

# PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

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Akkinip Paravaikal

“ *Collective liberation – not isolated survival guarantees true existence.* ”

Phoenix TNG

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04.01.2024: **Red Sea** - According to Economy Next, SL has agreed to send a naval vessel to the Red Sea to repel Houthi attacks. The Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, are a Shia political and military organisation in Yemen.

05.01.2024: **Research vessels** - According to Economy Next, SL's government has imposed a temporary ban on foreign research vessels after India and the US raised strong security concerns following the visit of 02 Chinese research vessels. However, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) intends to use 2024 to build their capacity to deal with foreign research vessels.

12.01.2024: **Red Sea** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe discussed SL's involvement in security operations in the Red Sea at a meeting with

Ambassadors from 10 Middle Eastern countries at SL's Presidential Secretariat. He mentioned that GoSL was committed to protecting freedom of navigation while simultaneously minimising a negative impact on SL's economy.

13.01.2024: **Human Rights** - The UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner expressed deep concern over SL's "Yukthiya" anti-drug operation. According to Lanka Files, the concerns were in regard to "a number of violations, including unauthorised searches, arbitrary arrests and detention, ill-treatment, torture, and strip searches in public." Further reports from Virakesari indicate that 952 individuals were arrested under the special operation within 15.01.2024 alone.

19.01.2024: **NAM** - According to Economy

Next, SL stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and will continue to support them in their attempt to assert their right to statehood. SL Foreign Minister Ali Sabry reiterated that non-alignment is the cornerstone of SL's foreign policy and further emphasised that "the current global crises have brought the fragility of the world to the fore and this has magnified the importance of the movement like never before."

21.01.2024: **UN** - The UN Human Rights Office's spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani called on SL to 'revise' their anti-terrorism bill as it perpetuates patterns of violations from SL's past, reports Lanka Files.

## *Bilateral*

03.01.2024: **Thailand** - According to Economy Next, SL has concluded talks on a trade pact with Thailand after 09 rounds of negotiations. Both sides have agreed to liberalise tariffs on a list of sensitive goods within 16 years instead

of the previously agreed time frame of 18 years.

03.01.2024: **New Zealand** - According to Economy Next, SL will establish a High Commission in Wellington, New

Zealand. According to the SL Export Development Board, New Zealand is SL's 51st export destination. SL mainly exports items such as tea packets, rubber tyres and tubes and textiles to New Zealand.

03.01.2024: **UK** - According to Economy Next, SL has been selected as one of the countries to receive support from the UK's Blue Fund, which aims to assist developing countries to protect their marine environment and reduce poverty. According to the UK government, the Blue Planet Fund has been allocated GBP 500 million.

03.01.2024: **Russia** - According to Economy Next, the Civil Aviation Authority of SL has issued the Foreign Air Operator Certificate (FAOC) to Russia's Rossiya Airlines to operate certain flights (scheduled flights) from Moscow to Colombo. Russia is an important tourism market for SL. In 2023, the country had 197,498 Russian visitors.

08.01.2024: **India** - According to Economy Next, the Indian High Commission in Colombo has announced that a project to modernise the railway line from Maho to Anuradhapura has commenced on 07.01.2024. The work is part of a USD 91.27 million project being undertaken by IRCON, an Indian state-owned company, and is expected to be completed in 06 months.

08.01.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, the Japanese Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi will visit SL between 11.01.2024-12.01.2024. During their visit in SL, Suzuki and the delegation will visit SL's Parliament, Jayawardene Centre, Sri Jayawardenepura Hospital, Colombo Dockyard and Lanka Nippon Biztec Institute in Maharagama.

08.01.2024: **France** - According to Economy Next, the French electricity supplier Electricity De France SL has made an offer for nuclear energy. SL Minister of Power and Energy Kanchana Wijesekera had also briefed the Ambassador on SL's nuclear integration plans, renewable energy policies, smart grid development and energy efficiency plans.

11.01.2024: **India** - The Deputy Ambassador of India to SL, Rakesh Nataraj met the Northern Provincial Governor at the Provincial Secretariat to discuss areas of mutual interest such as the commence of a passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai, reports Virakesari.

11.01.2024: **UK** - According to Economy Next, British Princess Anne, who is on a three-day official visit to SL, and her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence met with R. Wickremesinghe. Further reports indicate that former SL President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga was also present at this meeting.

12.01.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, Japanese Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi held a meeting with R. Wickremesinghe to discuss the resumption of stalled Japanese projects - particularly projects such as the redevelopment of Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA). Discussions included:

- ◆ future co-operation in information technology and maritime security
- ◆ resumption of stalled projects
- ◆ long-term bilateral co-operation
- ◆ conclusion of debt rescheduling agreements and pipeline projects

12.01.2024: **UDA** - According to Economy Next, the Urban Development



Authority has received SL's interest from investors from Japan, China and Korea for a portfolio of land in key locations. The plots are valued at LKR 21 billion but could lead to investment and economic activity many times the value of the land.

12.01.2024: **JAPAN** - Japanese Finance Minister mentioned positive trends in GDP and inflation indicators, attributing the progress to the SL President's strong leadership. He outlined the potential resumption of JPY loans pending the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) and continued debt sustainability monitored by the IMF, reports SL President's office.

14.01.2024: **IMF** - The IMF praised the development initiatives undertaken within the occupied Eastern Province of the Tamil homeland. According to Virakesari, this was mentioned during an IMF delegation's meeting with the Eastern Province's Governor Senthil Thondomann at the Eastern Province Governor's Secretariat situated in Trincomalee on 13.01.2024.

15.01.2024: **Telecom** - According to Economy Next, investors from China and India have expressed their interest in purchasing Sri Lanka Telecom. Reports indicate that the Indian company Airtel already has a mobile unit in SL's telecoms sector.

16.01.2024: **Private credit** - SL's personal loans increased by LKR 62.9 billion to LKR 7,268 billion in November 2023, while loans to GoSL increased marginally by LKR 30.1 billion.

16.01.2024: **Shipping costs** - According to Economy Next, SL's exporters are facing a rise in freight rates in the West. Industry analysts warn this will spread

to the East as ships and containers are delayed as they reroute around Africa to avoid Houthi attacks in the Red Sea.

17.01.2024: **India** - According to Economy Next, SL's Finance Minister met with Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha. They spoke about promoting mutual economic partnerships between the 02 countries, joint initiatives to improve economic relations and progress on debt restructuring.

17.01.2024: **FDI** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned at a business roundtable organised by the Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce and the SL Board of Investment that SL's government is focussed on the promotion of growth through exports, services and investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI). Further reports indicate that he had highlighted that there are opportunities for:

- ◆ investment in renewable energy
- ◆ modernisation of agriculture
- ◆ tourism
- ◆ IT
- ◆ infrastructure development through public-private partnerships

17.01.2024: **FOC** - According to Economy Next, SL's Export Development Authority has signed a Framework of Cooperation (FOC) with the International Fair Trade Network to strengthen the relationship between the network and export-related institutions in SL. The framework aims to promote the development, diversification, and wider market access of fair-trade products from SL in the global market.

18.01.2024: **India** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has invited Indian companies to invest in state-owned enterprises that are being restructured amid plans to further

liberalise trade and services between the O2 countries. Indian group Reliance has already expressed interest in privatising Sri Lanka Telecom.

19.01.2024: **Vesak Festival** - According to Economy Next, SL's government is engaged in talks to receive financial assistance from the UN for the 2024 SL State Vesak Festival. The Chinese Association for Cultural Promotion, Buddhist Culture and Arts has agreed to SL requests to facilitate UN support for the SL State Vesak Festival.

20.01.2024: **Nepal** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe and Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal met in Kampala, Uganda, on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit. The O2 leaders discussed the promotion of bilateral tourism and the development of cultural and religious relations that have historically existed between the O2 countries.

22.01.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the SL Development Board (EDB) are working to introduce SL ICT companies to the Japanese market. The project aims to support around 30 small and medium-sized ICT/BPM companies and technology start-ups in O2 cohorts over a O2-year period from 2024 by providing them with market intelligence, business coaching and matchmaking support.

24.01.2024: **Japan** - According to Economy Next, amid some unease in relations between the O2 countries over a cancelled light rail project, USD 343,000 in Japanese funds have been used by UN Women and a local organisation to support 600 women-led micro-enterprises. UN Women, a UN agency, mentioned in a statement that

the initiative was executed as part of a larger year-long project "Empowering women in crisis", which commenced in February 2023.

26.01.2024: **Thailand** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Thailand. GoSL hopes to improve trade and investment with Thailand - one of the largest nations in Southeast Asia.

29.01.2024: **Thailand** - According to Economy Next, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin will visit SL between 03.02.2024-04.02.2024 to attend the signing of an FTA between the O2 countries. The Sri Lanka-Thailand Free Trade Agreement (SLTFTA) aims to strengthen trade and investment ties between them and promote integration with ASEAN countries.

29.01.2024: **UK** - According to Economy Next, the Royal Navy's HMS Spey, a 90.5 metre offshore patrol vessel (OPV) with a crew of 56, has arrived in Colombo harbour for an official visit over the weekend of 28.01.2024. The ship's Commanding Officer, Paul Caddy, will call on the Commander of SL's Western Naval Area and the Director General of Operations.

29.01.2024: **China** - According to Economy Next, a SL delegation in China has met with Chinese businessmen to discuss "environment-friendly investment programmes" in SL. SL State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Rohana Dissanayake recently visited China to discuss an investment programme for trade between SL and China.

30.01.2024: **Palestine** - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has donated a consignment of

Ceylon tea to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as a "token of humanitarian assistance and a symbol of SL's unwavering support and solidarity with the Palestinian people." The donation was received by the Palestinian Ambassador to SL, Zuhair Hamdallah Zaid.

30.01.2024: **USAID** - According to Economy Next, a USD 1.2 million programme from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has assisted the retention of over 4,600 tonnes of plastic out of the ocean surrounding SL. The Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) programme was launched in SL in 2021 to combat plastic pollution in the oceans.

31.01.2024: **Singapore** - According to Economy Next, SL's Minister of Commerce, Trade and Food Safety has met with Singapore's non-resident High Commissioner to discuss the expansion of trade and investment ties between the 02 countries. High Commissioner Chandra Das invited SL Minister Nalin Fernando to "visit the NTUC supermarket chain in Singapore to gain an insight into the operations of SL's supermarket chains, including Lanka Sathosa"

31.01.2024: **India** - According to Economy Next, an Indian company is to be appointed to manage SL's 03 airports, including the main Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), where SL is now experiencing an oversaturation of foreign tourists. SL is expecting 2.2 million tourists to arrive in 2024. However, the main airport is required to improve its capacity to cope with these numbers.



Tea Donation to Palestine  
Source: Economy Next



Research Vessels  
Source: Economy Next



Japanese Delegation Meeting  
Source: PMD Office LK





50+ Movie Night (CH)  
16.01.2024



Graubünden 30 Years Jubilee (CH)  
20.01.2024



# Military News

03.01.2024: **Pakistan** - According to the SL Ministry of Defence (MoD)'s website the 04th Defence Dialogue between Pakistan and SL was held. Both sides discussed; increased training exchange

programs, bilateral defense exercises, mutual security concerns, enhancement of maritime cooperation and the exchange of military technological expertise.

## Tamil Eelam

### Domestic News

02.01.2024: **BOT** - According to Economy Next, the SL Cabinet has provided approval to seek investors for a build-operate-transfer project to refurbish 09 tanks at the upper tank farm in Trincomalee. International and local investors can apply for the project. The project involves 1.75 kilometres of pipelines. Further reports indicate that the tanks are part of Trinco Petroleum Terminal (Pvt) Ltd, which has leased 61 tanks for 50 years.

Wickremesinghe discussed resettlement, education, health, land, fisheries, agriculture, and forest conservation at a meeting of the district committees for the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts on 04.01.2024.

construction of 05 new investment zones as public-private partnerships. The investment zones will be established at the Kankesanthurai cement company and the Paranthan chemical company, as well as in Mankulam. Further zones have been planned in Trincomalee and Iranawila.

05.01.2024: **Diaspora** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe plans to invite the Tamil diaspora to participate in the proposed development plans for the Northern Province and for SL's economy.

08.01.2024: **Missing persons** - According to Economy Next, SL is set to solve the issue of missing persons by 2025. SL will participate in the 55th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in February 2024. SL's ratifications of human rights conventions will be reviewed in line with the system.

21.01.2024: **ITAK** - According to Lanka files, Jaffna's MP S. Sritharan had defeated M.A. Sumanthiran in ITAK's Presidential elections held in Trincomalee with a vote disparity of 184-137 in favour of Sritharan.

09.01.2024: **Investment Zones** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved the

24.01.2024: **Eastern Province** - According to Economy Next, around 90 % of land held by the SL military in the

Eastern Province has been returned to residents.

26.01.2024: **India** - Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) soldiers who have lost their lives during operations against the Tamils were commemorated at the IPKF Monument in Palaly. This commemoration took place in parallel to the celebration of India's Republic Day on 26.01.2024. The event was organised by the occupational SL Security Forces Headquarters - Jaffna in collaboration with the Office of Consulate General of India to SL in Jaffna.

28.01.2024: **Kankesanthurai port** - According to SL's Ports, Shipping and Aviation Minister, the passenger ferry service between Tamil Nadu's Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai (KKS) in Jaffna will be initiated on 15.02.2024. The journey from Nagapattinam to Kankesanthurai Port takes approximately 04 hours and is priced at LKR 26,750 for a one-way trip and LKR 53,500 for a round trip, reports Daily mirror.

30.01.2024: **Mannar** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved

a proposal to seek private investors to build a 06-turbine power plant at a wind farm on Mannar. Originally, SL intended to construct the turbines with a loan of USD 47 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). However, the ADB's funds cannot be used until GoSL's external debt restructuring programme is completed.

# Sri Lanka

05.01.2024: **SL Constitution** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe mentioned that if the provisions of the 13th Amendment to SL's Constitution are examined, there are ample powers to construct a robust local economy. He cites that decentralisation could be used to harness these powers and promote development.

09.01.2024: **University** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet of Ministers has approved R. Wickremesinghe's proposal to establish a University of Science and Technology through a public-private partnership with a US university. The initiative is aimed at attracting more foreign investment in the education sector and reducing the exodus of those who send their children to study at foreign universities.

11.01.2024: **Reconciliation** - According to Economy Next, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) has tabled 02 bills that it believes could have an impact on reconciliation and related issues in SL and whose structures do not meet its international obligations. These are the *Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) Bill*, which is before SL's Parliament, and the *SL Truth, Unity, and Reconciliation*

*Commission (Proposed Commission) Bill*, which was gazetted on 01.01.2024.

12.01.2024: **TISL** - According to Virakesari, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) has mentioned that a commission to investigate allegations of bribery or corruption in SL should be introduced to meet the expectations of citizens. Such a commission would have more powers due to SL's *Anti-Corruption Act (ACA)*.

17.01.2024: **Pardon** - SL's Supreme Court unanimously overturned G. Rajapaksa's 2021 Presidential Pardon of Duminda Silva. According to Lanka Files, SL's Supreme Court had directed SL's Commissioner General of Prisons to implement the necessary legal measures required to enforce Silva's sentences from 2016.

18.01.2024: **e-NIC** - According to Economy Next, SL is in the process of introducing an electronic National Identity Card (e-NIC). GoSL has issued a tender and 04 foreign vendors with local partners have applied for the project. India has

already provided an advance of INR 450 million to R. Wickremesinghe's government to fund the digital identity project, which will capture biographic and biometric data - including facial, iris and fingerprint data.

19.01.2024: **Media** - According to Lanka Files, SL's President's Media Division announced that an unnamed bill is drafted with the contribution of acclaimed artists with SL's "Cancellation of Censor Board." Reports indicate that the "new Act will adhere to the currently enforced Public Exhibition Control Ordinance passed in 1912."

23.01.2024: **Security services** - According to Economy Next, representatives of Elite Academy - a UK-based private security services provider and training institute met with the SL Minister of Labour and Overseas Employment to discuss the establishment of a training centre in SL. Discussions were held on the establishment of a training centre targeting foreign employment opportunities in the security sector,

including in the United Arab Emirates.

23.01.2024: **Online safety** - According to Economy Next, SL could lose access to international platforms such as Google and Meta (formerly Facebook) with the introduction of the *Online Security Law*. Once this law is introduced, they will review the offences they are accused of and most likely block their access to users in SL. If GoSL requests certain information from Google, they will most likely stop providing it as they could incriminate themselves.

24.01.2024: **Online safety** - According to Economy Next, SL's Parliament has passed a controversial *Online Security Bill*. The vote disparity stood at 108:62 in favour of the bill. Further reports indicate that the US has expressed concern over a controversial law to control online discourse.

26.01.2024: **Rape** - According to Economy Next, SL will amend its *Penal Code* to criminalise the rape of male children. SL law currently does not recognise the rape of males. Section 363(e) of the *Sri Lankan Penal*



*Code* primarily protects women and does not recognise that men can also be victims of rape.

26.01.2024: **37th Regional Conference** - According to Economy Next, the 37th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC37) will be held in Colombo, SL from 19.02.2024-22.02.2024. Civil society Organisations (CSOs) from Asia and the Pacific are expected to participate in this significant multilateral conference aimed at charting a course for food security and

transforming agri-food systems in the region.

30.01.2024: **Policy Advice** - According to Economy Next, Global Health Strategies of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and its local partner Connect to Care Organization will establish a programme support unit within the Office of the SL President. It will; provide policy advice and oversight of government programs, maintain coordination with a range of multi-stakeholder organisations such as the IMF's Comprehensive Funding Facility, the World Bank's Development Policy Operational

Program, the ADB's Policy Assistance Programs, whilst interacting with various public and private sector actors.

31.01.2024: **Laws** - According to Economy Next, the Speaker of SL's Parliament Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana has approved the *Certificate of Recognition and Enforcement of International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation* and the *Notaries (Amendment) Bill*. The 02 bills were recently passed in SL Parliament.



KKS Ferry Service  
Source: Daily Mirror



Unnamed Bill Drafted  
Source: Lanka Files

**ECONOMIC PROFILE – January 2024**

<b>Remittances</b>	Year 2023	↑ to 57% to USD 5.97 billion
<b>Gross FOREX Reserves</b>	September 2023	↑ by LKR 829 rupees to USD 4.4 billion
<b>Credit</b>		
Private credit	November 2023	↑ by LKR 62.9 billion to LKR 7,268 billion
Central bank credit		↓ by LKR 36.2 billion to LKR 2,317.4 billion
Credit to state enterprises		↑ by LKR 10.4 billion to LKR 1,120 billion
<b>External public debt</b>	Third quarter of 2023	↑ to 109% of GDP
<b>Budget</b>	<b>October 2023</b>	
Budget revenues		↑ by 53% to LKR 2,434 billion
Tax revenues		↑ by 7.3 percent of GDP
Current spending		about LKR 3,532 billion
Revenue deficit		about LKR 1,107.4 billion
<b>Trade</b>		
Exports	December 2023	↓ by 9.54% from a year ago to USD 11,856 million
Imports	November 2023	↓ to USD 1,389 million from a month earlier
Trade deficit		↓ to USD 390 million from a month earlier
<b>Current account surplus</b>	Third quarter of 2023	about USD 639 million
<b>Tourism earnings</b>	November 2023	USD 250 million
<b>Economic growth estimation</b>	Year 2024	about 2%
<b>Inflation</b>	January 2024	↑ to 6.5%

**RANJINI**  
 AP Economic Analyst  
 & Coordinator

01.01.2024: **Imports** - SL's imports fell to USD 1,389 million in November 2023 from USD 1,610 million in October 2023.

01.01.2024: **Tourism** - According to Economy Next, SL received 210,552 tourists in December 2023 - bringing the total for the year to 1,487,303. The most important market was India with 43,973 visitors, followed by the Russian Federation with 29,657 visitors.

01.01.2024: **Tax Revenue** - According to Economy Next, SL's tax revenue for the year has been revised upwards to LKR 2,752 billion as economic activity increased and the results of broadening the tax base and reforms assisted growth. In the 2024 budget presented in November 2023, tax revenue was estimated at LKR 2,596 billion and total revenue and grants at LKR 2,851 billion.

02.01.2024: **Growth** - According to Economy Next, SL's economy will record growth in 2024 for the first time in 03 years, after contracting in the previous 02 years. The economy recovered in 2023, but is still estimated to be down

around 03 % after a 7.8 % contraction in 2022.

07.01.2024: **Infrastructure bonds** - According to Economy Next, SL's Securities and Exchange Commission said it has approved a regulatory framework for the sale of infrastructure bonds on the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE). The infrastructure bonds could be used to raise funds for roads, railways, water management, waste management systems, airports, seaports, mixed development projects, natural disaster mitigation systems, deep water harbours, gas supply systems, utility projects and telecommunications.

09.01.2024: **Ships** - According to Economy Next, the container terminals in Colombo increased in daily volumes of up to 80%, The large liners are now sailing around the southern tip of Africa to reach Europe without calling at ports in the Middle East as they bypass the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. The containers are unloaded in Colombo and brought to the Middle East by feeder ships.

10.01.2024: **CB** - According to Economy Next, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) plans to modernise the operations of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) through digital enhancements and diversify the fund's investment portfolio to generate higher risk-adjusted returns. The CBSL stated in its annual policy statement for 2024 that the EPF will be "virtually paperless" in 2024, with a number of technological improvements also planned.

12.01.2024: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL discusses the programme objectives and commitments with a visiting mission from the IMF in Colombo. The next steps in the debt restructuring are the finalisation of negotiations with external creditors and the implementation of agreements with official creditors.

12.01.2024: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, at a meeting with R. Wickremesinghe, SL was urged by a delegation from the IMF to implement measures to recapitalise banks, introduce a property tax and set up an anti-corruption commission.



Amongst the key issues discussed were; a new *Public Finance Management Act*, potential conflicts with the *Public Private Partnership Act*, electricity tariffs and urgent preparations for property tax.

13.01.2024: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, in a meeting with R. Wickremesinghe, the IMF has expressed positive surprise at the completion of SL's first review under its programme. The Head of Mission in SL, Peter Breuer, cited the encouraging signs of the programme's impact on stabilising SL's economy - particularly in the policy-oriented variables and fiscal areas.

15.01.2024: **FTA** - According to Economy Next, SL has published import tariffs of up to 20 % on 1,222 items under a FTA with Singapore. The revised tariffs will apply from 06.01.2024.

18.01.2024: **Tourism** - According to Economy Next, SL intends to attract higher spending tourists with cultural and culinary events along the main holiday resorts on the Southern coast of SL. Several independent events will

be brought together under the name 'Galle Concerto'.

18.01.2024: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, the team in SL led by Peter Breuer met with SL's Finance Minister. Progress in achieving the targets and overcoming the challenges encountered were discussed.

19.01.2024: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, SL's economy is starting to recover under a stabilisation programme and further progress needs to be made on debt restructuring, while monetary policy decisions need to be prudent to keep inflation low. A swift conclusion of the final agreements with the official creditors and a solution with the external private creditors remain crucial.

20.01.2024: **IMF** - According to Economy Next, the IMF expects SL to reach an agreement with commercial creditors by the next review. The precondition for IMF lending is the restoration of SL's debt sustainability.

21.01.2024: **Banking** - According to Economy

Next, the huge volatility of foreign exchange and interest rates in SL, which cannot be predicted even in the short term, and the political changes are the main risks for the banking sector and the economy. SL needs political stability, economic stability and consistent policies.

22.01.2024: **Economy** - According to Economy Next, SL starts the usual cyclical recovery after a currency crisis and devaluation triggered by interest rate cuts, destroying people's purchasing power and real savings, with default on top of that. Currently, SL's Central Bank is ensuring currency stability, which is reflected in the exchange rate and inflation, allowing the battered, long-suffering population to rise again.

# *Democratic protests cannot be banned.*

Tamil disappearance activists, religious leaders, TNPf parliamentarians, and Tamil lawyers were summoned to the Jaffna Magistrate's Court. According to Lanka Files, the summons was issued following an occupational SL Police complaint regarding a suspicion of potential involvement in protests during R. Wickremesinghe's scheduled visit to the Tamil homeland between 04.01.2024-07.01.2024.

03 individuals were arrested on 04.01.2024 for engaging in a protest opposite the Jaffna District Secretariat and released after recording statements from them. In lieu of occupational Vavuniya's Police's requests, the Vavuniya Magistrate banned former Tamil political prisoner Selvanayagam Anandavarnan from staging any form of protest between 04.01.2024 which way disrupt R. Wickremesinghe's visit and meetings.

# *Summons*

# Oppression & Resistance

0102.01.2024: **Declaration** - The Assembly of Amarapura Buddhist monks in Sri Lanka released a statement emphasizing that the 'Himalaya Declaration', does not represent their position, reports Lanka Files.

03.01.2024: **Alex** - According to Uthayan, the Jaffna Court Judge has ordered the further arrest of an occupational SL Police officer involved in the death of Alex.

04.01.2024: **Protest** - Over 40 trade unions launched a 03-day protest to demand the withdrawal of SL's proposed *Electricity Bill*. According to Lanka Files, the protest accused GoSL for the sale of 'public assets and customers' under the pretense of CEB's restructure.

04.01.2024: **Protest** - Locals engaged in protest against the reopening of a liquor shop in Uduppiddi, Jaffna - a region frequented by school children, submitted an appeal to local GoSL officials, reports Lanka Files.

05.01.2024: **Arrest** - According to Lanka Files, occupational SL

Police arrested the President of Vavuniya Association of Relatives of the Enforced Disappeared (ARED) Sivananthan Jenita and Meera Jasmine Charlesnise when they attempted to meet R. Wickremesinghe to notify him of their grievances. Further reports indicate that a protest was staged by ARED members from Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Mannar had staged a protest in condemnation of the arrest on 08.01.2024.

07.01.2024: **Rejection** - Chief Prelate of the Nallai Adheenam, and Aru Thirumurugan - the Vice President of All Ceylon Hindu Congress declined R. Wickremesinghe's invitation to an interfaith meeting as none of his previous assurances had been fulfilled, reports Lanka Files.

09.01.2024: **Commemoration** - According to Uthayan, a commemoration event was held for Captain Panditha - a fallen member of the LTTE - at his home.

09.01.2024: **Commemoration** - According to Lanka Files, the Batti Press

Club commemorated the 15th memorial of Lasantha Wickremetunge who was assassinated. The commemoration was held at the "monument for the fallen journalist" in Batticaloa.

09.01.2024: **TRC** - According to Lanka files, relatives of the forcibly disappeared rejected SL's latest Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

11.01.2024: **Protest** - A protest was staged opposite SL's Ministry of Health to demand the immediate arrest of former SL Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella for the deadly import of substandard medicines, reports Lanka Files.

11.01.2024: **Commemoration** - The 50th commemoration of the World Tamil Research Conference Massacre was held at the memorial erected in Jaffna near Veerasingam Hall, reports Lanka Files.

12.01.2024: **Arrest** - According to Lanka Files, the Chairperson of the Association of Relatives of Enforced Disappearances (ARED) Sivanandan Jenita who was remanded in



occupational SL Police custody for attempting to meet R. Wickremesinghe during his visit to the occupied Tamil homeland. Jenita was remanded from 05.01.2024 and was released on bail by Vavuniya's Magistrate on 12.01.2024.

12.01.2024: **Petrol Bomb** - According to Uthayan a petrol bomb was thrown at the police station of Mandaitivu. Two persons have been arrested by SL's Police.

14.01.2024: **Strike** - According to Newsfirst LK, a healthcare workers strike is scheduled to occur on 15.01.2024.

16.01.2024: **Protest** - Tamil dairy farmers from Mayilaththamadu, Mathavanai of Batticaloa marked Patti Pongal with a protest, reports Lanka Files. Patti Pongal is held as a day to express gratitude to cattle and livestock.

17.01.2024: **Protest** - According to Lanka Files, local Tamils were joined by Tamil political and religious leaders from Jaffna to protest the Sinhala encroachers' appropriation of acres of grazing land as well as the killing of over 250 dairy cows from the

Tamil dairy farmers' livestock thus impeding livelihood and disrupting territorial integrity.

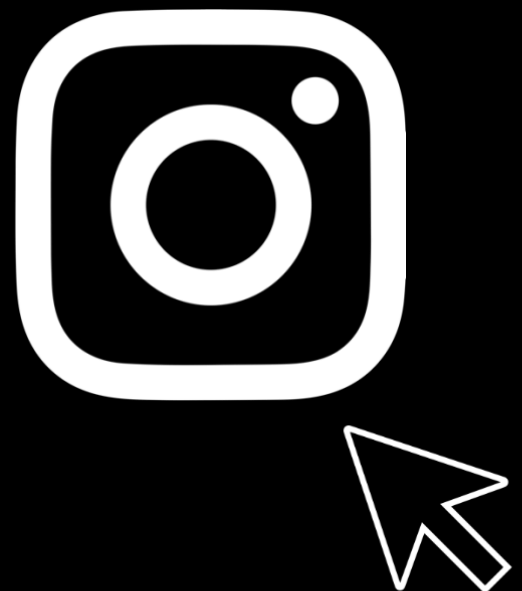
19.01.2024: **Commemoration** - The 23rd anniversary of the Pongu Tamil Declaration was held by locals within the vicinity of the Jaffna University Campus which holds a monument displaying the declaration which announces the right of Tamils to independently determine their political future, reports Lanka Files.

20.01.2024: **Online Safety** - Over 70 global organisations had written to SL's Minister for Public Security to withdraw SL's proposed Online Safety Bill. According to Lanka Files, the writ petition warned that the Bill would impede freedom of speech rights and would consequently have a detrimental effect upon SL's digital economy.

23.01.2024: **Protest** - Journalists and civil society activists protested near SL Parliament in opposition of proposed laws affecting freedom of speech through SL's Online Safety Bill, reports Lanka Files.

24.01.2024: **Reconciliation** - According to Lanka Files, SL's Speaker announced endorsement of SL's National Unity and Reconciliation Bill despite Tamil opposition and significant Human Rights concerns from HRCSL, HRW amongst other bodies.

25.01.2024: **Commemoration** - Batticaloa journalists commemorated slain Tamil journalist Subramaniam Sugirtharajan alias Rajan, reports Lanka Files.

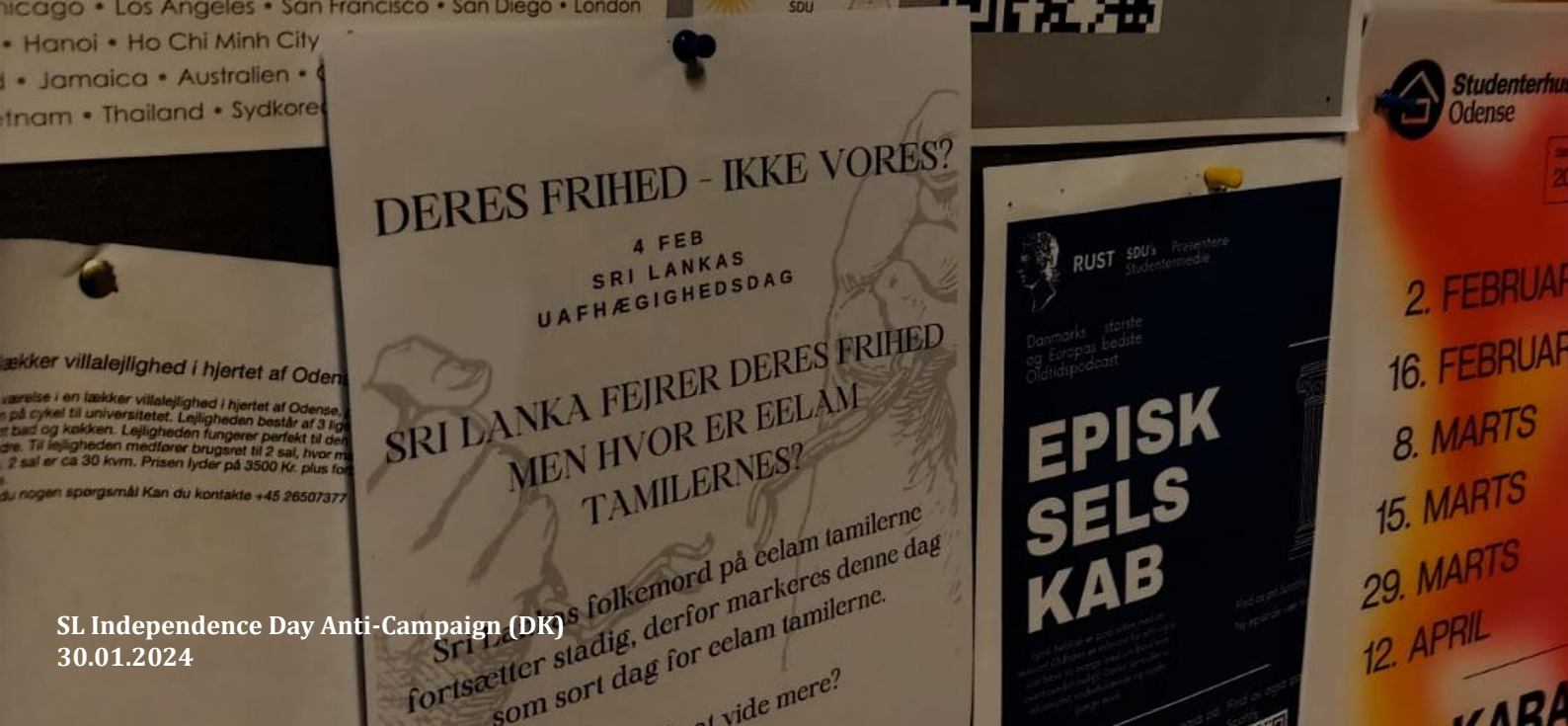




Tamil Youth SG Tournament  
21.01.2024



Interview with Swiss Media at Palestine Demo  
27.01.2024



SL Independence Day Anti-Campaign (DK)  
30.01.2024



# SIGNS OF STRUCTURAL GENOCIDE

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

07.01.2024: **Buddhist Statue** -

According to Uthayan, a Buddhist statue was erected in Muttur, Trincomalee. The place is called "Rajavanthaanmalai" and SL's Archaeological Department is already constructing a vihara at that site.

## AKKINIP PARAVAIKAL

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