

PHOENIX

Monthly Newsletter

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Akkinip Paravaikal

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Thileepam - a borderless doctrine.

Phoenix TNG

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11.09.2024: **UNHRC** - The European Union (EU) expressed support for the report on Sri Lanka (SL) presented at the United Nations Human Rights Council's (UNHRC) 57th session in Geneva. The report, prepared by the UN Human Rights Office, highlights concerns about SL's reconciliation efforts and human rights issues.

17.09.2024: **Film** - According to Economy Next, a Malayalam film starring superstars Mammooty and Mohanlal will be shot in SL for 30 days, SL's Prime Minister's Office announced. Malayalam Film Producers Association's President, Joseph Anto Athirampuzha and directors Narayanan Mahesh and C V Sarathy met SL Prime Minister D. Gunawardena to discuss the shoot, which is scheduled to begin in November, 2024. This is the first time in 20 years that Mammooty and Mohanlal are starring together in a movie, which director Mahesh says will be a blockbuster.

19.09.2024: **US** - According to Economy Next, SL's Federal

Reserve has cut interest rates by 50 basis points to a target range of 4.75-5.00 %, while Chairman Jerome Powell stated that SL's inflation and employment are now in balance. Powell emphasised that inflation is approaching the 2 % target on a sustained basis and that risks to employment have increased. At the same time, SL's Federal Reserve will continue to reduce liquidity by USD 25 billion per month and reduce holdings of SL government bonds and agency debt to tighten the money supply.

Bilateral

02.09.2024: **UK** - According to Economy Next, SL's Foreign Minister, Aruni Wijewardane, will travel to the UK from 02.09.2024-06.09.2024 to attend the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meeting. She will also hold talks with senior representatives of the British Foreign Office. The meeting takes place ahead of next month's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Samoa.

03.09.2024: **Austria** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet has approved a proposal to sign an agreement with Austria to avoid double taxation and tax evasion. The agreement, which has already been drafted and signed at official level, stipulates that tax amounts on interest and goodwill will not exceed 10%. Such double taxation agreements are particularly important for developing countries as they help to attract foreign investment and modern technologies.

04.09.2024: **France** - According to Economy Next, SL and France will establish a Regional Centre for Maritime Studies on SL. The centre will provide academic and training cooperation in the areas of maritime security, environmental protection and marine pollution response in the Indian Ocean. The agreement was signed by genocidaire K. Gunaratne and Marie-Noëlle Duris of the French Embassy in Colombo.

05.09.2024: **South Korea** - According to Economy Next, a team from South Korea's JTBC

Media Group has arrived in SL to film a reality show in SL's picturesque locations. The show, 'Extreme Tour', will showcase SL's main attractions, culture and cuisine. In collaboration with the SL Tourism Promotion Bureau and the Sri Lankan Embassy in Seoul, stunning footage will be shot at locations such as Pidurangala, Dambulla, the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, Haputale and Madu Ganga. The aim is to showcase SL's uniqueness as a travel destination worldwide and attract more Korean tourists.

05.09.2024: India - According to Economy Next, Indian actor Gagan Malik, known for his role as Prince Siddhartha in the movie "Sri Siddhartha Gautama", visited SL with 65 Buddhist pilgrims from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana. Malik, who is also a Buddhist activist, emphasised the importance of promoting SL as a pilgrimage destination for the millions of Buddhists in India. The group visited the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy and the holy Sri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura, among

other places. SL Prime Minister D. Gunawardena acknowledged the close link between India and SL through Buddhism.

06.09.2024: US - According to Economy Next, a surveillance aircraft donated by the US, the Beechcraft King Air 360ER, will arrive in SL next week. This modern aircraft, donated by the US Department of Defense under the Building Partner Capacity program, is intended to enhance SL's ability to monitor and patrol its waters. It is intended for search and rescue operations, drug detection and anti-smuggling. The US personnel will train the SL Air Force (SLAF) in the operation and maintenance of the aircraft for 03 months.

07.09.2024: India - According to Uthayan, 14 Indian fishermen were arrested by the occupational SL Navy for illegally fishing in territorial waters off Jaffna and Neduntivu. They were apprehended with 03 boats and taken to the occupying Kankesanthurai naval base. They will be handed over to the Jaffna District Fisheries

Department 08.09.2024 and presented in court.

07.09.2024: India - Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has once again urged India's External Affairs Minister to secure the release of Tamil Nadu fishermen and their boats detained by the SL Navy. He also requested the reduction of fines imposed on the fishermen. This appeal follows an SL court's ruling imposing a fine of LKR 1.5 crore on 12 Tamil Nadu fishermen for illegal fishing.

07.09.2024: India - According to Uthayan, India has provided USD 65 million for the expansion of the Kankesanthurai Port, as announced by SL Minister of Aviation and Shipping, Nimal Siripala de Silva. Speaking at a meeting in Jaffna, he mentioned that the port will soon be ready for shipping operations. Additionally, India is investing in northern projects such as airports, wind power in SL, and railway transportation.

07.09.2024: Tanzania - According to Uthayan, Tanzania has lifted the visa restrictions it had imposed on SL for over 20 years.

09.09.2024: **UAE** - According to Economy Next, SL Airlines has entered into an interline agreement with UAE-based airline flydubai, allowing passengers to travel to select destinations on their respective networks. SL Airlines can now offer 30 new destinations in Africa, Central Asia and South East Europe, including Istanbul, Mombasa and Krakow, via flydubai's hub in Dubai. In return, flydubai passengers will have access to 16 destinations on SriLankan Airlines' network, including Melbourne, Tokyo and Singapore, with the benefit of through ticketing and baggage handling.

10.09.2024: **ADB** - According to Economy Next, SL has received approval to borrow USD 300 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for budget support under financial and energy reform programs, Minister Bandula Gunawardana announced. A partial amount of USD 200 million will be released after the fulfilment of 12 preconditions, most of which have already been implemented. The loan is part of a USD 400 worth project to reform

the financial sector, in addition to USD 100 million dollars for a water reform program.

BRICS

Source: EconomyNext



US

Source: EconomyNext



10.09.2024: **BRICS** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet has approved the application to apply for membership of the BRICS organisation and its newly established development bank. According to SL Minister Bandula Gunawardana, membership in an alliance with economic powers such as China, India and Brazil offers access to additional capital for SL companies. BRICS, originally consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has this year accepted Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and the UAE as new members. SL is increasingly seeking

international trade agreements, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

10.09.2024: **China** - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet has approved the signing of an agreement with China to allow the export of wheat bran pellets, SL Minister Bandula Gunawardana has announced. Wheat bran is a by-product of processing imported wheat and by producing pellets SL can earn foreign exchange by exporting to China. The agreement sets out the protocol for the export and will be signed between the SL Ministry of Agriculture and the

Chinese Customs Department.

12.09.2024: ADB - According to Economy Next, the ADB SL has approved a loan of USD 100 million and technical assistance of USD 800,000 to support reforms in the water and sanitation sector. The aim is to strengthen resilience to climate change and improve the sustainability of the water supply system. The program consists of two sub-programs: the first sets guidelines, the second supports the implementation of the reforms. The technical assistance includes capacity building and advisory services for the responsible ministry and SL's National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB).

13.09.2024: IMF - According to Economy Next, a spokesperson for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that SL's program is showing progress and that the next review and program discussions will take place after the formation of a new government. The economic recovery, falling inflation, improved revenues and rising international reserves were

highlighted. The IMF will discuss the timing of the third review with the new government after the elections and emphasised that the debt restructuring negotiations are between SL and its creditors, while the IMF is assessing debt sustainability but is not involved in the negotiations.

14.09.2024: Women-owned businesses - According to Economy Next, SL's Export Development Board (EDB) in collaboration with the International Trade Center (ITC) will establish a SheTrades Hub to strengthen the global competitiveness of women-owned businesses in the country. The Cabinet-approved, non-financial agreement will provide training, market access and technical support to women entrepreneurs. The ITC, a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, supports this initiative to promote women's participation in international trade.

16.09.2024: India - According to Uthayan, fishermen who were previously arrested by

the SL Navy for illegal fishing and later released, staged a protest upon reaching their homes. The protest, involving other fishermen, was held near the Madurai-Rameswaram National Highway. The fishermen criticised the SL authorities' actions as inhumane and a violation of human rights.

16.09.2024: Trade - According to Economy Next, Cable Solutions Limited, a subsidiary of ACL Cables Plc in SL, is planning to expand into the US after its IPO and is already supplying the UK market. Despite a decline in gross profit in the 2023/2024 financial year, the company is focusing on new machinery and optimised supply chains to increase production efficiency and reduce costs. In future, the focus on the markets in Europe, the USA, India and the renewable energy sector is to be increased.

18.09.2024: India - According to Uthayan, 03 fishermen from Jaffna, including one from Colombo and 02 from Uduppurai in the Vadamarachchi East area, were arrested by the Indian Coast Guard

for illegal fishing in Indian waters. The arrest took place 17.09.2024 off the coast of Thundikiramaam, Ramanathapuram district, India.

18.09.2024: UN - According to Economy Next, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is partnering with SL's Ministry of Crab in a mangrove reforestation project in Mannar, home to SL's famous mud crabs. The 18-month project, funded by the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Program, will support communities in mangrove propagation, reforestation and conservation. In addition to planting 1,000 mangroves, the project includes community initiatives such as creating youth groups to care for the plants, introducing environmentally friendly practices and supporting women's enterprises to strengthen local biodiversity and coastal protection.

19.09.2024: Singapore - According to Economy Next, WindForce Plc has increased its stake in Rividhanavi (Private) Limited from 30% - 50% following the

transfer of 02 non-voting shares from The Blue Circle Pte Ltd. With this transfer, The Blue Circle has exited the project completely and the shares in Rividhanavi are now evenly split between WindForce PLC and Lakdhanavi Ltd. SL's state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board had signed a power purchase agreement with Rividhanavi in February, 2024 for a 100 MW solar power plant in Siyambalanduwa.

20.09.2024: Japan - According to Economy Next, a delegation from Japan's Mirai Consulting Group recently visited SL to explore potential investment opportunities in various sectors. The delegation, consisting of COO Okada Atsushi and international consultant Shaakir Hussain Sathar, met with the Chairman of the Export Development Board (EDB), Kingsley Bernard. The aim of the visit was to identify potential projects and partnerships and to assess Sri Lanka's investment landscape. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations between Japan and SL and promote economic cooperation.

20.09.2024: Romania - According to Economy Next, SL's first ambassador to Romania, Madurika Joseph Weninger, presented her credentials to President Klaus-Werner Iohannis at the Cotroceni Palace in Bucharest. In a subsequent conversation, she emphasised the long-standing friendship between the 02 countries since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1957 and highlighted the growth of bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of business, trade, investment and tourism. Romania also provides employment to over 40,000 SL nationals in various sectors, including garments, construction, hospitality and agriculture.

20.09.2024: India - According to Uthayan, the Puttalam Court has imposed a total fine of LKR 10 crore on 45 Tamil Nadu fishermen, including 35 arrested from 04 fishing boats and 10 from another vessel, by the SL navy. The fishermen were arrested on 08.08.2024 while fishing near Rameswaram.

Next, SL's President-elect Anura Dissanayake has received numerous congratulatory messages from international leaders and diplomats following his election victory. In his message, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the special importance of SL in India's Neighbourhood First policy and the SAGAR vision. Modi said he looked forward to further deepening cooperation between the 02 countries to serve the people of both nations and the region as a whole. India's envoy to SL also met Dissanayake personally after SL's election.

23.09.2024: **Geopolitics**

- According to Economy Next, the ambassadors of India and China met Anura Kumara Dissanayake immediately after the election, even before he officially took office. Both countries are in a geopolitical competition for influence in SL, which is strategically located in the Indian Ocean. India emphasised its intention to deepen relations, while China's President Xi Jinping highlighted SL's importance in the Belt and Road Initiative (BIR). SL needs to

maintain a diplomatic balance between competing powers China and India and other international partners to ensure its economic recovery.

23.09.2024: **China** - According to Economy Next, A. Dissanayake has appointed retired SL Air Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha as the new defence secretary, who previously earned a master's degree in defence studies from the National Defense University in China. Thuyacontha replaces K. Gunaratne and brings with him extensive experience, including as a defence advisor at the SL High Commission in Pakistan. The appointment comes against a backdrop of geopolitical tensions as SL is strategically located in the Indian Ocean and concerns have been raised in the past about Chinese research boats, leading to calls from India to restrict such activities.

25.09.2024: **India** - TN chief minister M.K. Stalin wrote to Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar regarding the arrest of 37 fishermen from Poompuhar by the SL Navy on 21.09.2024. Stalin urged the government to take

action for their swift release and to prevent excessive fines imposed on them by SL courts, highlighting the increasing incidents of arrests of TN fishermen.

25.09.2024: **US** - According to Economy Next, the United States has expressed support for A. Dissanayake, emphasising the need for inclusive, democratic, and economically sustainable reforms in the wake of the SL's severe 2022 economic crisis. Ben Cardin, Chair of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, highlighted the importance of addressing governance, anti-corruption, and human rights issues as key priorities for the new administration. While the US supports SL's recovery, critics point to the role of the IMF's policies, dating back to 1950, in contributing to SL's recurring economic challenges.

26.09.2024: **Lebanon** - According to Economy Next, SL's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put its missions in Beirut, Lebanon, and Tel Aviv, Israel, on high alert to ensure the safety of SL citizens amid escalating tensions in the region.

The Ministry reported that no SL have been affected thus far, but is actively monitoring the situation following intensified attacks by Israel on Lebanon and ongoing violence in Gaza. Approximately 6,000 SL are estimated to be residing in Lebanon, a figure that may be higher, prompting the Ministry to take precautions to safeguard its citizens in the affected areas.



China
Source: EconomyNext

26.09.2024: **China** - According to Defence LK, SL Defence secretary Sampath Thuyacontha attended the 75th anniversary of the People's Republic of China on 25.09.2024, at Shangri La Hotel, Colombo. The event, hosted by Chinese Ambassador Qi Zhenhong, featured SL minister Vijitha Herath as chief guest.



Romania
Source: EconomyNext

28.09.2024: **India** - According to Uthayan, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha met with SL MP Rauff Hakeem to discuss political developments in SL and ways to strengthen India-SL relations.



India
Source: EconomyNext

Military News

04.09.2024: **Salary** - According to Economy Next, SL has announced a salary increase for members of SL's Army, Navy and Air Force to take effect on 01.01.2025. The increase is in accordance with the final report of the Presidential Committee of Experts, which made recommendations to increase salaries and allowances in the civil service. The announcement comes just ahead of SL's presidential election.

14.09.2024: **Appointment** - According to Defence LK, D. Nanayakkara has been appointed as Chief of Staff of SLA effective from 16.09.2024.

20.09.2024: **SLPA** - According to Economy Next, the Colombo Plan supports the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) through a 03-year advisory program (MAP) to strengthen its capacity. The program aims to improve maritime safety, connectivity and

security. Funded by the US State Department, it includes study tours, training and expert visits. SLPA staff visited the Port of Virginia to share knowledge and a cooperation agreement was signed. Workshops on negotiation techniques and public-private partnerships were also held. Future projects include cybersecurity and other advisory missions.

WHAM

06.09.2024: **WHAM** - According to Uthayan, a new permanent house was handed over to a family in Kollavilangkulam, Manthai East, Mullaitivu District by the SL Army. The house handover ceremony was attended by SL military officials, government officials, and local residents.

09.09.2024: **WHAM** - According to Uthayan, a purified drinking water project organised by the SL Army was inaugurated in Selvaeri, Mannar, to address the long-standing water needs of the local residents.

25.09.2024: **WHAM** - According to Defence LK, an Indian fishing trawler with five crew members was found near Kovilan Lighthouse in Jaffna after drifting into territorial waters due to mechanical failure on 22.09.2024. The SL Navy towed the vessel to Kankesanthurai for repairs and escorted it back to the Indian Maritime Boundary Line on 23.09.2024



Domestic News

07.09.2024: **Landmine** - According to Uthayan, 04 demining workers were critically injured in a landmine explosion while clearing mines in the Mangkulam-Thunukkai area of Mullaitivu district.

11.09.2024: **Power** - According to Economy Next, Vallibel Power Erathna Plc signed a power purchase agreement with the Ceylon Electricity Board on 11.09.2024 to develop a 10 MWac solar project in Matara. The project, to be built on the Dolahena Estate, is expected to supply power to the SL grid over 20 years and attract an investment of around LK 02 billion. The plant is expected to supply 18-20 GW of renewable energy annually.

20.09.2024: **Ferry service** - According to Uthayan, the Northern Province Governor officially handed over the Neduntivu passenger ferry to SL's Road Development Authority. After nearly a year, the ferry resumed services following repairs that cost LKR 52 million. The ferry will

operate daily, carrying up to 80 passengers from Neduntivu to Kurikattuvan.

20.09.2024: **Mannar** - According to Economy Next, the state-owned Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has launched a tender to develop the Talaimannar North Pier at the Port of Mannar on a Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) basis. This development is in parallel with the Indian Adani Group's plans to set up 02 wind power projects in the Mannar region. The Port of Mannar will mainly serve as a regional port for passenger and cargo activities. Since November 2023, the port has been under the SL Ports Authority Act to support a new ferry link between Mannar and India. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) can be submitted until 30.10.2024.



Kokkuthoduvai
Source: Uthayan

27.09.2024: **Kokkuthoduvai** - According to Uthayan, the Mullaitivu court reviewed the Kokkuthoduvai case, with Professor Raj Somadeva's final report submitted. Legal representatives from SL's Office of Missing Persons and families of the disappeared were present. So far, 20 skeletal remains have been analyzed, and the case will continue on 12.12.2024.

29.09.2024: **Fishermen** - According to Uthayan, fishermen's groups in Jaffna urged the immediate release of Analaitivu fishermen detained in India after being forced ashore due to rough weather. Northern Province Fishermen's Association spokesperson Annalingam Annarasa warned that if they are not freed by 14.10.2024, a hunger strike would be launched.

02.09.2024: Law - According to Economy Next, SL's Council of Ministers has approved the initiation of steps to enact the Burial and Cremation Rights Bill, SL Justice Minister M U M Ali Sabry has announced. This law aims to guarantee the right of every individual to choose between burial and cremation, taking into account personal and religious beliefs. The plan follows the controversial decision by the government under SL President G. Rajapaksa to require the cremation of Muslims and Christians during the COVID-19 pandemic, which sparked international criticism.

03.09.2024: Data - According to Economy Next, SL's Cabinet has approved a proposal to award Viasat Inc. a contract to provide Ka-band satellite internet for seven A330-300 aircraft of SL Airlines. The contract will run for seven years and is intended to replace the outdated, slow Internet services on board with faster Internet. Ka-band technology enables high data transfer rates and is suitable for applications that require large amounts of data.

04.09.2024: Indian Ocean - According to Economy Next, SL needs to take prudent macroeconomic measures to manage potential economic fallout from a widening conflict in the Red Sea, an SL central bank official said. A forum organised by the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) discussed the impact of increased maritime risks and possible trade diversion on SL. The discussion emphasised the importance of robust economic policies and strategies to strengthen economic resilience and capitalise on opportunities as a major maritime hub in the Indian Ocean.

05.09.2024: Dismissal - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe has dismissed four state ministers: Premalal Jayasekara (Ports and Aviation), Indika Anuruddha (Energy and Power), Mohon Priyadarshana de Silva (Agriculture) and Siripala Gamlath (Building Construction). This decision was taken under Article 47(3)(a) of SL Constitution.

06.09.2024: Human Trafficking - According to Economy Next, 20 SL

who were victims of human trafficking in Myanmar have been repatriated to SL. The repatriation took place thanks to the efforts of the SL embassies in Yangon and Bangkok. The SL Ministry of Foreign Affairs has urged the public to exercise caution and follow proper procedures when seeking jobs abroad. Work is also underway to rescue another 34 SLs from Myanmar.

10.09.2024: Human Rights - According to Economy Next, SL has informed the Human Rights Council that it continues to take measures to heal past wounds and resolve residual effects of conflict in parallel with economic recovery. These include rehabilitation of former combatants and child soldiers, demining, development in the occupied Tamil homeland, compensation payments, repatriation of internally displaced persons, restitution of private land and support for livelihoods. The government pointed out that the Human Rights Commissioner's comprehensive report on SL also deals with

economic and budgetary issues, which it considers to be outside the mandate of the Human Rights Council.

11.09.2024: Minimum wage - According to Economy Next, SL's Parliament Speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena, has signed the law to increase the minimum wage. The new regulation, known as SL's National Minimum Wage of Workers (Amendment) Act No. 48 of 2024, raises the minimum wage for private sector workers by 41% to LKR 21,000. From September 2024, private sector employees will receive a basic salary of LKR 17,500 plus an additional LKR 3,500 from the Budget Relief Act, bringing the total minimum remuneration to LKR 21,000.

13.09.2024: Elections - According to Economy Next, complaints about the misuse of public resources for election campaigns have increased in SL, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) reports. As of 11.09.2024, TISL has received 758 complaints, with 343 relating to the misuse of public facilities such as

government offices and schools for election campaigns. Other complaints relate to the use of public officials for political purposes, the distribution of subsidies and the manipulation of state-funded projects. SL's Election Commission has received 3,828 complaints of electoral violations and has already resolved 3,190 of them.

19.09.2024: Election Observers - According to Economy Next, the European Union (EU) has deployed 32 short-term election observers for the presidential election in SL, which will take place on 21.09.2024. In addition to the short-term observers, 26 long-term observers have already been deployed since 29.08.2024 to assess the election preparations and the electoral environment. SL's Electoral Commission has so far received almost 5,000 complaints about electoral violations, of which 4,300 have already been resolved.

22.09.2024: Preferential votes - According to Economy Next, A. Dissanayaka, SL's Marxist presidential candidate, has won the

first round of SL Presidential election with 42.3 % of the vote (5.6 million), 9.55 % points ahead of second-placed Sajith Premadasa. As none of the candidates achieved an absolute majority, a count of the preferential votes was necessary, with Dissanayaka considered the favourite due to his clear lead, according to analysts. R. Wickremesinghe was eliminated in the first round with only 17.3% of the vote.

23.09.2024: Appointment - According to Defence LK, A. Dissanayake was sworn in as the 9th Executive President of SL.

23.09.2024: Secretary - According to Economy Next, Nandika Sanath Kumanayake was appointed as the new Secretary to the President of SL shortly after the inauguration of A. Dissanayake. Kumanayake previously worked at the SL Customs Department as an Integrity Development Advisor. He holds a PhD in Development Economics and is a graduate of the University of Kelaniya.

24.09.2024: Easter Sunday attacks -

According to Economy Next, SL's Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith has stated that SL President Anura Dissanayake has promised a thorough investigation into the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks. After a meeting at the Archbishop's house, SL's Cardinal expressed his support for the President's efforts and urged him to prioritise the needs of the poor. SL President's media office confirmed the President's commitment to uncovering the truth about the attacks, following previous controversies, including the arrest of a top investigator after the election of G. Rajapaksa.

24.09.2024: **R. Wickremesinghe** - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe will not contest in the upcoming general elections, nor will he take a national list seat, according to Ruwan Wijewardene of SL's United National Party (UNP). Instead, Wickremesinghe is expected to play a mentoring role as efforts are underway to form a coalition between the UNP and the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), which together secured

slightly over 50% of the vote in the recent presidential election. The SJB had originally split from the UNP over internal disagreements, but there are now concerns about the SJB's current leadership under Sajith Premadasa.

25.09.2024: **Appointment** - According to Economy Next, Mahinda Siriwardana has officially resumed his duties as SL's Treasury Secretary after being re-appointed by A. Dissanayake. A former central banker and alternate executive director for the IMF representing SL and neighbouring countries, Siriwardana holds degrees from Vanderbilt University in the US and Kelaniya University in SL.

25.09.2024: **SL Government** - According to Uthayan, following the appointment of A. Dissanayake, it has been reported that all ministers and governors representing the former government of R. Wickremesinghe have resigned from their positions. A special announcement has confirmed the removal of several governors,

including the Governor of the Eastern Province.

26.09.2024:

Appointments -

According to Uthayan, A. Dissanayake has appointed new governors at the SL Presidential Secretariat.

- Northern Province: Nagalinkam Vethanayagam
- Central Province: Professor Sarath Abeykoon
- Sabaragamuwa Province: Sampa Janaki
- Southern Province: Bandula Harichandra

26.09.2024:

Katunayake Airport -

According to Uthayan, a tender has been issued for a second passenger terminal at Katunayake International Airport. K.D.S. Ruwanachandra, Secretary of SL's Ministry of Transport, confirmed it will be funded by a Japanese loan. The new terminal aims to accommodate 9 million passengers annually, increasing from the current 6 million.

Economic News

01.09.2024: Nasdaq - According to Economy Next, the Sri Lanka Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has entered into an agreement with Nasdaq to implement an advanced market surveillance system that detects market anomalies and potential fraud. The system features advanced technologies such as real-time analytics, customisable alerts and the integration of AI to improve market stability and transparency. It will be operational within five months of signing the contract and is expected to increase the efficiency of market regulation in SL

03.09.2024: Solar plants - According to Economy Next, SL's Hayleys Fentons Ltd has won contracts to build at least 91 MW of solar plants across SL. The projects include several smaller solar plants, ranging in size from 3-5 MW. The contracts were awarded following a competitive tender process for a total of 165 MW of solar installations. The prices of the power purchase

agreements have not been disclosed, but are expected to be lower than previous awards due to intense competition.

03.09.2024: Investment - According to Economy Next, SL plans to set up a national wealth fund based on state assets to promote public welfare. R. Wickremesinghe explained that the fund will be used similarly to the investment companies in Norway, Qatar and Singapore. The aim is to reduce the use of funds from the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and the Employees' Trust Fund (ETF) for bonds and redirect these funds into investment opportunities, which will require new legislation inspired by Danish and Swedish regulations.

08.09.2024: Debt Sustainability Analysis - According to Economy Next, SL Opposition MP Harsha de Silva warned that SL's economy could collapse if debt restructuring based on an alternative Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) is resumed. He

emphasised that the current DSA, which was worked out with the IMF, should be continued to avoid delays and new negotiations. According to de Silva, a re-evaluation of the DSA could lead to a longer negotiation process and jeopardise the current progress.

09.09.2024: Restructuring - According to Economy Next, SL has become the first to restructure its outstanding debt with the Export-Import Bank of China by raising USD 4.187 billion in new loans, a report by SL's Ministry of Finance said. Previously, the debt amounted to USD 3.993 billion, of which USD 903.8 million was in arrears. While the exact amount of interest accrued was not disclosed, the average interest rate on bilateral loans going forward is about 2.1 %, with another USD 6.438 billion in loans, particularly from the Paris Club, awaiting restructuring.

10.09.2024: IMF - According to Economy Next, SL's State Finance

Minister Shehan Semasinghe has warned of an economic collapse if parliament is dissolved and the third IMF loan review is not completed. Ahead of the presidential election on 21.09.2024, political parties are at loggerheads over whether the IMF program should continue. While R. Wickremesinghe is banking on economic stability through IMF reforms, his rivals, such as opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, are calling for a dissolution of parliament and a renegotiation of IMF terms to ease the burden of higher taxes.

13.09.2024: Bonds - According to Economy Next, the Bank of Ceylon (BOC) has raised LKR 15 billion by issuing 50 million Basel III compliant Tier 2 bonds with a non-viability write down feature. The bonds were issued at LKR 100 each to raise LKR 5 billion initially, with the option to issue further tranches if oversubscribed. Demand significantly exceeded supply, which is why the issue was oversubscribed. The exact allotment criteria will be announced later.

15.09.2024: Debt - According to Economy Next, SL's government and private borrowers serviced USD 2.58 billion in debt in 2023 and USD 2.48 billion in 2022, the year the country defaulted on its external debt.

17.09.2024: Foreign exchange reserves - According to Economy Next, the Central Bank of SL's negative foreign exchange reserves have seen a steep correction since 2022 as domestic lending has slowed, but its net foreign assets were still negative as of July 2024.

18.09.2024: Bondholders - According to Economy Next, R. Wickremesinghe expects talks with bondholders to be successfully concluded on 19.09.2024, heralding the end of the sovereign default. After agreements have already been reached with the IMF and bilateral creditors, including China, Wickremesinghe signals that the country will no longer be considered bankrupt once talks with private bondholders have been concluded. Despite the stabilisation of the economy, the SL

President stressed that further measures are needed to ensure progress in the long term.

19.09.2024: IMF - According to Economy Next, SL is expecting a visit from the IMF in 02 weeks, as R. Wickremesinghe explained at an election event. He emphasised the need to tell the IMF that SL will implement the agreement in order to receive the next tranche; otherwise the LKR could fall to 500 per dollar. Amid political uncertainties, interest rates are already rising and the rupee has depreciated slightly as the government seeks to reach an agreement with private creditors to end its insolvent status.

24.09.2024: IWF - According to Economy Next, the IMF is planning to work with A. Dissanayake to discuss the third review of the ongoing economic reform program. Dissanayake's party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), wants to renegotiate the IMF agreement as they say it has led to huge burdens on the people. Despite progress in debt restructuring, there are concerns about possible delays in the

disbursement of the fourth tranche of the USD 3 billion aid package.

24.09.2024: OCC - According to Economy Next, the IMF has welcomed SL's agreement with international sovereign bondholders, though it still requires approval from the Official Creditors Committee (OCC) of bilateral lenders. This agreement is considered significant progress in SL's debt restructuring efforts. The revised terms were developed in consultation with the IMF to ensure alignment with the Debt Sustainability Analysis, incorporating feedback from the OCC on an earlier July proposal, before the country's recent change in government following presidential elections.

26.09.2024: CSE - According to Economy Next, the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) has partnered with the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of Sri Lanka (CMA) to promote best reporting practices among listed companies through the CMA Excellence in Integrated Reporting Awards 2024. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) designates the CSE as the strategic partner for the awards, which aim to enhance integrated reporting practices within SL's corporate sector. CSE CEO Rajeeva Bandaranaike emphasised the importance of sustainable corporate practices for long-term value creation and investor trust, while CMA President Prof. Lakshman R Watawala

highlighted the collaboration's role in enhancing corporate governance and sustainability in the capital market.

26.09.2024: IMF - According to Uthayan, the IMF has announced its readiness to work with SL's new government. An IMF spokesperson stated that the organisation is committed to providing financial assistance to help the country recover from its economic crisis amid the political transition.



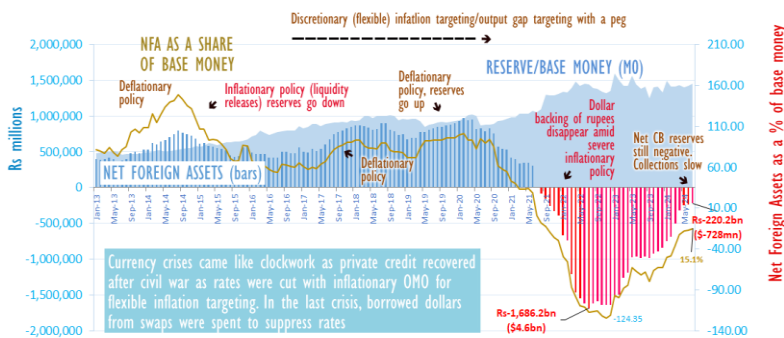
Bonds

Source: Economy Next

Foreign exchange reserves

Source: Economy Next

CENTRAL BANK INSOLVENCY



Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Table 1: Summary of Public Debt as at end June 2024

Instrument Category	USD million	
	End March 2024*	End June 2024**
Domestic Debt	57,283	57,486
LKR Denominated ¹	57,043	57,246
FX Denominated ²	240	240
External Debt	37,248	37,542
Project/Program Loan	22,512	22,808
Bilateral	10,792	10,625
Multilateral	11,720	12,183
Commercial	14,736	14,734
ISB***	12,550	12,550
Term Financing Facilities	2,186	2,184
Guaranteed Debt	5,860	5,618
LKR Denominated	1,924	1,933
FX Denominated	3,936	3,685
Total Debt	100,391	100,646

Commemoration

15.09.2024: According to Uthayan, the 37th anniversary of Thileepan's sacrifice was commemorated today at his memorial in Nallur.

20.09.2024: According to Uthayan, a memorial exhibition was inaugurated to preserve the legacy of Thileepan for future generations. The event took place at the Thileepan Memorial in Nallur.

26.09.2024: According to Uthayan, the 37th remembrance of Thileepan was held in Mullaitivu, organized by the Pudukkudiyiruppu Traders' Association.

Oppression & Resistance

01.09.2024:
Reconciliation - SL Business Magnate Dilith Jayaweera who is backed by SL ministers from G. Rajapaksa's former rule, pledged to abolish SL's *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act*, reports Lanka Files.

01.09.2024: **Enforced Disappearances** - SL Foreign Minister Ali Sabry openly rejected the claims on numbers of forcibly disappeared persons, reports Lanka Files. The UNHRC is due to discuss SL on 09.09.2024. Sabry dismissed any attempts into a War Crimes Probe and accountability as "Rubbish. Western nonsense."

02.09.2024: **ITAK** - According to Lanka Files, ITAK's President categorically rejected M. A. Sumanthiran's claims that ITAK has decided to back Sajith Premadasa.

05.09.2024:
Commemoration - According to Uthayan, the 34th anniversary of the disappearance of 158 people, who were taken by the SL army for interrogation from Eastern University in 1990, was commemorated with a protest demanding justice. The event took

place at Vantharumoolai campus and was organized by the Eastern University Arts and Culture Faculty Student Union and the Batticaloa Association of Families of the Disappeared.

07.09.2024:
Commemoration - According to Uthayan, the 28th death anniversary of Kumaraswamy Krishanthi, a student from Sundukkuli Girls' School who was brutally murdered by SL military in Semmanip, Jaffna, was commemorated alongside commemoration of other victims who were killed and buried in the area. The ceremony was led by the chairman of the Semmanip Massacre Memorial Committee.

08.09.2024: **Boycott** - According to Uthayan, a campaign urging the boycott of the presidential election was held in Jaffna, organised by the Tamil National People's Front. The event took place in Navatkuli, where C. Gajendran, along with party members, distributed pamphlets to the public, explaining the party's stance on the election.

13.09.2024:
Commemoration - According to Uthayan, the Jaffna police have filed a court case seeking a ban on the commemoration events for martyr Thileepan in Jaffna. The case was submitted to the Jaffna Magistrate's Court with the aim of preventing events at Thileepan's memorial on Nallur Back

17.09.2024:
Commemoration - According to Uthayan, the 25th anniversary of the Manthuvil massacre in Mullaitivu, Puthukkudiyiruppu, was commemorated 15.09.2024.

26.09.2024:
Commemoration - According to Uthayan, the 37th remembrance day of Thileepan was held today at the Pongu Tamil stupa in Vavuniya. The ceremony was attended by the head of the Association of Families of the Disappeared K. Jayavanitha, Tamil National People's Front MP Selvarasa Kajendran, families of the disappeared, and members of the public.



Phoenix Snapshot



26.09.2024 HFT vigil, Australia.



26.09.2024 HFT, Switzerland



28.09.2024 HFT UK





21.09.2024
HFT Switzerland

