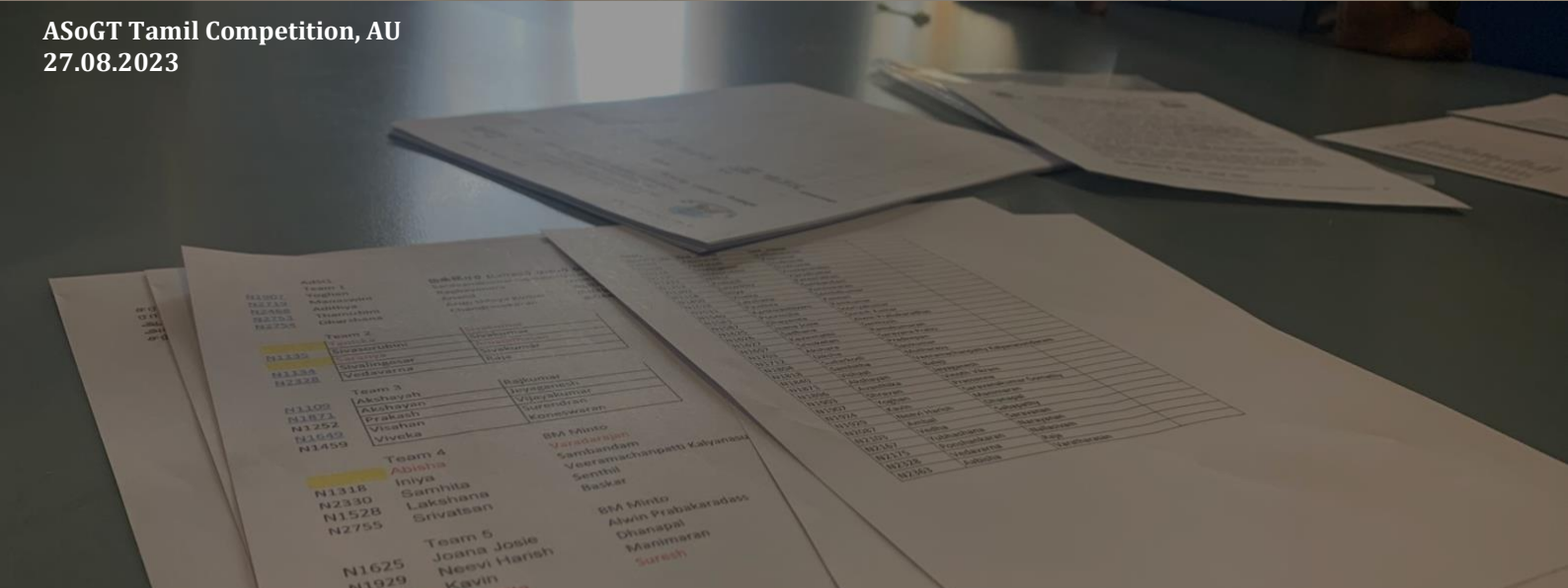
BJR Worksession, AU
05.08.2023



ASoGT Tamil Competition, AU
20.08.2023

PHOENIX snapshot

ASoGT Tamil Competition, AU
27.08.2023



Team	Name	BM Minto
Team 1	Adithyan	BM Minto
Team 2	Adithyan	BM Minto
Team 3	Adithyan	BM Minto
Team 4	Adithyan	BM Minto
Team 5	Adithyan	BM Minto

Military News

07.08.2023: **Crash** - According to SL's Ministry of Defence (MoD's) website a training aircraft of SL's Air Force has crashed in Trincomalee. 02 officers were killed in this accident.

17.08.2023: **India** - India handed over Dornier Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft to "provide the SLAF with improved capability to tackle common security challenges in the region such as Drug and Human Trafficking, Smuggling and Search and Rescue" at Katunayake Airport, reports Lanka Files.

14.08.2023: **Heavy Machinery Training** - The National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) of SL, sought SL Army assistance to conduct training in the NAITA-initiated new 'Prime Mover Operators' Course' which matches the NVQ Level - 4. According to Army LK, the training course is aimed at opening up overseas vistas for youth who are interested in receiving training in heavy

machinery and equipment operation as well as associated skills.

17.08.2023: **Dornier** - According to Economy Next, a Dornier aircraft from the Indian Navy has been handed over to SL's Air Force for maritime reconnaissance. The aircraft, equipped with advanced sensors, can be used for search and rescue operations, drug trafficking and also to ferry people fleeing currency instability on the island.

18.08.2023: **US** - A visiting delegation of the 08th Theater Sustainment Command of the US Army, after formal discussions with the Commander of the SL Army at the COS Office on 16.08.2023, reports Army LK.

19.08.2023: **National security** - According to Defence LK, SL's President has emphasised the critical requirement for a comprehensive review of SL's national security strategy which will cover a wide range of factors, including new economic trends and the effects of climate

change, on 18.08.2023 during an event at the Boossa Advanced Naval Training Centre.

22.08.2023: **China** - According to Defence LK, the Chinese Ministry of National Defence offered a USD 6.2 million worth 'Emergency Command and Communication System Vehicle Fleet' - 11 automobiles, in a ceremony organised at the SL Army Headquarters' premises on 22.08.2023.

24.08.2023: **US** - Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Nelson, Senior Defence Official/Defence Attaché and Mr. Seth Nevins, Assistant Defence Attaché of the US Embassy in SL made a courtesy call to the occupational SL Security Force HQ-Jaffna on 23.08.2023. They exchanged views on civil-military cooperation, social welfare projects, security concerns, development assistance, nation-building tasks and other general matters in the Jaffna peninsula, reports Army LK.

25.08.2023: **Blood Donation** - According to Army LK, more than 150 soldiers of SL's 513th Infantry Brigade on account of the 28th Anniversary of the Brigade voluntarily donated their blood for

the benefit of patients at the occupational Tellippalai Base Hospital in Jaffna on 19.08.2023.

Tamil Eelam

05.08.2023: **Drought** - According to a report released by SL's Disaster Management Centre, over 80% of the population affected by the drought are residents of Jaffna from the occupied Tamil homeland, reports Lanka Files.

05.08.2023: **Scholarship** - Virakesari's News Editor, Robert Antony has been selected for the 2023 Asia Journalism Fellowship at the National University of Singapore, reports Lanka Files. The Fellowship accommodates 15 journalists from 12 countries.

07.08.2023: **Beautification** - According to Economy Next, SL intends to beautify its commercial capital Colombo and other cities based on plans prepared by

Surbana Jurong, a Singapore-based urban design, infrastructure and management services consultancy. Similar plans have been prepared for Trincomalee to promote development in that region, and Surbana Jurong is actively involved in creating a tourist zone from Verugal Aru to Batticaloa and Arugam Bay to contribute to the growth of the tourism industry.

12.08.2023: **Drinking water** - According to Kalaikathir, over 69,000 individuals do not have access to drinking water.

25.08.2023: **Trinco** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has ordered officials to end the "competing establishment" of religious sites in the Eastern Province. He

has called this a consultative approach to future undertakings regarding religious structures in the Trincomalee district. Decisions in this regard should be made in consultation with the governor, district political leaders and relevant government agencies.

29.08.2023: **Plantation** - According to Lanka Files, an exhibition was conducted in Jaffna to highlight the lifestyle of plantation Tamils including their distinct art, culture and worship systems. The exhibition titled, "Heaven's Burden: A View of Highland Tales," was organised by Jaffna University's Department of Fine Arts and Arts.

01.08.2023: **Social Assistance** - According to Economy Next, the SL Cabinet has decided to provide social assistance to 1.792 million people who have been identified as eligible for assistance and 393,093 people who have been dropped from the existing Samurdhi program, pending a decision on their appeals. In the past, there has been criticism that Samurdhi was provided primarily to individuals with political connections, while many from impoverished backgrounds could only receive payments if they worked on election campaigns.

02.08.2023: **NMRA** - According to Economy Next, SL plans to repeal the controversial *National Medical Regulatory Authority (NMRA) Act*. An SL Medical Council law will also be repealed. The repeal of these laws are intended to allow for a more open and fair market.

08.08.2023: **Local Government** - According to Economy Next, SL's government will abide by a Supreme Court ruling that 03 private bills to change

local government require a special majority in SL Parliament and a referendum. 03 private bills titled *Pradeshiya Sabha (Amendment) Act, Urban Councils (Amendment) Act* and *Municipal Councils (Amendment) Act* are not compatible with SL's Constitution.

08.08.2023: **Arbitration** - According to Economy Next, in 2012, the SL Cabinet had approved the establishment of an International Arbitration Centre as a regional centre for the resolution of disputes arising from international trade agreements and other international matters. Further reports indicate that the mentality of SL lawyers, slow procedures, lack of emergency arbitrators, and decades-old legislation have prevented SL from becoming a true centre of international arbitration in the region.

08.08.2023: **Combat** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers have approved a proposal by R. Wickremesinghe to address "identified vulnerabilities" under the SL's anti-money

laundering and terrorist financing regulations. SL will undergo the 3rd annual mutual anti-money laundering assessment by the Asia-Pacific Regional Group starting in March 2025. The Financial Action Task Force is an intergovernmental body which sets international standards for the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing.

09.08.2023: **SL Constitution** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has reiterated his call for an Indian-backed SL Constitutional Amendment to resolve SL's ethnic issues. He has mentioned that there are several issues related to the implementation of SL's 13th Constitutional Amendment and the related system of provincial councils. He mentioned that the Constitutional Amendment must be implemented in a manner suitable for SL's future growth.

15.08.2023: **Agreements** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has proposed to draft a law

to cease unilateral denunciation of bilateral or multilateral agreements concluded for national development. He mentioned that SL's credibility and international reputation have been damaged by the cancellation of agreements without consultations with other contractual stakeholders. Further reports indicate that the urgency has arisen due to diplomatic issues with India, Japan and the US due to SL's failure to honour such treaties.

15.08.2023:

Productivity Commission -

According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved a proposal by R. Wickremesinghe to establish a National Productivity Commission. Reports indicate that it is to be an independent body to ensure productivity.

20.08.2023: **Security Strategy** -

According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has stressed the requirement for a comprehensive review of SL's national security strategy in light of increasing geopolitical movements within the Indian Ocean.

Wickremesinghe mentioned that he has already appointed a specialised team to thoroughly assess SL's security landscape and propose a modern security policy to SL's National Security Council. On the one hand, a battle for supremacy is unfolding between the US and China in the vastness of the Pacific. A power struggle between Western nations and Russia is also concurrently emerging in the context of Ukraine.

22.08.2023: **Laws** -

According to Economy Next, SL's Parliament will pass around 50 laws - mainly to digitise administrative processes to reduce corruption and waste. Most of the new laws aim to digitise GoSL's services so the public can access their services online.

31.08.2023: **Sanskrit** -

According to Economy Next, SL celebrated World Sanskrit Day on 31.08.2023 along with the cultural arm of the Indian High Commission and several universities. It will be held at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies, BMICH, Colombo. An academic and cultural

event that also celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre - the cultural arm of the Indian High Commission.

31.08.2023: **Sinopec** -

According to Economy Next, Sinopec Energy Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, a unit of Chinese oil company Sinopec, has started selling diesel and gasoline LKR 3.00 below the price set by SL state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corporation. The company has been granted a 20-year concession by SL and will take over 150 petrol stations currently operated by Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

31.08.2023: **Easter Sunday** -

SL's Director of SL State Intelligence Services, Major General Suresh Sallay had demanded LKR 50 million from Father Rohan Silva who is the Executive Director of the Centre for Society and Religion. According to Lanka Files, the sum was demanded regarding the Father's allegedly defamatory statements which had linked the SIS chief with allegedly convicted Easter Sunday bomber Mohamed Zaharan.



ECONOMIC PROFILE – August 2023

Inflation	July 2023	↓ to 4.6% in 12-months ↓ from 6. % in June
Gross FOREX Reserves	July 2023	↑ to USD 38 million to USD 3,762 million
Credit	June 2023	
Private credit		↑ by LKR 73.8 billion from LKR 7,020 billion
Overseas banking		↑ by LKR 27.8 billion to LKR 520 billion
Domestic banking		↑ by LKR 46 billion to LKR 6,574.5 billion
Central bank		↑ by LKR 54.9 billion to LKR 3,178 billion
Remittances	July 2023	↑ by 93% from a year ago to USD 541 million
BOP	June 2023	1,958 million US dollar surplus
Exports	July 2023	↓ by 11.9% in July 2023 from a year ago
US		↓ by 15.6% to USD 253.7 million
UK		↓ by 22.8% to USD 73.42 million
Germany		↓ by 24.2% to USD 50.46 million
Netherlands		↓ by 10.7% to USD 27.55 million
India		↑ by 29% to USD 81.28 million
UAE		↑ by 43% to USD 37.88 million
Tax revenues	June 2023	↑ by 50% to LKR 1,198 billion
Total revenues		↑ by 43% to LKR 1,317 billion
Current spending		↑ by 48% to LKR 2,325.5 billion.

RANJINI
AP Economic Analyst
& Coordinator

02.08.2023: **Money** - According to Economy Next, the money monopoly by which SL citizens are forced to conduct transactions with a depreciating LKR will be maintained and there will be no liberalisation of the *Legal Tender Act*. Every time macroeconomists lower interest rates with inflationary open market operations, the LKR falls, lowering living standards.

09.08.2023: **Tax Law** - According to Economy Next, SL has introduced an amendment to the *Tax Law* in SL Parliament to increase taxes on pension funds from the current 14% - 30%. The amendment was published in the SL Government Gazette on 17.07.2023 and reportedly was not challenged in court.

09.08.2023: **Central Bank** - According to Economy Next, SL's Central Bank has lowered the Statutory Reserve Ratio (SRR) of SL's commercial banks by 200 basis points, from 16.08.2023. This will inject liquidity into SL's banking system and permanently reduce the market's liquidity deficit.

14.08.2023: **Outflow** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has called for rapid growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and higher SL government revenues to fund health, education and other services as many specialists and professionals in SL had left the country.

15.08.2023: **Tourism Policy** - According to Economy Next, SL has formulated a new permanent tourism policy which does not change with SL's government or staff. Officials mentioned that the country earned USD 219 million from 143,039 tourists visiting the country in July 2023 - up from USD 85 million in 2022.

15.08.2023: **Hambantota** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet decided to cancel an agreement with the company Hambantota Oil refinery (Pvt.) Ltd. for the lease of 1,200 hectares of land for the construction of a refinery in 2019. Reports indicate that the decision was made as no progress had been made despite reminders to the project promoters.

15.08.2023: **Lyca** - According to Economy Next, SL's state-owned Rupavahini Corporation will lease airtime of its Channel Eye station to the UK-based Lyca Group to generate revenue and reduce losses. The airtime will be leased for the cricket broadcasts, which will be charged LKR 25 million per month.

16.08.2023: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, an IIMF team will be in SL from 14.09.2023-27.09.2023 to conduct the first review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Officials mentioned that SL has over-achieved the IMF's key quantitative performance criteria, although fiscal revenue, which is an indicative target, has not been met.

24.08.2023: **Rupee** - According to Economy Next, SL's banks have largely covered their exposure from the conversion of dollar-denominated SL Development Bonds into LKR, which will assist to reduce volatility in their exchange rate. The SLDB accounts for about USD 800 million, most of which has already been covered by the market, i.e. banks.

SINHALA BUDDHIST Chauvinism

Threats & intimidation

According to Lanka Files, occupational Buddhist monks had staged a protest rally through Trincomalee to demand Eastern Provincial Governor Senthil Thondamann to revoke an order which he had issued to cease the development work of a Vihara following opposition by local residents. Reports indicate that the monks had threatened that, “there could be harm to life. Then the police will have to be held responsible.”

Oppression & Resistance

01.08.2023: **Protest** - According to Eelanadu, students from the Jaffna universities staged a protest against the land grab attempt in Akkaraveli, Mullaitivu.

01.08.2023: **Easter Sunday** - Former SL President and Genocidaire, G. Rajapaksa has been cleared of any alleged involvement in the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings by Rohan Gunaratna, reports Lanka Files. Gunaratna is a professor at SL's State Defence University, KNDU which operates under SL's Ministry of Defence.

02.08.2023: **Protest** - The 200km "Tracing our roots to win our Rights Walk" received mass solidarity from local Vanni Tamils when the rally reached Mullaitivu. According to Lanka Files, they had joined the rally from Puthukkudiyiruppu and marched to Kilinochchi.

04.08.2023: **ACLF** - According to Eelanadu, the massacre of the 17 workers of the French NGO "Action contra la Faim" has been commemorated in Jaffna.

04.08.2023: **Tribunal** - Genocidaire SL Major General Jagath Dias has

convened a 03-hour people's tribunal to protest the implementation of the 13th Amendment to SL's Constitution, reports Lanka Files. He has scheduled the tribunal for 10.08.2023.

05.08.2023: **Commemoration** - 17 flames were ignited in Jaffna to symbolically commemorate the 17 ACF France employees killed in 2006, reports Lanka Files.

06.08.2023: **Protest** - Trincomalee locals staged a protest in Kuchchaveli against the construction of a Buddhist vihara with the support of SL's Department of Archaeology at the Uchi Pillaiyar Hill area of Periyakulam, Kuchaveli, reports Jera Thampi.

08.08.2023: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, Tamils and Muslims of Mullaitivu staged a protest opposite Mullaitivu's District Secretariat against SL's occupational police for permitting 09 out of 38 non-resident Sinhala fishermen the opportunity to flee. This occurred after they had been handed over for poaching in Thanimurippu Lake

and arresting 17 Tamil and Muslim fishermen who confronted outsiders.

09.08.2023: **Mass Grave** - According to Lanka Files, SL's Presidential Secretariat will provide funds for the excavation of the Kokkuthoduvai Mass Graves which are yet to begin. V. S. Niranjana mentioned that the next court investigation would be 10.08.2023.

09.08.2023: **Kurunthormalai** - SL Archaeology authorities informed Mullaitivu Court that there are no restrictions over having traditional rituals at Kurunthormalai. According to Lanka Files, this was mentioned during a hearing of a case regarding an incident which erupted between occupational Buddhist colonisers and locals on 14.01.2023.

09.08.2023: **Protests** - According to Lanka Files, Navalikulam, Mannar locals staged a protest against the opening of a wind power plant installed by Windforce & Hiruras Power as it interrupted their daily livelihood.

10.08.2023: **SL Constitution** -

According to Lanka Files, 05 Tamil political parties reject R. Wickremesinghe's invitation to submit views and proposals on implementing the 13th Amendment to SL's Constitution.

14.08.2023:

Commemoration - The 17th Senchola Massacre Memorial was commemorated by relatives of the killed school girls, reports Lanka Files. Further commemorations were also held at Jaffna University by University undergraduates and by the Tamil National Party in an event led by MP M.K. Sivajilingam.

Further reports indicate that a commemoration was held near the Jaffna Public Library on 16.08.2023. During the commemoration, TNPF's General Secretary condemned Silva's death threats to assert that, "we will protect our land even if we lose our heads in that effort."

14.08.2023: **Plantation** - According to Vinojana, the owners of a plantation in Kurunagal had engaged in measures to evict 300 Hill Tamils living in the Pathalagoda plantation who had resided there for almost 4-5 generations without any

basic facilities. It is notable that the owner of the estate had also filed a case against 06 individuals for the clearance of land within the estate area.

15.08.2023: **Mandate** -

According to Lanka Files, R. Sampanthan expressed their duty to the Tamil people of the occupied Tamil homeland in a letter penned to R. Wickremesinghe to express the "Political Aspiration of the Tamil People for Power Sharing."

He mentioned, "we have repeatedly obtained a mandate from the Tamil People in the North and East to work towards a political solution based on a federal structure consonant with the right of self-determination in the areas of our historic habitation."

16.08.2023: **Threats** - Ex-SL Minister Mervyn Silva incited hatred during a press conference where he threatened to "visit the North and East and return to Kelanya dangling heads" of those who halted the development work of a Buddhist temple (including the Eastern Governor) due to resistance from locals.

This statement was received well by a supremacist audience who applauded the threats - reflective of rising anti-Tamil sentiments, reports Lanka Files. Further reports indicate that Tamil politicians had condemned the death threats and had called for legal action to be implemented against the racist ex-minister.

17.08.2023: **CCTV** -

Colombo-based Tamil Journalist Parameswaran Wigneshwaran submitted CCTV footage of a break and enter into his residence by an unidentified individual who stole media equipment, reports Lanka Files. Reports indicate that the SL Police have not taken any action thus far regarding an LKR 2 million worthy robbery which occurred at his residence almost a year ago.

18.08.2023: **Mass Grave**

- According to Judicial Medical Officer Kanagasabapathy Vasudeva, excavations cannot commence from 21.08.2023 as planned due to a delay of the transfer of funds from SL's President's Office to authorities in Mullaitivu as pledged by the OMP, reports Lanka Files.

23.08.2023: **Threats** - According to S. Kajendran, U.P. Gammanpila had called for the rounding up of the house of TNPf's G.G. Ponnambalam, reports Lanka Files. He had made the statement during an SL Parliamentary sitting.

25.08.2023: **Cordon** - According to K. Sugash, a group of Buddhist monks had cordoned G.G. Ponnambalam's Colombo residence causing a rise in tensions, reports Lanka Files. Further video footage indicates tension ensuing between monks and SL Police riot squad as the monks claimed to "return with Sinhala Buddhist power."

25.08.2023: **Protest** - A protest was staged by lawyers in the Tamil homeland against racist comments made by MP Rear Admiral Sarath Weerasekara against the Mullaitivu Judge for the provision of permission to perform traditional Tamil rites at Kurunthormalai, reports Lanka Files. The lawyers demanded that there should be no interference in the duty of the judge and the functionality of an independent judiciary should not be impeded.

25.08.2023: **Arrests** - According to Kalaikathir, 03 persons were arrested in India on suspicion of being members of the LTTE. The arrested individuals also have connections with SL's underworld, the news further reports.

26.08.2023: **Racism** - According to JDS Lanka, a Sinhala mob led by MP U.P. Gammanpila led a protest outside G.G. Ponnambalam's residence accusing him of "whipping up Tamil racism," towards the Sinhalese. SL Police observed the aggressive protest with no intervention as such.

29.08.2023: **Protest** - According to Economy Next, left-leaning activists, trade union leaders affiliated with opposition parties and other groups demonstrated in Colombo on 28.08.2023 against what they called the "theft" of SL's Employees' Pension Fund (EPF) under a debt restructuring program mandated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Flags symbolically expressing opposition to the IMF were also flown at the protest site, and demonstrators shouted their demands although

police had barred them from entering SL's presidential office premises.

29.08.2023: **Protest** - A protest was staged opposite Kurakottai Railway station by trade unions and civil organisations against GoSL's decision to reduce interest on the deposits of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' Trust Fund (ETF) to enable SL's domestic debt restructuring process, reports Lanka Files. Further reports indicate that 09 trade unions from Jaffna had joined in solidarity with the protest opposite Jaffna's District Secretariat. Hill country Tamil workers of the Madulsima Plantation PLC - mostly comprised of women, have also been reported to have joined protests.

29.08.2023: **Protest** - According to K. Sugash, protests in Thaiyiddy had resumed.

29.08.2023: **Enforced Disappearances** - According to Tamil journalist S. Thavaseelan, M. Eswari had mentioned during a press conference at the Mullaitivu Press Club that, "we continue to protest amidst the uncertainty of whether

the relatives whom we had lost to the Army are alive or not.”

30.08.2023: **Mass Grave** - SL's Ministry of Justice has written to the top civil servant in Mullaitivu District about the earmarking of over a half a million LKR (USD 17,500) to conduct a magisterial inquiry, reports Lanka Files.

30.08.2023: **Enforced Disappearances** - Relatives of forcibly disappeared individuals from the Tamil homeland conducted a mass vigil and rally through Mannar on the International Day of the Missing Persons, to demand international justice, reports Lanka Files. Through their rally they rejected the OMP and TRC as failed mechanisms.
30.08.2023: **Posters** - According to K.

Kumanan, defamatory posters had been put up by unidentified individuals in Batticaloa against the Coordinator off the Association of Relatives of the Forcibly Disappeared (Batticaloa), Amalanayagi who had led protest rallies in Batticaloa earlier on 30.08.2023 in Batticaloa, reports Lanka Files.

31.08.2023: **Sinhala Buddhism** - The senior Buddhist monk, Anamaduwe Dhammadassi Thera who had convened a Bhikku Conference in 2017 to oppose the implementation of the *International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances Act* had extended his support to R. Wickremesinghe and had extended an invitation to the masses

to echo such support for SL's President, reports Lanka Files.

31.08.2023: **OMP** - According to SL's OMP 15 individuals, who were reported missing, have been found so far. These were individuals, who were reported missing from 2000 - 2021.

31.08.2023: **Mass Graves** - According to Tamil lawyer V.S. Niranjana, Mullaitivu Magistrate's Court Judge, T. Pradeepan had decided to commence excavation of the Kokuthoduvai Mass Graves with the approval of all relevant departments from 05.09.2023, reports Lanka Files.



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SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

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

01.08.2023: **Sinhalese settlements** - According to Eelanadu, 500 acres of land have been granted to Sinhalese settlers in Kokkuthoduvai under the "Mahaweli L" scheme.

02.08.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Tamil journalist, K. Kumanan, a new Buddhist viharai is set to be constructed on occupied pastures traditionally used by Tamil farmers for agricultural purposes in the Mayilaththamadu Mathavani area of Batticaloa. Further reports indicate that SL's Mahaweli Authority officials and occupational Sinhala farmers are threatening the Tamil farmers in the area to colonise the area.

03.08.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Jera Thampi, the Bo tree situated at traditional Tamil site of worship Paralai Murugan Temple of Chulipuram, Jaffna had been gazetted by SL's Department of Archaeology as a monument of Buddhist heritage in an attempt to further SL's Buddhification attempts to disrupt Tamils' territorial integrity.

09.08.2023: **Kuruntharmalai** - According to Eelanadu, SL's Archaeological Department mentioned at the court, that they want hinder "Hinduistic" practices in the future.

09.08.2023. **Kokkuthoduvai** - According to Kalaikathir, the excavation work on the Kokkuthoduvai mass grave cost LKR 400,000 per week.

10.08.2023: **Hydrogen** - According to Economy Next, SL will seek investment to make the ports of Colombo and Trincomalee hubs for the export of green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia produced with renewable energy. The occupied Tamil homeland will be a major source of renewable energy to be developed in partnership with India, he said. Pooneryn is to be developed as the main city for renewable energy production. Indian company Adani has come forward as one of the investors.

11.08.2023: **India** - According to Economy Next, SL plans to develop the Eastern Province in cooperation with India and make Trincomalee an SL National and Regional Centre for industry, energy and economic activities. Trincomalee is also to be linked with Anuradhapura, Vavuniya and Dambulla. India is already developing a Tank Farm in Trincomalee. There are several agreements with India, he said. The cultural triangle cities of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Dambulla could be a natural way to boost tourist flows to the beachfront towns of Batticaloa, Arugam Bay and Trincomalee.

16.08.2023: **Mannar** - According to Economy Next, SL plans to transform Mannar into an energy hub.

Consequently an intercity express train will run between Talaimannar and Colombo from 15.09.2023. R.

Wickremesinghe has mentioned that with access to solar, wind and green energy, Mannar district can be developed into an energy hub. Plans have already been drawn up to turn Pooneryn into an energy town as well.

18.08.2023: **Kurunthormalai** - According to Lanka Files, whilst SL's Department of Archaeology had imposed conditions for the completion of a Pongal ritual by Tamils at the site on 18.08.2023, a Buddhist 3-day rally is set to be held unhindered between 18.08.2023-20.08.2023. Further reports from Tamil journalist S. Thavaseelan indicate that the rituals were conducted with heavy supervision from occupational SL Police and SL's Archaeology Department. According to K. Kumanan, illegally erected Kurundi Bihari's Buddhist monk Galgamuwa Santhabodhi forcibly entered the Tamils' peaceful worship to disrupt the proceedings - he was politely escorted away by occupational SL Police. Further reports indicate that MP S. Kajendran had lodged a complaint at the occupational Mullaitivu Police station against SL's Archaeological Department officials and Galgamuwa Santhabodhi Thero who had denied a right of religious worship at Kuruthormalai. It is notable that the occupational police had filed a petition with the Mullaitivu Magistrate requesting an injunction order against a Tamil Pongal worship at the site which was rejected by the court on 16.08.2023.

18.08.2023: **Buddhification** - According to Eelanadu, an Amman temple in Verugal, Trincomalee, is being

destroyed and replaced by a Buddhist viharai.

22.08.2023: **Land release** - According to Kalaikathir, SL's Forestry Department and SL's Wildlife Conservatory Department will only release 1/6 of the demanded land in Mannar. During the war these departments claimed civilians used lands as forests and seized these lands. After negotiations SL's President Wockremesinghe ordered the boundaries of the forests from 1985. According to that 26,627 acres of land and 4,393 acres of pasture land are required to be released. However, reports indicate that SL's 02 departments will only release 5,459 acres of land.

23.08.2023: **Intimidation** - According to Tamil journalist, S. Nilanthan, a group led by a Buddhist thero who had kidnapped a multi-faith group and Batticaloa's farmers on 22.08.2023 had threatened the journalist with death threats to prevent him from publishing videos/photos of the incident, reports Lanka Files. According to JDS Lanka, a group of Tamils, Muslims, Christian priests and journalists were threatened in Mayilaththamadu, Batticaloa. Further reports from K. Kumanan indicates that 03 Tamil journalists had also been detained by the mob during the incident. According to Kumanan, the journalists had visited the site to report on the occupation of the land with support from SL's Mahaweli Authority. Consequently, the mobs had also obtained affidavits and signatures from the journalists to prevent them from publishing the events.

27.08.2023: **Buddhist temples** - According to Eelanadu, 23 Buddhist temples have been built or are being constructed in the Kuchchaveli district in Trincomalee. It is noteworthy that

only 238 Sinhalese Buddhists reside in this district. Which means for each 10 Sinhalese Buddhist, a Buddhist temple has been proportionately built.

31.08.2023: **Kurunthormalai** -

According to S. Thavaseelan, Mullaitivu's Magistrate had ordered that the Kurunthormalai Archaeology site is in violation of a 2022 court order and that the activities of SL's Department of Archaeology are a violation of this court order.



AKKINIP PARAVAIKAL

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Akkinip Paravaikal Newsletter

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Address Phoenix TNG
Hängertstrasse 1
3114 Wichtrach
Switzerland

Phone +41 79 618 10 33
Email ap.puradsimedia@gmail.com

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Puradsi Media

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Email contact@puradsimedia.com

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