

## FAILURE TO PREVENT EASTER ATTACKS

# 800 CHARGES AGAINST FORMER DEF SEC, IGP

### INTELLIGENCE WARNINGS IGNORED

### TWO TRIALS-AT-BAR SOUGHT

DILSHAN THARAKA

Attorney General Dappula de Livera had exhibited information comprising 800 charges in the Colombo High Court for the two separate trials of former Inspector General of Police (IGP) Pujith Jayasundara and former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando for offences of murder and attempted murder, for their

serious lapses and grave omissions to prevent Easter Sunday bomb attacks on April 21, 2019.

Coordinating Officer to the Attorney General State Counsel Nishara Jayaratne said that the Attorney General has also requested the Chief Justice to appoint two separate Trials-at-Bar to try these cases.

The Attorney General displayed information in the Colombo High Court against former IGP Pujith Jayasundara and former Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando on the basis of accountability of murder and attempted murder under sections 296 and 300 of the Penal Code in connection with the Easter Sunday attacks that took place on April 21,

2019 due to ignoring the sensitive intelligence provided by State Intelligence Service Director Nilantha Jayawardena that Zahran Hashim and his group had organized and prepared to carry out suicide bombings targeting religious places and hotels between April 07, 2019 and April 21, 2019 and completely failing to act on the intelligence. **TO PAGE 02**

## New NOCPCO hotline - 1906 introduced

The National Operation Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) yesterday introduced a new hotline for the public to inform of any delays in transporting COVID-19 positive patients to treatment centres, NOCPCO Head, Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander General Shavendra Silva said. **TO PAGE 02**

## Previous Govt. failed to divulge information about toxic food items - Citizens' Organization

B.M WIJESOORIYA

Anuradhapura Central Special Cor.

Convener of the Citizens' Organization S. Priyantha Fernando yesterday said that the previous Government had taken steps not to divulge any information about the report which stated that foods in the market contain heavy metals, cadmium, arsenic, and lead, which are harmful to the human body.

"Seven samples out of 500 food samples that were directed for quality assurance have confirmed the presence of heavy metals that can cause pathogens, including cancer," states the Citizens' Organization. **TO PAGE 02**



Kandy District Parliamentarian Dilum Amunugama was sworn in as the State Minister for Community Police Services before President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday morning. He also holds the portfolio of State Ministry of Vehicle Regulation, Bus Transport Services and Train Compartments and Motor Car Industry. *Picture courtesy President's Media Division*

## Wannila Aththo's Writ Petition fixed for support

LAKMAL SOORIYAGODA

The Writ Petition filed by Uruwarige Wannila Aththo, the leader of the indigenous population known as 'Veddhas', challenging the clearing of the lands at Pollebedda-Rambakan Oya was

yesterday fixed for support by Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal two-judge-bench comprising Justice (President) Arjuna Obeyesekere and Justice Mayadunne Corea fixed the matter for support on July 13. **TO PAGE 02**



## Pregnant women, children more vulnerable to COVID-19 variant

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

Medical experts say that pregnant women and children are more vulnerable to the new COVID-19 variant currently spreading in Sri Lanka.

Speaking to the media yesterday Director of Family Health Bureau (FHB) Consultant Dr. Chithramalee De Silva said that 70 COVID-19 infected pregnant women are currently being treated at hospitals. Dr. Chithramalee urged parents to provide homemade food for their children which boosts their immunity. **TO PAGE 02**

## IPHRC expresses concerns about proposed banning of Burqa

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) based in Saudi Arabia has expressed its serious concern about the proposed banning of the Burqa in Sri Lanka and stressed that such blanket measures would violate Muslim women's freedom to manifest their religion and would be an infringement of their human rights. **TO PAGE 02**

## Proper mechanism needed to help farmers - SJB MP

AMILA PRABHATH WANASINGHE - Anuradhapura Additional

SJB Anuradhapura District MP Rohana Bandara said the Government should arrange mechanisms to help the farmers to sell their products. **TO PAGE 02**

## Channel all funds to curb COVID - UNP

SHIROMI ABEYSINGHE

UNP Chairman and Former Minister Vajira Abeywardena yesterday said that the Government

should suspend ongoing development projects and all assets should be channelled for the saving of people's lives from the pandemic. He said that the people's life is in danger as the Government has failed to take right decisions at the right time. **TO PAGE 02**

## Three Indian Nationals arrested

MIHIRA WIJESEKARA, Marawila Group Corr

Puttalam Police yesterday arrested the three Indian Nationals including a mother and her two children who had illegally entered the country via sea routes yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

## Rishad's wife appeals to President

MOHAMMED RASOOLDEEN

COLOMBO: Wife of former Minister Rishad Bathiudeen, Ayesha, has appealed to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to release her husband who has been arbitrarily arrested and detained under the PTA. **TO PAGE 02**

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## Navy increases patrols to deter illegal migrants

The Sri Lanka Navy has increased security in Sri Lankan waters to prevent illegal migration attempts which could create a surge in the transmission of Covid in the country.

The Navy has deployed more naval units to patrol the Northern and Northwestern waters of the island around the clock, following the possibility of illegal migrants entering the shores of Sri Lanka

via sea routes, which could lead to a surge in the transmission of COVID in the country.

Accordingly, steps have been taken to deploy more ships and Fast Attack Craft to raise surveillance in the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) as well as Inshore Patrol Craft to patrol the coastal waters of the island, a statement issued by the Sri Lanka Navy said. **TO PAGE 02**

## Several GN Divisions designated as isolated areas

Chief of Defence Staff, Army Commander and Head, National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO) General Shavendra Silva announced that several

Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Nuwara Eliya and Batticaloa Districts have been designated as isolated areas with effect from 8.15 a.m. yesterday. **TO PAGE 02**

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# River Conservation Zones to be designated

## - Environment Minister Amaraweera

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera has instructed that River Conservation Zones be designated for all rivers under the Surakimu Ganga Programme implemented by the Environment Ministry.

Minister Amaraweera stated that steps will be taken to remove those people encroaching on lands along the river banks.

"No constructions or cultivations will be allowed up to at least 150 metres from a river," he said.

He said that steps will also be taken to relocate people living along the river basins to other locations.

"If not, the entire river system, which is the basic drainage pattern of our country, is in danger of being destroyed in a

few years due to the misuse of river water," the Minister said.

There are 103 rivers in the river system in Sri Lanka. The majority of this river system originates in the central highlands and the rest originate from various sources. But so far no river conservation zones have been designated to protect the river system in our country.

The Central Environmental Authority (CEA) has collected more information on all river basins in the country, indicating that various individuals are engaged in illegal activities to destroy river conservation lands.



Activities in this regard have been videotaped and the Central Environmental Authority has observed that there are more than 10,700 destructive places in rivers alone.

It has also been confirmed that no river has been designated as a River Conservation Zone so far and various individuals have been occupying lands

close to the river for housing, business premises and cultivation. It was revealed that the chances of the banks breaking and damaging public lives as well as property are increasing.

The Minister has instructed the Cen-

tral Environmental Authority to pay close attention to this situation.

It has been decided to commence a programme to designate River Protected Zones immediately.

The size of river basins in our country is between 10 to 10,000 square KMs. In addition to this river system, our country also has a large spring system. One thousand five hundred and forty four water sources have been identified in the Nuwara Eliya District, 204 in the Kandy District, 19 in the Kurunegala District, 210 in the Moneragala District and two in the Matale District. The Minister of Environment said that these protected areas also need to be designated to protect these water sources.

## Limited services at Labour Dept.

SHAVINI MADHARA

Services offered at the Department of Labour has been limited owing to the current COVID-19 situation.

Accordingly, people visiting the Head Office for Employees' Provident Fund claims are requested to make an appointment through the department's official website ([www.labourdept.gov.lk](http://www.labourdept.gov.lk)) and obtain a date and time to get their requirement accomplished.

Customers visiting the Provincial and District Labour Offices to claim Employees' Provident Fund are requested to seek an appointment date and time through contacting the relevant office through telephone.

Issuing a media release, the Department stated that the telephone numbers and email addresses of these offices can be obtained through the official website of Department of Labour.

The Labour Department further noted that matters pertaining to the Labour Laws may be forwarded to the Labour Office within the jurisdiction area in which your workplace was/is situated in, in the form of a written inquiry or written complaint.

The public is requested to obtain the services on office days, during office hours (8:30 a.m.— 4.15p.m) through distance communication methods at every possible instant without visiting the office personally, in order to minimize public movement as much as possible.

### EU funded STRIDE programme holds first National Steering Committee



The European Union (EU) and the State Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs co-chaired the first National Steering Committee for the Strengthening Transformation, Reconciliation and Inclusive Democratic Engagement (STRIDE) programme recently.

STRIDE is a multi-stakeholder initiative worth over 9 billion rupees, funded by the EU to promote dialogue between communities and local governments by improving access and quality of services at local level. The activities are implemented by the World Bank (WB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the British Council together with The Asia Foundation (TAF) in partnership with the State Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs as well as the Ministry of Justice.

Under the STRIDE umbrella, the World Bank provides small grants to local authorities, UNDP provides capacity building, and the British Council together with TAF promotes mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism at the community level.

Speaking at the Steering Committee meeting, Frank Hess, Head of Development Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives said "In the EU, we believe that good governance and community participation in the planning and decision-making processes will contribute to everybody's benefit. Local authorities should engage with people, mobilise and listen to their opinions and act as catalyst for change in every community, and in this programme we are seeing this happening. Therefore, I am glad that the EU is funding this programme with 40 million euros (over 9 billion rupees)."

Commenting on the STRIDE Steering Committee S.D.A.D. Boralessa, Secretary, State Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government Affairs, noted "It is a great honour to Co-Chair the National Steering Committee for the STRIDE programme which is aiming to improve the access and quality of Local Government services in 134 Local Authorities in Northern, Eastern, North Central and Uva Provinces in Sri Lanka."

This Steering Committee will definitely enhance the results for assistance made by European Union and the World Bank and also minimize the bottlenecks at the implementation. I believe that the valuable guidance by the steering committee will generate more benefits to the people in the country."

Speaking on UNDP's role, UNDP Project Manager in Sri Lanka Navaneethan Vijayakumar said "It is a pleasure to see stakeholders with diverse backgrounds coming together to provide important feedback to improve the implementing partners' efforts and maximize the finite resources available. We are confident that with the guidance of the Steering Committee, we can work towards reaching our project goals that will in turn bring local authorities to the forefront in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

An important part of the programme and its National Steering Committee is to listen to voices from local authorities at national, provincial, district and local levels. Executive Director of Women in Need (WIN) Savithri Wijesekara, a member of the Committee noted that "the programme initiated at the Local Government level has to be inclusive, responsive and accountable and build institutional capacity to provide good and effective service delivery to benefit cross communities of people."

The inclusivity and engagement of the local government with civil society, the poor and the marginalized in development plans will strengthen and help in reconciliation, gender responsiveness and local needs."

Asoka Gunawardana, Chairman, Marga Institute, fellow member of the Steering Committee sharing his thoughts stated that "bringing together government and civil society representatives at the Steering Committee is a valuable chance to exchange views and share experiences".

The STRIDE programme is expected to run until 2023 and to benefit approximately one million Sri Lankans under over 100 Local Government authorities in the Northern, Eastern, Uva and North Central Provinces.



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# JUSTICE

## all what they want now

CAMELIA NATHANIEL

The arrest of the two media personnel operating the Tube Tamil YouTube channel and Facebook page has left their families in disarray. While diaspora groups exploit the youth in the North to promote the LTTE ideologies, in many instances, these vulnerable youngsters fall prey to their sinister plots. It has also been found that many diaspora groups identify avenues where they can donate funds for either building of homes for the needy or other community programmes, but sneakily encourage these vulnerable youngsters to promote the LTTE.

However, in this instance, pro-LTTE material had been posted on the Tube Tamil website which was hacked, according to Tube Tamil channel owner, Ravishankar Sugathevan. In an exclusive telephone interview from Denmark with the *Daily News*, he said that the Tube Tamil web domain had been hacked and taken over by a person from Tamil Nadu, India.

"We have made several complaints regarding this and currently, we only operate the YouTube channel and the Facebook page. I have been living in Denmark for over 25 years and I started this website around 14 years ago. My website Tube Tamil.com was hacked and taken over by someone from Tamil Nadu, India. This person contacted me and demanded Rs. one crore (Indian currency) (approximately US\$ 140,095) to give it back. During this period he has misused my website and posted all pro-LTTE material. But, this website is not under my control," he explained.

Ravishankar claims that he has nothing to do with the LTTE and in fact, is against them as they had targeted him as well. He had also written a book which is against the LTTE. However, he extended an apology for any issues that have arisen as a result of pro-LTTE material that has been posted on his website, for which he has no control over. On the contrary, unlike the Tamil politicians who try to use the plight of the Tamil people and try to gain their support by promoting the separatist ideologies, Ravishankar has been engaged in promoting racial harmony among all people of this country.

He said his news channel translates news from international channels such as BBC into Tamil and publishes them for the benefit of Tamils overseas. Through his Tube Tamil channel, he also provides food and other essentials to around 600 needy families on a daily basis. He said that he spends around Rs. 3.5 million on a monthly basis to support and feed these families, with monies donated by people and proceeds of his channel.

"In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, my staff worked 16 hours per day to provide food to the low-income families in the North. I also donated 10 washing machines to hospitals treating Corona patients and these were handed over to Army Commander General Shavendra Silva. A minister from Badulla also contacted me and wanted equipment

**"My website Tube Tamil.com was hacked and taken over by someone from Tamil Nadu, India. This person contacted me and demanded Rs. one crore (Indian currency) (approximately US\$ 140,095) to give it back. During this period he has misused my website and posted all pro-LTTE material. But, this website is not under my control"**

for schoolchildren in the area which I obliged. I have also donated school essentials and assisted around 6,000 schoolchildren not only in the North but also in the estate areas. In addition, we are supporting around 340 children monthly with their educational expenses. We have also built houses for low-income families in Jaffna, Vavuniya, Killinochchi and Mannar," he added, emphasizing that he has no intention of promoting or supporting the LTTE.

He noted that in fact, when he had wanted to make a movie during the LTTE period, they had blocked it and refused to allow him any access to invest in Sri Lanka. Hence, he said he even wrote a book against the LTTE and had no connection with them. The LTTE supporters in Denmark are also trying to influence the Tamil Diaspora community to follow their ideology.

Ravishankar said that he initially started this channel as a hobby and when he realised he would be able to support many needy communities through this venture, he had expanded its operations. He said that even for the opening of the Tube Tamil office in Jaffna, a Denmark Minister had accompanied him to Sri Lanka to participate in the ceremony. He said that his sole aim is to use his connections and privileges in order to help those in need in his home country. However, despite not being responsible for the material published on his hacked website, he extended his apologies to the authorities and people of Sri Lanka for the issue that has arisen.

Ravishankar assured that his employees



Divania's mother Krishnaveni



Divania's daughter Aarani



Ravishankar Sugathevan



Divania's father Seevaratnam

were in no way affiliated or supportive of the LTTE in any way and that this whole fiasco is a huge misunderstanding due to his website being hacked. Hence, he appealed to the Sri Lankan authorities to properly investigate this issue and release his employees who have done nothing illegal and had in no way promoted any LTTE ideologies.

While Mugunthan Divania Nilushini Mann and Vimalraj Juvanish are currently in custody, their families, especially their children are the ones who are affected the most.

Divania's eight-year-old daughter Aarani is autistic and cannot understand why her mother is missing from home. The child's father had left Divania and the child and does not support either her or the child. Aarani walks aimlessly and tries to embrace any lady that

resembles her mother's appearance. She cannot speak or understand and she is currently being cared for by Divania's parents - Seevaratnam Victor Loganathan Mann and Krishnaveni Victor Mann.

Divania was a talented athlete and she had even received an award of Rs. 3.5 million under the Sisu Udanaya programme and was training to compete at the Olympics in Marathon event under



Vimalraj's wife Asha and their son

With the closing down of the Tube Tamil and TamilKodi channels, 29 employees have lost their jobs and many others indirectly involved have also lost their means of income. In addition, around 600 people are without the meals that were provided by these channels.

Asian games gold medallist Edirveerasingham. Her father Seevaratnam Victor Loganathan said that his daughter had met her husband during the training and had married him ruining her future in sports.

Appealing to the authorities, Divania's father said, "My daughter got involved in this mess not out of her fault. But I appeal to the authorities to please consider the plight of my granddaughter Aarani and please release her from detention. This is a mistake and my daughter had no involvement in any LTTE activities. The LTTE did nothing for the people but only created misery for the people. Divania's only intention was to serve the people due to her ambition to get involved in politics like her mother. I apologize to the authorities and to anyone concerned if any misunderstanding had taken place, but I assure everyone that my daughter had no LTTE affiliation nor did she believe in any LTTE ideology. Hence, please consider the plight of her small child who does not understand anything and release my daughter. My granddaughter has no father and please don't separate the child from her mother too." Divania is currently being detained in Tangalle.

Speaking to the *Daily News*, Vimalraj Asha, the wife of Vimalraj Juvanish who was also arrested for his involvement with the "Tamilkodi" channel said that Vimalraj's son is just five years old. Vimalraj was the breadwinner of their family and his wife is unemployed making it very difficult for them to survive. Vimalraj too has no connection with the LTTE and has been engaged in broadcasting social issues and facilitating community activities through the channel ensuring that monies sent by members of the Tamil Diaspora for the needy are channelled to the right projects.

As for Vimalraj's son, his mother says that the five-year-old child does not eat properly and cries for his father especially at bedtime.

Meanwhile, moved by the plight of Divania's autistic daughter Public Security Minister Rear Admiral Dr. Sarath Weerasekera had made arrangements for Divania to see her daughter and pacify the child. Through his mediation, permission was granted for the two detainees to see their children for a few minutes. It is commendable that even under the current situation, the law enforcement officials had shown compassion and allowed these children to see their parents.

On the other hand, now with the closing down of the Tube Tamil and TamilKodi channels, 29 employees have lost their jobs and many others indirectly involved have also lost their means of income. In addition, around 600 people are without the meals that were provided by these channels. The families of these

two detainees said that the sad part is that had these two persons been involved in any LTTE activities, their arrests and detention would have been justified. But, under the present situation, where it is very clear that these channels have only been engaged in helping the people, and that whatever pro-LTTE material that had been posted on their website was not with their involvement, it would be ideal if these two detainees would be released at least on bail, given the current COVID situation in the country, while investigations continue.

The families of Divania and Vimalraj are optimistic that the authorities will realise that they had absolutely no connection with any LTTE front and free them from detention soon as May is the month of Vesak where compassion and empathy hold strong.

"A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal" - Steve Maraboli.

**The families of Divania and Vimalraj are optimistic that the authorities will realise that they had absolutely no connection with any LTTE front and free them from detention soon as May is the month of Vesak where compassion and empathy hold strong.**



The requests made for assistance

# Mihintale Sacred City Development activities in progress

**NIMAL WIJESINGHE**  
Anuradhapura Additional Group  
Corr.

The Sri Lanka Army, Navy and the Air Force in collaboration with Police and the Civil Security Personnel are busily engaged in completing the Mihintale Sacred Zone development activities on the instructions of the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

**Mihintale Raja Maha Viharadhipathi Dr. Walavhengunawewa Dhammarathana Nayaka Thera** told the *Daily News* that he urges all Buddhists as well as

the non-Buddhist countrymen to donate aid in the form of funds and materials required for continuing the rehabilitation renovation and restoration work including the proposed new constructions in the Sacred City.

The Nayake Thera said that the new 'Dhana Shal' was under construction and the white washing of the historic 'Mihindu Maha Seya' on the summit of the Mihintale Rock commenced on April 30th after a lapse of three years.

The Sri Lanka Navy has



been entrusted with the project.

"The Mihintale Sacred City consists of around 800 acres and there are more than 300 monuments of historical religious and cultural

value in the dense forests needed to be saved from total deterioration'. The Archeological Department and the Central Cultural Fund (CCF) plan to initiate a number of archeological excavations and preservation projects in the sacred zone. The three Forces, the Police and the Civil Security Personnel are rendering a marvelous job in reviving the magnificent splendor and religious atmosphere which prevailed in ancient times," the Nayaka Thera said.

The Nayake Thera said that Ven. Kiribathgoda Gnanananda Nayaka Thera has been instrumental in helping with the renovation and restoration work of the 'Mihindu Seya', 'Mihindu Guhawa Staircase' and the 'Relic Chamber'.

He appealed to the devotees not to visit Mihintale in groups and also to observe Posen religious observances at home without flocking in the Sacred City in view of the COVID-19 pandemic which is spreading country-wide.



The Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre.

## Dambulla DEC closure inconveniences farmers

SIGIRIYA SPECIAL

Farmers point out that due to the temporary closure of the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre (DEC) from April 25, the farming community is facing a tough time unable to sell their products.

The farmers say that they are compelled to sell their produce by the sides of the Dambulla-Habarana Main Road.

They also alleged that the Police are on duty as several areas of Dambulla are facing lockdowns.



Farmers selling their produce by the Dambulla-Habarana Main Road.

## More COVID treatment centres for SP

**MAHINDA P. LIYANAGE**  
Galle Central Special Corr.

Plans are afoot to convert several hospitals in the Southern Province into special treatment centres for COVID patients and to procure 1000 new beds for them, Southern Province Director of Health Services Consultant Chandima Sirithunga said.

Accordingly, plans are afoot to convert the Bentota, Hiniduma, Batapola, Baddegama, Gingodagama, Ambalantota hospitals and Ruhunu and Nilawala Colleges of Education into new COVID Treatment Centres.

"The Provincial Director of Health Services pointed out that all these new measures would be of no use if the people do not follow the health guidelines," he stated.

"There are 1,400 beds at eight COVID Treatment Centres in operation at present in the Southern Province. In addition, it is planned to provide another 1000 beds. Patients from various parts of the island are admitted to these COVID Treatment Centres. Corona Medical Treatment Centres admit patients according to the number of bed vacancies," Dr. Sirithunga said.

## Two PHIs quarantined

**MIHIRA WIJESSEKARA**  
Maravila Gr. Corr.

Two Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) attached to the Dankotuwa Medical Office of Health (MOH) have been sent to treatment centres after testing positive for COVID-19.

"The two PHIs are in charge of the Dankotuwa and Kirimetiyan Division. Following the cases reported, nearly 100 close associates of

the two PHIs have also been asked to quarantine," health authorities said.

PCR tests had been conducted on the PHIs attached to this MOH after the wife of a PHI had tested positive for COVID-19 on a previous day. Accordingly, these two Inspectors were identified as infected.

More PCR tests are due to be conducted on the quarantined associates in the coming days.

# How an HNB SME is inspiring future generations in farming

#ABankerForEverySriLankan



Natures Glory Chairman/ Managing Director-  
Lakshitha De Zoysa

He began actively studying the life of farmers to better understand their financial troubles and formulate a solution - an out-grower model.

"I wanted to help them forego middlemen and earn close to the retail prices." Initially partnering with 4 farmers, Lakshitha rapidly expanded his outgrower network to over 200 farmers. Next he created DZ's Fresh Box - a farm-to-doorstep delivery service on WhatsApp, where his customers could pay for the fresh produce via #HNBSOLO. Lakshitha has continued to grow his business while empowering and uplifting the farming communities he works with.

“Help farmers add value to their own lives”

Embracing the unpredictability of life was a lesson Lakshitha De Zoysa learned quite unexpectedly. Had he been told he would leave his successful IT career in the US to camp out in Lunugamvehera and grow crops while elephants walked past his tent, he would probably have laughed.

But a desire to return home resulted in the impossible. Having realized the potential in agriculture, Lakshitha purchased land to start his own farm. At first, he camped out among his crops sacrificing the comforts of city life, away from his family. Lakshitha knew he had to work exceptionally hard to succeed.

"When I was selling my first harvest of watermelons I was offered Rs. 12 per Kg even though they were sold at Rs. 60 in the market!"

Frustrated at the little to no profit, he loaded the fruits into his trucks and transported them to Colombo where he sold them at 3 am for Rs. 40. This experience marked a turning point for Lakshitha.

"I realised that farmers faced such severe financial losses because middlemen were retaining most of the profit."



Farmers connected to out-grower network



Natures Glory farm and crop

"I hope to help farmers add value to their own lives and the Sri Lankan economy. We also want to inspire the next generation, through pilot projects with schools where we provide plants and promote sustainable, efficient farming as a viable source of income and a respected way of life."

TURNING POINT

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# Man of unblemished integrity

*"In the end, it's not the years in your life that counts, it's the life in your years."*

**- Abraham Lincoln.**  
It is with gratitude that I write these few lines in remembrance of our loving leader Dr. Neville Fernando. He passed away on the February 4, one month short of his 90th birthday, but left a rich legacy of positive experience with all those who came to know him.

My association with Dr. Neville Fernando goes back to 2003, when he invited me to join the Asha Central Hospital at Horton Place, Colombo 7. It is he who turned the establishment into a most sought-after private hospital in Colombo.

He devoted his entire time and effort to develop the hospital in to a fully-fledged, multi-specialty private hospital. He was not a mere manager or a team leader to the hundreds of medical and non-medical staff. He was a father figure to all, loved by everyone: from the housekeeping assistant to the operating surgeon.

The staffers were not simply employees of Dr. Neville Fernando, but followers of this great personality. People mostly referred to him as a 'Living God'.

He struggled against unacceptable transgressions of some of the values that his principled mind accepted as inimical: trust and honour of one's word. Greed and duplicity were

anathema to him. His humanity extended not only to all the employees of the hospital, but also to all patients who sought medical attention. People liked him for his sincerity and enthusiasm.

Dr. Neville Fernando was generous to the core. His charismatic smile and his ability to attract the people around him made him a truly inspirational leader. Managing a large-scale, multi-specialty hospital was a huge burden on his shoulders, but with the unique management style he had overcome all obstacles.

Silently, carried a heavy cross at every stage of his life. In 2008, Dr. Neville Fernando designed and built The Central Hospital on Norris Canal Road, Colombo 10, creating a benchmark in the private healthcare industry of Sri Lanka. Due to his passion for education and creating higher educational opportunities for younger generations, he embarked on his vision, creating SAITM (the South Asian Institute of Technology and Medicine) in 2009 and the NPTH (Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital) in 2011, in Malabe, after selling the Central Hospital to the Asiri Group of Hospitals. The Central Hospital was then renamed as the Asiri Central Hospital.

Designing and building SAITM gave Dr. Neville Fernando immense pride. He pumped all his wealth, time, sweat, and effort to this mas-



sive institution. Thousands of students were privileged to study at this great institution, which produced hundreds of doctors, engineers, and IT professionals who serve not only in Sri Lanka, but all over the world. The theme of SAITM, 'Education with Character', clearly reminds us Dr. Neville Fernando's vision.

Designing, building, equipping, staffing, and operating a thousand-bedded hospital was no easy task. Dr. Neville Fernando, embarking on a hospital project and creating the Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital at the age of 80, was unbelievable to many. He never calculated any

returns on investment. This extraordinary and stubbornly-principled man had only one vision: to create a space for private medical education in Sri Lanka. I am eternally grateful to him for selecting me and giving me the opportunity to lead the hospital from its very inception. His advice helped me immensely to improve my knowledge and develop my skills in managing a hospital. He was a stern disciplinarian who taught me the correct way of doing anything.

Dr. Neville Fernando wanted his hospital to be a model and a benchmark in health care. The designing layout of the hospital was second to none. The materials which were used for construction and furnishing were the best in the industry.

He never believed in shortcuts, but instead guided me and my team to do the correct thing at all times. The medical equipment which were bought were the best of the range and the most technologically-advanced from world-renowned manufacturers.

I still remember the pride he had when he inspected the operating theatre complex and intensive care units, attending to every detail, which were the most modern units in Sri Lanka to match any international standards.

He was so generous to waive the hospital charges of many patients who had financial difficulties, sometimes making the situation difficult for the finance team. Hundreds of

# APPRECIATIONS

Dr. Neville Fernando was generous to the core. His charismatic smile and his ability to attract the people around him made him a truly inspirational leader. Managing a large-scale, multi-specialty hospital was a huge burden on his shoulders, but with the unique management style he had overcome all obstacles...

**This exceptionally honourable man always felt the pulse of the people, be it the patients or the hospital staff.**

surgeries and hemodialysis sessions were offered free-of-charge to deserving patients. This exceptionally honourable man always felt the pulse of the people, be it the patients or the hospital staff. Dozens of his ex-employees from other private hospitals joined him at this new hospital simply due to his unblemished character and integrity.

Dr. Neville Fernando was extremely happy and proud to see thousands of patients being treated and discharged at his hospital. During the current pandemic, the NPTH has treated thousands of patients with COVID-19, and will continue to serve the people of this nation for many more decades to come. Furthermore, medical students of the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University undergo their professional clinical training at this hospital. NPTH has created over 500 direct

and many more indirect employment opportunities while inspiring development of the entire community. It is indeed very sad that he is no more with us, and the only consolation we have is that due to some good karma, we had the good fortune to associate so closely with him. I will always remember the good times I had with him.

Most of all, I appreciate his good qualities and the high principles he stood for at all times. Throughout his journey, his loving and devoted wife Swarnamalee was a pillar of strength. His loving children Naomal, Sharmalee, Devaka, and Krishantha also supported him at all times.

Dear sir, the Dr. Neville Fernando Teaching Hospital will continue to serve the people of our country for many more decades. I wish you the Supreme Bliss of Nirvana in the shortest possible time.

**DR. LAKSHAN FERNANDO**



Newly-appointed Presidential Media Division Director-General Sudewa Hettiarachchi and President's Spokesperson Kingsley Ratnayake assumed their duties at the Presidential Media Division, yesterday. The Maha Sangha, including Mirisawetiya Raja Maha Viharaya Chief Incumbent Ven. Ethalawetunuwewe Gnanathilake Thera, Ven. Prof. Induragame Dhammarathana Thera, Ven. Kirinde Assaji Thera, and Ven. Uduwe Dhammaloka Thera, chanted *Pirith* at the event. President's Principal Advisor Lalith Weeratunga, Defence Secretary General (Rtd.) Kamal Gunaratne, and Information Department Director-General Mohan Samaranyake were also present. Picture courtesy: Presidential Media Division.

## CDF officer dies of COVID-19

**THEENAKOON BANDARA**, Moneragala Special Corr.  
A Civil Defence Force (CDF) officer in Butala died of COVID-19 at the Moneragala Base Hospital, yesterday. According to police, he was rushed to the hospital with breathing difficulties and was pronounced dead after admission. The deceased has been identified as Karuna Devalage Ajith Kumara, aged 37. He was a resident of Buttala, Moneragala. The late CDF officer was also a kidney patient.

## Abduction case against Kurunegala Mayor postponed

Kurunegala High Court Judge Mapa Bandara yesterday postponed the case against Kurunegala Mayor Thushara Witharana and three others for October 11. The Mayor, his father, and two others have been charged with abducting a person from Doratiyawa, Hewapola, along with a motorcycle worth Rs.85,000 on September 7, 2007.

## 'Abandoned Badulla tea factories, option for quarantine centres'

The Badulla Farmers' Rights Organisation said recently that there are around 24 abandoned tea factories in the district that could be turned into quarantine centres. While some of them are dilapidated, others are still usable, they said, adding that with the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the country, it may prove to be a necessity.

## Obituaries

**GUNERATNE - LEONIE MARIE CELINE** (ex-Commercial Bank), passed away in **Brisbane, Australia**. Dearly beloved wife of late Bonnie (ex-Commercial Bank), loving mother of late Sonali Jansen, Lilani Allon (Australia), Kishani Khan (UK), Dilani Jayasekara (Australia), cherished mother-in-law of Deryck Jansen (Sri Lanka), Rodney Allon (Australia), Mo Khan (UK), Shanaka Jayasekara (Australia), precious grandmother of Kevin and Karina Jansen, Shane and Dr. Darren, Allon, Sabrina, Kian and Zalmay Khan, Rajiv and Sanjiv Jayasekara, great-grandmother of Rachel and Maya. Funeral service to be held at 10.30 a.m. (AEST) on Wednesday 5th May, 2021 at all Saints Catholic Church, Albany Creek, Brisbane. **83 Saturn Crescent, Bridgeman Downs, 4035, Queensland, Australia.** 032495

**KALPAGE - EDGAR** - Beloved husband of Uthpala, dearest father of Ashantha, Shanaka and Sylwia, brother of late Rita, Esther, Vernon and Patricia and of Daphne, passed away on 28th April 2021. Funeral was held on 30th April. We thank all clergy, family and friends for their presence, help and assistance during this time. **36, Gomis Mawatha, Kelaniya.** 033174

**Mrs KUSUMAWATHI NALLAPERUMA (PALIHAWADANA)** - Beloved wife of late Robert Kodikara Palihawadana, beloved mother of late Sisira, Paba Former Deputy Director General of Health Services, Thamara (Awareness (Pvt) Ltd.), Amara (RDA), Chaminda (Canada) and beloved mother-in-law of Nayana, Jayantha, Muditha, Prasanga (Sri Jayawardenapura Hospital), Thimathi. Cremation at Udahamulla Cemetery on Wednesday 05th May 2021 at 5.00 p.m. **39, Station Lane, Udahamulla, Nugegoda.** 033284

## Heartfelt Condolences



### Mrs. T M Hettihewa

The Corporate Management and all Staff members of Bank of Ceylon express their deepest condolences

Upon the demise of

### Mrs. T M Hettihewa

at No. 15, Medawella Road, Nalluruwa, Panadura

**A beloved team member of Bank of Ceylon, (Recovery Corporate Division - Head Office)**

Funeral was held on

Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 at 5.00 p.m.

at Minuwanpitiya Public Cemetery, Walana, Panadura.

**May she attain the bliss of Nibbana!**



## Past Devians voice concerns over plan to shift A/L Science, Maths sections

A collective of past principals, teachers, and pupils of Devi Balika Vidyalaya voiced their concerns on Sunday over the moves to shift the A/L Science and Maths sections to the Sri Wijerama Maha Vidyalaya in Nugegoda without any consultation with stakeholders.

Devi Balika Protection Front President Dr. Dayani Panagoda, among others, disclosed at a press conference yesterday the details of moves to merge Devi Balika Vidyalaya's Science and Maths streams with Sri Wijerama Maha Vidyalaya in Nugegoda, in the name of developing the two schools. She said that the plans were 'suspicious', as it would vacate a prime land at the heart of Colombo.

"The school has always focused on quality rather than quantity. Relocating the Science stream to accommodate more students would result in chaos as it would be impossible for one principal to manage two schools about 10km apart and would give lesser individual attention for students," former Principal Kalyani Lakshman said.

"We are not against improving underdeveloped schools. Philanthropists can provide

funds to our school; we would be grateful. However, we would accept it on the condition that we develop our school within the same premises as we have vacant space to construct more buildings. It does not make sense for our Science section to be moved to another school. This leads us to believe that there are vested interests," former Principal Jayanthi Pinna-goda said.

Furthermore, Dr. Panagoda pointed out that if philanthropists were to provide funds, they would have to go through the proper channels: through the education authorities, the Treasury, and the School Development Committee. She added that so far, none of these channels have been used.

"We are for inclusive education. We say that not only girls, but boys, too, should be given the opportunity to further Science education. However, no one should be allowed to compromise the quality of any school. Devi Balika has an identity of its own. If the shifting plans go ahead, what would become of the five state-of-the-art science laboratories provided by the Mahindyodaya programme," former teacher Indrani Hettiarachchi asked.

## 'Galle Dialogue 2021' official website launched



Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne launching the 'Galle Dialogue 2021' official website, while others look on. Picture courtesy: Navy Media Unit.

Navy Commander Vice-Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne launched the official website of the 'Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference 2021' at the Navy Headquarters, recently.

The 11th edition of Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference, organised by the Sri Lanka Navy, is scheduled to be held at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, on October 11 and 12. This year's conference would be centred around the theme 'Regional Maritime Security Initiatives for Global Stability and Shared Prosperity'.

The official website can be accessed at galledialogue.lk, which provides the latest updates of the 'Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference 2021'.

# Navy clears blockage under Wakwella Bridge in Galle

The Southern Naval Command deployed a group of Naval personnel to remove debris collected under the Wakwella Bridge built over the Gin River in Galle on Saturday.

The rising water levels of the Gin River brought garbage, fallen trees, and bamboo shoots from nearby water streams and collected them under the Wakwella Bridge, hindering the free flow of the water.



Naval personnel clearing debris under the Wakwella Bridge. Pictures courtesy: Navy Media Unit



**IN THE COURT OF APPEAL LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 4**

ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE P/CA MAYADUNNE COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 AT 09.30 A.M.**

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 239/21  
Writ of Cert  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 149/21  
Writ of Cert  
2. 163/21  
Writ of Cert  
**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 140/20  
Writ of Cert  
ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE P/CA MAYADUNNE COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 01/19 RTI  
ARJUNA OBEYSEKERE P/CA MAYADUNNE COREA J.  
**COURT NO. 301 AT 12.00 NOON.**

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 19/20  
Writ of Cert  
K. PRIYANTHA FERNANDO J. SAMPATH B. ABAYAKOON J.  
**COURT NO. 107 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 146/19 HC  
2. 340 - 342/19 HC  
3. 343/19 HC  
4. 403/19 HC  
5. 431/19 HC

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 11/19 HC  
2. 203/19 HC  
3. 237/19 HC  
MENAKA WIJESUNDERA J.  
NEIL IDDAWALA J.  
**COURT NO. 204 AT 09.30 A.M.**

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 01/17 PHC  
2. 05/17 PHC  
3. 105/17 PHC  
4. 185/17 PHC  
5. 111/20 PA  
6. 127/20 PA

**FOR SUPPORT**  
1. 10/21 BA  
2. 11/21 BA

**FOR OBJECTIONS**  
1. 107/20 PA

**FOR INQUIRY**  
1. 132/20 PA

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 09/16 PA  
2. 95/17 PA  
N. BANDULA  
KARUNARATHNA J. R. GURUSINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 205 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**FOR JUDGMENT**  
1. 25/18 HC  
N. BANDULA  
KARUNARATHNA J.  
**ASSIGN COUNSEL**  
1. 179/20 HC  
2. 181/20 HC  
3. 183/20 HC

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 665/99 (F) DC  
2. 191/14  
Writ of Cert  
3. 86/16 HC  
4. 283/17 HC  
5. 423/18 HC  
6. 03/20 HC  
7. 93/20 HC  
8. 49/19 HC

**COURT NO. 205 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**Contd...**

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 159/16 HC  
2. 65/17 HC  
3. 115/18 HC  
4. 123/18 HC  
N. BANDULA  
KARUNARATHNA J. R. GURUSINGHE J. P. KUMARARATNAM J.  
**COURT NO. 205 AT 01.30 P.M.**

**FOR**

**ARGUMENT**  
1. 89/05 HC  
DEVIKA ABEYRATNE J. P. KUMARARATNAM J.  
**COURT NO. 110 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**FOR JUDGMENT**  
1. 236/18 HC  
DEVIKA ABEYRATNE J.  
**ASSINGH COUNSEL**  
1. 168/20 HC  
2. 170/20 HC  
3. 178/20 HC

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 220/16 HC  
2. 318/17 HC  
3. 224/18 HC  
4. 14/20 HC  
5. 104/20 HC  
6. 114/20 HC  
7. 128/20 HC  
8. 81/18 HC

**TO BE RESUMED**  
1. 212/17 HC

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 178/15 HC  
2. 24/16 HC  
3. 234/18 HC  
M. T. MOHAMMED LAFFAR J.  
K. K. A. V. SWARNADHIPATHI J.  
**COURT NO. 206 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 715/97 (F) DC  
2. 213/99 (F) DC

**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 384/20  
Writ of Cert  
2. 385/20



Writ of Cert  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 521/97 (F) DC (Top of the list)  
2. 607/11  
Writ of Cert with  
3. 414/15  
Writ of Cert  
4. 870/99 (F) DC  
DR. RUWAN FERNANDO (J) M. SAMPATH K. B. WIJERATNE J.  
**COURT NO. 302 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**TO BE RESUMED**  
1. 07/19 TAX

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 36/19 TAX  
WITH TAX 44/19  
SOBITHA RAJAKARUNA J. DHAMMIKA GANEPOLA J.  
**COURT NO. 303 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 373/19  
Writ of Cert  
2. 127/20  
Writ of Cert  
3. 15/20  
Writ of Cert

**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 410/19

Writ of Cert  
**FOR INQUIRY**  
1. 534/19  
Writ of Cert  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 351/19  
Writ of Cert  
D. N. SAMARAKOON J. PRADEEP KIRTISINGHE J.  
**COURT NO. 108 AT 10.00 A.M.**

**FOR JUDGMENT**  
1. 16/16 RII  
D. N. SAMARAKOON J.  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 27/18 RII  
PRASANTHA DE SILVA J. S. U. B. KARALLIYADDE J.  
**COURT NO. 109 AT 12.30 P.M.**

**FOR JUDGMENT**  
1. 68/15 PHC  
PRASANTHA DE SILVA J  
2. 59/16 PHC  
PRASANTHA DE SILVA J  
**FOR ORDER**  
1. 37/17 PHC

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
1. 80/19 PA  
2. 06/20 PA

**NOTICE RETURNABLE**  
1. 105/11 PHC  
2. 162/15 PHC  
3. 38/16 PHC

**FOR ARGUMENT**  
1. 150/13 PHC  
2. 01/20 BOR

**LIST OF CASES FOR TUESDAY, MAY 4**

A.M. MOHAMMED MACKIE (H.C.J.)  
D.F.H. GUNAWARDHANA (H.C.J.)  
**(AT 10.00 A.M.)**

**FOR JUDGMENT**  
137/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
141/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo

**TO BE MENTIONED**  
217/15 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
73/17 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo

198/11 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
**FOR SUPPORT**  
LA 114/19  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 02/21  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 02/20  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 35/20  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 14/20  
HCCA/Colombo

LA 15/20  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 16/20  
HCCA/Colombo  
**FOR ARGUMENT**  
254/17 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
161/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
104/15 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo

171/18 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 114/19  
HCCA/Colombo  
287/08 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
25/10 RA  
HCCA/Colombo  
62/17 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
115/17 (F)  
HCCA/Colombo  
LA 42/20  
HCCA/Colombo

**ADA KOTIPATHI - Tuesday**  
Draw No.: 1267 Colour: Light Blue  
Date: 04.05.2021

**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 132,703,123/-**

Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.  
Development Lotteries Board  
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
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0114 388 101 / 0114 388 102

**ADA KOTIPATHI**  
Date: 02.05.2021  
Draw No.: 1265  
Colour: Green

**Today's Jackpot**  
**Rs. 5,028,180/-**

Winning Numbers: 46, 54, 69, 71, English Letter: A

Winning tickets are valid only for six months.

**Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 5,097,636/-**

Winning Numbers: 08, 27, 35, 51, Sagittarius

**TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES**  
**Rs. 7,501,060/-**

Development Lotteries Board  
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
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Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
SMS: DLB-UPA-LOT-01/02/03/04 & send to 999  
For Results: www.dlb.lk

**SUPER BALL**  
Date: 02.05.2021  
Draw Date: 02.05.2021  
Date: Sunday  
Colour: Red

Winning English Letter and Numbers: U, 24, 37, 49, 65

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 2,451,400/-**

Development Lotteries Board  
356, Dr. Colvin R. De Silva Mawatha, Union Place, Colombo 2  
Tel: 0112 333 546-47  
Hotline: 0114 824 824, 0112 333 778 or 1919  
SMS: DLB-UPA-LOT-01/02/03/04 & send to 999  
For Results: www.dlb.lk

**SUNDAY**  
Date: 02.05.2021  
Draw No.: 3595  
Colour: Pink

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 3,171,480/-**

Winning Numbers: 02, 16, 22, 68, English Letter: Q

Winning tickets are valid only for six months.

**English Letter & Winning Numbers**  
G, 21, 31, 56, 68  
Draw No: 720  
Date: 02.05.2021  
Colour: Yellow  
Sunday

**Total Value of Prizes**  
**Rs. 2,115,840/-**

**Next Super Jackpot**  
**Rs. 80,989,615/-**

Yellow, Pink and Green coloured tickets are valid on Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays respectively. Winning tickets are valid for 6 months.

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# Daily News



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E-mail : editor.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
news.dailynews@lakehouse.lk  
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

## Expedite battle against COVID-19

With large swathes of territory going under lockdown by the hour and medical experts vocal in their assertions that the country needs to be shut down at this critical stage the authorities, indeed, would have to reassess their options if we are not to witness a situation similar to that of India.

According to President of the Sri Lanka Medical Officers Association Dr. Padma Gunaratne, the next two weeks are going to be decisive. If the people fail to change their lifestyles, set routines, and ignore the health regulations there is nothing to prevent the scenes in India being replicated here as well. She said the detection of nearly 2,000 patients a day could only be the tip of the iceberg and there could be around 6,000 who were not subjected to PCR testing and going under the radar. Worse, the new strain has even made children who were earlier deemed immune to the virus vulnerable, with young students in many Colombo schools reportedly being infected. Even those who received the first jab too are now in the risk category with between 60 percent to 65 percent susceptible to contracting the virus, according to Chief Epidemiologist Dr. Sudath Samaraweera.

The delay in the arrival of the AstraZeneca vaccine has further complicated matters as it could outlive the gestation period of 12 weeks for those who received the first jab. The new variants too have added another layer of complexity. The Association of Medical Specialists has warned that stocks of Oxygen are likely to be in short supply and asked the authorities to prepare for any contingency. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has reportedly been updated on the availability of Oxygen supplies with plans also being made to import Oxygen should the need arise.

There is no denying that the situation is grim. For the first time since the outbreak of the virus, the daily number of positive cases has topped the 1,500 mark and deaths too are rising. The authorities are going to great lengths to control the spread of the virus even to the extent of erecting makeshift hospitals and earmarking space for Coronavirus patients in all other hospitals in the country with even the Ayurveda Hospitals coming to the rescue.

Unfortunately though little is witnessed by way of cooperation from the public, who, from what we are seeing, has failed to realise the gravity of the situation. Television showed a police team swooping down on a huge party of river bathers while playgrounds are being cleared of crowds participating in sports activities with no regard for restrictions.

Market places and public transport too are being subject to regular raids where many are hauled up for either not wearing face masks or failing to comply with the distance rule. The mass arrest of offenders is apparently having no deterrent effect which should make the law enforcement think of more drastic measures if we are to avoid falling into a dark abyss. Those who may have witnessed TV footage of the scenes in India could not have failed to grasp the reality. Or are the violators of health guidelines unaware of the unfolding situation in our neighbouring country?

Today the Indian Capital New Delhi is threatened with being completely wiped out with the city turned into a mass funeral house. Does the public here want a similar situation here?

Meanwhile, a fervent appeal has gone to the public and politicians of all hues from Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa to treat the present health catastrophe as a national emergency, calling on all sides to act with a sense of responsibility. He stated that this was not the time to oppose every move made by the Government to combat the Coronavirus, with a view to scoring political points and by not cooperating to tackle the problem, the true intentions of certain political parties are being exposed.

"At this moment some are criticizing certain actions taken by the Government to control the Coronavirus. In a crisis of this proportion it is not the right thing to take political advantage. Instead, all should act exemplarily by putting aside criticisms and helping to control the Coronavirus by placing the country and the people before everything else," the Premier stated.

In a welcome development, Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa has struck a conciliatory note by hinting at giving politics a moratorium to see off the crisis. In a televised address, the Opposition Leader said they of the Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) have gone into a political truce and are ready to do their utmost to save the lives of the 21 million people of this country. "I urge all political parties to do the same and forget their differences at a time such as this when the country has come to a standstill as a result of the pandemic," he said.

This ought to be the standpoint and spirit of the Opposition at a time the country is in grave peril. Hopefully, the rest of the members of the SJB will be of the same thinking as their leader.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Contagions are a phenomenon of globalization.  
- Lawrence Summers

# How do we produce speech sounds and speak?

## LANGUAGE MATTERS

Dr. THARANGA WEERASOORIYA

In the last article, we discussed that specific regions in our brain play crucial roles in language comprehension and production. Broca's area was particularly shown to be responsible for language production while Wernicke's area was shown to be mainly responsible for language comprehension. Arcuate Fasciculus was claimed to play a role in connecting processes between Broca's area and Wernicke's area. However, as we cannot really dig into the brain to identify the functions of different parts of the brain, the exact specific functions of these areas are not fully understood yet. With the advancement of knowledge and technology, it is hoped that we will be able to understand more about the language related roles and functions of these specific areas in our brain. In fact, the brain and its specific regions play crucial roles in transmitting and receiving signals from the human body organs involved in the production and control of speech.

In today's article, we are discussing the roles of specific organs and mechanisms such as the lungs, larynx, the egressive air stream, etc., involved in the production of speech sounds in language.

### Sound is the primary medium for language

It is a well-known fact that the basis of all human languages is sound. From a diachronic perspective, all human natural languages originated as sounds and speech while writing systems developed later in the processes of the evolution of different media of language. From a synchronic perspective, speech is the primary method of communication among human beings today. Many communities with speech but without any writing system exist in the world today. But, we do not find any society where a written form of language exists without a spoken form. Thus, speech is primary, and writing is secondary in the ways of communication among human beings.

At the same time, as we discussed in one of our previous articles, language has duality in structure. Language exists on two different levels of structure. At one level we have sounds as a discrete and closed set of items called **phonemes**. For instance, the English language has only about 40 phonemes. Sinhala also has about 40 phonemes. At the other level, these sounds as phonemes are structured in specific ways to form words. For example, the phonemes (i.e., discrete sound units) such as /t/ /i/ /n/ are combined to form the word *tin* and *my* is a succession of three phonemes /m/ /a/ /j/. These words produced with sequences of sounds can in turn be combined to form larger meaningful units such as phrases as *my tin* and so on.

### Production of speech sounds

Speech production is a complex process which involves several organs in the human body. Primarily, we produce speech manipulating an airflow that originates in the lungs and goes through the mouth by disturbing it at various places with different organs in our mouth, nose and throat. Thus, the air that flows from the nasal and oral cavities is crucial not only for our survival (i.e., breathing) but also for speech production. Accordingly, the following that affect the air stream are vital organs for the sound production processes:

**Lungs** - For its outward flow of air  
**Larynx** - For the alterations it does to the airstream

**Vocal tract and the tongue** - For alternations they create

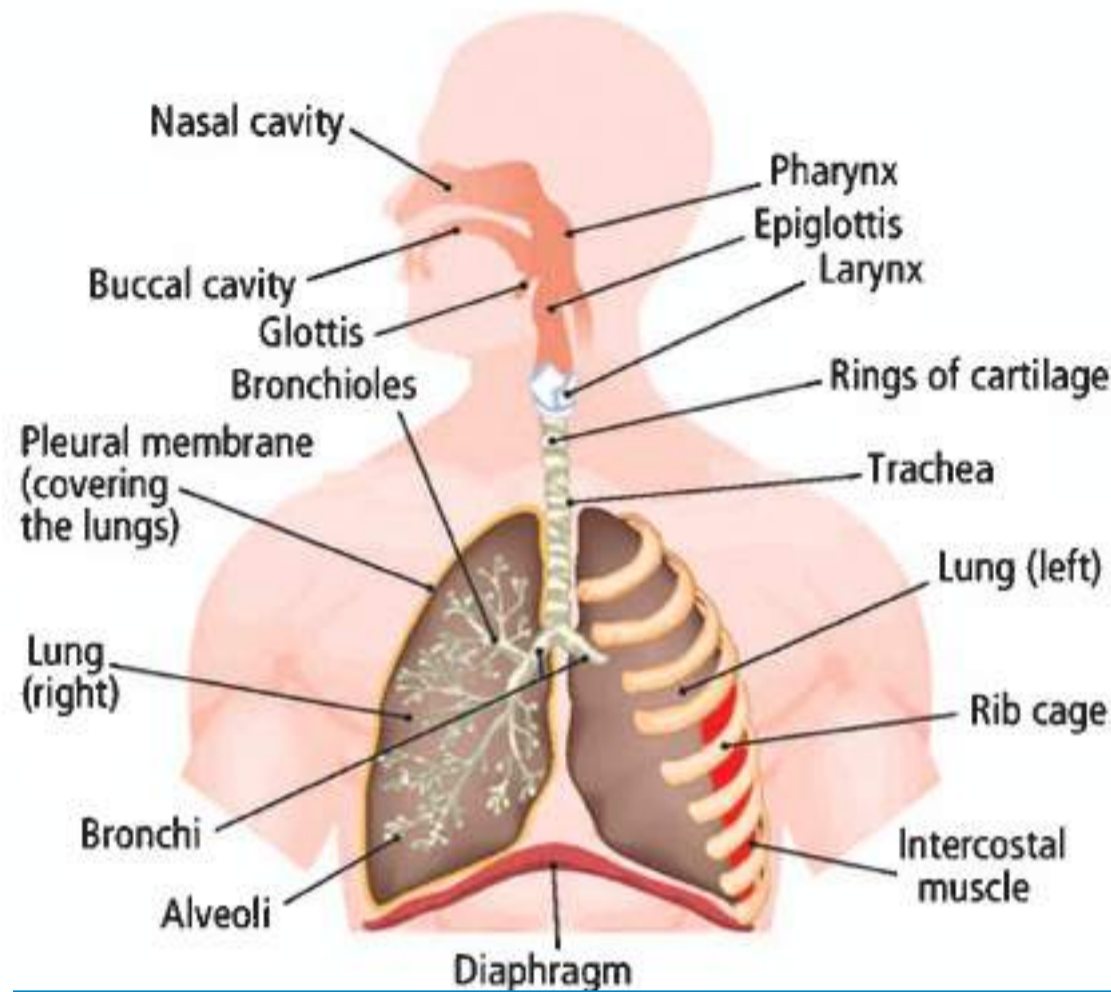


Diagram A - Organs involved in the egressive and ingressive air streams.



Diagram B - The larynx

Specifically, the organs such as Teeth (Upper and lower), Tongue (tip, front and back), Lips, Velum, Uvula, Hard palate and Alveolar ridge play some crucial roles in the process of obstructing and modifying the out-flowing airstream to produce speech sound.

### The lungs and airflow

The manipulation of air begins from the lungs. The airstream that originates in the lungs is called a **pulmonic airstream**. The flow of this stream of air is supported by the **diaphragm** that is located below the

chest and rib cage and above the abdomen. Though we are aware of the outgoing stream of air during speech, we must also know that sound can also be produced from **ingressive air**. Ingressive air is the air which flows inward while the air which flows outward is termed as **egressive air**. Although ingressive air is used to produce a limited number of sounds in English it is more frequently used in African and Arabic languages. However, as it is clear by now, the above facts verify that the respiratory system is the main component in speech production. *Diagram A* illustrates the organs involved in the creation and modification of egressive and ingressive air streams.

### Role of the larynx in modifying the air stream

From the lungs, the air flows towards the larynx. Situated above the trachea, this manipulates the received air by introducing a controlled resistance.

This control is created through vocal cords that clench and tense based on the speed of vibration as the air flows through. The positioning of vocal folds affects this phenomenon. The outcome of this process is articulatory and is called **voicing** or **full voice**. Depending on the intensity of vibration, a buzz is created after certain sounds which is phonetically defined as voicing. While all vowels are voiced, consonants can either be voiced or voiceless. For example, we label the /z/ sound as "voiced" and the /s/ sound as "voiceless" because /z/ vibrates and does not end abruptly like /s/.

See *Diagram B*

In today's article we talked about some of the speech organs and mechanisms involved in the production of human speech sounds. We saw that speech sounds are produced by manipulating an air stream that flows out of lungs and through our vocal tract. Particularly, we discussed the roles of the lungs and larynx in expelling and modifying the air stream to produce the desired sounds and effects on the sounds.

In the next article, we will discuss the roles of the vocal tract and associated organs in the production and effects of speech sounds.  
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## KALINGA SENEVIRATNE

In recent months, there has been alarming one-sided reporting in the so-called mainstream media—both internationally and nationally—that sounds more like public relations handouts from the big pharmaceutical companies from the West. This “vaccine consent” journalism and the labelling of anyone questioning the safety or ethics of the vaccine roll out as “conspiracy theorists” is slowly but surely killing the “watchdog” role of journalism.

The Libertarian Media Function Theory (LMFT) that we have been teaching in mass communication courses for over half a century as the basis of a ‘free media’, says that the media should have absolute freedom to play the role of a “watchdog” and there should be no censorship because the people are rational, and they should be allowed to make up their minds once they receive a diversity of viewpoints from the news media.

The theme of this year’s UNESCO’s World Press Freedom Day (May 3) is ‘Information as a Public Good’ and is focusing on topics such as transparency of online platforms and the importance of media and information literacy. But it is equally important to focus on the transparency of mainstream corporate media and whether they are acting in the public good, when labelling those who wish to raise concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine roll out as “conspiracy theorists”?

The “watchdog” model of journalism has been on the decline around the world in the past two decades and the ‘manufacturing vaccine consent’ journalism we see today vindicates Noam Chomsky’s theory that the libertarian model is dead in the West. He argues, that as the power of corporate media increase, what we have is a “manufacturing consent” model of “propaganda” journalism to promote the interests of whoever owns or funds the media—be it governments or corporations or powerful interest groups.

Robin Marantz Henig writing in the *National Geographic* in July last year noted that, except for AIDS, other recent epidemics—such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in 2012, and Ebola in 2014—did not go global. “It was easy to attribute susceptibility in other countries to behaviours that didn’t exist in ours,” argued Henig.

## “Chinese Virus”

Thus, when COVID-19 spread to the West, the Anglo-American (as well as the Indian) media was quick to grasp US President Donald Trump’s assertion that this is a “Chinese Virus” and politicized the pandemic with reporting sprinkled with racism. This mentality has continued to this day, when non-Western vaccines are dismissed as “untrustworthy” even though medical evidence seems to indicate that these are safer (because these uses tested technology, not new experimentations) and as effective as the Western ones.

This racism led to the initial Chinese concerns of a possible American or European origin of COVID-19 were not taken seriously while calling for an investigation of American concerns about the virus escaping from the Wuhan Institute of Virology was considered—even by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Among Chinese concerns was the closing down of a US army deadly germ research centre in Fort Detrick, Maryland in August 2019 by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over safety concerns.

In October 2019, an exercise called “Event 201”, organised by John Hopkins University’s Centre for Health Security, was held, simulating a pandemic, which causes 65 million deaths. The press release said: “Event 201 simulates an outbreak of a novel Zoonotic Coronavirus transmitted from bats to pigs to people that eventually become efficiently transmissible from person to person, leading to a severe pandemic”.

It goes on to describe the virus as originating in pig farms in Brazil and quietly spreading to the community. It then spreads by air travel to Europe, the US, and China, and ultimately creates health scare chaos globally. The event was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which is also a huge donor to the WHO contributing over \$400 million a year.

While promoting COVID-19 vaccination with evangelical zeal, in an interview with Britain’s Sky News on April 25, Gates opposed the lifting of patents on COVID-19 vaccines, which countries like South Africa and India have been pressing for, to make these more widely available and especially at cheaper prices.

“The thing that’s holding things back, in this case, is not intellectual property,” Gates said. “It’s not like there’s some idle vaccine factory, with regulatory approval, that makes magically safe vaccines. You’ve got to do the trial on these things. And every manufacturing process needs to be looked at in a very careful way.”

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR’S UNESCO’S WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY (MAY 3) IS ‘INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC GOOD’ AND IS FOCUSING ON TOPICS SUCH AS TRANSPARENCY OF ONLINE PLATFORMS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY. BUT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON THE TRANSPARENCY OF MAINSTREAM CORPORATE MEDIA AND WHETHER THEY ARE ACTING IN THE PUBLIC GOOD, WHEN LABELLING THOSE WHO WISH TO RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL OUT AS “CONSPIRACY THEORISTS”?



# Is ‘Vaccine Consent’ Journalism Killing The “Watchdog” Model?



Bill Gates

## A taboo subject

But questioning or investigating the effectiveness of the trials done on the Western vaccines is a taboo subject in the mainstream media today. Even when development of blood clots or deaths following the taking of these vaccines are reported, it is dismissed as “insignificant” compared to millions that have been vaccinated.

In New Zealand, when an airport cleaner who had taken a Western vaccine was diagnosed with COVID-19 in late April, the media covered it up arguing that no vaccine will give 100 percent protection. At the same time, when a Chinese medical officer said that their vaccines don’t yet give protection in the 90 per cent range, this was amplified in the Anglo-American media as an admission of the ineffectiveness of the Chinese vaccines.

But, when a peer reviewed article in the British medical journal *Lancet* said

Russia’s Sputnik V was found to be about 95 percent effective after clinical trials, that news was basically ignored or downplayed by the same media.

According to an analysis released on April 22 by the People’s Vaccine Alliance, major western vaccine producers—Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and AstraZeneca—have paid out a combined \$26 billion in dividends and stock buybacks to their shareholders over the past year. The new report notes that Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna are projecting revenues of \$33.5 billion this year from their mRNA vaccines.

In recent weeks, there have been many video clips circulated through social media sites where Western activists have accused the rich pharmaceutical companies of using their financial resources to influence the mainstream media to promote their vaccines. UNESCO should be investigating these as part of their media literacy programmes.

Many of the western countries’ inability to control the pandemic compared to initial successes in Asia (except for India), has badly dented Western egos. As 2020 was coming to an end, it seems they were racing to prove that they were still the masters of knowledge and the sciences.

But when the Russians beat them by launching the Sputnik V vaccine the Western media dismissed it as not properly tested.

But no such questions were asked when the Pfizer vaccine was launched a couple of months later. President Trump hailed it as a “medical miracle” and said the vaccine “will save millions of lives and soon end the pandemic.”

Writing in the *South China Morning Post* recently, Chandran Nair, the founder and CEO of the Hong Kong based Global Institute for Tomorrow noted that for months, the Russian, Chinese, and Indian vaccines have been dismissed

as a serious option to combat COVID-19 and viewed with suspicion.

## Deep-rooted racism

Looking at the way the world talks about non-Western vaccines shows “structural Western privilege and deep-rooted racism” argues Nair. He adds that when Sinovac’s Brazilian partner noted an efficacy rate of around 50 percent for preventing mild illness, Western commentators jumped on it while ignoring the far more positive news on Sinovac’s ability to stop moderate and severe illness.

“However, when Johnson & Johnson released similar numbers in their trial, the vaccine was still hailed as an important addition to the vaccine portfolio ... in preventing moderate to severe illness—much like Sinovac’s offering” Nair points out.

According to *Bloomberg’s* ‘Vaccine Tracker’ 6 of the 10 top countries in the world on a dose per capita basis, use the Russian, Chinese and Indian vaccines. 57 countries according to recent statistics have ordered Russia’s Sputnik V and this includes three European countries—Austria, Hungary and Slovenia—even though EU medical authorities are yet reviewing it.

While the international media focused on whether the WHO would approve a proposal to investigate the origins of COVID-19, the World Health Assembly in November 2020 adopted a much more important resolution that the international response to the pandemic should be considered a “global public good” and any unjustified obstacles must be removed. It was specifically pointed out that flexibilities allowed in the World Trade Organisation’s TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) need to be strengthened.

On October 2, 2020, India and South Africa had presented a proposal for a waiver of a number of provisions in the TRIPS agreement as a legal-institutional

response to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Western nations, particularly the US, UK, Canada, and EU are resisting such changes to the IPR regime that favours big pharmaceutical companies.

While ‘Big Pharma’ resists shedding any of their controls over IPRs, the media need to investigate how much public monies have been spent on vaccination development that these companies are benefiting from. This is “watchdog” journalism in the public interest.

## Beneficiaries of research

In an article in the *World University News* (WUN), questions were raised on who is benefiting from years of research in public funded universities in vaccine development since the SARS and MERS epidemic. For example, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use what is called mRNA research. “Basic research on DNA vaccines began at least 25 years ago and RNA vaccines have benefited from 10 to 15 years of strong research,” says immunologist Akiko Iwasaki of Yale School of Medicine.

WUN also points out that the Moderna vaccine has benefited from university research that used RNA sequencing to attack earlier Coronavirus strains such as SARS and MERS. Thus, Moderna has collaborated with Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania to develop their vaccine, while Astra Zeneca use a different ‘viral vector’ technology, it has worked with Oxford University and benefited from years of research into selecting the vector.

WUN points out that Pfizer has not taken any US federal government money to avoid any government control of their IPR, but Bill Gates Foundation has helped to “surcharge the research”. With Gates so passionately promoting the uptake of Western vaccines, the media needs to question his financial stakes in such vaccines. He also needs to be questioned about what made him fund “Event 201” and his continuing advocacy of vaccines that benefit a handful of pharmaceutical companies. After all, a major emphasis of the “watchdog” theory is that journalists must question people in powerful positions.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank (ADB)—which is controlled by Japan and Western governments—announced on March 12 that they will be giving a loan of US\$ 400 million to the Philippines to buy vaccines and the vaccines they could buy are only the ones approved by the WHO (so far it is only Western ones). The ADB will pay the vaccine manufacturers direct, and the Philippines has to pay back the loan within 10 years. Philippines is the first recipient of ADB’s new \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX).

If the Chinese offered such a loan to buy Chinese vaccines the Western media will be shouting their guts out claiming this is a “debt trap”. The ADB loan sniff of such a trap and the ethics of this should be questioned.

“The big question is whether Western nations can shed their sense of superiority and moral authority which is integral to their approach to actively retaining and preserving economic power within the globalised system, at a time when they are feeling most insecure from the rise of others such as China,” argues Nair.

## Media focus on COVID-19

As we focus on press freedom on May 3, it is also important to question the focus of especially Western mainstream media reporting of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There has been far too much focus on deaths and COVID-19 test results, and the recovery rates have all but ignored. Currently in India, some 19 million have tested positive to COVID-19 and about 200,000 have died, but that means 18.8 million have recovered. Same applies to the US, where 33.1 million have tested positive and just over 590,000 have died, which means about 32.5 million have recovered.

If the recovery rates were emphasized instead of death rates, would there have been less fear generated in the community? After all, every year most countries go through a flu epidemic where thousands die, and millions recover. We have learned to live with it because the media has not focused on death rates.

There is also another important issue that needs to be addressed on World Press Freedom Day. That is how, civil liberties have been curtailed around the world to fight the pandemic. Forget the Global South, Western nations have used “bio-security” protocols or laws to muzzle the media that question government policies such as lockdowns, vaccine passports and freedom of assembly.

As mentioned earlier, the very essence of a “free media” is access to a diversity of viewpoints. The media need to facilitate it if it is going to be the “watchdog”.

The writer is the author of ‘Myth of Free Media and Fake News in the Post-Truth Era’ (Sage 2020).

[IDN-InDepthNews]



Sinopharm vaccine



AstraZeneca vaccine



Pfizer vaccine



Sputnik V vaccine



Aerial photo taken on October 31, 2020 shows a view of Dulongjiang Township in Gongshan Derung and Nu Autonomous County, Southwest China's Yunnan Province – Xinhua/Hu Chao

#### QI ZHENHONG

Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka

In February, Chinese President Xi Jinping solemnly declared that China has secured a victory in its fight against poverty and the arduous task of eradicating extreme poverty has been accomplished. That means the largest developing country, home to nearly one fifth of the world's population, completes the first target of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, which is an outstanding achievement in the history of humanity.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, in his phone conversation with President Xi Jinping on March 29, expressed a wish to learn governance experience from the Communist Party of China (CPC), strengthen exchanges and cooperation on poverty alleviation, and promote alignment of the "Gama Samaga Pilisandarak" (Dialogue with the Village) together with China's "Targeted Poverty Alleviation" and "Rural Vitalization" strategy. The Government of Sri Lanka has also established two specialist Presidential Task Forces, on Economic Revival and Poverty Eradication, and for "Gama Samaga Pilisandarak" rural development. Poverty alleviation has become another important field of China-Sri Lanka cooperation.

What is the secret behind China's victory in eliminating extreme poverty? I would like to bring your attention to the white paper "Poverty Alleviation: China's Experience and Contribution" issued recently by China's State Council Information Office and share some of China's practices and experiences, in hope of contributing to Sri Lanka's pursuit of reducing poverty.

China is the world's largest developing country, with a population of 1.4 billion. In addition to its weak foundations and uneven development, the nation had long been plagued by poverty. From the middle of the 19th century, foreign aggression and the decadence of the imperial dynasty reduced China to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society, and hundreds of millions of its people were plunged into poverty or even extreme poverty. Poverty in China is at a scale and a level of severity that has rarely been seen anywhere else in the world. As a result, the challenge of poverty alleviation in China almost defies imagination. But the Chinese people have fought with fortitude to realize their dream – achieving economic prosperity, national rejuvenation, and a happy and better life.

Getting rid of poverty is not only an assiduous goal of Chinese people, but a solemn commitment made by the Communist Party of China. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC. The CPC has taken the happiness of the people and rejuvenation of the nation as its aspiration since its founding. Always regarding poverty alleviation as an important task for ensuring national peace and stability, the CPC has highlighted poverty alleviation at national level when setting its guidelines, principles and policies, and when formulating national plans for medium- and long-term development, and has pooled national resources to advance this cause. China's historic poverty alleviation achievement is a result of strong and outstanding leadership of the CPC.

During the New Democratic Revolution period (1919-1949), the CPC led the people to launch the Agrarian Revolution to realize the goal of "the land to the tiller", overthrew the rule of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism, and won victory in the New Democratic Revolution and established the People's Republic of China in 1949, cre-



A rural doctor measures blood pressure of a villager of the Derung ethnic group at Bapo Village of Dulongjiang Township in Gongshan Derung and Nu Autonomous County, Southwest China's Yunnan Province, October 26, 2020 – Xinhua/Hu Chao

ating the political conditions it needed to eradicate poverty.

Since the founding of the PRC, the CPC led the people to complete the Socialist Revolution (1949-1956), establish the socialist system and promote socialist development. Under the leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people determined to rely on themselves and strived to build their homeland with strong determination and concerted effort, which laid solid foundation for the improvement of people's living and poverty alleviation.

Since the Reform and Opening Up (1978), the CPC united and led the people to carry out a massive, planned, well-organized poverty alleviation effort at the national level, put forth efforts to liberate and boost the productive forces, to guarantee and improve people's living, and made unprecedented achievements.

China marched into a new era after the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012. The CPC Central Committee with General Secretary Xi Jinping at the core, takes the desire of the people for a better life as its goal and takes poverty alleviation as a key task and index of the realization of the First Centenary Goal. The CPC set the goals that by 2020 it would help all the rural population out of poverty as defined by the existing standard, mobilizing the whole Party, the whole country, and all sectors of society to engage in this battle. President Xi Jinping has always put poverty alleviation at the top of his work agenda, presented a series of important ideas and proposals, and made some major policy decisions.

During the past eight years, President Xi Jinping has assumed leadership, made plans, and directed the battle in person. He has visited every one of the 14 contiguous poor areas across the country and over 20 poor villages, and sat in the homes of impoverished households to hear of their difficulties, suggestions, and needs, building up their confidence and determination, and their belief that they can work their way out of poverty. In 2020, faced with the sudden attack of COVID-19, Xi emphasised that lifting poor people in the rural areas out of poverty "must be achieved as scheduled" and asked the whole Party to apply more determination and more vigour, and to be confident of bringing the battle to a successful end.

Under the leadership of the CPC, China secured the final victory in the fight against extreme poverty. At the end of 2020, the 98.99 million people in rural areas who were living below the current poverty threshold all shook off poverty; all the 128,000 impoverished villages and 832 designated poor counties got rid of poverty. China has eliminated poverty over entire regions and eradicated extreme poverty. Those people have guarantees of adequate food and clothing, access to compulsory education, basic medical services, safe housing for impoverished rural residents, and safe drinking water. Some 19.36 million impoverished people have been covered by rural subsistence allowances or extreme poverty relief funds. The systems for providing living allowances for poor people with disabilities and

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# How China Eradicated Extreme Poverty

(PART I)



Aerial photo taken on July 1, 2020 shows a view of Fenghua Town of Suiyang County, Southwest China's Guizhou Province – Xinhua/Yang Ying

nursing subsidies for severely disabled persons cover more than 24 million. The poverty-stricken areas get rid of backwardness, with 1.1 million km of reconstructed highways and 35,000 km of new railways. More remote areas are connected to power grids, and almost all rural areas enjoy a steady power supply. Over 98 percent of poor villages have access to optical fibre communications and 4G technology. A total of 25.68 million poor from 7.9 million households have had their dilapidated mud-and-straw cottages renovated. More than 9.6 million people have moved into new resettlement houses. Millions upon millions of children from poor families have fair access to education, and no longer need to walk across mountains and river to their schools, being able to live and eat there.

Looking back, the past 100 years have witnessed the strenuous and difficult process whereby the CPC has led the Chinese people in the battle against poverty. The Party has committed itself to the original aspiration of seeking happiness for the people, taken on its responsibility for the people, honoured its promise to the people, and made huge sacrifices in fighting to win national independence and people's liberation, to make China prosperous and strong, and to bring common prosperity to all. In the process it has won the support and trust of the people. Under the leadership of the CPC, Chinese people have never faltered in pursuit of progress, have put in unimaginable efforts, and have relied on themselves to eradicate extreme poverty, and march towards shared all-round prosperity. Under the leadership of the CPC, China has stood tall, become prosperous, and grown in overall national strength. The protection of the rights to subsistence and development, and the promotion of equality and justice have laid solid foundations for well-rounded human development.

Looking forward to the future, China remains the world's largest developing country, still confronted by the gap between unbalanced and inadequate development and the people's growing desire for a better life, and by the gaps between urban and rural areas and between regions. China still has much to do in order to realise people's all-round development and common prosperity for all. Removing the label of extreme poverty is not the end, but the beginning of a new life and a new journey. The CPC will always put the people before everything else, and continue to work for people's all-round development, and common prosperity and a better life for all. It will always remain committed to its founding mission, striving for the people's wellbeing and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

**During the past eight years, President Xi Jinping has assumed leadership, made plans, and directed the battle in person. He has visited every one of the 14 contiguous poor areas across the country and over 20 poor villages, and sat in the homes of impoverished households to hear of their difficulties, suggestions, and needs, building up their confidence and determination, and their belief that they can work their way out of poverty.**



Villagers harvest fresh peppers at Qinggangba Village, Tangtou Township in Sinan County of Southwest China's Guizhou Province, August 12, 2020 – Xinhua/Yang Wenbin

# Stalin set to be Tamil Nadu Chief Minister as DMK wins after 10 years

**INDIA:** The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) led by M K Stalin was on Sunday elected to power in Tamil Nadu after a gap of 10 years. The Secular Progressive Alliance led by it either won or established leads in 156 seats in the 234-member House in an election held for the first time without the towering presence of two stalwarts, DMK president M. Karunanidhi and AIADMK leader Jayalalithaa.

Stalin, who was Deputy Chief Minister in an earlier DMK regime [2006-11], is set to become Chief Minister, as the DMK moves towards a majority of its own, expecting to bag 125 seats late on Sunday night.

The DMK fielded candidates in 173 seats [including some of its allies who contested on rising sun symbol], while 15 candidates from alliance partners

contested on their respective symbols. The AIADMK under outgoing Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami put up a decent fight and as per trends was expected to bag about 66 seats, while its allies PMK and BJP were leading in five and four seats respectively.

It was a creditable performance, as it came just two years after it was routed by the DMK alliance in the Lok Sabha elections. The National Democratic Alliance led by it and comprising the BJP and Pattali Makkal Katchi was expected to win 78 seats.

The election results reinforced the bipolar nature of Tamil Nadu politics dominated by the DMK and AIADMK as like in 2016, this time too no candidate outside this alliance is set to enter the Assembly. All candidates of

fielded by the alliances led by Makkal Needhi Maiam of actor Kamal Haasan; Naam Tamilar Katchi led by Seeman and Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam founded by TTV Dhinakaran were headed for defeat. This was a repeat of 2016 when only candidates of AIADMK and DMK fronts won.

The Congress, which is part of the DMK alliance, performed well, and as per trends is touted to increase its presence in the Assembly to 17 from a mere eight seats in 2016. The party, in the process, redeemed its name as a creditable performer, as it was seen as pulling down the alliance when it won only eight out of 41 seats last time. This time, it was allotted 25 seats and it also won the Kanniyakumari Lok Sabha seat, where a bypoll was held.

- THE HINDU



President of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), MK Stalin pays a floral tribute to his father and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi at his memorial in Chennai.

## BJP, ALLIES RETAIN POWER IN ASSAM

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its regional allies retained power in Assam, staving off the challenge of a 10-party grand alliance led by the Congress and a new regional front sired by the 2019 protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

The BJP and its allies, the Asom Gana Parishad and the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), had won 46 of 68 seats declared at the time of reporting, and were leading in 27 other seats.

The Congress and its two major allies — the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF), an estranged partner of the BJP — had won the remaining 22 declared so far.

The BJP's development plank and sops for tea plantation workers, a deciding factor in at least 45 of Assam's 126 Assembly constituencies, apparently overrode regionalism and perceived anti-CAA sentiments. Polarisation of voters with AIUDF president and MP Badruddin Ajmal having been projected as the "future of



BJP supporters celebrating party's victory in Assam.

Assam" in the event of a Mahajot victory also played a role.

Both the BJP and the Congress had claimed their respective alliances would win more than 100 seats. But while the

strategies of the saffron camp worked, the Congress-led group could not cash in on a set of guarantees, including the scrapping of CAA if voted to power. The vote share of the BJP and

the Congress this time was almost the same as in 2016 but the combinations and alliances seemed to have made the difference for both.

- THE HINDU

## MAMATA wins West Bengal

With almost all the results counted, the Trinamool Congress party (TMC) led by the state's Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has won more than 200 seats in the 294-seat assembly.

The results are set to make Ms Banerjee the leader of West Bengal for a third time. She is also India's only woman chief minister. Celebrating the win, she said West Bengal had "saved" India with the result and tackling Covid-19 would be her first priority. Victory was soured by the loss of her seat in Nandigram to a former aide turned BJP defector. She has said she will challenge the result in court but may have to run again



Mamata Banerjee

to remain chief minister. West Bengal, home to 90 million people and the city of Kolkata, is of particular interest to election watchers. It is one of the few states that have never been ruled by Mr Modi's Hindu nationalist BJP.

Despite the defeat, this vote saw the BJP win

nearly 80 seats to become the main opposition party. In the 2016 vote, the party had won just three seats there.

Analysis Although assembly elections were held in five Indian states, the real battle was over West Bengal.

- INDIA TODAY

### Deadly boat collision May 3



## 26 killed in Bangladesh boat accident

At least 26 people were killed when a speedboat packed with passengers collided with a vessel transporting sand on Monday in the latest maritime disaster to hit Bangladesh.

Police said the speedboat carrying about three dozen passengers from the town of Mawa rammed into the other vessel in the Padma river as it neared the

main river station in the central rural town of Shibchar.

"We have so far recovered 26 bodies including a woman. We have also rescued five injured people including three children," police official Amir Hossain told Agencies.

Hossain said the bow of the passenger boat was destroyed when the speedboat smashed into

the side of the transport vessel, sinking in the river in minutes.

"Police, the fire brigade and army rescue teams are on the spot, conducting search and rescue work," he said.

Witness Abdur Rahman said there was a loud noise when the boats collided and the vessels then overturned. "When we rushed to the spot we found the

speedboat torn into two pieces. Hundreds of villagers immediately started conducting rescue work before they were joined by police and the fire brigade," he said.

Bangladesh is building the country's largest road and railway bridge near the accident spot and police said officers were immediately at the scene.

- FRANCE 24

## Actor Kamal Haasan loses Coimbatore South



MNM Chief Kamal Haasan lost the Coimbatore South seat to the BJP's Vanathi Srinivasan (R).

Kamal Haasan, who made his electoral debut with the TN assembly elections, made a surprise move by choosing Coimbatore (south) as his constituency while he was expected to contest from Chennai.

Actor and Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) founder Kamal Haasan on Sunday lost Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore (South) constituency to Bharatiya Janata Party's Vanathi Srinivasan by a thin margin of 1,540 votes, in the state assembly elections. The Election Commission declared the result after 26 rounds of

counting. Earlier in the day, the Congress's Mayura Jayakumar was also leading in this seat but has now been relegated to the third position.

As per official data from the Election Commission of India as of 10 pm, Srinivasan was leading with 45,932 votes, Haasan 45,042 and Jayakumar 39,413.

Haasan, who made his electoral debut with the TN assembly elections, made a surprise move by choosing Coimbatore (south) as his constituency while he was expected to contest from Chennai.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

## Pakistan tightens borders as COVID-19 cases soar

Pakistan has closed land crossings with Iran and Afghanistan for travellers and slashed international flights as the government warned of a "critical" few weeks ahead in the battle against COVID-19.

The border restrictions were announced Sunday as the country prepared to mark the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which usually sees the mass movement of people between cities and villages as well as the return of migrant workers and overseas Pakistanis for celebrations.

Pakistani officials have anxiously watched the coronavirus crisis unfolding in neighbouring India.

The Civil Aviation Authority said Saturday that from Wednesday, 80 percent of flights would be suspended for two weeks, mainly from the Middle East, until mid-May when the Eid holidays are over.

Foot crossings with Iran and Afghanistan would also be sealed, the country's coronavirus task force said, adding that trade would be exempt.

Flights and land crossings

with neighbouring India were closed before the pandemic because of political tensions.

Pakistan is struggling to contain a third wave of infections, with more than 800,000 cases and 18,000 deaths declared. Only a small fraction of its 220 million population has been vaccinated.

Planning minister Asad Umar, who has been leading the Government response to the outbreak, said the next two weeks are "critical", as health authorities rushed to increase intensive care capacity. Last year, Pakistan saw a spike in cases following Ramadan and Eid. Mosques have remained open throughout the month of Ramadan, with few adhering to social distancing guidelines during huge nightly gatherings of worshippers.

- FRANCE 24



Pakistan has mobilised its military to help enforce coronavirus restrictions.

<b>DATE</b> 2021.05.02	<b>SUNDAY</b> OFFICIAL RESULTS	www.nlb.lk	
<b>MAHAJANA SAMPATHA</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 4469</b> Value of prizes won in this draw <b>Rs. 8,371,260.00</b>	
<b>WINNING LETTER</b> C	<b>WINNING NUMBERS</b> 5 0 0 9 7 9	<b>THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 13,774,571.60</b>	
<b>Govisetha</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 2764</b> <b>TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 4,283,120.00</b>	
<b>WINNING LETTER</b> H	<b>WINNING NUMBERS</b> 24 30 36 39	<b>THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 69,791,221.20</b>	
<b>SEVANA</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 334</b> <b>TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 1,563,060.00</b>	
<b>ENGLISH LETTER</b> I	<b>WINNING NUMBERS</b> 07 11 30 52	<b>THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 14,000,000.00</b>	
<b>Dhana Nidhanaya</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 506</b> <b>TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 3,430,960.00</b>	
<b>ENGLISH LETTER</b> H	<b>WINNING NUMBERS</b> 12 47 56 74	<b>THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 95,850,982.00</b>	
<b>DARU DIRI SAMPATHA</b>		<b>DRAW NUMBER : 36</b> <b>TOTAL PRIZE WON IN THIS DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 2,062,820.00</b>	
<b>ENGLISH LETTER</b> J	<b>WINNING NUMBERS</b> 23 41 44 74	<b>THE SUPER PRIZE OF THE NEXT DRAW</b> <b>Rs. 7,252,258.80</b>	
<b>02.05.2021 - TOTAL PRIZE WINNERS PRODUCED BY NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD 488,335</b>			
<b>TOTAL PRIZE MONEY DISTRIBUTED AMONG WINNERS Rs. 19,711,220.00</b>			
<b>Rs. 2,000,000 PRIZES 01   Rs. 1,000,000 PRIZES 01   Rs. 100,000 PRIZES 16</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Winning Prizes above Rs. 500,000 are subject to government taxes</li> <li>Winner has to submit National ID when receiving Prizes</li> <li>All Winning lotteries are valid only for 06 months from Draw Date</li> </ul>			
		ජාතික ලොটারිස් මණ්ඩලය ദേശീയ ട്രെയ്ഡ് ട്രസ്റ്റ് കമ്പനി National Lotteries Board Tel: 011-4607000, 011-2324324 Fax: 011-4669416	
32, Deshamanya N. W. J. Mudalige Mawatha, Colombo - 01.			

Tissa Weva



Danigala Alien Mountain



# The UNSOLVED MYSTERY of Sri Lanka's STARGATE

In recent years, the Internet has been alight with speculation that a chart-like carving in Anuradhapura is a stargate: An ancient gateway through which humans can enter the Universe.

**DEMI PERERA**

Sri Lanka's Sacred City of Anuradhapura is an unlikely place to be enmeshed in a fantastic tale of UFOs and otherworldly happenings. Locally known as Rajarata (Land of Kings), the UNESCO World Heritage Site was the first established kingdom on the island (in 377 BC) and is at the heart of Sri Lanka's Buddhist culture. Today, it is one of the nation's most visited places, attracting devoted pilgrims from around the country to its ancient Buddhist temples and giant dome-shaped stupas.

But this holy city is also home to something far more curious. Here, in Ranmasu Uyana (Golden Fish Park), a 40-acre ancient urban park surrounded by three Buddhist temples, is a chart that is alleged to be a map to unlock the secrets of the universe.

Measuring around 1.8m in diameter, Sakwala Chakraya (which translates to "Universe Cycle" in Sinhalese) is shallowly carved onto a low rock face among the protected park ruins. Its front facade can only be seen from ground level. In fact, four seats have been sculpted into a flat rock surface opposite that provide the ideal viewing area. Both the map and seats, which are also of mysterious origin, have puzzled historians, archaeologists and academics for more than a century.

"Ranmasu Uyana was used for a prolonged period in history," said Professor Raj Somadeva, Senior Professor of Archaeology at the Kelaniya University. "The second major developmental phase seems to have begun in the Seventh Century CE. During that period, several new buildings were added to the earlier garden layout. The chart could be a work of this period, but it is impossible to know because its existence, function or anything related to it is not mentioned in any historic records, which were meticulously kept by Buddhist monks."

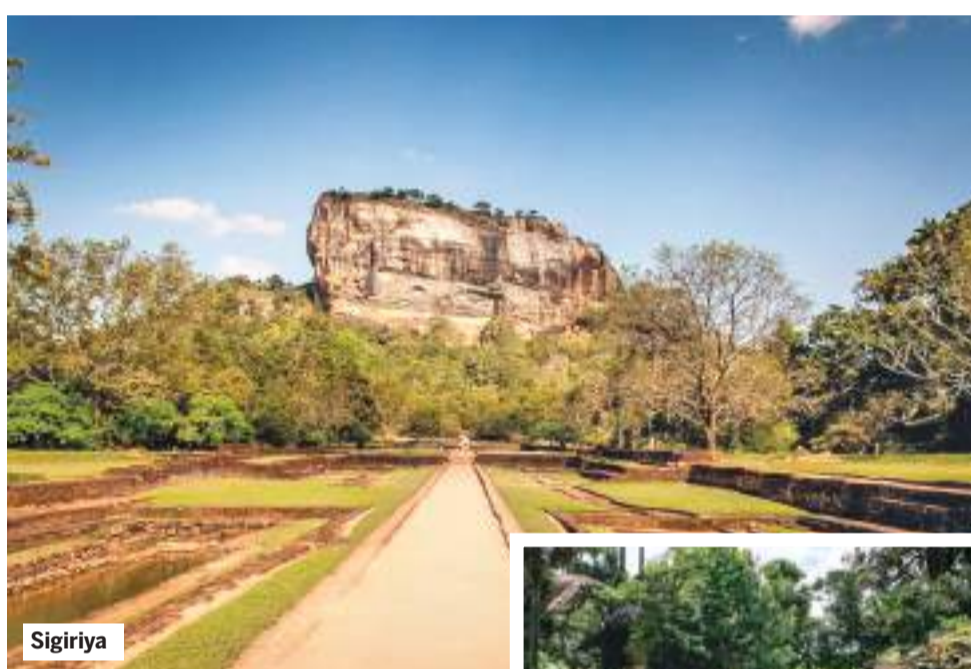
While little is known about the chart and its purpose, the iconography is incompatible with other carvings of the Anuradhapura period (3rd-10th Century AD). The chart's centre is made up of seven concentric circles divided by parallel vertical and horizontal lines. Rectangular compartments contain small, crossed circles. To the untrained eye, there are figures resembling umbrellas or bow and arrows, a kite, wavy lines and cylindrical shapes. An outer ring depicts marine animals: fish, turtles and seahorses.

When compared to other carvings from the same period such as the Sandakada Pahana (moonstone), which depicts vines, swans and a lotus, all typical of Buddhist iconography, the chart is without religious context, leaving it without an obvious explanation as to why it is here.

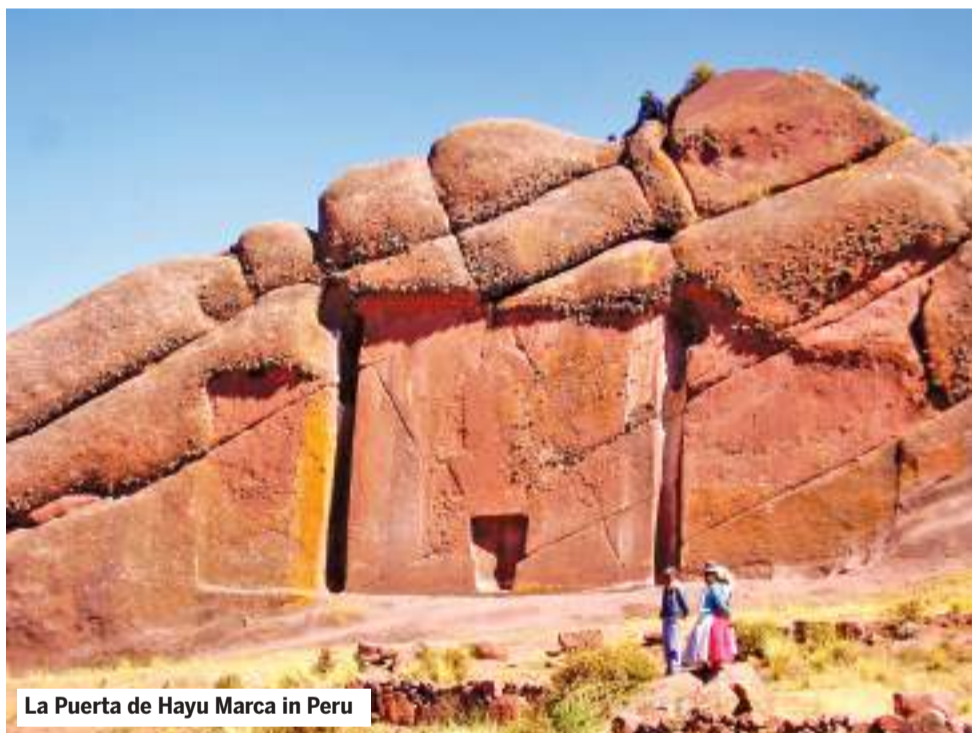
This has left it wide open to online speculation. Before the dawn of the internet, the chart garnered little attention in Sri Lanka. It is thought to have survived here, tucked away at the edge of a boulder, after the fall of the Anuradhapura Kingdom; unremarkable in comparison to its breath-taking surroundings complete with twin ponds and bathing pavilions believed to have been used by kings. In fact, if aliens did arrive on Earth through here, they couldn't have picked a nicer place – these sacred temple grounds, cloaked in thick, tropical jungle, are mostly uninhabited and protected by the authorities.



H.C.P. Bell



Sigiriya



La Puerta de Hayu Marca in Peru

The first academic to note the chart's archaeological importance was H.C.P. Bell, a British civil servant appointed as the first Commissioner of Archaeology of Ceylon (Sri Lanka's former name). Bell included a description of the chart in his 1911 report for the Governor of Ceylon, where he concluded that, "This ancient 'map of the world', perhaps the oldest in existence, is of quite extraordinary interest. Its presence... testifies to the antiquity of that astronomical lore still pursued in some of the Buddhist monasteries of Ceylon."

While the chart does not resemble a map in a modern sense, Bell wrote that it depicts "an old-time cosmographical chart illustrating in naivest simplicity the Buddhistic notions of the universe". He interpreted the circles, the symbols and marine life on the chart, based on his knowledge of Buddhism on the island, to mean the Earth, the Seas, Outer Space and the Universe.

While discussions around the chart for many years were mainly confined within academic circles due to its historically important location, the explosion of photo-sharing on social media over the last few years has shone a global spotlight on the mystery. Eagle-eyed tourists have remarked on parallels between the chart in Anuradhapura and similar sites in other countries that are believed by some to be stargates – ancient gateways through which humans could enter the universe. Their theory goes that the chart holds the secret code for unlocking the portal.

Conspiracy theorists noted that the stargate of Anuradhapura had near-identical shapes and symbols to those found at Abu Ghurab in Egypt and La Puerta de Hayu Marca in Peru. The most striking similarity, it was said, as speculation around Sri Lanka's stargate reached its peak, is its proximity to water. The nearby Tissa Weva reservoir, built in 300 BC, has been thrown around as conclusive evidence, since both Abu Ghurab and La Puerta de Hayu Marca were also built near water, which, according to the stargate theory, allowed extra-terrestrial beings to process gold from Earth's water.

This otherworldly theory has been further fuelled by the chart's proximity to Danigala Mountain, also known as Alien Mountain, in the nearby sacred city of Polonnaruwa. Danigala, which lies deep in the jungle and is pop-

ular with hikers, has a unique circular shape and an entirely flat top. This led internet sleuths to conclude that it must have, at one time, been used for UFO landings. Strangely, according to Sri Abeywickrama, a local tour guide, "villagers in the area do believe that the Alien Mountain attracts more shooting stars and thunder and lightning above it than anywhere else."

However, according to Somadeva, "There is little archaeological to suggest that it is a stargate." Instead, Somadeva believes a more sensible conclusion is that the chart is an early map of the world, as suggested by Bell, because that explanation has religious and cosmological context that is logical, given the period and place in time.

According to Somadeva, "At least since 250 BCE, Sri Lankans had a clear idea of objects in the sky and outer space. In early Brahmi inscriptions, found in Sri Lanka, there are a number of names that refer to specific stars and concepts related to astronomy. One of the inscriptions in Kirinda, a religious and historic site on Sri Lanka's Southern coast, contains the phrase 'aparimita loka datuya' meaning 'the infinite universe'. What it suggests is that the person who engraved it had a very good understanding of the nature of the universe they lived in."

However, Shereen Almendra, senior lecturer of landscape design at the Moratuwa University, offers a different, more earthly perspective. "I think the Sakwala Chakraya chart is a plan for a complex project similar to the enormous stupas that were being built at the time," she said. "I lean towards it being a plan for the Sigiriya rock."

According to Somadeva, the greatest challenge in identifying the function of the chart has been the lack of evidence to correctly date it. While Ranmasu Uyana and other parks and stupas in Anuradhapura are mentioned in chronicles and inscriptions dating as far back as 250 BC, the Sakwala Chakraya is not described in any historical records. "There would definitely have been a practical use for this diagram but it is a huge challenge to figure out what that might have been when we cannot correctly date it," he said.

So it seems that Sri Lanka's enigmatic alleged stargate remains shrouded in mystery, its purpose and meaning still lost to time. The chart's newly acquired cult status amongst sci-fi enthusiasts, however, has finally given it some well-deserved public attention. Thanks to their enthusiasm and the power of social media, it has finally stepped out of the shadow of larger-than-life Anuradhapura to stand apart on its own. (BBC)

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Opposite the chart, four seats sculpted into rock provide an ideal viewing area



Sakwala Chakraya



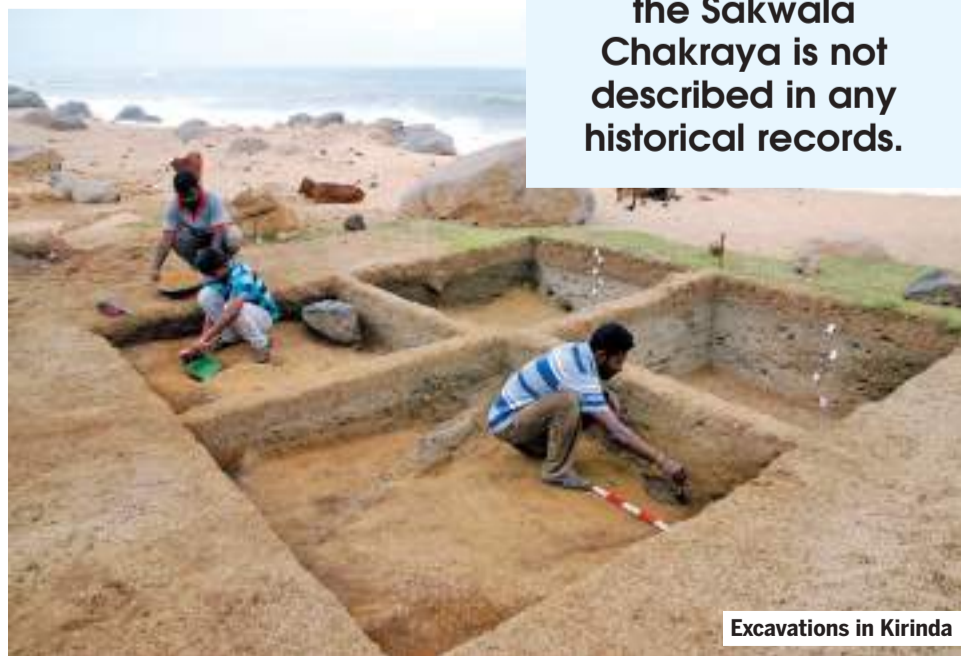
Ranmasu Uyana

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Excavations in Kirinda

# UK to send 1,000 more ventilators to Indian hospitals

## Modi-Johnson virtual talks today

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will hold a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday to agree a "huge range" of commitments to deepen cooperation between the two countries, including on combating the coronavirus pandemic, Downing Street said on Sunday.

The Government confirmed the talks schedule as it said that 1,000 more ventilators will be sent from the UK's surplus supply to Indian hospitals to help the most severe COVID cases, in addition to 200 ventilators, 495 oxygen concentrators and three oxygen generation units the UK announced as part of the assistance package last week.

"On Tuesday the Prime Minister will hold a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Modi to agree a huge range of commitments to deepen cooperation between the UK and India, including on fighting the coronavirus pandemic," Downing Street said.

"During his call with Prime Minister Modi, the Prime Minister will emphasise the importance of working with India to promote our shared values," it added.

Besides the offer of much-needed equipment, the UK government said that England's Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty and Chief Scientific Adviser Patrick Vallance have spoken to their Indian counterparts to provide advice, insight and expertise to the Indian healthcare system as it deals with one of the world's worst surges in COVID levels. It has been agreed that the National Health Service (NHS) is to establish a clinical advisory group led by NHS England Chief People Officer Prerana Isar to support India's COVID response.

"The UK will always be there for India in its time of need," said Johnson.

"The terrible images we have seen in India in recent weeks are all the more powerful because of the close and enduring connection between the people of



Ground staff unload the COVID-19 coronavirus medical supplies from France, upon the arrival of a cargo plane at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi on May 2, 2021.

the UK and India. I am deeply moved by the surge of support the British people have provided to the people of India and am pleased the UK government has been able to play our part in providing life-saving assistance," he said.

The new NHS advisory group effort will work with Indian institutions such as the All India Institute of Medical Services (AIIMS) to share experience on managing COVID outbreaks.

The group will include researchers in public and global health, alongside nursing and other health professionals who have experience of the Indian healthcare system.

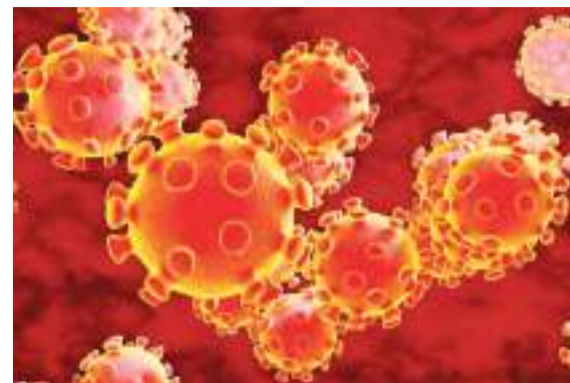
"This support will help urgently meet some of India's acute needs, particularly oxygen for patients. We are determined to help our Indian friends in their hour of need," said UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who will be hosting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Britain for the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers Meeting and bilateral talks next

- INDIA TODAY



Foreign aid pours into India.

# Indian scientists flag virus mutations that could 'evade immune response'



A forum of scientific advisers set up by the Indian government has told authorities about minor mutations in some samples of the coronavirus that could "possibly evade immune response" and require more study, a leader of the forum has told Agencies.

However the advisers said while they were flagging the mutations, there was no reason currently to believe they were expanding or could be dangerous.

Scientists are studying what led to the current surge in cases in India and particularly whether a variant first detected in the country, called B.1.617, is to blame. The World Health Organization has not declared the Indian variant a "variant of concern," as it has done for variants first detected in Britain, Brazil and South Africa. But the WHO said on April 27 that its early modelling, based on genome sequencing, suggested that B.1.617 had a higher growth rate than other variants circulating in India.

The forum of advisers, known as the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genetics Consortium, or INSACOG, has now found more mutations in the coronavirus that it thinks need to be tracked closely.

"We are seeing some mutation coming up in some

A long period of infection raises concerns about the development of viral mutations.

samples that could possibly evade immune responses," said Shahid Jameel, chair of the scientific advisory group of INSACOG and a top Indian virologist. He did not say if the mutations have been seen in the Indian variant or any other strain.

"Unless you culture those viruses and test them in the lab, you can't say for sure. At this point, there is no reason to believe that they are expanding or if they can be dangerous, but we flagged it so that we keep our eye on the ball," he said.

INSACOG brings together 10 national research laboratories.

India reported more than 400,000 new COVID-19 cases for the first time on Saturday. The rampaging infections have collapsed its health system in places including capital New Delhi, with shortages of medical oxygen and hospital beds.

-TIMES OF INDIA

# India administers over 140 COVID-19 vaccines in 99 days

India has become the fastest country in the world to administer over 140 million COVID-19 vaccine doses, done in just 99 days, the Union Health Ministry said today.

Eight states - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala - account for 58.83 per cent of the total doses given so far in the country, it said.

So far, 14,09,16,417 vaccine doses have been administered across the country through 20,19,263 sessions, the ministry said citing a provisional report till 7 am.

These include 92,90,528 healthcare and 1,19,50,251 frontline workers who got the first dose, and 59,95,634 healthcare and 62,90,491 frontline workers who have taken the second dose. Among the senior citizens, 4,96,55,753 have got the first dose and 77,19,730 the second dose. Among beneficiaries aged between 45 and 60 years, 4,76,83,792 got the first dose and 23,30,238 the second dose. "In another significant development, India has now become the fastest country in the world to cross the landmark of 14 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. India achieved this feat in just 99 days," the ministry highlighted. Over 25 lakh vaccine doses were administered in a span of 24 hours.

On April 24, day 99 of the vaccination drive, 25,36,612 vaccine doses were administered. While 16,43,864 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 25,732 sessions for the first dose, 8,92,748 received the second dose of the vaccine. - NDTV



An Indian man gives the thumbs up after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.



People register themselves to receive COVID-19 vaccine at a hospital in Prayagraj, India on Saturday.

# India's vaccine czar leaves country due to "unprecedented" threats

India's COVID-19 situation is so dire that the rich are fleeing the country. And among them is vaccine czar Adar Poonawalla.

Poonawalla, the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII) that manufactures the AstraZeneca vaccine, has moved to the UK with his family for "an extended period of time," according to an interview in The Times. He did so just as the UK put India on its "red list" and banned all travellers from the country.

Poonawalla said he made the move because there was a grave threat to his life in India.

These alleged threats likely come from the fact that India is yet to vaccinate a large majority of its population, and vaccines are in short supply. SII's Covishield is the more common vaccine in the country, and Poonawalla has had to balance international contracts and domestic commitments in the past two months. India's central government had granted



Serum Institute Chief Executive Officer Adar Poonawalla

Poonawalla "Y" level security on April 29, which meant that two personal security officers would accompany him at all times, and an armed guard would keep a vigil at his home.

Earlier this month, as per his request, the Indian government had also given



A man runs to escape heat emitting from the multiple funeral pyres of COVID-19 victims at a crematorium in the outskirts of New Delhi, India.

a "stressed" Poonawalla an advanced loan of Rs.3,000 crore (\$400 million) to ramp up production.

In a tweet on April 16, he also requested US president Joe Biden to lift the embargo on vaccine raw materials, making many believe that manufacturing of Covishield was delayed due to the issue. However, he later clarified that this embargo was only impacting the production of Covovax, the Indian brand of Novovax vaccine.

India recently "liberalised" its vaccine policy, allowing Poonawalla to sell Covishield directly to the states at a premium of Rs. 300 per dose (as against the central government price of Rs150).

With this policy, Poonawalla can sell half of his stock directly to the states and private hospitals, which has led to a scramble for an already scarce vaccine supply.

- HINDUSTAN TIMES

# India's infection tally nears 20 million

India on Monday reported more than 300,000 new coronavirus cases for a 12th straight day, taking its overall caseload to just shy of 20 million, while deaths from COVID-19 rose by 3,417.

With 368,147 new cases over the past 24 hours, India's total infections stand at 19.93 million, while total fatalities are 218,959, according to Health Ministry data.

Medical experts say real numbers across the country of 1.35 billion may be five to 10 times higher than the official tally.

Hospitals have filled to capacity, medical oxygen supplies have run short and morgues and crematoriums have been swamped as the country deals with the surge in cases.

At least 11 states and union territories have imposed some form of restrictions to try and stem infections, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government is reluctant to impose a national lockdown, concerned about the economic impact.

"In my opinion, only a national stay at home order and declaring medical emergency will help to address the current healthcare needs," Bhramar Mukherjee, an epidemiologist with the University of Michigan said on Twitter.

"The # of active cases is accumulating, not just the daily new cases. Even the reported numbers state there are around 3.5M active cases."

The spike in infections is India's biggest crisis since Modi took office in 2014. Modi has been criticised for not taking steps earlier to curb the spread and for letting millions of largely unmasked people attend religious festivals and crowded political rallies in five states during March and April.

A forum of scientific advisers set up by the government warned Indian officials in early March of a new and more contagious variant



A relative of a person who died of COVID-19 mourns at a crematorium in Jammu, India.

of the coronavirus taking hold in the country, five scientists who are part of the forum told Agencies.

Despite the warning, four of the scientists said the federal government did not seek to impose major restrictions to stop the spread of the virus.

It remains to be seen how his handling of the crisis might affect Modi or his party politically. The next general election is due in 2024. Modi's party was defeated in India's West Bengal state in results declared on Sunday, although it won in the neighbouring state of Assam.

Leaders of 13 opposition parties on Sunday signed a letter urging Modi to immediately launch free national vaccination and to prioritise oxygen supply to hospitals and health centres.

Several states have postponed widening a vaccination drive for adults that was to start on Saturday due to a lack of vaccines. The national health ministry says states have 10

million vaccines stockpiled and 2 million more coming in the next three days.

Despite being the world's biggest producer of vaccines, India does not have enough for itself - undermining a plan to ramp up and widen inoculation from Saturday. Only about 9% of its 1.4 billion people have had a dose.

India has struggled to increase capacity beyond 80 million doses a month due to lack of raw materials and a fire at the Serum Institute, which makes the AstraZeneca vaccine.

International aid has been pouring into India.

Britain will send another 1,000 ventilators to India, the government said on Sunday. Prime ministers Boris Johnson and Modi are scheduled to talk on Tuesday.

The Indian COVID-19 variant has now reached at least 17 countries including Britain, Switzerland and Iran, leading several governments to close their borders to people travelling from India. - THE HINDUSTAN TIMES



COVID-19 patients receive oxygen outside a Gurdwara in New Delhi on Saturday.

# Nalandian Anuja played for Sri Lanka with distinction

## ALTHAF NAWAZ

Nalanda College, Colombo is one of the leading Buddhist schools in the country which has rendered yeoman service in the field of Education and Sports. Even though cricket has taken the top spot in their sporting calendar, the game of rugby has been played for over four decades. They have produced two top Sri Lanka ruggerites namely Manjula Damith and Milinda Jayasinghe who donned the National jersey in the recent past and are now domiciled in New Zealand. Anuja Perera was another to join the elite panel of rugby players who wore the Sri Lankan jersey bringing honour and fame to Nalanda.

Anuja was born in 1985 in Colombo and his father is Nimal Perera a businessman while Seetha Pinto is his mother a housewife. He has a brother Kasun and a sister Sulochani. He completed his academic career with Nalanda College, Colombo. With his stocky build, he opted to engage in multiple sports at school. He started playing rugby with the under-15 age group team while being involved in Athletics (Shot Putt and Javelin throw) and Wrestling representing college at Colombo District meet on several occasions. While he was participating in the inter-house rugby tournament, his father encouraged him to handle the rugby ball. He then participated in rugby and his initial junior coach was Gorgey Abeyratne from whom he learnt the basics of the game while senior coaches were late Sam Samarasekera and Shamrath Fernando respectively.

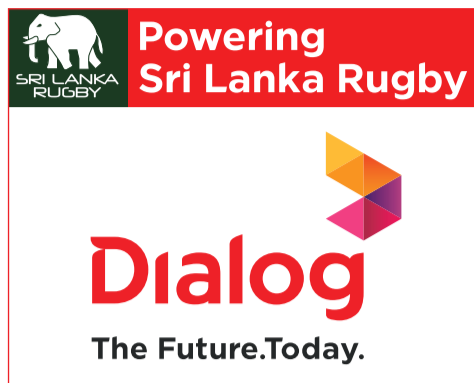
With his body build he decided to bind in



Anuja Perera

the front row as the hooker. He made his presence with the college first XV team while being an under-15 player. He vice-captained the under-17 team in 2001 and went on to lead the first XV team in 2004. He was awarded the college colours in 2002, 2003 and 2004 for his unstinted performance in rugby. He represented college at the 10 a side at (Friends Cup) tournament held in Thailand in 2002.

He was honoured as most outstanding



sportsman of the year in 2003 after representing the Junior National (Under19) team that toured Malaysia in 2003.

The turning point of his rugby and personal career was when he toured with the Junior National team in 2003. He met late George Simpkin who was instrumental in transforming him to a profound player with his advice and finer tips of the game. C.P. Abeygunwardena and Sanath Martis were the other coaches under whom he played with. As a school they were competing in the 'B' division and it was really difficult to get into the Junior National squad which he eventually managed to sneak in based on his personal performance and dedication, after Gerorge Simpkin picked him as a Hooker in the starting line all throughout that tour. He was able to gain the exposure by competing against the top countries like Japan, Korea, Hong Kong subsequently went on to beat Malaysia and won the

'Bowl Championship under Rajith Jayasundara's captaincy in 2003.

After his illustrious school career, he was invited by CR and FC in 2003 while he was competing in the under-19 Junior National practices. He obliged and played his first match against CH and FC in the under-21 team as a hooker in 2003. He represented their senior rugby team as substitute hooker for veteran Viraj Prasantha and his first club coach was Grant Dwyer the Australian in 2004.

They remained the first unbeaten team in the Caltex 'A' division league tournament in history but lost to Kandy in the final game ending up runner up under Pavithra Fernando's captaincy in 2004 and 2005. It is noteworthy that they won the Clifford Cup after 17 years beating Havelocks by 37-5 in 2006 captained by Pavithra Fernando. They surged ahead to annex the Inter-club Sevens Cup Championship in 2005, the inter-club 10 a side Cup championship in 2004 and 2005 under Danushka Boteju's captaincy.

From 2004 to 2009 they were runners up against Kandy. At CR his coaches were Grant Dwyer, Thavita Tulagase (Laga) and John Carrington from 2004 to 2006. Played under various captains Pavithra Fernando, Shamil Mohammed, Anuradha Darmathilake, Ashen Karthelis and Dushan Lewke respectively. In the 2013/14 season as an unofficial captain he led the CR team in a few matches as official captain Ishan Noors was sidelined due to injury.

After he represented the under-19 Junior

National in 2003 was called to represent the country in 2006 against China followed by the Rugby World Cup qualifier tournament in 2007 where they won the match 30-0 under Sajith Mallikarachchi's captaincy coached by George Simpkin, which was a magical moment in his life, which he dedicated to parents for their hard work in witnessing him wearing the national jersey. Since then he continuously represented the country for four years from 2006 to 2009 during which time toured Hong Kong in 2006, the Rugby World Cup qualifiers in 2007.

He also toured U.A.E in 2007 and 2009 toured Kazakhstan in 2008, and the Asian Five Nations Tournament which they won against Thailand where he scored his first international try which remained as one of the best memories. His rugby career spanned 11 years and ended in 2014.

He holds a Master of Business Administration from Anglia Ruskin University -UK in 2018 and joined Ceylinco Development Bank in 2004. He captained the Ceylinco Development Bank and the Sports Club team in 2008, representing Ceylinco emerging the Cup runner-up at the Mercantile Tournament. At present is working for Pigott Chapman and Company (Pvt) Ltd, a leading money brokering company as a Senior Dealer. He is thankful to all his coaches, School, Club and colleagues at work for their support and encouragement in his rugby career.

His wife is Anuradha Fonseka who stood as a pillar of strength in his life with daughter Shioii (seven and son Sheveen (six Years).

## Test Cricketer Asela Gunaratne proud product of Sri Rahula, Katugastota

### UPANANDA JAYASUNDERA

-Kandy Sports Special Correspondent

Thirty five year old Asela Sampath Gunaratne, is a talented Test Cricketer who is an old Boy of Sri Rahula College, Katugastota. Six feet one inch tall Asela learnt cricket from late Aubrey Kuruppu, who was the cricket coach of the School at that time and he played from under 13 to under 19 age group in school. Asela was a right hand bat, right arm medium pace bowler and an all-rounder and in the year 2007 he won four awards at Sri Lanka Cricket's Annual Awards Ceremony, including two awards for Best All-rounder. His highest score was 159 runs against St. Aloysius College, Ratnapura and after leaving school he played for Saracens Sports club, Kandy under Aubrey Kuruppu for a few years before joining the Army.

He made his Test Debut on the 29th of October, 2016 against Zimbabwe Cricket team as the



Asela Gunaratne, former Sri Lanka Test Cricketer.

138th Test player and his last test was against the Indian Cricket Team on 26th of July 2017. He was the 176th player in ODI making his debut against Zimbabwe and his last ODI was on the

5th of January, 2019 against New Zealand. His Twenty20 debut was on the 14th of February, 2016 against India as the 63rd Twenty20 Cricketer and his last Twenty20 game was against India on the 24th of December, 2017.

Asela played in the domestic Tournaments from 2005 to 2008 for Mohamedian Sports club, Sri Lanka Army Cricket team from 2008 to date and in 2017 Mumbai, India, Dhaka-Dynamites and Comilla Victorians from 2018 to date. In 2019 he was in the Lahore Qalandars and in 2020 in the Kandy Tuskers team.

He was selected to the T/20 Squad for Sri Lanka's Tour of India in February, 2016 and he scored four runs in the first match of the series. He represented Sri Lanka against Zimbabwe and scored 50 runs in the first innings of the first Test and scored his maiden test century in the second match of the same tour. He was selected to the Sri Lanka's One Day (ODI team) for

Tri Series in Zimbabwe playing against West Indies being the third team and he took three wickets for 10 runs. He scored his maiden ODI century (114 not out) against South Africa and this was a record the highest ODI score at No. Six. In the year 2018, he was one of the 33 cricketers to be awarded the National Contract by Sri Lanka Cricket ahead of the 2018-19 season and in December, 2018 he was named for the Sri Lanka team for ACC emerging Teams Asia Cup. Against Australia on 17th of February, 2017 Asela scored his maiden Test fifty off 37 balls helping the team to win the match by five wickets. In the next match he scored an unbeaten 84 off 46 balls to guide Sri Lanka to victory in the series. In the third T/20 he maintained his batting form to score 37 runs off the last 12 deliveries to seal the game for Sri Lanka and they won their third consecutive T/20 series against Australia.

## Onrey Perera excels for Nugegoda Joes

### DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

St. Josephs College Nugegoda new comers to the under 19 Inter School Cricket this year participated in the under 19 Division Three Level Two Cricket Tournament and leading in the first round came up to last 32 teams from the island.

But in the second round they lost to Presidents College Mahara and it was Josephians fifth outing in the tournament and in the first round Shasthralaya Vidyalaya Dehiwala did not turn up for their fixture and in five matches their captain left hand bat, right arm medium pace bowler, all rounder, safe fielder in any position Onrey Perera scored two centuries and his performances was of no avail as they were knocked out in the second round. Onrey scored 322 runs with two centuries at an average of 66.4. They won



St. Josephs College, Nugegoda first ever under 19 cricket pool 2021 with the school officials. Onrey Perera seated third from left. (Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

three matches out of four. In their first round they beat Science College Mount. Lavinia, Defence College Colombo, Lalith Athulathmudali Vidyalaya and lost to Horizon International School.

**How Onrey fared** vs Science College Mt. Lavinia - 107 vs Defence College Colombo - 140 vs Lalith Athulathmudali Vidyalaya - 12 vs Horizon International School - 43 vs Presidents College Mahara - 30



Onrey Perera

## Sithum Nimalka Kumara a cricketing star in the making

### DILWIN MENDIS

Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Right hand top order batsman, right arm medium pace bowler close in specialist fielder, all rounder, coloursman, vice captain of the team and Football Volleyball and Elle player Bellana Mesthrige Don Sithum Nimalka Kumara has brought honour and fame to his Alma Mater Piliyandala Central College. He was born on 24th July 2002 and was admitted to the Primary Section of the school in 2008 and his first class teacher was Mrs. Wickrama.

As Sithum showed keenness in cricket from his smaller days his parents Upul Nishantha and Nimali Ekanayake admitted their son to Piliyandala Town Club Cricket Academy at the age of seven years and he came under Bimal Amarasinghe for two years and from there he was drafted to the cricket academy of Nondescripts Cricket Club Colombo and he came under Thilak de Silva and he was with them till 2019.

Sithum played for the NCC Academy under 13 cricket team and he represented them at the Mercantile Cricket Association Tournament and in five matches he scored 220 runs with a top score of 75 runs. In 2017 he represented the NCC in the Division Three Daily News Trophy Tournament in 2017 and in four outings he passed the 170 run mark with two fifties. He made an under 16 tour of Bangalore, India with his Academy Team and it was a fine exposure for him.

In the mean time as an under 13 player in 2012 he got selected to the school Division One team and in his first year itself he scored 150 runs with a fifty and in his second year he was the Vice Captain and scored 175 runs with two half centuries and his coach was Bimal Amarasinghe. His first year in the under 15 was in 2014 and he passed 200 runs with two half centuries and in the following year he scored 230 runs with three fifties and captured 15 scalps.



Piliyandala Central College First Eleven Cricket Pool 2020/2021. The Vice Captain of the team Sithum Nimalka Kumara standing fourth from left in the front row. (Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)

His first year in the under 17 was in 2016 and he scored 220 runs with two fifties and his coach was former Cambrian Cricketer Eranga Gunaratne. In his final year in the under 17 he passed the 250 run mark with three half centuries. As an under 17 player he was selected to the first eleven cricket pool. He represented the Second Eleven Team for three years and in 2020 he was selected for the First Eleven Team and he notched up more than 500 runs with two fifties and grabbed 50 wickets with two ten wicket hauls and two five wicket hauls and his coach is Eranga Gunaratne. Playing in the 2020 Big Match against their arch rivals Taxila Central he scored 75 runs and earned the Best Batsman's Award. This season he scored 110 runs against Asoka Vidyalaya and in the Limited Over Cricket Tournament conducted by Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association he collected 220 runs with a fifty and captured 10 wickets and Centralians came up to the Best 16 Teams and his Captain is Ushan Deemantha and his Prefect of Games is Ashley Karunaratne and Master in Charge is Aruna Liyanage and his Principal Darshana Udawatte is always supportive. In addition he played for the Inter House Tournaments of the school in Soccer, Volleyball and Elle.



Sithum Nimalka Kumara

## Tharindu Vishwajith a fine karateka

### Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Sri Lanka All Island Under 17 Schools Karate Poolist for Malaysian Tour, Second Dan Karate Black Belt Holder and Athlete Don Mahagamage Tharindu Vishwajith Sandaruwan brought honour and fame to his school Anuruddha Maha Vidyalaya Lunuwila He was born on 18th July 2001 and admitted to Vijaya Maha Vidyalaya Chilaw initially in 2007 and his then Principal was Mr. Keerthi and his first class teacher was Mrs. Nirosha. He was there for two years.

In 2009 he was drafted to Dharmarama Maha Vidyalaya Kirimatiyana and in 2010 he participated for the Inter House Sports Meet in the under 9 age group and he won places in 50 and 100 metres and his House Team came first in the 4x100 meters Relay and he took part in the Divisional Meet and could not win a place but in the Relay Event they came first. In the mean time in 2011 his parents Kamal Chandralal and Ajantha Hemamali admitted their son to a Private Karate Academy and he came under Asela Sumith Lasantha.

His first attempt was in 2011 in the under 10 age group at the Puttalam District Karate Do Meet and he swept the board and won Gold Med-

als for Kata and Kumite. Same year at the NWP Meet he won a Gold in Kumite and a Bronze for Kata and in the following year at the Karate Federation Meet in the under 11 category he won a Gold for Kumite and in the following year at the Puttalam District Meet he won Silver in Kumite and a Bronze in Kata and in the Puttalam District Do Karate Meet he was third in Kumite.

He did not take part in 2014 and 2015 in Sports and in 2014 he joined Anuruddha Vidyalaya Lunuwila and in 2016 he participated for the Inter Schools Provincial Meet and came third in Kumite and his Prefect of Games was Janak Kanchana and the PTI was Mrs. Shashi Prabha. In the All Island Schools Meet he was third in Kumite. In 2017 in the All Island Schools Federation Meet he won Bronzes in Kata and Kumite and he was selected for the All Island Schools under 17 Tour of Malaysia and he could not make it due to financial difficulties.

Then in 2018 in the Karate Federation Provincial Schools Meet he won a Silver in the under 18 and in the All Island Federation Meet too he won a Silver and in the All Island Schools Meet he won a Bronze in Kumite. In the following year taking part in the



Vishwajith Sandaruwan with his medals and certificates

under 19 age group District Federation Tournament he won a Silver and in the NWP Meet he won a Gold and in the All Island Schools Under 18 he won a Bronze in Kumite. During his Karate career spanning seven years he has won 18 Medals which consists of five Golds, six Silvers and seven Bronzes. His Principal Sajeewa Abeywickrama was always supportive of him to achieve success.



St. Joseph's College celebrate with the Trophy



Mahinda College celebrate with the Trophy

# Joes and Mahinda emerge Under-19 champions

CHRIS DHAMBARAGE

St. Joseph's College and Mahinda College clinched the Division One Tier 'A' and Tier 'B' titles respectively to conclude the current Inter-Schools Under-19 cricket season in great style.

In fact, the Josephians retained the Tier 'A' title for the third successive year while defeating Royal College by 97 runs and Mahinda won the Tier 'B' title with an exciting three-wicket win over Devapathiraja College, Rathgama.

Even then, St. Joseph's success could be considered as one of the best achievements by a First XI team this season as they went into the final as complete underdogs. In contrast, Royal had a superb track record going into the final and looked confident of finishing the season on a high note with some experienced players in their line-up.

However, the final quite surprisingly turned out to an anticlimax as Royal surrendered the match quite meekly against a vastly improved Josephian outfit. The lads from Darley Road seem to have done their homework well and they knew exactly what was expected from

each player, which made their task much easier.

The turning point for St. Joseph's in this tournament was the semi-final win over Trinity College where their openers, Sadeesh Jayawardana and Sheran Fonseka figured in an unbroken century partnership. From there onwards the Joes believed that they could win this title even though they did not mind going into the final as the underdogs.

They made good use of winning the toss and batting first to pile up a match winning total of 287 for five from their 50 overs with Shevon Daniel stroking a magnificent 146 not out.

The elegant left-hand middle order batsman dropped anchor from the moment he came into the crease and went on to complete his second hundred for the current season.

Royal of course have always done well while chasing targets this season but this time the target was much bigger and they really succumbed to their opponents under pressure.

The writing was on the wall for Royal from the moment they lost their Captain and inform batsman Ahan Wickramasinghe cheaply and they were very much behind the

required rate despite a fighting half-century from all-rounder Kavindu Pathiratne.

## Mahinda vs Devapathiraja

Mahinda College concluded the season with a three-wicket win over Devapathiraja College in the Tier 'B' Tournament final played at the NCC Grounds in Maitland Place.

The Mahindians started the final as the favourites and they lived upto that reputation by producing a fine all-round performance against their less fancied opponents.

Even then, Mahinda will be somewhat disappointed that they could not win the final more convincingly after having dominated the tournament from the first-round onwards.

Their batsmen made a complete mess of it while chasing a modest target of 99 runs and lost seven wickets before they eventually overtook their opponents score in the 36th over.

The Mahinda bowlers did a tremendous job to skittle out Devapathiraja for less than 100 runs with Osindu Kavindya, Navod Para-

navithana and Subanu Rajapaksa continuing their excellent form.

However, their batsmen gave a pathetic display and almost threw away their chances before some intelligent batting from the late order saved them from near humiliation.

Therefore, Devapathiraja could be really pleased with their performances in the final because they were able to make a match out of it despite their dismal batting display.

## St. John's vs Sri Sumangala

Sri Sumangala College, Panadura clinched the Division Two Tier 'A' Championship when they trounced home town rivals St. John's College by six wickets in the final played at the BRC Grounds.

This final of course turned out to be a completely one sided contest as St. John's were shot out for a mere 68 runs in less than 35 overs.

Opening bowler Charuka Jayathilaka did the early damage with a three-wicket burst before spinner Vishwa Lahiru took over the latter stages to finish with an excellent five-wicket haul.

Sri Sumangala then raced to their target in less than 20 overs to complete a resounding victory in the end despite losing both openers cheaply.

## Sri Jayawardanepura MV vs Royal, Panadura

Sri Jayawardanepura MV came from behind with a magnificent performance to snatch a thrilling five-run over Royal College, Panadura in the Division Two Tier 'B' Tournament final worked off at the BRC Grounds.

Sri Jayawardanepura MV were heading towards a heavy defeat after they were bowled out for a disappointing 136 runs in 46.1 overs.

However, their bowlers made amends and hit back strongly to turn a certain defeat into a memorable triumph by dismissing their opponents for 131 runs in 46.3 overs.

Sri Jayawardanepura MV used as many as eight bowlers in a desperate attempt to contain the opposition and it was Denuwan Jayawardana who eventually struck form with a four-wicket haul.

## George Chandrasoma was an amazing personality

"Uncle George" was an amazing personality with a lot of style. I first saw him play his stylish forehand at the then CLTA back in 1975. He took special interest in college tennis besides enjoying his doubles with uncle Chandhi. With his advice and guidance I was fortunate to play in the Royal tennis team. I clearly remember him adjusting my blazer just before the college group photograph. Such a meticulous person always spoke about high end sports brands.

Then came the point when his son moved to the states and I was looking for a job. He kindly offered to drive me in his UMC mazda to fort and meet Devaka his friend. This was next to the family shop Sportsman. Mr. Rodrigo was seated in his pagoda office mezza-

nine. Loudly asked me "Young man what can I do for you". In my humble voice "sir could you please be a reference for a job".

Uncle George kept watching every move. Then he took me to uncle Chandhi down inner flower road. He had planned everything as my second reference. Believe me when I applied to Harrison the two referrals itself got me the job without batting an eye lid.

I continued to enjoy talking to him and aunty Seetha whom he much loved. Susu, baba and Pancho were much loved by him too.

I consider myself fortunate to have known uncle George and long live his legacy.

RIP uncle George.

- Ayendra J.

# Thisathma Lakmali a fine sportswoman

DILWIN MENDIS  
Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent

Volleyball, Netball, Elle Player and Cricketer Aluthmughandiramalage Dahamvi Thisathma Lakmali brought honour and fame to her Alma Mater Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dahamvi was born on 6th October 2005. In 2011 she was admitted to her neighbouring school Rathnajothe Primary and her then Principal was Mrs. Jessica and her first class teacher was Mrs. Kusum.

She was in this school from 2011 to 2015 and she did not take part in any sports and from there she was drafted to Wekada Maha Vidyalaya Dankotuwa in 2016 and in the same year she participated in the Inter House under eleven Sports Meet and her house team were victorious in volleyball. In 2017 and 2018 they had Inter House Elle Tournaments and she represented her house. In 2019 and 2020 too they had their Inter House Cricket Tournaments and she did well.

In the mean time in 2018 she attended school volleyball practices under the guidance of her parents A. M. Lakmal and Manusha Surangika and came under their Coach and Prefect of Games Saman Bandara and in 2019 her school came second in Divisional and third in Zonal Tournaments and participating in the District DSI Tournament her school were Runners Up and were among the Best Eight Teams of the District. Her Principal is always supportive of Thisathma Lakmali.



The 2019 Inter School and District runners up Volleyball Team Wekada Maha Vidyalaya posed for a photograph just after the Finals. Thisathma is seated second from left in the photograph. (Dilwin Mendis, Moratuwa Sports Special Correspondent)



It will not be an overstatement to say 15th of April Race Day in Nuwara Eliya 2021 belonged to Jayaratne Stables. This year "Western Wind," the horse owned by Jayaratne Stables, a subsidiary of Jayaratne Group of Companies, produced a stunning victory at the hill country racecourse. "Western Wind" beat former Governor's Cup and Magic Million winner "Alcazaba" in the premier event. "Western Wind" is the undisputed champion in Sri Lanka over 1,800 meters distance.

Jayaratne Group of Companies, Chairman, Gamini Jayaratne, is a veteran in horse racing. His passion for horses and horse racing has enabled him to contribute to the sport that he loves for over 22 years since he started his stables in Sri Lanka and later began

## "Western Wind" wins RTC Governor's Cup Jayaratne Stables outclass their peers to record a stunning double



racing in India. Jayaratne is ably supported by his wife Chamari Jayaratne who is very much passionate about horse racing. This combination of the duo over two decades has provided some of the best thoroughbred horses in Sri Lanka and India. Their son, Jayaratne Group, Director, Hasanga Jayaratne, oversees the entire horse racing operation, and he was instrumental in the spectacular victories this season.

Jayaratne also has the distinction of being the first Sri Lankan to have started a horse breeding operation in Sri Lanka and also one of the few Sri Lankans to have taken part in horse racing in Mumbai, Bangalore, Mysore, and Chennai in India. Being an entrepreneur well known in the country pioneering some of the most innovative and compassionate services in Sri Lanka, his effort to develop the interest among young and able Sri Lankans in horse riding is laudable. Jayaratne Stables have set up a riding center in Dambulla (Forest Park Dambulla) to encourage locals and foreign visitors to learn and enjoy the art of horse riding.

April 2021 is a memorable month for Jayaratne and his horse trainer Sridhar Sivarathnam. "Western Wind" a thoroughbred horse trained by Sridhar won the premier race in the country the Governor's Cup, a race with a rich history of over 150 years. Jockey K. Vivek flown in from India brought glory to Jayaratne Stables by riding the horses to victory in the Governor's Cup and Queen's Cup, the two most sought after races in the country. Sridhar Sivarathnam was the champion trainer in this year's April season bringing in the most winners and Jayaratne Stables has emerged the champion stables.

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WORLD OF SPORTS

**(May 4)**  
**FOREIGN EVENTS**  
**CRICKET**  
(Indian Premier League):  
Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai  
Indians at New Delhi  
**FOOTBALL**  
(Champions League  
semi-finals):  
Manchester City vs Paris Saint  
Germain  
**TENNIS**  
(ATP, Outdoor, Clay):  
Madrid Open at La Caja Magica,  
Madrid

**New Zealand  
top ICC Men's  
ODI Rankings**

New Zealand have replaced world champions England at the top of the ICC Men's One-Day International Rankings.

Eoin Morgan's side have slipped to fourth overall but remain top of the ICC Twenty20 International Rankings.

The update to the annual rankings halves the weighting of results from 2019-20, including the 50-over World Cup in which England beat New Zealand in an unforgettable final.

England have lost the ODI series 2-1 to Australia and India in the last year. They also lost the third ODI against Ireland in August after claiming the series.

New Zealand, who were previously third, beat Bangladesh 3-0 in their only ODI series in the last 12 months, with the international schedule greatly reduced because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia have also moved up two slots to second, with India dropping one place to third. England have increased their lead at top of the T20 rankings over India by five points, despite losing the five-match series 3-2 in India in March.

Morgan's side have beaten Australia and South Africa and drawn with Pakistan in T20 series over the last year. The Test Rankings will be updated after the ongoing series between Zimbabwe and Pakistan ends on May 11.

(BBC)

**JAYAWICKRAMA, MENDIS  
HELP SRI LANKA  
TO SERIES WIN**

After a dominating performance by the spinners, Sri Lanka won their first series of 2021 with a 209-run victory against Bangladesh in the second Test at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy yesterday. Debutant left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama was the pick of the bowlers helping Sri Lanka to wrap up a comprehensive win with more than two sessions to spare.

**SCORECARD**

**SRI LANKA**  
1 ST INNINGS 493/7 DECL  
**BANGLADESH**  
1 ST INNINGS 251  
**SRI LANKA**  
2 ND INNINGS 194/9 DECL  
**BANGLADESH**  
2 ND INNINGS (OVERNIGHT 177/5)

**T. Iqbal**  
c Dickwella b Mendis ..... 24  
**S. Hassan**  
c Lakmal b Jayawickrama... 34  
**N. Shanto**  
b Jayawickrama ..... 26  
**M. Haque**  
b Mendis ..... 32  
**M. Rahim**  
c de Silva b Mendis ..... 40  
**L. Das**  
lbw b Jayawickrama ..... 17  
**M. Hasan**  
c Nissanka b Jayawickrama. 39  
**T. Islam**  
c Dickwella b de Silva ..... 02  
**T. Ahmed**  
c Karunaratne b Mendis... 07  
**S. Islam**  
not out ..... 00  
**A. Jayed**  
lbw b Jayawickrama ..... 00  
Extras: (b3, lb2, nb1) ..... 06  
**TOTAL:** (all out, 71 overs) 227  
Fall: 1-31, 2-73, 3-104, 4-134, 5-171, 6-183, 7-206, 8-227, 9-227  
**BOWLING:** S. Lakmal 4-2-14-0, R. Mendis 28-2-103-4, P. Jayawickrama 32-10-86-5, D. de Silva 7-1-19-1

His figures of 11 for 178 made him the first Sri Lankan to claim a 10-wicket haul on debut and the first bowler to take a 10-wicket haul on debut since Australia's Jason Krejza in 2008. He is also the first bowler since Narendra Hirwani in 1988 to pick up two five-wicket hauls in his debut match. Jayawickrama also became the 16th bowler to claim a 10-wicket haul on Test debut.

The day began with Bangladesh resuming on 177 for five with Liton Das and Mehidy Hasan in the middle. However, Bangladesh's hopes of a chase suffered an early blow when Jayawickrama trapped Liton lbw in his second over of the day.

With 254 runs required to win, Mehidy Hasan continued his efforts to chase down the target but didn't receive adequate support from the other end.

Dhananjaya de Silva sent Taijul Islam packing for two runs after drawing an edge, finding Niroshan Dickwella behind the stumps.

Thereafter, Ramesh Mendis added to Bangladesh's woes when he claimed the wicket of Taskin Ahmed.

Young Jayawickrama dealt the final blows, bagging the wickets of Mehidy Hasan and Abu Jayed in the same over while pushing his wicket tally to 11 wickets.

Sri Lanka won the series 1-0 after the first match was



Praveen Jayawickrama appeals

a high-scoring draw at the same venue. Jayawickrama was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match while Dimuth Karunaratne was named the Player-of-the-Series.



Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne with the Trophy. Pic courtesy SLC



Sri Lanka Team celebrates with the Trophy

**Culture of abuse in Australian gymnastics, inquiry finds**

**SYDNEY, MONDAY:** An inquiry into Australian gymnastics has found evidence of widespread abuse, sexism, racism and authoritarian coaching practises, according to a damning report published Monday. Amid a "global reckoning" for the sport, the Australian Human Rights Commission said it found a culture that tolerated emotional, verbal, physical and sexual abuse, as well as medical negligence and body-shaming directed at young athletes over decades.

The commission recommended an independent investigation into

specific abuse allegations and a formal apology from gymnastics authorities, as well as stricter screening and a national register of coaches, who often have an out-sized influence over vulnerable young women.

Gymnastics Australia called the findings "confronting" and said it "unreservedly apologises to all athletes and family members who have experienced any form of abuse". It promised to adopt all 12 recommendations.

The world of gymnastics has been rocked by a series of scandals

in recent times. In the United States, former team doctor Larry Nassar was found guilty of sexually assaulting at least 265 identified victims over two decades, including star Simone Biles.

In Britain, accusations of abuse have made headlines while in Greece former gymnasts complained of having suffered decades of abuse "akin to torture" at the hands of one of their coaches.

The Australian inquiry was launched after local athletes took to social media to comment on the documentary "Athlete A" which

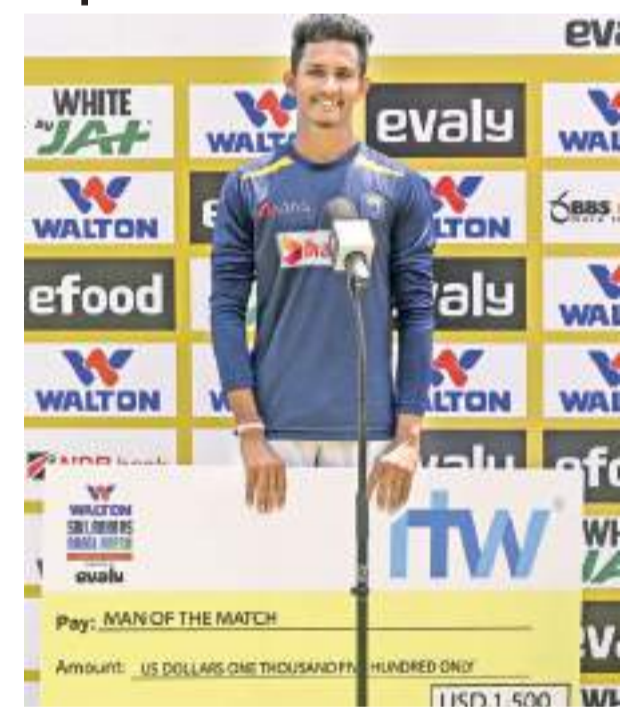
concerned the allegations about Nassar.

Among the Australians sharing their own negative experiences was Yamin Collier, who spoke of having to strip naked in front of a male adult masseuse.

The Australian commission received hundreds of submissions before delivering its final report.

"While many athletes have had positive experiences and relationships with their coaches, there was a persistent use of 'authoritarian' or highly disciplinary coaching styles," their report said. *Agencies*

**My teammates' extensive backing helped me to perform well – Praveen**



Praveen Jayawickrama with the Man-of-the-Match award. Pic courtesy SLC

**DHAMMIKA RATNAWEERA**

Man-of-the-Match Praveen Jayawickrama said that the support from his teammates really inspired him to perform well in the second Test against Bangladesh, which concluded at the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy yesterday. "I feel extremely happy to play for Sri Lanka and my entire family members are pleased because my childhood dream was to play for the country one day," a smiling left-arm spinner said after the game.

"I had a little bit of pressure going into the game but my skipper and all other senior players and the support staff always encouraged me to overcome the challenges," the 22-year-old said.

"During practices I did a lot of spot-bowling and I always maintained a good line and length which helped me to achieve this kind of success on the field," Jayawickrama added. Meanwhile,

Sri Lanka Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne who was named Man-of-the-Series highly praised the two spinners Praveen Jayawickrama and Ramesh Mendis.

"Praveen does the simple things well. He pitches the ball in the right spot. That's something we saw from Ranganatha Herath as well," he said.

"He makes the batsman play and gives the ball a chance to do something. When you play at this level, you have to have that consistency in line and length."

"At a time when we didn't have anyone experienced, both bowlers came and bowled like experienced players."

"I think Ramesh also gave Praveen a lot of help from the other end in terms of building pressure. That bowling partnership was good, and they had an understanding because they also play for the same club [Moors SC]."

**Thisara bids adios to int'l cricket**

Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce the retirement of Thisara Perera from international cricket with immediate effect.

Perera, in his 'Letter' submitted to Sri Lanka Cricket announcing his retirement, said that he feels the time is right for him to step aside and pave the way for younger and more talented players to take on the reins.

The former Sri Lanka ODI and T20i captain also said that this is also the right time for him to follow on his personal goals and family life.

Perera thanked the team captains he has served under during his international career, teammates, both past and present, the Executive Committees of Sri Lanka Cricket, Management, and the Staff of Sri Lanka Cricket, for the support they extended to him during his career.

"I take pride in the fact that I was able to represent Sri Lanka in seven Cricket World Cups and be a contributing member of the 2014 T20 World Cup win against India in Bangladesh. Easily the highlight of My Life," Perera mentioned in his letter.

Sri Lanka Cricket takes this opportunity to wish the former captain the very best in his future commitments and dearly value the immeasurable services rendered by him to the game. "Thisara was a brilliant all-rounder, who has contributed immensely as a player to Sri Lanka Cricket and played a part in some of the glorious cricketing moments of the country," said Ashley De Silva, CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket, whilst paying tribute to the former Captain.



Thisara Perera

**Kolkata Knight Riders vs RCB postponed over Covid cases**

The Indian Premier League (IPL) match between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) was postponed yesterday after two KKR players tested positive for COVID-19 in Ahmedabad.

Varun Chakravarthy and Sandeep Warrier have tested positive while the rest of Eoin Morgan's KKR Team tested negative. It is the first positive test result to come out of the IPL since the tournament began on April 9.

Leg-spinner Chakravarthy, 29, and pace bowler Warrier, 30, have been isolated and their teammates will be tested daily. It has been reported Chakravarthy left the

bio-secure bubble to go for a scan on a shoulder problem. The tournament's medical team are also tracing close contacts of the two players.

The IPL is taking place across six venues in India, with players travelling between them on charter and private flights. Teams stay within secure areas of hotels and resorts in the various cities and do not have contact with people outside the bubble.

"The BCCI and the Kolkata Knight Riders prioritise the health and safety of everyone involved and all measures are being taken in that endeavour," a statement added. Australians Andrew Tye, Adam Zampa and Kane Richardson flew home early from India because of concerns over the virus. India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also took a break from the tournament to support his family. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said it will "continue to monitor and communicate" with its players and staff in India.

"In terms of continued participation, it will be a decision that will be taken by each individual," a spokesperson added. "We acknowledge these are challenging times and our thoughts are with the people of India." (BBC)



Varun Chakravarthy has taken seven wickets for KKR in this season's IPL



# Daily News Business

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## “Sri Lanka should explore JV’s with Pakistan to boost economic cooperation”

Sri Lanka and Pakistan should seriously look into opportunities for joint ventures between the two countries across high potential sectors to substantially boost economic cooperation.

This was opined by the High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka Muhammad Saad Khattak, who was the Chief Guest at the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka – Pakistan Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce held recently. At the Annual General Meeting Somasundaram Deivanayagam, Managing Director of Eswaran Brothers Exports was unanimously elected as the President of the Council.

“I strongly believe that the active working and participation of forums such as the Sri Lanka – Pakistan Business Council of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce are integral to building long-term and sustainable business-to-business linkages between Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan-Sri Lanka relationships are bound together by diverse yet similar legacies, linked by trade connections crisscrossing over time. We have helped each other in times of adversity; we have signed a mutual free trade agreement before anyone else. To this



Members of the Sri Lanka – Pakistan Business Council receive a memento from High Commissioner of Pakistan, Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Saad Khattak

end, Sri Lanka has the exceptional status of being the first country with which Pakistan entered into a Free Trade Agreement for trade of goods, which came into effect in 2005. This clearly highlights the trust and expectations that we have in the economic potential of Sri Lanka.”

Elaborating further on the trade ties he indicated that though the current trend of growth in bilateral trade is positive, however, the present volume of trade which is around US \$ 450 million does not reflect the true potential between the two friendly countries. Currently, Sri Lanka is the 14th largest

export destination, while Pakistan is Sri Lanka’s 23rd.

“However, we are cognizant of the fact that exports from Sri Lanka, which stood at US\$ 81 million in 2019 and the overall volume of bilateral trade between our two friendly countries can be significantly improved.”

The High Commissioner reiterated that strengthening bilateral trade and investment between Pakistan and Sri Lanka is a top priority in the agenda of the Pakistan High Commission in Sri Lanka. Addressing the gathering Deivanayagam, the newly elected President stated that Pakistan is the largest tea drinking nation importing approximately 250 to 300 million Kgs of tea annually.

“However, it was noted that a very low quantity of tea is being exported from Sri Lanka to Pakistan and requested the Ambassador to intervene and see the possibility of improving the current situation by importing increased quantities of tea from Sri Lanka to Pakistan.

“Newly elected President Deivanayagam requested the High Commissioner to improve the current situation by importing increased quantities of tea from Sri Lanka to Pakistan, the largest tea drinking country.

Outgoing President Azmy Mohamed appreciated the support extended to local companies by the High Commission of Pakistan and requested his support to further develop trade and investment between Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

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CARGILLS,  
UNILEVER TEAM  
UP TO HELP...

PAGE  
20

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### In response to COVID-19 disease

## ADB commits US\$ 17.4 bn grants, technical assistance, loans and \$ 12.8 bn in co financing

### Provides assistance for developing tech related education programs in Sri Lanka

Since announcing ADB’s \$20 billion support package in April last year, the Asian Development Bank has already committed \$17.4 billion out of that package through grants, technical assistance, and loans to governments and businesses and also mobilized \$12.8 billion in cofinancing, Masatsugu Asakawa, President, Asian Development Bank, told the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers’ and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting (AFMGM+3), aired virtually yesterday.

ADB’s COVID-19 Pandemic Response Option, or CPRO, provides quick-disbursing budget support for countercyclical economic stimulus in our developing member countries (DMCs). So far we have provided \$10.2 billion in CPPO to 26 countries, including \$5.0 billion for five ASEAN economies.

“We are also helping our DMCs procure and deliver safe and effective vaccines, swiftly and equitably. Last December, we launched our \$9 billion vaccine initiative the Asia-Pacific Vaccine Access Facility, or APVAX. We recently signed a \$425 million loan for the Philippines and \$450 million for Indonesia. We also provided grants to Afghanistan and Pacific countries.



Masatsugu Asakawa,  
President, Asian Development Bank

Fourteen additional APVAX projects, worth more than \$3.8 billion, are in the pipeline. Unfortunately, supply shortages are limiting vaccine availability in the region. ADB recently revised its vaccine eligibility criteria so that vaccines can be procured swiftly from more diverse sources, while also ensuring safety and efficacy aligned with the World Bank and COVAX.”

Asakawa said the ADB was also providing technical assistance to strengthen digital literacy in education projects in Bangladesh, and developing technology-related education programs in Sri Lanka.

The tax-to-GDP ratio averages 14% for ASEAN and 18% for the Plus three economies lower than the average for developing Asia and OECD, respectively. This suggests ample room for boosting revenues and strengthening tax collection in ASEAN+3 economies, he said.

Digitizing tax systems and international tax cooperation can help mobilize revenue and fight tax avoidance. Multinational investments are growing in ASEAN+3 markets, but an increasingly borderless digital economy is making it easier for firms to shift profits to low-tax jurisdictions.

We need to ensure all parties pay their fair share of taxes by closing cross-border tax loopholes through collaboration.

“As a next step, we propose establishing a Steering Committee to bring together key development partners and DMCs that are willing to actively engage in the Tax Hub. We will then organize a first High-Level Conference under the Tax Hub later this year to share the progress and plans on the three building blocks, including details of the operations of the Secretariat and Steering Committee,” he added.

## KIPZ operations moving despite COVID-19

The Free Trade Zone Manufacturers (KIPZ) are not facing any major difficulties and export orders have not dipped.

For the month of April the Katunayake Export Processing Zone did around USD 350 million average exports but in May this figure is expected to dip according to Secretary Free Trade Zone Manufacturers Association (FTZMA), Dhammika Fernando. Exports of PPE goods have increased and a new local investor is pumping around Rs. 400 million to building a new rubber gloves manufacturing facility in the zone.

This will be opened in July. He said

that they are taking extra precautions to safeguard their employees to avoid any ‘COVID-19 building’ clusters. “This will ensure that the factories do not close, enabling foreign orders to process as planned.” He said that they had to turn down a request from government authorities to offer space to house C-19 patients in the zone (in abandoned factories) due to contamination issues.

“However we have been able to offer abandoned factories outside the zone for this purpose.” He also said that the C-19 Pandemic has no negative impact on the KIPZ operations. (SS)



### ‘ASPI breathes on pulse movement’

Starting off the week on an optimistic move, bourse concluded the day on a positive footing following two consecutive sessions with red flags.

ASPI displayed a pattern of pulse with a sideways momentum throughout the session, where an upward trend was noted during the first few minutes of trading and thereafter moved laterally with limited fluctuations to close at 7,216 gaining 7 points.

Turnover was led by the Food, Beverage & Tobacco sector with a sole contri-

bution of 42%. Parcel trades accounted for 11% of turnover. Foreign investors remained net sellers while recording moderate participation.

The secondary bond market yield curve broadly remained unchanged while the overall market witnessed thin volumes.

However, in the short end of the yield curve, slight buying appetite was witnessed resulting in 01.10.22 maturity trading at 5.90%, 15.07.23 at 6.40% and 15.11.23 at 6.50%.

## Kenyan President recognizes Hela Clothing’s contribution

Hela Clothing, an ethical and sustainable apparel manufacturer with factories across Kenya, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka, has been recognized as a leading example of resilience and ingenuity during the pandemic by President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya.

As part of the Head of State’s Labour Day address, Hela Clothing was described as an innovative company that was able to rise to the occasion and assist with global PPE shortages while protecting jobs in an extremely challenging market environment.

“When the COVID pandemic hit our country, this EPZ Company [Hela

Clothing] quickly discovered the opportunity and switched to the production of PPEs and facemasks. By rejecting paralysis and embracing innovation, this company saved 300 workers from joblessness,” said President Kenyatta. Hela Clothing is a pioneer in apparel manufacturing in East Africa and established its Kenyan operations in 2016. It has since grown rapidly and is now the country’s largest intimate wear company, accounting for 15% of Kenya’s total apparel exports.

In addition to pivoting to production of PPE, Hela Clothing added more than 2,000 jobs across its manu-

facturing footprint during the pandemic, provided bonuses to team members, reinstated full salaries of senior staff in September of last year and fully repaid the deferred amounts by December.

“It was an honour to be held up as an example of innovation in Labour Day address to the nation,” said Shameen Peiris, CEO of Hela’s Intimates Cluster, which operates the Kenyan facility. “It is further validation of the decisions we made early-on in the pandemic that ensured business continuity and safeguarded the livelihoods of our employees. And it is a testament to the agility of our team that we

were able to identify a growing need and adapt the business accordingly, which in turn allowed Hela to play a small part in global recovery efforts during the pandemic.”

The Sri Lankan company which entered the PPE segment during the pandemic has identified it as a long term pillar of the business. Plans are currently underway to operate a separate factory for the production of medical grade PPE in collaboration with the Aga Khan Foundation – a private not-for-profit international development agency, which operates state-of-the-art medical universities across Asia and Africa.



President Kenyatta addressing the nation

### ‘Indian economy facing unprecedented recession’

The Centre must encourage the retail sector to provide more jobs to youth in the backdrop of an unprecedented financial crisis brought about by the second wave of COVID-19, former Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University and economist Hanumanthu Lajipathirai said on Sunday.

“Retail companies should focus on operational improvement instead of going in for expansion. India will be able to overcome the unemployment crisis if the retail sector is encouraged to provide more jobs to youth in Tier-II and Tier-III cities and newly-developing cities like Srikulam and Vizianagaram,” Lajipathirai told The Hindu.

(www.thehindu.com)

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# AIA recognises Area Development Managers of Agency Distribution

A special event was organized by AIA Insurance to recognise the Area Development Managers of their Agency Distribution channel for their immense contribution to the company, while also celebrating promotions for some of them.

The event was a celebration of the long-standing success and unwavering commitment of the 'Area Development Office' (ADO) channel and a recognition of their significant contributions.

AIA's ADO channel became a part of the overall Agency Distribution channel in 2009 and has since played a key role in the company's business success.

The event and the new designations are aimed at promoting entrepreneurial spirit amongst Agency Development Managers



AIA Area Development Managers of Agency Distribution

while fostering a sense of healthy competition. The ADO channel has grown gradually during the last decade and currently contributes to 18% of total new business of the overall agency distribution channel. Four ADO Managers were presented with elevated designations based on their performance while the highest

new designation was received by Vinol Priyasanarath from the Moratuwa ADO, who was promoted to 'Associate General Manager - Moratuwa ADO'.

There were also two 'Executive Area Development Manager' designations and two 'Senior Area Development Manager' designations assigned to Dileepa

Ameendra from Tissamaharama ADO, Y G G B Yatigammana from Mawanella ADO, Chaminda Gunathilake from Kurunegala ADO & Chaminda Dissanayake from Panadura ADO respectively.

AIA's Deputy CEO and Chief Agency Officer commended these performers for their "immeasurable contri-

bution to the company and thanked them for setting the path ahead for future success."

He further encouraged them to grow their businesses by showcasing the long-term potential of the channel while reiterating their role in delivering AIA's promise of helping Sri Lankans live healthier, longer, better lives.

## Facebook ASP supports over 1,000 local brands in its first year

Roar Digital was officially appointed Facebook's Authorised Sales Partner (ASP) in Sri Lanka this month. Despite the obstacles posed by COVID-19, Roar as the Facebook ASP undertook the challenge of unlocking a more accessible and affordable digital landscape for Sri Lankan advertisers to not only survive but thrive.

Like millions of businesses worldwide, the pandemic paralysed most traditional businesses that relied primarily on sales from their brick and mortar stores to function. Forced to adapt to a 'new normal' during lockdowns, many brands turned to e-commerce and Facebook advertising to market their products and services.

"The current climate has made it clear that digital transformation has become a necessity to thrive," said Roar Global Co-Founder Mustafa Kassim.

"During a period of uncertainty, it's a privilege to be able to support our local advertisers and businesses in navigating their growth within the digital landscape."

By harnessing the potential of Facebook's advertising services, Roar Digital was able to equip local businesses with the tools and mastery to expand and circumvent COVID-19 barriers during a time of uncertainty. From supporting Sri Lankan brands in setting up their digital storefronts (i.e., Facebook and Instagram shops), assisting them to acquire potential high-value customers through Facebook leads, and educating both their clientele and the local public on various campaign optimisation tactics to drive maximum ROI, Roar Digital



strives to deliver quality services to aid advertisers in achieving their business objectives. One year since their inception, the dynamic team, hailing from diverse backgrounds, has serviced over 1,000 reputed multinational and local brands, including 50 digital agencies, and fulfilled over 2,830 support hours to their customers. The team continues to conduct a series of webinars, training and events to inform Sri Lankans regarding the various advertising tools accessible on Facebook. As of today, they have conducted 31 of these sessions for over 2,230 attendees, along with several training sessions for key government institutions. Facebook's ASPs are strategically placed across the globe, acting as an extension of the entity's sales arm. They offer assistance to those in the region who wish to avail themselves of the services offered by Facebook's many tools and apps, which include Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, WhatsApp, and Audience Network.

## Lanka Hospitals opens luxury wing

Lanka Hospitals PLC, nation's internationally accredited multiple award-winning healthcare provider, recently unveiled its multi-million rupee, luxury hospital wing.

The state-of-the-art new luxury facility, known as the '7C Wing' will be managed exclusively by trained medical and nursing staff, equipped with modern facilities and medical technology. The new "staycation" style wing houses an expansive environment, with elevated levels of comfort and sumptuous features that caters to patients and visitors with a wide range of needs and likes. The five-star healthcare facilities that would cater to a mix of local patients and medical tourists provides not only a holistic healing experience but also diagnostics convenience with the 7C Wing being located adjacent to the hospital laboratory.

Deepthi Lokurachchi, Group CEO Lanka Hospitals said, "In order to compete effectively, Lanka Hospitals has boldly set pace to move up the value chain, place greater focus on developing our capabilities, complex procedures and provide an overall superior patient experience through greater service standards. Our new wing has been designed to replicate the comfort and luxury experienced in the best hotels and will help re-affirm our reputation as the facility of choice."

Being amongst the most reliable healthcare providers in the country, Lanka Hospitals carries a proud legacy in unmatched patient care since 2002 with special focus on infection control measures during the recent pandemic. Despite global travel restrictions, the hospital has witnessed a substantial growth in the inflow of medical tourists. This can be attributed to the hospital's continuous efforts to adhere to the highest safety standards and high quality care in line with international requirements. Lanka Hospitals provides distinctive services to diplomatic missions, resident foreign nationals and medical tourists, especially to Maldivian visitors.

Catering to all patients, Lanka Hospitals offers affordable



cardiac packages for adults and children that are reasonably priced to suit every segment of the society. Lanka Hospitals is the first hospital in Sri Lanka to secure some of the most prestigious accreditations in the world for its healthcare service standards including the Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation 6th edition.

## Over 30,000 people in Sri Lanka acquires digital skills during COVID-19

Microsoft has helped over 30 million people in 249 countries and territories gain access to digital skills, of which over 30,000 of them are from Sri Lanka. This tops its initial goal of 25 million last June. Microsoft Corp. is also extending its commitment to help 250,000 companies globally make a skills-based hire in 2021.

From laid-off factory workers to retail associates and truck drivers, millions of people turned to online learning courses from GitHub, LinkedIn and Microsoft during the pandemic to help prepare for and secure the most in-demand roles, including customer service, project management and data analysis.

The announcement, detailed on the Official Microsoft Blog, builds on the company's efforts to help people by extending through 2021 free LinkedIn Learning and Microsoft Learn courses and low-cost certifications that align to 10 of the most in-demand jobs.

"Sri Lanka's economic growth and competitiveness will require the development of new digital skills, among a substantial part of the workforce," said Microsoft Sri Lanka Country Manager Hasitha Abeywardena.

"One of the biggest challenges we face today is to educate our future



workers to fit into a fast changing, technology-driven, world of work. Together with LinkedIn, we are doubling our efforts to re-design work in the country by supporting the development of a more inclusive skills-based labor market. By creating more alternatives, greater flexibility, and accessible learning paths will connect people readily, with new job opportunities."

LinkedIn plans to help 250,000 companies globally make skills-based hires this year through new and existing hiring products.

The pilot of LinkedIn Skills Path, a new way to help companies hire for skills.

New expressive and personalized LinkedIn profile features will help people share more about themselves, their

career and goals in a more authentic and engaging way. Expanded access to LinkedIn's Skills Graph will help create a common skills language for individuals, employers, educational institutions and government agencies to help improve workforce planning, hiring and development programs.

Olivier Legrand, Managing Director & Vice-President, Asia Pacific & China, LinkedIn said, "More and more, we are seeing skills-based hiring becoming critical in our world of work. We've seen people across the globe express a desire to learn and build their skills, and organizations too, are hiring based on skills instead of traditional qualifications."

LinkedIn, together with Microsoft, are committed to helping everyone shift towards a skills-based economy. In 2021, we will continue our efforts to equip job seekers with the right resources to pick up new skills, and connect them to opportunities, as well as aim to help 250,000 organizations make a skills-based hire."

As part of the initiative, Microsoft has worked closely with its nonprofit partners to help provide wrap-around support with coaching, mentoring and networking to nearly 6 million learners worldwide.

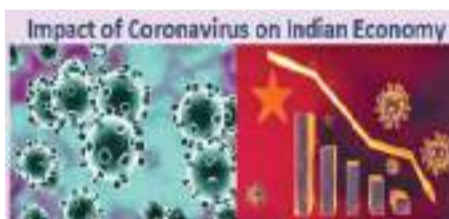
# How will the second COVID-19 wave affect India's economy?

The curve of Covid-19 cases and mobility trends will have a direct bearing on the level of economic activity. India's GDP went down by 24.4% in the quarter ending June 2020. According to the second advance estimates, 2020-21 is expected to suffer a GDP contraction of 7.96%

India is currently experiencing a massive second wave of Covid-19 infections. An HT analysis of seven-day average of cases shows that the current wave is nowhere near its peak. The weekly moving average of daily new cases has increased 14 times since February 11, when it started rising again after declining for five months. India's first Covid-19 wave rose for 29 weeks (or 33 if the first case reported on January 30 is taken as the starting point) before it peaked. As has been pointed out in an HT analysis by Abhishek Jha, the second wave is far steeper in nature than the first wave.

The curve of Covid-19 cases and mobility trends will have a direct bearing on the level of economic activity. India's GDP went down by 24.4% in the quarter ending June 2020. According to the second advance estimates, 2020-21 is expected to suffer a GDP contraction of 7.96%. The 2021-22 Budget projected a nominal GDP growth of 14.4% for the year. In its latest meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI, had the following to say about the growth outlook of the Indian economy, "the projection of real GDP growth for 2021-22 is retained at 10.5 per cent consisting of 26.2 per cent in Q1, 8.3 per cent in Q2, 5.4 per cent in Q3 and 6.2 per cent in Q4".

Assuming these growth rates hold, the 2021-22 GDP will have a distribution of 23%, 24.1%, 25.8%, and 27.2% in each quarter in terms of contribution to the whole. In comparison, the 2019-20 GDP had a distribution of 24.5%, 24.4%, 24.8%, and 26.3% and the 2020-21 GDP had a distribution of 20.1%, 24.6%, 27%, and 28.3%. This suggests that any adverse effect on eco-



conomic activity in the first quarter of the current fiscal year will affect a significant portion of the year's GDP.

The effects of any significant economic disruption, if it were to happen, will not be limited to the first quarter itself. It can have a cascading effect through both demand and supply channels. If supply chains get hit and inflation starts rising — it has already been on an upward trajectory — purchasing power and therefore demand is bound to come under squeeze. Similarly, any cutback in economic activity, especially in sectors which are being forced to do so because of social distancing requirements, will adversely affect incomes and hence demand.

It is to be expected that the worst affected quarter in fiscal year 2021-22 because of the second wave will be the one ending in June 2021. Because, unlike the first wave, we have vaccines this time, it is reasonable to expect that the pace of new infections will slow down as vaccinations pick up. An HT



analysis by Jamie Mullick showed that if India administers vaccines at the current pace of 4 million doses a day, it will take until the end of May for it to vaccinate 100 million people or 10.6% of the population over the age of 18, according to 2021 population projections by the National Commission on Population. Given the fact that the government has granted emergency use authorisation to many more vaccines which are being used in other countries, the pace of vaccination can be expected to be faster.

Still, it is unlikely that the ongoing quarter will be able to escape the

adverse economic effect of the sharp spike in Covid-19 infections. This will have a bearing on GDP levels, and therefore tax revenues, in the current fiscal year. While the official revenue figures for 2020-21 will only be available by April end, media reports have said that both direct and indirect tax collections have exceeded the Revised Estimate (RE) targets for 2020-21. To be sure, the 2020-21 RE targets were scaled down significantly from the Budget Estimates (BE) which were presented before the pandemic erupted.

What is more important is the fact that even the 2021-22 BE targets assume lower tax buoyancy compared to previous numbers. When GDP declined in 2020-21, the government expected the fall in tax revenue to be 1.28 times the fall in GDP, but it has estimated tax revenue to grow only 1.16 times the GDP growth in 2021-22. Indirect taxes, which were expected to grow 3.6% in the RE despite a contraction in GDP, are expected to grow less than the GDP growth in 2021-22.

One reason for this could be the dominance of petroleum taxes in the indirect tax basket, which is more a function of increased tax rates rather than a sharp rise in consumption of petroleum products. In fact, consumption of petrol and diesel is likely to be



A man waits for the cremation of a relative who died of COVID-19, placed near bodies of other victims, in New Delhi, India. (AP Photo)



Relatives of COVID victims seen crematorium in New Delhi

lower than 2019-20 in 2020-21. Whether or not India's favourable GDP revisions undergo a downgrade will depend on how fast vaccinations pick up, which will determine the time it will take to flatten the second wave.

Experts believe that the second wave will extract a significant economic cost. A research note by Pranjal Bhandari, Chief Economist, India HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, said the following.

"It is likely that reported year-on-year GDP growth in the quarter ending March will dip into negative. Even before the second wave struck, the Statistics Office was forecasting GDP growth at -1.1% year-on-year for the quarter. And now with GVA likely to be weaker, GDP growth for the quarter ending March could come in even more

negative. Furthermore, the q-o-q sequential momentum in the quarter ending June will likely come in negative. Led by favourable base effects, the year-on-year growth number will be a large positive (over 20% y-o-y versus -24.4% in the June quarter last year). But what matters more is the seasonally adjusted q-o-q momentum. That we think will dip into negative after consecutive positive prints over the last three quarters, led by weaker momentum in high-touch services like trade and tourism, as well as construction".

"To be fair, once the second wave subsides and a larger proportion of the population are vaccinated, pent-up services demand could push GDP growth back up. But that is likely to be delayed to 2HFY22," the note added.

(www.hindustantimes.com)

## NEWS/FEATURE

# Health hazardous vinegar types in market

ANANDA KANNANGARA

While there is a debate on cancer creating substances in coconut oil, various kinds of unhealthy vinegars too have invaded the market by unregistered mushroom companies with the tag, "natural coconut vinegar".

"These are made using synthetic toddy and acetic acid with coconut water which is not good for the health," said leading natural coconut vinegar manufacturing house with a history of over 125 years C.D. de Fonseka & Sons (PVT) LTD Managing Director/CEO, Dilanga de Fonseka. "According to our information some of these products are local businesses and some are island wide. Most of these suppliers under value the product price and sell at drop bottom prices even below marked MRP. Hence the customer should be aware when buying Vinegar at lower prices. We really do not know which authority should control this. However the Standards Institution, Consumer Protection Authority



Factory premises at Panadura

should take action to identify these illegal producers and inform the Law Enforcement Authority to take necessary legal action before a major health hazard unfolds." He said the main raw material for vinegar is coconut toddy (SAP). We tap organic SAP at our own land at Panadura and from a leased property in Halawatha under excise department controls. For our patented coconut water vinegar, the main ingredient, coconut water is sourced



Vats made of Halmilla wood and Fiber glass

from certified copra mill owners Island wide and are collected in our own bowlers and do not use any synthetic toddy or raw material for our production at any stage. In order to produce natural vinegar, you have to have a facility to ferment the raw material into vinegar. For this purpose, you need to have wooden/fiberglass vats which are stored in a large area in a warehouse. We have over one million liters of wooden ND fiberglass for fermentation

and maturation. We hold the 'patent' for the manufacture of vinegar out of coconut water and we have the excise license to tap toddy trees for coconut toddy vinegar. We also held a distilled white vinegar license to make in Sri Lanka out of ethanol, however, the white vinegar manufacturing was shut down due to our inability to procure alcohol locally. It is our duty to bring to the notice of the general public that we produce natural vinegar out of



Charles David de Fonseka, Founder C D de Fonseka &amp; Sons in 1896

toddy vinegar manufacturer and in 1924 during the British Empire Exhibition C. D. de Fonseka was issued a diploma in appreciation of the services to the industry. In 1922 he took part in the all-Ceylon industrial exhibition and won the Silver medal. Today our company is ISO 22000 & 9001 certified, SLS certified, Coconut Development Board certified Organization and subjected to mandatory annual audits by these institutions. Furthermore we are the only Excise department licensed

coconut toddy and coconut water and we are the only license holder in Sri Lanka to produce natural coconut vinegar. The company was set up by Charles David de Fonseka in 1896 as a Natural Coconut

coconut vinegar manufacturer on the island audited by them periodically.

"We do undertake private labelling and we supply to over 15 branded suppliers and they are all bottled and labeled in our own factory following stringent quality control procedures. We also export organic vinegar to a number of countries directly and also through third parties.

We also have to get the Coconut Development Board approval for the export of vinegar apart from Exercise Department, they too monitor our processes and we are the only supplier authorized to supply vinegar directly for the export market and where Coconut Development Board issue a label to be pasted on every bottle/container to certify that it is supplied from our factory. For the consumer to easily identify our product according to the labelling regulation manufacturer's name is clearly printed in the label as C D De Fonseka & Sons (Pvt) Ltd.



Manjula Ariyakumara, Managing Director, Three Sinha Group receiving the awards

## Three Sinha Group wins Gold at FCCISL Entrepreneur Awards

Three Sinha Group, proved its excellence once again by winning two Gold Awards at the 24th Sri Lankan Entrepreneur of the Year awards ceremony organized by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Sri Lanka.

The two gold awards were for national level and Western Provincial Level victories respectively of manufacturing sector, extra large category.

Manjula Ariyakumara, Managing Director, Three Sinha Group received the two awards at the event held at the BMICH with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa as chief guest.

MD, Ariyakumara said: "Our unwavering commitment to quality and providing a valuable service to the customers is the reason behind our success in achieving these awards and accolades."

Having started way back in 1968 as a small business, Three Sinha Group has recorded a tremendous success over the years to become

one of the leading constructors in Sri Lanka venturing in to diverse areas in the construction industry. The company has won many awards and accolades to its pride including Gold and Silver from CNCI Achievement Awards, Gold and Silver from FCCISL Entrepreneurship Excellence, and consecutively receiving awards for constructions from Sri Lanka Institute of Architects. Eco friendly solar panels are the latest introduction from Three Sinha Group.

Also the company has started constructing low cost prefabricated steel buildings with modern technology. Three Sinha's range of products includes roller doors, roller shutters, sectional overhead doors, window shutters, fire resistant doors, aluminum fabrications, sensor doors, stainless steel railings and stairways, polycarbonate canopies, stainless steel pantry cupboards, steel buildings, automatic barriers and motored sliding and swing gates.

## Asian Building Solutions bags two Bronze at Entrepreneur of the Year

Asian Building Solutions Private Limited, an emerging company in Aluminum and glass products sector, won two coveted awards at the Entrepreneur of the Year awards ceremony organized by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Sri Lanka (FCCISL).

Bronze Award for Extra Large Category, National Level and Merit Award for Extra Large Category, Central Provincial Level were the two respective awards received by Mohamed Rasheed Mohamed Irshad, Chairman, Asian Building Solutions. The flagship

event of FCCISL, which has helped many of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs reach global standards in terms of productivity and value creation, was recently held at the BMICH with Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardane gracing the occasion as chief guest.

With a humble start in 1994, based on Eco friendly green concepts, Asian Building Solutions came a long way amidst many challenges to be established as a private limited in 2016. Today it is a conglomerate of four companies with staff strength around 50.

Asian Building Solutions has obtained ISO quality certification and expanded its services with opening three branches."

"Our customers' trust is on the rise because we are committed to provide high quality products beyond customers' satisfaction. Our untiring staff is dedicated to offer a quality service with a professional guarantee," said Mohamed Rasheed Mohamed Irshad. Asian Building Solutions provides steel buildings, sliding doors, sliding windows, tempered glass and glass cubicles at affordable prices.



Mohamed Rasheed Mohamed Irshad, Chairman, Asian Building Solutions receives the award

## Southern Agro Serve wins two accolades at Entrepreneur of the Year Awards



S. P. Ravindra, MD, Southern Agro Serve receives the award

Southern Agro Serve Private Limited, a leading marketer of agricultural tools and equipment, bagged two coveted awards at the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' awards ceremony organized by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Sri Lanka (FCCISL).

The Silver Award for Medium Category, Southern Provincial Level and Bronze Award for Medium Category, National Level were the two respective awards bestowed upon M.S.P. Ravindra, MD, Southern Agro Serve. The flagship event of FCCISL, which has helped many of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs reach global standards in terms of productivity and value creation, was recently held at the BMICH with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa gracing the occasion as chief guest. Southern Agro Serve has received many accolades previously including FCCISL awards.

"It is a great pleasure to have been able to significantly contrib-

ute to uplift agriculture which helps Sri Lanka's sustainability. We are committed to provide the best quality tools and equipment that would enhance efficiency of the agricultural sector. We are planning to introduce innovation to the sector with high tech equipment in future. I take this opportunity to thank my untiring staff and loyal customers who placed great trust in our products and services" stated S.P. Ravindra. Having started in 2004, Southern Agro Serve (www.southernagro.lk) saw a rapid growth over the years.

The company specializes in manufacturing and importing a wide range of high quality agricultural tools, providing innovative knowledge in relation to all agricultural requirements and applications. The company earned a name for reliable after sales service and quality guaranteed products over the years. Southern Agro Serve distributes its products through a network of nearly 600 sales agents placed island wide.

# Proceed with caution: Is Sri Lanka's approach to import substitution sensible?

## A Pathfinder Perspective

In the immediate aftermath of the onset of the Covid19 pandemic and the unprecedented health and economic crises it unleashed, there was a widespread backlash in sentiment against globalisation and open economic policies. The greatly increased human mobility associated with these phenomena were blamed for the rapid spread of the virus to all parts of the globe. The supply-side shocks, related even to basic goods, such as food and medicines, as well as demand pressures emanating from a rise in protectionism, were seen as being the result of the complex supply chains that underpinned the web of cross-border production networks that constitute a major part of the global economy on the one hand and the destruction of employment and incomes in an integrated world economy on the other.

However, as time passed, there has been a shift in sentiment. The focus has shifted to seeking ways and means of maintaining the substantial gains of globalization, while reducing the risks that were exposed and amplified by the pandemic. On the health front, the extraordinary achievement of scientists in developing highly efficacious vaccines, in record time, has created the very real prospect of opening up global mobility again.

This has been supplemented by the exponential acceleration of remote working and living. On the economic front, the focus has been shifted from efficiency to

resilience in maintaining global supply chains. There has been diversification as well as shortening of supply chains.

On the demand side, the unprecedented policy actions of Treasuries and Central Banks around the world has propped up businesses and livelihoods to an extent where a relatively strong recovery, though multi-speed, is being seen in the world economy. These trends explain why there has been a shift in sentiment, as mentioned above.

While protectionist pressures are still present, the case for an open and rules-based international trading system is being reinforced, led by China. The Biden administration has also taken measures to revive the World Trade Organisation, including through the appointment of a former Finance Minister of Nigeria, and Managing Director of the World Bank, as the first female head of the institution.

The dispute resolution panel of



the WTO is also being reconstituted. Protectionist sentiments and a shift to autarkic policies were also ascendant in Sri Lanka. The world seems to have realized that it is not advisable to "throw the baby out with the bath water." It is important that Sri Lanka absorbs this lesson as well.

It would be useful to trace the evolution of the thinking on import substitution and to examine briefly some of its sub-optimal practical outcomes. A paper by Douglas A Irwin, titled "The Rise and Fall of Import Substitution," (Working Paper, Peterson Institute for International Economics; July 2020) traces the evolution of the thinking on import-substitution. Import substitution policies initially came to the fore in the early 1950s. It is probably no coincidence that they gained salience at a time when decolonisation was gathering momentum. The ex-colonies sought to augment their political

freedom with policies that reduced their dependence on the metropolitan centers.

### Import substitution best trade strategy?

Many developing countries came to the conclusion that import substitution was the best trade strategy to promote industrialization and economic growth within a global economic system based on colonial structures that was geared very much against them through exploitative trading relations.

Raoul Prebisch, based at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America, is widely recognized as the father of the import-substitution industrialization (ISI) strategy. However, he and other leading contemporary figures in development economics, in the 1950s, identified fairly quickly some of the weaknesses of import substitution policies in practice.

Import controls, particularly on manufactured goods, did not necessarily conserve foreign exchange as intended; rates of tariff protection were high, resulting in a misallocation of resources and higher priced and poor quality products for consumers; small and inefficient firms were created that served only domestic markets, and taken together, these policies became an obstacle to promoting exports. These shortcomings are relevant even today.

Prebisch's own views changed

by the 1970s. It can be argued that the intellectual demise of import substitution had taken place by the 1970s.

The Pathfinder Foundation believes that there is considerable evidence that openness to trade increases the growth, employment and incomes trajectories of economies. It is noteworthy that the unleashing of the potential of Asian economies (particularly in East and Southeast Asia) was greatly facilitated by two of the key pillars of globalization: liberalization of trade and capital flows.

This enhanced the capacity of countries to take advantage of the opportunities created by rising external demand. The successful countries of Asia were able to attract FDI, with its capital, market access and know-how, to drive export expansion and take advantage of this increasing external demand brought about by globalization.

### Increased FDI, rising exports

In practice, countries as large as China or as small as Singapore have been able to transform their economies through this combination of increased FDI and rising exports. In this context, it is noteworthy that the coastal regions of China, which were significantly more integrated with the world economy, have experienced far more dynamic growth and development than the hinterland, which is significantly



less integrated, and more backward.

The experience in China vividly illustrates within one country the tangible benefits of policies which are open to greater integration with the global economy.

It is also important to learn lessons from historical experience closer to home. The inward-looking policies adopted by Sri Lanka in the 1970s resulted in a low-investment, low growth and high unemployment syndrome. Long queues for even essential goods were emblematic of this period.

The benefits of liberalizing the economy in 1977-78 have been curtailed by the three-decade-long civil conflict and the partial nature of reforms due to a lack of political consensus around policies that attract FDI and promote exports. Weak implementation has also amplified poor overall performance.

The time has come to have a concerted and holistic approach to transforming the Sri Lankan economy.

### High priority to food security

In today's world of ever-increasing climate and other risks, there is a case for attaching high priority to food security.

Well-targeted import substitution policies in agriculture can be justified on these grounds. However, the overarching focus should be on increasing productivity to avoid imposing high prices and poor quality on the consumers.

The paddy sector reveals what should not be done. Sri Lanka has now reached self-sufficiency in rice production in most years. However, the outcome has been a long tail of low productivity, low income farmers whose subsistence has to be secured by inefficient and costly subsidies as well as guaranteed prices. Lessons need to be learned from past experience to avoid the same mistakes in the present and future.

In conclusion, the Pathfinder Foundation believes that it is encouraging that the most senior policy-makers have been stressing the need to develop "a production economy" driven by FDI and exports, along with a high-productivity agricultural sector.

These goals should not be derailed by vested interests which focus on rent-seeking activity based on import restrictions. History, in Sri Lanka and elsewhere, teaches us that the outcomes will inevitably be bad.

The Pathfinder article is available at [www.pathfinderfoundation.org](http://www.pathfinderfoundation.org) for online reading.

# Cargills, Unilever team up to help reduce plastic waste in Sri Lanka

Cargills and Unilever Sri Lanka have joined hands to establish a sustainable plastic waste management system across nine Cargills Food City outlets in Colombo.

Utilising the diverse network of resources and expertise of both companies, this holistic system will cover collection, distribution, segregation and recycling of plastic waste.

The companies hope to extend this initiative to other outlets across Sri Lanka. The initiative forms part of Unilever Sri Lanka's purpose-led agenda to reduce its environmental impact by responsibly managing its plastic footprint and further aligns with Cargills' vision towards building a sustainable environment for Sri Lanka.

A demarcated plastic drop-off point will be installed at each location, with the option of disposing either hard plastics (bottles, tubs, cups) or flexible

plastics (shopping bags, wrappers) at the customers' convenience.

The collected plastic wastewill be picked up and transported to a collection hub for further segregation. Following this, all recyclable plastic waste will then be dispatched to recycling centres while the non-recyclable plastic waste will be sent to waste-to-energy recovery centres. This end-to-end process will be closely monitored to ensure that plastic waste is safely disposed in an environment-friendly manner.

Cargills Food Company Managing Director Asoka Pieri said, "Given the widespread visibility and presence of Cargills Food City outlets in the country, this project will significantly reduce the damaging effects of plastic waste. We further hope that this initiative will raise awareness and instill



**Asoka Pieri, Managing Director Cargills Food Company, disposing a plastic bottle in the new plastic waste management unit, with Aruna Mawilmada, Customer Development Director Unilever Sri Lanka and Gerard Irudayaraj, Supply Chain Director Unilever Sri Lanka**

plastic recycling as a consumer habit, making progress towards a sustainable future."

Unilever Sri Lanka Customer Development Director Aruna

Mawilmada said, "We are excited to partner with Cargills to make a positive impact on the environment. Reducing plastic waste is a global and national



**The Plastic Waste Management Unit at the Cargills Food City Pelawatta outlet. Pictures by Saliya Rupasinghe**

need and has always been a top priority for Unilever. While we believe that plastic must be used responsibly, as it softens the most safe and efficient way to get our products across to consumers, it should not hap-

pen at the expense of the environment.

This is why we have come forward with Cargills to introduce our new waste management system which is one of many Unilever initiatives that

are in place to protect and conserve our planet."

Unilever has globally committed to make 100% of its plastic packaging reusable, recyclable, or compostable; halve the amount of virgin plastic it uses in its packaging; and help collect and process more plastic packaging than it sells, by 2025.

The nine Cargills Food City outlets include the Pelawatta, Mount Lavinia (STC), Rajagiriya, Kandana, Wattala, Maharagama, Katubedda, Kollupitiya and Bloemendhal outlets, together with the KFC restaurant located in Marine Drive.

The launch took place on April 23, at the Cargills Food City Pelawatta outlet. To commemorate the initiative, coupons for a free eco-friendly bag will be handed out to customers at the collection bins for an entire week from the launch date.

## CIPM introduces specialised diploma courses in HR

CIPM Sri Lanka, a leader in human resource management introduced two new specialized diploma courses in HR to the market at a ceremony held at the CIPM Auditorium, "HR House" in Colombo 5 recently.

The two new specialized HR courses that were launched were the Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health and the Diploma in Industrial Relations and Employment Law.

These two diploma courses will help HR professionals to further specialize and hone their practical HR skills. Specialization adds significant value to HR professionals and students in the local and international market and will also be important in the context of the demand that will be created for HR professionals in the future.

President of CIPM, Jayantha Amarasinghe, CIPM Council Members, CIPM faculty, staff, and special invitees together with Chief Guest Simrin Singh, Country Director for the ILO office, Dr. Olivia Nieveras, Acting World



**CIPM President Jayantha Amarasinghe, together with Country Director for the ILO office Simrin Singh, Acting World Health Organization Country Representative to Sri Lanka Dr. Olivia Nieveras and other dignitaries at the head table**

Health Organization Country Representative to Sri Lanka were present at the launching ceremony.

"As the President of the leading HR professional body in Sri Lanka, I am proud that we have been consistently delivering key results to the HR fraternity and the country in line with our corporate objectives. These specialized courses that we are launching today too are in response to a market requirement which has been thoroughly reviewed by our highly committed standing committee for Professional and Aca-

demic Affairs led by its chairman Neil Bogahalanda supported by Dr. Palipane and Prof. Sarveswaran" said Jayantha Amarasinghe President, CIPM Sri Lanka.

"The two courses are the need of the day for the issue of the day and are critical in moving forward while addressing the whole new dimension of psychosocial well-being brought about by the global pandemic and the new normal where the world of work is upside down" said Chief Guest Ms. Simrin Singh, Country Director for

the ILO office while congratulating CIPM for selecting the best resources and course directors.

"The mental health and wellbeing of people are critical at this juncture. It is appreciated that education courses covering these aspects are being introduced by CIPM to uplift the knowledge and competencies of HR professionals to solve the issue from an HR dimension. The ILO is having discussions with the government on these same lines. HR professionals should enroll in these courses and be the change-makers" she added.

Leader of the Syllabus Development Committee Diploma in Industrial Relations and Employment Law Prof. A. Sarveswaran and Dr. Wajira Palipane, Leader of the Syllabus Development Committee- Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health were also felicitated at the launch ceremony appreciating their commitment and key role in designing and developing the courses and the curricula.

## Technocity recognised as 'Most Valuable Partner' by AData Technology

The Technocity was recently recognised as the "Most Valuable Partner" by AData Technology Taiwan for the 2020 financial year.

Commenting on this achievement, Managing Director of Technocity, Fahmy Ismail said, "This is a great and significant achievement considering the fact that we exceeded our revenue target despite the pandemic situation throughout the whole of last year. We owe this accolade to our entire team and to all our channel partners".

The Technocity was appointed as Distributor for Adata Products in October 2018. Since acquiring distributor status, it has been consistently performing YOY.

The Technocity is an



**Danuka Asela Brand Coordinator, Althaf Akram Commercial Executive, M. Kalim Sales Manager, Gehan Thangappan Business Manager, P. Sumithran Business Development Executive and S. Tharani Sales Coordinator**

authorised distributor and service provider for HP, Asus, Msi, BenQ, Xerox, Logitech, Adata and many reputed brands in Sri Lanka. Founded in 2001, Adata Technology is listed on the

Taiwan Stock Exchange. Its principal product line consists of DRAM modules, flash disk drives, external hard drives, solid state drives, memory cards and mobile accessories.

## Slim Pharmaceuticals recognised as Great Place to Work

Slim Pharmaceuticals, one of the most trusted pharmaceuticals in the country was recently bestowed with a Great Place to Work certification in recognition of its efforts and initiatives in embracing a workplace culture focused on empowerment, openness, and inclusivity which are all deeply embedded into its values.

With the firm belief that boosting morale and fostering a stimulating learning environment is critical to its success, Slim Pharma engages in many employee engagement and welfare activities. The company heavily invests in providing numerous training, team-building and personal development including an interactive online learning portal.

The certification awarded by the Great Place to Work Sri Lanka for the period of one-year effective April 2021 is the outcome of a comprehensive assessment of the employee experience at Slim Pharma. Its Trust Index Survey is based on five principles namely credibility, respect, fairness, pride and camaraderie including existing people practices around fifteen main areas through the Culture Audit Management Questionnaire.

"We are proud to be recognized as a company with a great workplace culture. It is this that undoubtedly sets us apart from others. We are in the business of caring for people and this begins by caring our own people - our talented and diverse employees. Having a work-life balance is crucial to our growth, to ensure they are happy, productive, and keen to stay with us," said Mahesh Premaratne Joint Managing Director of Slim Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd.

Slim Pharma has garnered sustainable and trusted partnerships with over 35 globally renowned manufacturers of essential medication including MNCs such as Roche, Baxter and Otsuka.



**Mahesh Premaratne, Joint Managing Director-Slim Pharmaceuticals**

Today, Slim Pharma takes great pride in being one of the fast-growing pharmaceutical companies with a distinctive reputation built on trust and excellence, in less than a decade since its inception.

Slim Pharma's diverse portfolio includes premium generic medicine, biopharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, surgical, medical instruments (diagnostics) and cosmeceuticals.

Its products go through a stringent screening process to ensure utmost quality and safety and primarily focuses on medication for allergies, angina, anxiety, arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, cancer, cholesterol, diabetes, erectile dysfunction, gastrointestinal, heartburn and heart disease, hypertension, osteoarthritis, pain, UTI, and weight loss.

The company seamlessly works hand in hand with over 15 strategic distributors across Sri Lanka, catering to more than 2500 hospitals and pharmacies. Its warehouse partner is global logistics giant DHL, fully equipped to accommodate secure storage complete with cold room storage facilities.

Slim Pharma strongly believes in giving back to the society through its CSR programmes. Some of its recent initiatives includes donating facemasks to the Defence Ministry, high-end digital printers to the Medical Research Institute of Sri Lanka, and IT equipment to Apeksha Hospital Maharagama.

## INSEE Sanstha Cement feted at People's Awards 2021

INSEE Sanstha, a recognized brand of cement in the country, received a resounding affirmation from consumers at the recent SLIM Nielsen People's Awards 2021 'crowned the 'People's Housing and Construction Brand of the Year' for the 10th consecutive year.

The annual event among the marketing and brands fraternity is organized by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing (SLIM) and unique in nature as they celebrate and acknowledge the consumers choice. Executive Vice President

Sales Jan Kunigk, Marketing and Innovation and Gayani Perera, Head of Marketing were present on the occasion to accept this prestigious award. "We are delighted to note that INSEE Sanstha was presented the 'People's Housing and Construction Brand of the Year' for the 10th consecutive year. It showcases our commitment to continue to manufacture the best cement, high in quality and capable of meeting various consumer needs," said Jan Kunigk.

INSEE Sanstha is recognized for its key benefits

such as improved strength, longer durability, better workability, providing an aesthetic finish and requiring less water to mix in comparison to other ordinary cement brands.

Reaffirming its position as a people's choice Sanstha Cement is the most popular brand of cement in the country with one in every three houses is built using the product. The brand has also won the hearts of engineers and large project owners in the country for decades making it the preferred choice of cement.



**01 - Jan Kunigk, Executive Vice President Sales, Marketing and Innovation and Gayani Perera, Head of Marketing accepts the award**

## AIC Campus, offers France Education Grants

AIC Campus, Havelock Town, the first higher educational institution in Sri Lanka to offer French higher education, is providing local students the opportunity to follow a partially-funded, world-class degree program in France in Engineering, Business, IT, and Biomedical at several of its Grande Écoles (elite schools) partners.

France is one of the Top 10 economies of the world and is home to some of the world's leading international corporations such as Airbus, Total, Orange, LVMH, L'Oréal, and DANONE.

France has a unique education system and has built a reputation as a country where private industry plays an active role in higher education by funding a significant percentage of the student's educational costs. France has prestigious public and private higher education institutions recognized by the state known as Grande-Écoles (elite schools) where up to 34% of international students pursue their higher education.

The Grandes Écoles are funded by a Group of Companies that finances 40% of each of student's annual training cost on education while students have to only finance the remaining 60% of their entire tuition fee.



**Dinura Weerasena the first recipient of the grant**

A significant feature of this approach is that the students are presented with the opportunity of obtaining internships in France and other European countries allowing them to be actively involved in practical assessments. This puts them in a better position to secure a permanent job on successful completion of their degree, resulting in the current 95% employment rate each year.

The Funded Education Program of AIC Campus presents a rare opportunity for Sri Lankan students to pursue their higher education in France by paying only 60% of the entire tuition fee. Students who have

sat for the G.C.E. A/L Examination in 2019 and 2020 are now eligible to enter for the 2021 March and September intakes to pursue their dreams of a partially-funded, world-class degree program in Engineering, Business, IT and BioMedical study areas.

The Grande Écoles of AIC Campus includes Grande Écoles in Engineering (ESIGELEC Graduate School of Engineering, EPF School of Engineering and ESTP School of Engineering), Grande Écoles in Biomedical Sciences (Sup 'biotech Specialized School of Biotechnology) and Grande Écoles in Business and Management (Montpellier Business School, Rennes School of Engineering and IPAC Business School).

AIC Campus is a leader in transnational education, established with a vision to provide affordable and quality higher education opportunities for students in Sri Lanka and Maldives. With modern campuses centrally-located in Colombo, Kandy and Jaffna, AIC Campus brings the world's most recognized universities to Sri Lanka allowing students to pursue a wide variety of university degrees of their choice in Sri Lanka at a fraction of the cost of doing the same degree overseas.

## OPPO A54 launch in Sri Lanka

OPPO, a leading global smart device brand, announces the launch of OPPO A54 in Sri Lanka.

A54's attention to design and great usability is evident in both its exquisite appearance and how it helps to capture great looking shots. This starts with the Material of the Rear Cover, which uses metallic material for its 3D panel, but contributes to a stronger and

less bendable structure but also a comfortable in-hand feel. "A Series is designed to enhance or complement our users' lifestyles and OPPO A54 achieves just this with a phone that manages to balance a high-end performance with contemporary design. Its large 5000mAh battery and 18W Fast Charge makes sure you're fully powered to get you through your day," said Bob Li, CEO, XINDA Lanka (OPPO Sri Lanka).

The Rear Cameras itself feature a 13MP Main Camera, 2MP Macro Camera for close range shots, and 2MP Bokeh for brilliant bokeh shots that blur the background and highlight the subject of the photo. A54 enhances shots in all environments with Dazzle Color, balancing the saturation and brightness.

To boost the premium quality, the A54 had been built to achieve the industry standard of IPX4 Waterproof



under the laboratory setting condition. But this is just one of the Other Precision Quality Tests that ensuring 5 layers of protection.

A54 will last up to 2.2 days on a single charge, or give 19.9 hours of YouTube video playback or 23 hours on WhatsApp. A54 offers battery overcharge

and over-discharge protections, short circuit and over current protection and a series of charging protection designs to protect users' charging safety.

Whilst Super Power Saving Mode in A54 is a life saver, the Triggering power saving strategies in A54 will allow as much as 85 minutes of chatting on WhatsApp and 91 minutes of phone calls even on only 5% of battery life. Or even at night, if the phone has missed charging, A54's Super Nighttime Standby conserves the battery life so the next morning it's only reduced by as little as 1.79%.

A54 now charges using a Type-C Connector that plugs into the phone from either end. More importantly it offers a short circuit protector that detects and stops a charge when it recognizes a rise in temperature or even water in the connector.

# TOWN & COUNTRY

To re-ignite the passions of town & country folk

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## Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya



Announcing at Children's Day event

# HOPE blossoms



Addressing the assembly on farewell function of Ven Gnanessara thera

ISHARA JAYAWARDANE

Separating good from evil and using that knowledge to defeat evil is the message we need to give out says Head Prefects Vismi Amada and Pasindu Haputhanthri of Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Pannipitiya. Perfect Prefects features the two heads who strongly believe in this message of hope.

Both Head Prefects agreed that Hitler is one of the most evil leaders the world has ever seen. He was the evil genius responsible for the holocaust - the genocide of European Jews during World War II. He was the instigator of the murder of six million Jews and some 5 million others. More than one million of those who perished were children.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews died due to the horrendous conditions in the ghettos (starvation, disease, and poor living conditions) in German occupied Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. Possibly more than 2 million holocaust victims died in mass shootings or gas vans (outfitted with engines that pumped carbon monoxide into sealed passenger compartments).

But if you can separate the leader from the monster you can learn a lot. One lesson we can learn from Hitler is the power of persuasive speech. He was a master of propaganda. In his meetings his audiences grew from a handful to thousands. Just think about the impact a good man or woman can create if he/she was as eloquent as Hitler? As impassioned as Hitler?

Both Head girl Vismi Amada and Head Boy Pasindu Haputhanthri pointed out that the kind of leadership skills Hitler possessed, enabled him to form a strong Nazi party. It ruled Germany through totalitarian means from 1933 to 1945. Imagine the potential for good if a compassionate man or woman possessed such skills?

"I agree that Hitler was a cruel leader but his leadership skills were outstanding. It is extremely regrettable that he used those leadership skills to create untold suffering. But if we can separate the leader from

the monster, we can create a better world by applying these examples of leadership to our day to day lives," said Head Boy Pasindu Haputhanthri.

He further went on to explain that you need that spark of creativity. You need that originality of thought. Never be afraid to do something anew. Always try to think outside the box. Society changes when people think differently and see things in a way that others do not. Isaac Newton was an English Mathematician, physicist, astronomer, theologian and author who is regarded as a key figure in the scientific revolution. Legend has it that Isaac Newton formulated gravitational theory after watching an apple fall and asked why the apple fell straight down, rather than sideways or even upward. He showed that the force that makes the apple fall and that holds us on the ground is the same as the force that keeps the moon and planets in their orbits. There is even a joke which probably might not be true that passers by said - 'why is this fool looking at the apple, why doesn't he eat it?'

He points out that he tries to be a friend to everyone at school. Because of the trust he has gained, students ask him for advice and even confide in him. This allows him to effectively lead the student population. When solving problems he believes in being systematic. With the members of the Prefect guild behind him and along with the Head Girl, they solve problems one at a time while keeping in mind the old adage - haste makes waste.

Haputhanthri from a very young age had just one goal in mind and that was to be a lecturer at University. He is also an avid chess player. "I have represented the school chess team and I must say that keeping a focused mind is hard but that is exactly what chess helps you with. You are able to train your mind to focus on one thing and not let yourself be distracted. It is battle between two armies.

This actually has helped me develop my



leadership qualities," explained Haputhanthri.

His message to the youth is to set targets and then deliberate on the path that must be taken. You have to decide on the path you will have to take to achieve your goals. It won't be a walk in the park says Haputhanthri. "You will have to push through adversity. You will have to jump hurdles and navigate around roadblocks. You need mental fortitude. Never be afraid to ask for help. Never be afraid to ask for advice.

You have the power to change your life."

"When a lot of people hear the name Hitler, it fills them with dread. But I agree with Pasindu, that as a leader he was exceptional. Because of his charisma and eloquence he mesmerized the German people. But if we can separate the leader from the devil incarnate, we can learn a lot," said Head Girl Vismi Amada.

She feels that we should try and create a civilized society that always gives prominence to ethical behavior. From a child's school days, the child must be taught to think about others. The reason for this is, changing a person's attitude is extremely difficult once they are in adulthood. "From early childhood through to the boy/girl's formative years that child should understand or be taught the importance of ethical behavior. He /she should have a positive mindset. That is the responsibility of society - inculcating a positive mindset in the child."

She believes that any individual in a position of leadership needs to be straightforward and as a leader he or she needs to be there to help others while at the same time allowing that person to be independent and discover his/her strengths.

Amada believes that unity is absolutely essential when dealing with any problem not only at the school level but when one leaves school and joins the workforce. When you share the work load and trust one another, it really minimizes stress and pressure.

"I believe in a change from the inside. I have many goals

in life but what really motivates me is self-improvement. There always is a quality of mine that I can improve on, so I really do not believe there is a point of no growth for me," said Amada.

Apart from reading books and stamp collecting another one of her outside interests is the popular sport of rifle shooting. This year she will be selected to the National Pool. In the year 2019 she toured Germany. At present she occupies the 7th position at National Level.

"Rifle shooting has really contributed to my self-development and confidence. I have benefited in so many ways. I started during my O/Ls and I have seen a positive change in me. When you train yourself to be mentally strong, it even helps you in your studies," explains Amada.

Her message to the youth is that your individuality should be preserved. "Do not try and be a copy of someone else. What works for one person does not work for someone else. Stand away from the crowd and from what they are doing and visualize your own unique path. Become the person you want to be. You need to have faith in yourself and you need to understand that if you want to reach your dreams you need to put in the hard work and forge your own path - a path that will lead to those dreams," pointed out Amada.

She points out that her inspiration in life has been her parents. However, she wishes to be an inspiration to others as well.

Both Head Prefects pointed out that Dharmapala Vidyalaya is a school that offers students a holistic education through highly competent teachers. The school gives the child an opportunity to learn and excel in their studies and extra-curricular activities.

Being a mixed school both genders respect each other. It is one of the finest mixed schools in the country where strong friendships are formed between students. They also did not forget to thank their Principal, teachers and parents for all the support.

Pictures by Sudath Malaweera



Head Boy Pasindu Haputhanthri



At Prince of Wales College Media Competition



Vismi with her family



Pasindu with his family



Head Girl Vismi Amada



To a regular person, Spitfire the dog may look like just another Whippet, but to connoisseurs of the dock diving circuit, he is an incredible athlete in the same league as icons like Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods or Babe Ruth.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic hit, eight year-old Spitfire and his 16-year-old handler, Sydney, dominated the dock diving circuit like never before in the history of the sport.

If you're unfamiliar with the sport of dock diving, it's essentially canines running on a wooden dock and jumping as far or as high as possible before diving into a pool of water. And no dog does this better than Spitfire. Between 2016 and 2019, he broke a whopping 21 world records, jumping farther and higher than any other competitor and securing his status as the GOAT of dock diving.

Spitfire came into the Mackey family in 2013. Back then, he was just an adorable pooch with big puppy eyes that Sydney instantly fell in love with, but his athletic qualities were undeniable. The whippet was bred by a heritage breeder, inheriting great genes from both par-

ents, but even so, his first experience with dock diving surprised everyone.

Sydney and her mother learned about dock diving in 2016, from a family friend who encouraged them to try it with Spitfire. In May of that year, they decided to give the sport a try and their pet proved to be a natural.

"He wasn't shy, or scared or reserved about it, he just humped into the water," Sydney's coach recalls about Spitfire's first ever dock dive. "Right away I went 'just hold on, because this is gonna be fun, like that dog is going to take you places that you would have never imagined.'"

It wasn't long after that very first jump that Sydney and Spitfire started making waves in the world of dock diving. They took the sport by storm and they dominated events across the United States like no team had ever done before. In three years time, they broke no less than 21 world records, and became known as an unbeatable duo.

Before he leaps into the air, the world's best dock diver reaches a speed of about 30miles per hour, and when he takes to the air he can reach a distance of 31 feet before hit-

ting the water, or whopping 8ft 6 inches, when he's going for height. It's no wonder they call him the flying dog...

But while Spitfire is undoubtedly the star of the show, most dock diving experts are convinced that despite his athletic abilities, he would have never reached his true potential without his young handler's guidance. Sydney's "Ready? READY? GoGoGoGoGoGoGoGoGoGo" pep-talk to get Spitfire fired up has become famous on the dock jumping circuit, and everyone acknowledges her merits.

Even though the pandemic really took its toll on dock diving as a sport, Spitfire has been keeping himself busy by winning new titles and setting new records. Even though he's not as young as he used to be, he continues to dominate the sport and has already cemented his legacy as one of the best ever, if not the greatest.

Oddity Central



# Rainbow

## HAIR COLOURING



Throughout the years, hair has become an unexpected canvas for beautiful art. From awe-inspiring braids to vibrant colouring, it's incredible what hairstylists are able to achieve.

Adding to our wonder is Ksenia Kisavna, a stylist and colorist who transforms otherwise ordinary locks into rainbow coils that radiate the likes of blue, green, and pink hues. When she's done, her clients have a work of art on their heads.

Kisavna began her foray into colouring in 2017 when the trend of highlighter-cloaked hair exploded in popularity. Since that time, the self-taught stylist has honed her skills—first on friends and family, and now on an array of folks eager to express themselves through their hair. Kisavna keeps her work feeling fresh by looking beyond indus-



try trends and turning to nature for wow-worthy colour combinations.

In the case of her rainbow hair, Kisavna has found inspiration in the way light will reflect into a space and project tiny rainbows indoors. The feeling of fleeting colour is translated onto the locks; as the hair moves with the wind, it's reminiscent of how quickly light from prisms can move, too.

My Modern Met

### MARMADUKE



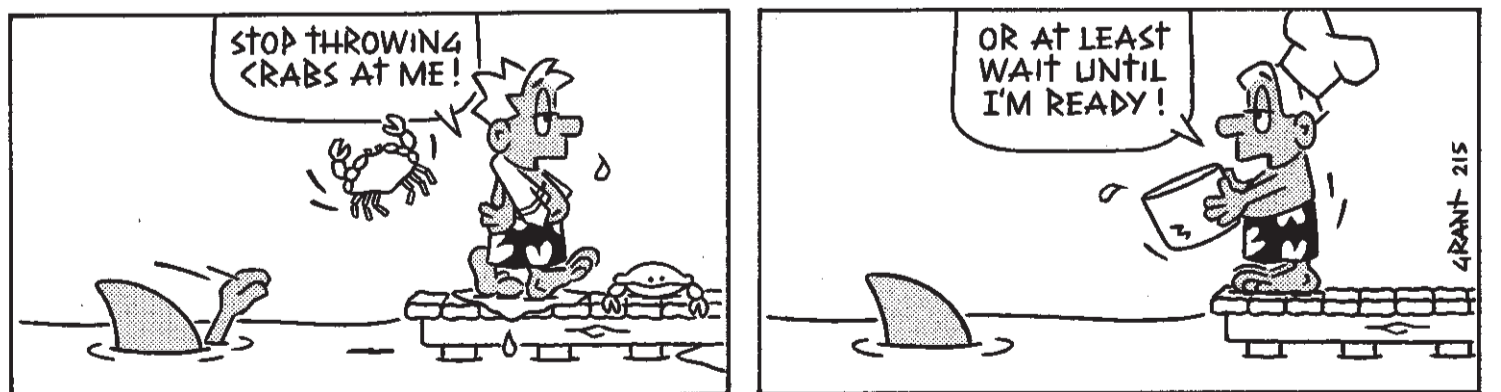
### MUTT AND JEFF



### ARCHIE



### FISH TALES



### UP & RUNNING





## AVURUDU CHEERS

A much awaited time of the year in Sri Lanka is the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. OKI International Kiribathgoda branch celebrated "Erabadu Wasanthaya" with much pomp and fanfare in the presence of their chairperson, Nirmalee Saparamadu, Coordinating Principal Denum Abeyskera, Chief Administrative Officer Deepthi Kamalawarna, Branch Directress Dulari Perera, Principal Kumari Ranasinghe, Headmistress Madushi De Alwis and several celebrities as special guests (Sanjaya

Muramudali, Shalika Edirisinghe, Lochana Imashi, Adithya Weliwatta, Nuwami Walimuni). Ritual dances, lighting of the hearth and the oil lamp commenced followed by avurudu games. School art teacher Sandaruwani did the creative decorations, Dancing teacher Kavinda and Music teacher Maheshini organized the beautiful cultural items for this event. All the teachers from preschool to A Levels and all parents of OKI International School, Kiribathgoda, helped to make this event a success.



## CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Avurudu celebrations of the Pre-school Teacher Training Centre located at Inspiro Business School, Kohuwala, was held on April 11 at Sen-Saal, Nugegoda.

Renowned Costume Designer for films, Shanthi Warnasuriya graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The Directress of the Pre-school Teacher Training Centre,

Menik Wijayawardhana, has an experience of 40 years in the field of Early Childhood Education.

Many traditional Avurudu games were organized, giving

everyone an enjoyable time filled with fun and laughter.

The students engaged in a number of Avurudu activities together, create lasting memories.



## SHARPENING THEIR SKILLS

Text and Pictures by RUZAIK FAROOK

The Pearl Hobby Craft Educational Institute held its 13th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Ceremony at the M. D. Gunasena Auditorium, Colombo 12, recently. It was held under the patronage of Risa Fawazdeen, Proprietor and Chief Instructor of the Institute.

Pearl Hobby Craft is a Training Institute Registered under the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission and affiliated by Vocational Training Authority. Since its inception in 2009, they are conducting Vocational Training Courses such as General Cookery, Cake Making, Tailoring and Hand Crafts exclusive for ladies. This is year more than 85 students received their certificates and awards.

Tower Hall Foundation Director Hassim Omar was present as a Chief Guest, Seatrans International Private Limited Financial Controller A L. A Chathurika Liyanaarachchi, Director of Frontier Advisory Private Limited F Fazla Azreen and Amana Bank Ladies Branch Manager F Shazney Siraj was present as Guests of Honour.

Director of Studies of the Institute M M Fawazdeen is also present.



## MARKING 21 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Lyceum International, Panadura, the second branch of Lyceum International, launched in the year 2000 under the guidance of Lyceum International Founder, Dr Mohan Lal Grero and Coordinating Principal, Dr Kumari Grero, is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year.

Since a modest beginning in an old colonial type house in Jayathilake Mawatha, with three teachers and 23 students, it has now expanded into a fully fledged international school with a wide range of both educational and co-curricular facilities and, today stands as a beacon of hope to the youth of the area.

The main school is located at Walana, at the Northern entry point to Panadura town, a tranquil setting bordering the Bolgoda lake. Over time, consequent to rapid growth, the Primary School moved to the new premises at Bekkegama in August 2014. Both schools have continued to evolve, complementing and satisfying new and emergent changes in education, technology and infrastructure, and setting benchmark standards as a leading international school.

Currently, both the Primary and Main schools comprise three large five storey buildings with 10 spacious classrooms in each floor, accommodating a co-educational student body of 3600, ranging from Pre-school to Advanced Level. Whilst academic and co-curricular programmes of



the school comply fully with international school standards, the vision and philosophy of Lyceum International also ensures the harmonious development of students with

in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious environment.

Today, Lyceum International, Panadura celebrates a landmark event, in a journey sign-

posted by many achievements. Behind the individual successes of the students is the operational leadership of the Principal, and the contribution made by the complement of over 300 members of teaching and support staff. The Principal, Deputy Principal, Warden, Headmistresses, Operations Manager, Coordinators, Sectional Heads, Grade coordinators and all other staff, too numerous to mention by name, have played significant roles providing high educa-

tional standards and instilling in the students, social and cultural awareness and sound moral values.

The School infrastructure provides a wide range of amenities to facilitate learning; a spacious library, a conference room, air-conditioned computer laboratories and state-of-the-art Science laboratories enable a comprehensive theoretical and practical learning experience. Other facilities include a 4 acre cricket ground, standard basketball court, swimming pools, dancing rooms, children's play area and school infirmary. The School's Career Guidance Department advises students for their higher studies and Counselling Unit provides psychological assistance. The school also regularly hosts concerts, dramas, singing competitions, dance performances and cultural and religious events. Lyceum Panadura follows a specialized curriculum up to Grade 8 and provides students, from grade 9, with the option of enrolling in the National or Cambridge International examinations at both Ordinary Level and Advanced Levels. It has received accreditation as a Cambridge Examination Centre. The school felicitates the students who have brought credit to the school, by achieving success and international awards at the annual, Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards.

Many students of Lyceum,



Panadura have secured Top in the World, and Top in Sri Lanka positions in Accounting, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, English Literature, French, Human and Social Biology, Mathematics and Physics. Such significant achievements have enabled students to secure scholarship placement and qualifications in a variety of fields, from many prestigious international universities.

During the recent years around 24 Lyceumers have gained entrance to prestigious National universities such as University of Colombo, University of Moratuwa, University of Peradeniya, etc. The school was nationally highlighted and publicly commended in the recent past, when Senadi Danya de Alwis

of Lyceum Panadura, was placed Island First at the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination 2018 in the Arts stream.

Annually, the School Calendar is replete with several Athletic and Sports events, inspiring sportsmanship and promoting healthy competition. Under the concept, 'A Healthy Mind In a Healthy Body', the Keion Sports Grounds of Lyceum International School Panadura opened on the 15th of June 2019, providing the students their own modern sports complex. Students of Lyceum Panadura have gained both all island and world recognition in a range of sports and co-curricular activities, some with outstanding skills and capabilities receiving National Colours in sports.

## Back with new single

Coldplay are back with new single 'Higher Power', which will be released on May 7.

The rockers - comprised of Chris Martin, Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman, and Will Champion - have teamed up with producer Max Martin for the upcoming track, which will be available from next week.

"Love c, g, w & j" <https://coldplay.lnk.to/higherpower> (sic)

The announcement confirms fan rumours that have circulated since

last week, when cryptic billboards around the world pointed to a mysterious website called alienradio.fm. Fans managed to decipher the letter-like symbols to uncover the song title and release date, which have now been confirmed by the band.

'Higher Power' is available to pre-order and pre-save on streaming platforms now.

Meanwhile, it was recently reported that Coldplay's new album is imminent, after Chris Martin

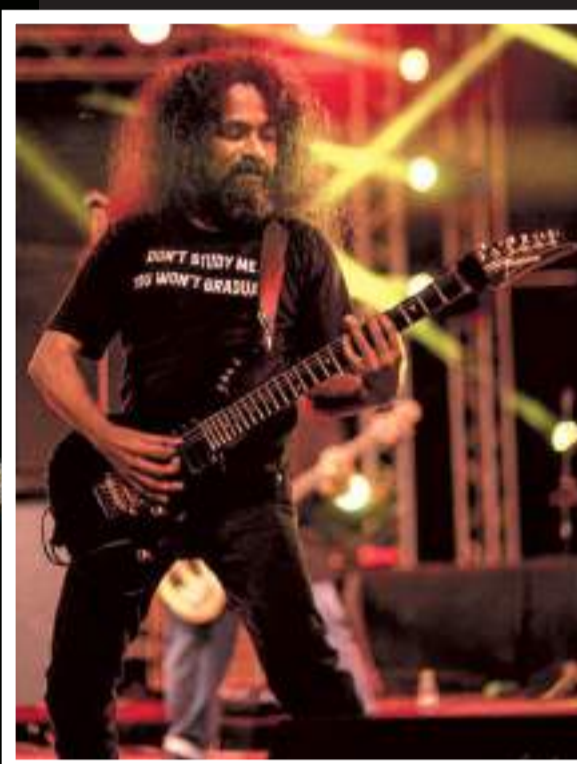
and co trademarked the phrase 'Music Of The Spheres' and officially applied to use the name on music, merchandise, and more in the US.

A source said: "Chris and Co have been dropping hints for a while but now it's finally getting off the ground."

"They've been busy working on new music during lockdown and it'll all culminate in the record, which has the working title 'Music Of The Spheres'. Chris and the

group have now officially trademarked the name ready for an album. It also includes merchandise and everything they'd need for a tour. It's a really exciting time for everyone. There's no doubt this project will also go straight to the top spot."

'Music Of The Spheres' was also printed in a book accompanying the vinyl version of Coldplay's 2019 album 'Everyday Life', along with "Coldplay, coming soon" in small print.



# The Legacy continues...

### SURESHNI PILAPITIYA

Speaking of our special guest on today's T & C, I first saw this amazing guitar virtuoso in action at a Guitar Fest held a few years back. At that time, I rarely knew who this highly talented musician was, reminding me of Steve Vai or Joe Satriani. Nevertheless, everyone including myself was fully blown away his breathtaking performance with the guitar, that evening, and he stole the show completely.

I had an intention to have an interview with him sooner or later, but it got gradually delayed due to, unavoidable circumstances, and other commitments. So finally, after some time, I'm able to sit down for a chat with Shayhd Legacy, the Maldivian Guitar Legend, lead guitarist of Sacred Legacy, the current front man of Gravity, and a musician who has over 20 years' experience in the Maldivian Music industry, a well-known guitarist worldwide with four solo albums, and have worked with many famous guitarists worldwide, and the number one guitarist in the Maldives.

Shahyd made his musical entrance to the stage in the late 2004 with his first band called "SYN" but took his music to a new level after forming his own band "Sacred Legacy" in 2006. He also released his first guitar solo album "The Sacred Legacy" in September 2006. With his hard thrashing riffs and melodious solos, Sacred Legacy became an instant hit amongst the rock music lovers. Along with Sacred Legacy Shahyd began his solo career as well, to become known as the "Legacy". He is also currently the owner of the "Legacy Studios" in the Maldives.

**Q:** What are you up to, music-wise these days?

First I'd like to extend my gratitude and appreciation for this interview, I've been working on my fifth solo album which is due to release by the end of 2021. I have also been composing music for movies and TV commercials. In addition to this, I have been working with my current band, gravity

to release our second studio album.

**Q:** I believe that you're no stranger to the Sri Lankan guitar music scene here, especially Rock and Metal. But the Sri Lankan music audience would love to know more about you. Tell us about yourself.

I am a musician/guitarist and a composer from the Maldives. I have been working in the Maldivian music industry for the past 22 years, specializing in the rock and metal genre with over 4 solo albums released worldwide and tours in both Asia and Europe.

**Q:** What inspired you to become a musician and take in to Rock music in the first place?

I started listening to metal music in my school days in 1997, it was one of my classmates and closest friends who introduced me to bands like Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer, Sepultura. One day he showed me something that blew my mind away. It was a cassette tape of the famous Swedish guitar virtuoso Yngwie Malmsteen, and at that moment I decided that I want to play and shred like him and become one of the best guitarists in the Maldives. So I started learning from my friend who also showed me my favorite guitar virtuoso. To date, Yngwie has influenced me so much in my albums.

**Q:** How do you recall your first experience in a performance or as an artist?

I gave my first ever performance in 2004 with my first band SYN. We were just starting our musical journey and it was scary because we never played live and in front of a huge audience. We made it through with minor mistakes but in the end, it gave me the confidence to do better for the next gig. It felt amazing to play for people who appreciate our music!

**Q:** What comes to your mind first when you perform on stage?

It's more like a staged performance now we have everything

rehearsed and choreographed even to minor details of a hair flip hehe...when I go on stage I feel like I own it and I can do anything I want and make the crowd go wild.

**Q:** Can you mention the bands and artists which inspired you to become the guitar virtuoso you're today?

When I got into rock and metal music back in the day I was mostly listening to Metallica, Megadeth dream theater, and testament and I have always loved the melodious solos of guitarists like Randy Rhoads, Marty Friedman but the first time I saw the Swedish guitar virtuoso Yngwie Malmsteen I got inspired to become a guitarist like him and make my musical style so I began listening to more guitarists like Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Andy Timmons and more.

**Q:** What does music basically mean to you?

For me, music is a place, a feeling, and a language. A place that takes you for peace of mind, the feeling that connects you to the rest of the people, and the language that unites all of us as one.

**Q:** How would you look at the local music scene there and at the international level?

Firstly, I would highlight that there are very talented musicians and artists in the Maldives. We lack a support system that could break the barriers to reach the worldwide recognition level. So I believe with the help of our government and the private sectors we can help our hardworking artists to break out of this bubble.

**Q:** Tell us about your experience in Sri Lanka. Were you able to meet the local artists and how would you see the Sri Lankan music scene?

Sri Lanka is like a second home for me. I loved the times I have spent touring there especially on the guitar fest tour. I got to meet a lot of talented guitarists and bands there which I have shared

the stage (Stigmata, Whirlwind, Fallen Grace, Etc.) I see a lot of potential in the Sri Lankan music scene. They are so dedicated and hardworking and would love to see the metal and rock bands from Sri Lanka performing in stagelike waken and download fest.

**Q:** What's the type of genre which you enjoy performing the most?

I have always loved performing rock and metal genre.

**Q:** How has the ongoing pandemic situation affected you and what have been the measures taken?

We had so much planned for 2020 from album recordings to band tours in Europe and Asia. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic situation we all had to go on survival mode, which leads to cancellations, closing down the business, and working from home. I believe this is the situation everywhere. Hope we all get through this.

**Q:** As a musical veteran, what would be your advice to the upcoming musicians?

Set your goals straight and work for them. Don't wait for the opportunity to knock on your door but create it with your dedication and hard work.

**Q:** Looking back at your journey, how do you feel?

I have come a long way I feel like I have reached a part of my goal I set out to achieve creating my musical style and getting recognition worldwide. Inspiring younger generations have always been my dream. At this point, I want to pass my knowledge and find opportunities for the upcoming artists in the Maldives and work for their future.

**Q:** Anything new coming up in future?

For now, it would be my fifth solo album "Stasis" but there is more work to be done.

## Nick Jonas will host the 2021 Billboard Music Awards

The 28-year-old singer and actor has been lined up as MC of the show, which will take place on May 23rd in Los Angeles.

Billboard shared the news on Twitter, posting a video of Nick with the caption: "Introducing the 2021 @BBMAs host... @nickjonas! Get ready for an incredible evening of music on Sunday, May 23rd at 8pm ET/5pm PT on NBC."

In the accompanying article, Billboard said: "This is Jonas' first time as host of the Billboard Music Awards, which is two years older than he is. (He's 28; the show launched 30 years ago). But he's had lots of awards show experience, including teaming with his wife, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, to announce this year's Oscar nominations." Nick - who is taking over from Kelly Clarkson as presenter - joked: "Truly an honor to have already received the first preemptive 2021 #BBMAs award. Best host ever?! Wow! Tune-in May 23rd at 8pm ET/5pm PT on NBC."

Meanwhile, The Weeknd leads the Billboard Music Awards nominations with 16 nods. The 'Save Your Tears' hitmaker's acclaimed album 'After Hours' - which was snubbed at the Grammys - is in contention for Top Billboard 200 Album and Top R&B Album.

The 31-year-old megastar is also up for Top Male Artist, Top R&B Artist, and Top Hot 100 song for 'Blinding Lights'.

DaBaby is up for 11 prizes



and Pop Smoke has posthumously received 10 nominations.

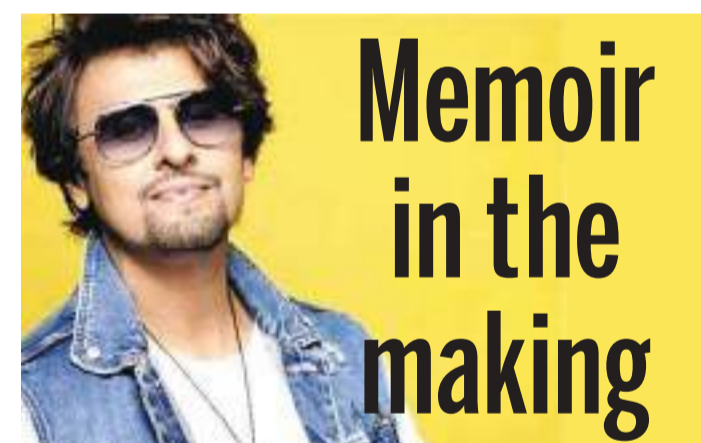
Meghan Thee Stallion has landed nine nods, including Top Rap Song and Top Selling Song for 'Savage'.

The 'Hot Girl Summer' hitmaker will go up against herself in the two categories, as her Cardi B collaboration 'WAP' is also nominated for the two awards.

Taylor Swift - who is up for four prizes in total - will go head-to-head with The Weeknd's 'After Hours', Lil Baby's 'My Turn' and the late Juice WRLD's 'Legends Never Die' for Top Billboard 200 Album.

And the coveted Top Artist prize will either go to Drake, Juice WRLD, Pop Smoke, Taylor Swift or The Weeknd.

Music News



## Memoir in the making

Popular playback singer Sonu Nigam will tell the story of his "tedious, scandalous, emotional and spiritual life" in his memoir which will be published later this year.

The 47-year-old singer's autobiography will share undisclosed details, anecdotes and insights into his life, publishers Bloomsbury India announced recently.

Nigam, who made his singing debut in 1992 with the song "O Aasman Wale" from the film "Aaja Meri Jaan", is regarded as one of the most versatile voices in the Indian film industry.

In his almost three-decade-long career in films, he has tracks including "Achcha Sila Diya Tune Mere Pyar Ka", "Ye Dil Deewana", "Kal Ho Na Ho", "Saathiya", "Abhi Mujh Mein Kahin", to his credit.

The singer said it is a "tough task" to decide how much would one, or should one, reveal of one's life in their memoir.

"I remember a quote by George Bernard Shaw that I read in my English book in 9th Standard that said, 'All autobiographies are lies'. I strangely agreed with the reasoning behind it elaborated in that lesson. I never knew then though that there ever would come a time in my life when I would be asked to write mine..."

"It's exciting too, considering one actually gets to revisit the

lanes and bylanes of ever-so-personal, undisclosed details of one's glorious life, and grin furiously at some of the most unfathomable experiences one is fated to go through," Nigam said in a statement.

The National Award winner, who has also sung songs in Bengali, Kannada, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, and Marathi, hopes his courage will help him overcome the nervousness of penning down his autobiography.

"Uncountable dynamics through a tedious, scandalous, emotional and spiritual life, need to be assessed and poured in the form of words. But I, on second thoughts, am sure my guts and courage will sail me through," he added.

Rajiv Beri, managing director, Bloomsbury India, said they are delighted to be publishing Nigam's autobiography.

"Sonu has enthralled millions world over with his incredible singing and has captured their hearts as a person of high values, integrity and purity of purpose. This is a much awaited autobiography and we are privileged to be the publisher of choice," Beri said.

"Sonu Nigam is a name that every Indian music lover would be dearly familiar with, and as a fan myself, it is a privilege to be a part of the journey to publish his memoir, which will be a timeless gift for all his fans," added Praveen Tiwari, publisher, Bloomsbury India.

Indian Express







State Ministry of Rural Housing and Construction & Building  
Materials Industries Promotion



STATE ENGINEERING CORPORATION OF SRI LANKA

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

1. The Chairman, Department Procurement Committee (DPC) on behalf of the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka now invites two separate sealed bids from the bidders for the works as described below.

No.	Name & Identification No. of Bid	Construction Period	Engineer Estimate	Non-refundable Bid Fee (Rs.)	Bid Security Amount (Rs.)
I.	Bid for Supply & Laying of Gabion Boxes for Rubble Base Gabion Wall for Rehabilitation/Improvements of Thalaramba Lemasuriya Ala Margaya Geraduwa Dakwa Road at Matara [MORH/RDA/LBRRP/SBP/KGL/2020/P71/(QA)] - (C&P/R&B/2421/2021/075)	180 days	Rs. 7.00 Million	3,000.00	70,000.00
II.	Bid for Supply & Laying of Gabion Boxes for Rubble Base Gabion Wall for Rehabilitation/Improvements of Elgiriya Sri Gunananda Mawatha at Matara [MORH/RDA/LBRRP/SBP/KGL/2020/P68(QA)] (C&P/R&B/2424/2021/076)	60 days	Rs. 20.00 Million	5,000.00	200,000.00

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure & interested bidders may quote for any or both bids separately.
3. To be eligible for contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted & shall have at least two (02) experiences in similar size and nature of work within last five (05) years in Sri Lanka.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Chief Engineer (Contracts & Planning), Contracts & Planning Division, 5th Floor, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** and inspect the bidding documents at the same address on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs and contact numbers are 011-2451151, 011-2430061-5.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02 from 04.05.2021 until 17.05.2021 on any working day from 0900 hrs to 1500 hrs upon payment of a tender fee (non-refundable) given as above to the **Cashier, Accounts Division at 7th Floor, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02.**
6. Bids will be delivered to the address below at **Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, Ground Floor, Head Office Building, 130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha, Colombo 02** at or before 1400 hrs on 18.05.2021. Contract name should be marked at the top left-hand corner of the cover. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend.
7. Both bids shall be accompanied by a separate Bid Security for the amount given above. Bid Security shall be in any form as per the bid document and should be valid up to 31.08.2021.

Chairman,  
Department Procurement Committee,  
State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka,  
130, W.A.D. Ramanayake Mawatha,  
Colombo 02.

04.05.2021

**INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS**

**DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION**

**Refurbishment of the Center for Media Development Building at the Department of Government Information**

1. The Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Department of Government Information invites sealed Proposals from eligible Consultants for Refurbishment of the Center for Media Development Building at the Department of Government Information.
2. Proposal documents could be obtained from Accounts division on payment in cash non-refundable fee 500/- Rupees. Proposal documents will be issued on working days between 9.00 a.m - 3.00 p.m from 04.05.2021 To 24.05.2021
3. Proposal documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of the Chief Accountant, Department of Government Information, 163, Kirulapona Avenue, Colombo or visiting the website [www.news.lk](http://www.news.lk)
4. The eligible Consultants shall comply with the following qualification criteria.
- Experience in similar nature of Works
  - Qualified Consultants to carry out the tasks
5. Pre-proposal meeting will be held on 13th May 2021 at 10.00 a.m at mini-auditorium, Department of Government Information, Colombo 05
6. Proposals shall be valid up to 31.07.2021
7. Sealed proposals may be dispatched either by registered post or hand delivered to the office of the Chief Accountant, Department of Government Information, 163, Kirulapona Avenue, Colombo 5.
8. The deadline for submission of proposals will be 25.05.2021 at 1100 hrs. and will be opened soon after the closing.
9. Consultants or their authorized representatives are requested to be present at the opening of the proposals.

Chairman  
Procurement Committee  
Department of Government Information  
163, Kirulapona Avenue  
Colombo 5

Telephone: 0112-514759,071-8859889



**MINISTRY OF FISHERIES**

STATE MINISTRY OF ORNAMENTAL FISH,  
FRESHWATER FISH AND SHRIMP FARMING,  
FISHERIES HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT,  
MULTI-DAY FISHING AND FISH EXPORTS



**NATIONAL AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA (NAQDA)**

**CALLING FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**From the interested parties for the AQUACULTURE**

Contract No: NQ/DPC/2021/PPP/04

National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) which comes under purview of the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Freshwater Fish and Shrimp Farming, Fisheries Harbour Development, Multi-Day Fishing and Fish Exports is the main Government Organization for development and promotion of aquaculture & inland fisheries in Sri Lanka.

A production of 8700 MT in year 2020 has been achieved through Coastal Aquaculture mainly targeted for earning of foreign exchange. Furthermore the plans have been prepared to increase that amount up to 60,000 MT of year 2025. In order to fulfill those targets it is expected to long lease of the following lands for 30 years in to fulfill the above targets. Therefore, applications are called from private entrepreneurs for production of coastal aquaculture in commercial basis and in closed system in the following lands.

01. The government land of 153.76 hectares (approximately 380 acres) which has been identified as suitable for aquaculture situated in Kokkadacholei South West of Divisional Secretariat of Manmunei of Batticaloa District.
02. The land area of 89 hectares (200 acres) allocated for aquaculture project in Galmulla of Divisional Secretariat of Ambalantota in Hambantota District.

The following details should be mentioned briefly in the application. (a) General Information of the Entrepreneur (b) Legal Status (c) Documents proving the financial capability of the entrepreneur (d) Experience in aquaculture (e) The details of ability of providing of fish seeds for this project (f) The Details of technical personnel (g) Affidavit stating that the entrepreneur has not been convicted by any court or authorized body in relation to the aquaculture industry.

Applications with the details of interested parties for the relevant project should reach the address of the Chairman, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka, No. 41/1, New Parliament Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla on or before 04th June 2021 at 2.00 p.m. Please indicate "Expression of Interest - Provision of Lands for Aquaculture" on the top left corner of the envelope.

Upon a systematic evaluation of the EOIs received, the applicants shall be shortlisted and Requests for Proposals (RFP) shall be sent to the shortlisted applicants with the relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) in regard to this project. The proposals, both Technical and Financial shall be evaluated separately and the most qualified applicants shall be selected for the implementation of the project.

Chairman  
National Aquaculture Development Authority  
of Sri Lanka  
04.05.2021

For more Information,  
Assistant Director (Coastal)  
Tel. No : + 9411 278 6578  
+ 9471 805 5360  
Fax : + 9411 278 6578 / + 9411 278 6493  
E mail : [adcad@naqda.gov.lk](mailto:adcad@naqda.gov.lk)  
Web site: [www.naqda.gov.lk](http://www.naqda.gov.lk)

**Horticulture Crops Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**Purchasing of Chemicals needed for 50000 soil samples an Analysis and provide fertilizer Recommendations of the soil extracted from the paddy fields of 15 Nos. selected Agrarian Service Centres of 14 Districts of Sri Lanka**

Chairman, Procurement Committee, Horticulture Crops Research & Development Institute, invites sealed bids from Local Suppliers for the purchase of Chemicals for the Analytical testing works of 50,000 soil samples extracted from the Paddy fields of 15 Nos. selected Agrarian Service Centres of 14 Districts of Sri Lanka and to provide fertilizer recommendations under the Programme of Testing of Soil in Paddy Cultivation and providing Fertilizer Recommendations for the same applicant. Bidders should have been registered with the registrar of Public Contracts under the Public Contracts Act No. 03 of 1987, as indicated in 13th exception No. 8:1 of the Procurement guidelines.

Only one Bid form should be used for the above subject. Bidding documents in English language could be obtained from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on working days of the week, from 4th May 2021 to 24th May 2021, on production of the receipt for the payment of non-refundable fee of Rs. 3,000/- in cash, made to Shroff of the department of Agriculture submitted to the Horticultural Crops Research & Development Institute, P.O. Box 11, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, additional details are included in the Bidding documents and interested Bidders may inspect the Bidding Documents at the same address.

Sealed Bids marked with the caption "purchasing of Chemicals needed for 50,000 soil samples analysis for the soil & Plant Nutrition Division, Horticultural Crops Research & Development Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya" on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, should either be sent by registered post, addressed to the Chairman, Procurement Committee, Horticulture Crops Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya or deposited in the Bid Box, kept at the office of same address after registration in the Register kept therein.

Bids will be closed at 10.30 a.m. on 25th May 2021 and will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized agents. Late Bids will be rejected. All the Bids shall be accompanied with Bid Security by way of a Bank guarantee, to the value of Rs. 86,400.00 (Rupees Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred) from a recognized commercial bank, approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in favour of the Director General of Agriculture, or if paid in cash. Bid Security Amount in Rs. 43,200.00 (Rs. Forty Three Thousand and Two Hundred). Valid by period of the bank guarantee shall be upto 06.09.2021.

Procurement Committee of the Crops Research and Development Institute, reserve the right to accept or reject any Bid or reject all the Bids.

Chairman,  
Regional Procurement Committee,  
Horticulture Crops Research & Development Institute,  
Gannoruwa, Peradeniya.  
04.05.2021.  
Telephone: 081-2388011/12

# PROCUREMENT NOTICE

## NORTH WESTERN PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Quotations are invited under the National Competitive Bidding procedure from eligible Bidders for Providing Construction and repair works mentioned below of the North Western Provincial Department of Health Services. Bidders interested in this matter could call over at these Institutions mentioned below for inspection of Bid Documents and could obtain them from 9.00 a.m. on 04.05.2021 up to 3.30 p.m. on 24.05.2021 after paying the relevant Bid Form Fee in cash to the Cashier of this Institution.

Serial No.	Details of Construction and Repair Work of the Project	Required Registration and Grade	Engineers Estimate Value (Rupees in Million)	Non Refundable Bid Form (Rupees)	Value of Bid Guarantee (Rupees)	Institution for Obtaining Bid Documents	Serial No.	Details of Construction and Repair Work of the Project	Required Registration and Grade	Engineers Estimate Value (Rupees in Million)	Non Refundable Bid Form (Rupees)	Value of Bid Guarantee (Rupees)	Institution for Obtaining Bid Documents	
01.	Refurbishment of MCH Clinics - Nawagaththa Clinic	C9 or C8	1.2	1,500	12,000	Office of the Regional Director of Health Services - Kurunegala "Health Complex" Puwakgas Junction, Negombo Road, Kurunegala.	31.	Remaining work at PMCU Wewagama	C8 or C7	2.4	2,000	24,000	Office of the Regional Director of Health Services - Kurunegala "Health Complex" Puwakgas Junction, Negombo Road, Kurunegala.	
02.	Construction of stores for Dengu prevention equipment at MOH Ibbagamuwa	C9 or C8	1.3	1,500	13,000		32.	Renovation and refurbishment of OPD Building at PMCU Makulpotha (Including roof, plastering, painting)	C8 or C7	2.4	2,000	24,000		
03.	Construction of waste management centre at DH Kandanegedera	C9 or C8	1.3	1,500	13,000		33.	Renovation and refurbishment of DH Sandalankawa	C8 or C7	2.6	2,000	26,000		
04.	Construction of Parapet wall & gate at DH Kobeigane	C9 or C8	1.4	1,500	14,000		34.	Renovation and refurbishment & expansion of clinic area, Female ward & minor staff rest room at DH Bingiriya	C8 or C7	2.7	2,000	27,000		
05.	Renovation and refurbishment of Kitchen at DH Katupotha - (Roof, Ceiling, Floor)	C9 or C8	1.4	1,500	14,000		35.	Renovation and refurbishment of clinic building at PMCU Minuwangete	C8 or C7	2.7	2,000	27,000		
06.	Renovation and refurbishment of Dental Clinic Ceiling & Kitchen at DH Thalampitiya	C9 or C8	1.4	1,500	14,000		36.	Renovation and refurbishment of MO quarters roof at PMCU Divullegoda	C8 or C7	2.7	2,000	27,000		
07.	Construction of vehicle garage & Interlocking of the compound at MOH Rasanyakapura	C9 or C8	1.5	1,500	15,000		37.	Upgrading wash roof facilities at PMCI - DH Koshena	C8 or C7	2.8	2,000	28,000		
08.	Renovation and refurbishment of dental clinic building at DH Mawathagama (Including roof & ceiling, wash room)	C9 or C8	1.5	1,500	15,000		38.	Renovation and refurbishment of MO Quarters & Minor staff quarters at DH Hiripitiya	C8 or C7	2.9	2,000	29,000		
09.	Renovation and refurbishment of OPD building roof & all wash rooms at DH Rajanganaya	C9 or C8	1.6	1,500	16,000		39.	Essential renovation of Clinic building, roof, parapet wall & gate at PMCU Divullegoda	C8 or C7	3.0	2,000	30,000		
10.	Renovation and refurbishment of OPD Building at PMCU Tharana Udawela	C9 or C8	1.6	1,500	16,000		40.	Construction of retaining wall with boundry wall at MOH Mawathagama (Including the rear side)	C8 or C7	3.1	2,000	31,000		
11.	Estimate for the roof repair and ceiling work at dental clinic at DH Rideegama	C9 or C8	1.6	1,500	16,000		41.	Other Infrastructure Upgrading facilities of MCH Clinics including expansion of waiting area - DH Koshena	C8 or C7	3.1	2,000	31,000		
12.	Upgrading existing mental health clinic at DH Alawwa	C9 or C8	1.6	1,500	16,000		42.	Renovation and refurbishment of PMCU Kalugalla	C8 or C7	3.2	2,000	32,000		
13.	Construction of retaining wall at DH Nawathalwatta.	C9 or C8	1.7	1,500	17,000		43.	Renovation and refurbishment of PMCU Pothuhera (Including Drug store & Staff wash rooms)	C8 or C7	3.2	2,000	32,000		
14.	Construction of Boundry wall & chain link fence at Dental clinic Uhumeeya	C9 or C8	1.7	1,500	17,000		44.	Upgrading facilities of MCH Clinics including expansion of waiting area - Mohothhawagoda clinic	C8 or C7	3.5	2,000	35,000		
15.	Expansion and upgrading of laboratory at DH Dunakadeniya	C9 or C8	1.8	1,500	18,000		45.	Renovation and refurbishment of Drainage system & building with kitchen at DH Gokarella	C8 or C7	3.6	2,000	36,000		
16.	Renovaton and modification ward No 3 upper floor at DH Ambanpola	C9 or C8	1.8	1,500	18,000		46.	Renovation and refurbishment of dental clinic at PMCU Uhumeeya - (Including roof, Ceiling)	C8 or C7	3.6	2,000	36,000		
17.	Renovation and refurbishment of ADC - Maliyadewa Adarsha MV	C9 or C8	1.9	1,500	19,000		47.	Essential renovations and refurbishment of DH Kadanegedara	C8 or C7	3.7	2,000	37,000		
18.	Renovation and refurbishments at DH Kandanegedera	C9 or C8	1.9	1,500	19,000		48.	Refurbishment existing PMCIs - DH Kotawehera	C8 or C7	4.0	2,500	40,000		
19.	Renovation and refurbishment of MO rest room, ward No. 2 & Office wash rooms drainge system at DH Wellawa	C8 or C7	2.0	2,000	20,000		49.	Renovation and Refurbishment of RMO & PHM Quarters at DH Narammala	C8 or C7	4.8	2,500	48,000		
20.	Renovation and refurbishment of ward No. 01, 02 & Dental Clinic roof at DH Hettipola	C8 or C7	2.0	2,000	20,000		50.	Renovation of drug stores at RDHS Kurunegala	C7 or C6	5.0	2,500	50,000		
21.	Renovation and refurbishment at DH Alawwa	C9 or C8	2.0	2,000	20,000		51.	Construction of fence & gate at PMCU Thalawila	C9 or C8	1.3	1,500	13,000		
22.	Renovation and refurbishment of PMCU Divurumpola	C8 or C7	2.1	2,000	21,000		52.	Renovation of ward at DH Lunuwila	C9 or C8	1.9	1,500	19,000		
23.	Renovation and refurbishment of OPD Building roof ceiling & pavement at PMCU Hiruwalpola	C8 or C7	2.1	2,000	21,000		53.	Construction of labour room & ward at DH Kottukachchiya	C9 or C8	1.9	1,500	19,000		
24.	Renovation and refurbishment of MO quarters at DH Mahagirilla	C8 or C7	2.1	2,000	21,000		54.	Construction of fence & gate at DH Nawagaththegama	C8 or C7	2.7	2,000	27,000		
25.	Renovation and refurbishments at DH Hettipola	C8 or C7	2.1	2,000	21,000		55.	Improvement of admin Building at B.H. Anamaduwuwa	C8 or C7	3.3	2,000	33,000		
26.	Renovation and refurbishment of PMCU Alabadagama	C8 or C7	2.2	2,000	22,000		56.	Improvement of Electricity system, renovation of kitchen, toilets & color wash of SKS room at D.H Udappuwa	C8 or C7	3.6	2,000	36,000		
27.	Renovation and refurbishment of PMCU Wadakada	C8 or C7	2.2	2,000	22,000		57.	Improvement of Alcohol rehabilitation center at D.H Lunuwila	C8 or C7	3.8	2,000	38,000		
28.	Remaining work of parapet wall at Mental Health Rehabilitation unit Uhumeeya	C8 or C7	2.2	2,000	22,000									
29.	Construction of toilet at Mawathagama Hospital	C8 or C7	2.2	2,000	22,000									
30.	Refurbishment of MOH offices Narammala	C8 or C7	2.3	2,000	23,000									

02. A certified photocopy of the receipt issued by the Cashier of the Institute where Bid Documents are obtained after paying 50% of the value of the Bid Guarantee as mentioned above, if paying in cash should be submitted or a Bank Guarantee obtained from a commercial bank approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka drawn in favour of the Office of the Regional Director of Health Services where Bid Documents are obtained, to the value as mentioned in the Specimen issued along with Bid Documents and the original copy relevant to each of the projects should be submitted along with Bid Documents separately.

03. Bids should be duly completed in two copies as original copy and duplicate copy and enclosed in separate envelopes and thereafter, they should be inserted in a single envelope and clearly marked with the name, relevant to the Construction Project on the top left-hand corner of the envelope and sent by Registered Post to the relevant Institution mentioned in the Bid Documents to be received before the specified date and time or should be inserted in the Bid Box kept in this Institution.

04. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of accepting Bids and Bidders or their authorized representatives could be present on this occasion. Contractors will be selected according to Circular No. 04/2016 (ii) of the Secretary of the Treasury.

05. Further details if necessary could be obtained from the Regional Director of Health Services, Kurunegala on Tel. No. 0372222278 or from the Regional Director of Health Services, Puttalam on Tel. No. 0322247261.

**Chairman**  
**Departmental Procurement Board,**  
**Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services,**  
**North Western Province.**



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# PROCUREMENT NOTICE

## MINISTRY OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT, POWER & ENERGY AND HOUSING & CONSTRUCTION - CENTRAL PROVINCE

Bids are invited for the Construction works & Material Supply from the contractors registered (under Highways) in Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), and from asphalt Manufacturers & distributors having valid government business registration for the Supply of asphalt concrete by the chairman, of the procurement committee of Ministry of Road Development, Transport Power & Energy and Housing & Construction, Central Province. Prospective Bids which are Rs. 5 million or over Rs. 5 million should be registered under the Public Contract Act No. 03 of 1987.

Bid document could be obtained after producing the payment receipts of non refundable amount indicated against each item from the General Manager, Provincial Road Development Authority, No. 09, Ehelepola Kumarihami Mawatha, Bogambara, Kandy on any working day from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from **04.05.2021 to 25.05.2021** by providing updated record book from Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), For Construction Work and Material Supply and for supply asphalt concrete by providing valid government business registration for asphalt manufacturing and distributing. Non refundable Tender Fee could be deposited to **People's Bank A/C No. 158100110000022** and receipt should be provided for issuing the tender documents.

**Important:** Bank receipt should be included following details.

- > **Name of the Contractor & the Address**
- > **Contract No. of project**
- > **Respective non- refundable payments amount should be written separately for each project which you prefer.**

Duly completed bid forms in duplicate for each bid indicating the Contract Number and the name or particular tender on the top left hand corner of the envelope mark original & duplicate and should be sent under sealed separate cover to reach the address given below by registered post or deposited in the tender box on or **before 31.05.2021 at 10.30 a.m.** Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time at the Ministry of Road Development, Transport, Power & Energy and Housing Construction. No. 109, Yatinuwara Veediya, Kandy. Bidders or their authorized representatives will be allowed to be present at the time of opening of tenders.

Pre-bid meeting will be held on **18.05.2021 at 9.30 a.m.** at the Head Office No. 09, Ehelepola Kumarihami Mawatha, Bogambara, Kandy of Provincial Road Development Authority.

Further particulars could be obtained from 081-3159904, 081-3159905, 081-3159925, 081-2204378 during the normal office hours.

It shall be considered the contractor's performance of the contracts in the year 2020 which were done under Provincial Road Development Authority, before awarding the new contracts. As well, relevant Public Finance Circulars issued by Ministry of Finance related to Procurement works also shall be considered. Furthermore final decision for awarding more than one contract for single bidder shall be taken by procurement committee. All the supporting documents which are provided by the Bidder with the bid document should be accurate & according to the instructions given in the bidding document. Bidder should be fully responsible for the accuracy of these supporting documents and incompleteness of these documents shall be a reason for rejection of bids. The Chairman of the Procurement Committee has all right to reject or not award any tender or all tenders without giving any reasons and also has no any binding to accept the lowest bidder. The awarding time will be decided by the procurement committee.

**Chairman,  
Procurement Committee**

**Ministry of Road Development, Transport, Power & Energy and Housing Construction,  
No. 109, Yatinuwara Veediya, Kandy.**

### Provincial Road Development Authority Tender List - 2021 (2nd Stage)

No.	Contract No.	Description	CIDA Registration	BOQ Cost Rs. (Million)	Non-Refundable Amount (Tender Form Fee)	Value of Bid Security (Validity Period 120 Days)	
						In Cash Rs.	By Bank Bond Rs.
<b>PSDG</b>							
<b>Kandy District</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Kandy</b>							
1	CPC/PRDA/PSDG/K/KAN/2021/02	Asphalt Laying and Construction of Road Furniture & Structures at Kandakeputhenna Neelawala Road (2 + 863-4 + 750) Km	C5 - C4	33.07	9,000.00	165,500.00	331,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Harispaththuwa</b>							
2	CPC/PRDA/PSDG/K/HAR/2021/03	Asphalt Laying and Construction of "L" Drain & Shoulders at Yatiwawala Polwaththa Road (0 + 450-0 + 990 Km)	C7 - C6	6.23	3,500.00	31,500.00	63,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Kundasale</b>							
3	CPC/PRDA/PSDG/K/KUN/2021/03	Asphalt Laying and Construction of Structures & Road Furniture at Pilawala Heenatikumbura Road (0 + 000-0 + 540Km)	C6 - C5	13.01	5,000.00	65,500.00	131,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Gampola</b>							
4	CPC/PRDA/PSDG/K/GAM/2021/03	Asphalt Laying and Construction of "U" Drain & Retaining Wall at Piligala Daulagala Road (2 + 000-3 + 550 Km)	C6 - C5	13.76	5,000.00	69,000.00	138,000.00
5	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/04	Asphalt Laying & Construction of Structures at Stellenburg Gap Road (0 + 000-1 + 600) Km	C6 - C5	14.28	5,000.00	71,500.00	143,000.00
<b>Matale District</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Matale</b>							
6	CPC/PRDA/PSDG/M/MAT/2021/03	Asphalt Laying and Construction of Retaining wall and "U" Drain at Weragama Bandarapola Godapola Road (From 4 + 190-5 + 190Km)	C6 - C5	19.73	6,000.00	99,000.00	198,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Naula</b>							
7	CPC/PRDA/PSDG/M/NAU/2021/03	Asphalt Laying and Construction of "U" Drain at Menikdena Welamitiyawa Road (From 3 + 146-3 + 831 Km)	C7 - C6	7.99	3,500.00	40,000.00	80,000.00
<b>Road Maintenance Programme</b>							
<b>Kandy District</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Kandy</b>							
8	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KAN/2021/03	Asphalt Laying, Road Widening and Construction of Road Furniture & Structures at Rajapihilla Road (1 + 475-1 + 850) Km & Construction of New Concrete Drain, Hard Shoulder & Catch Pit at Wariyapola Sri Sumangala Road (0 + 150-1 + 550 Km)	C6 - C5	12.26	5,000.00	61,500.00	123,000.00
9	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KAN/2021/11	Construction of Retaining Wall & "U" Drain at Ankelipitiya Udawela Road ( 4 + 950/ 5 + 250km )	C8 - C7	2.33	2,500.00	12,000.00	24,000.00
10	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KAN/2021/12	Modification of Haragama Yard	C8 - C7	3.14	2,500.00	16,000.00	32,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Harispaththuwa</b>							
11	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/10	Construction of Retaining Wall & Cross Drain at Galhinna Wilana Road ( 0 + 000-1 + 000 Km )	C8 - C7	4.65	2,500.00	23,500.00	47,000.00
12	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/11	Construction of Concrete Retaining Structure at Akurana Bulugothenna Road ( 0 + 400km RHS)	C7 - C6	7.72	3,500.00	39,000.00	78,000.00
13	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/12	Construction of Concrete Structures & Marking White Line on Madadeniya Marathugoda Road ( 0 + 000 - 1 + 560 Km )	C7 - C6	5.11	3,500.00	26,000.00	52,000.00
14	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/13	Construction of Road Furniture & Structure at Hadeniya Bolagala Road (0 + 000-3 + 000 Km)	C7 - C6	5.11	3,500.00	26,000.00	52,000.00
15	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/14	Construction of Road Furniture & Structure at Weligodapala Poththapitiya Road (0 + 000-6 + 000 Km)	C7 - C6	5.53	3,500.00	28,000.00	56,000.00
16	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/15	Construction of "U" Drain and Retaining wall at Arabepola Pathabaragolla Road (0 + 000-1 + 500 Km)	C8 - C7	4.14	2,500.00	21,000.00	42,000.00
17	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/16	Construction of "U" drain and Retaining wall at Akurana Dunuvila Pangollamada Road (0 + 025 LHS & 1 + 200 RHS)	C8 - C7	2.90	2,500.00	15,000.00	30,000.00
18	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/17	Construction of "U" drain, Shoulders & Road Furnitures at Bothota Aththaragama Road (0 + 000-1 + 850 Km)	C8 - C7	3.39	2,500.00	17,000.00	34,000.00
19	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/18	Construction of "U" Drains, Hard Shoulders and Road Marking at Marathugoda Piriwena via Gallella Road (0 + 000-1 + 000 Km)	C8 - C7	2.73	2,500.00	14,000.00	28,000.00
20	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/19	Construction of "U" Drains, Hard Shoulders and Retaining Wall at Kithulgolla Welgala Road (0 + 000-2 + 000 Km)	C8 - C7	2.44	2,500.00	12,500.00	25,000.00
21	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/20	Construction of Road Furnitures & Concrete Structures at Medawala Ruppewaththa Road (0 + 000 - 6 + 000 Km)	C7 - C6	8.39	3,500.00	42,000.00	84,000.00
22	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/21	Construction of Retaining Wall at Ambathenna Mechanical Engineer's Office Premises (1st Stage)	C7 - C6	5.68	3,500.00	28,500.00	57,000.00
23	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/25	Construction of "U" Drain and Retaining Wall at Ruppewaththa Medilla Road (0 + 000-2 + 200 Km)	C8 - C7	4.94	2,500.00	25,000.00	50,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Kundasale</b>							
24	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KUN/2021/04	Concreting Road Surface at Karadagolla Galaluwa Road (1 + 785-1 + 876 Km) & Construction of Retaining Wall at Sirimalwaththa Manikhinna Road (2 + 010-2 + 025 Km)	C8 - C7	2.82	2,500.00	14,500.00	29,000.00
25	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KUN/2021/05	Construction of Concrete Drain, Hard Shoulder & Cover Grating at Kirimatiya Kundasale Road (1/5-1/6)	C8 - C7	2.85	2,500.00	14,500.00	29,000.00
26	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KUN/2021/06	Construction of Concrete Drain, Catchpit (4/6-4/5), G.Stone, Head Wall, Hard Shoulder at Theldeniya Oruthota Panvila Road (3 + 709-4 + 000 Km)	C8 - C7	3.07	2,500.00	15,500.00	31,000.00
27	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KUN/2021/07	Asphalt Laying & Construction & Repairing of Culverts, Concrete Drain & Hard Shoulder at Gatanethenna Medagammeda Road (0 + 000-1 + 600 Km)	C6 - C5	17.50	6,000.00	88,000.00	176,000.00
28	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KUN/2021/08	Asphalt Laying & Construction of Concrete Drains & Road Furniture Items, Notice Board & Road sign at Udadumbara Kalunthenna Road (0 + 000-8 + 800 Km)	C5 - C4	34.77	9,000.00	174,000.00	348,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Gampola</b>							
29	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/06	Construction of Retaining Wall at Udahenthenna Apalawaththa Road (Ch- 0 + 000 RHS, 0 + 540 LHS)	C7 - C6	5.83	3,500.00	29,500.00	59,000.00
30	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/07	Asphalt Laying and Construction of "U" drain & Retaining wall at Earrinmulgama Yarowaththa Road (2 + 060-3 + 558 Km)	C6 - C5	15.71	6,000.00	79,000.00	158,000.00
31	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/08	Construction of Retaining Wall at Wathupola Bambaradeniya Road (1 + 380-LHS & 1 + 400-LHS) Km	C8 - C7	2.01	2,500.00	10,500.00	21,000.00
32	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/09	Construction of Retaining Wall, "U" Drain & Culvert at Gelioya Kaburundeniya Road (From 0 + 700-2 + 702 Km)	C8 - C7	2.31	2,500.00	12,000.00	24,000.00
33	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/10	Construction of Retaining Wall at Wattappola Ganhatha Road (Ch 2 + 400 LHS & 2 + 430 LHS)	C8 - C7	2.41	2,500.00	12,500.00	25,000.00
34	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/11	Construction of Retaining Wall at Kaluwahalkada Ganhatha Road (Ch 0 + 980LHS, 2 + 128 LHS)	C8 - C7	4.58	2,500.00	23,000.00	46,000.00
35	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/12	Construction of Retaining Wall & "U" Drain at Waligalla Thalawathura Road (Ch 2 + 800 Km)	C8 - C7	2.18	2,500.00	11,000.00	22,000.00
36	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/13	Asphalt Laying & Construction of "U" Drain at Niyadawala Colony Road (0 + 000-1 + 430 Km)	C6 - C5	19.53	6,000.00	98,000.00	196,000.00
37	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/14	Renovation of Yard Office Building & Stores at Udahenthenna Yard	C8 - C7	3.57	2,500.00	18,000.00	36,000.00
38	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/15	Construction of Hut for Store and Wash Room at Gelioya Yard	C9 - C8	1.31	1,000.00	7,000.00	14,000.00
39	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/16	Construction of Retaining Wall & "U" Drain at Kahabe Hepana Buwelikada Road (Ch 4 + 650 RHS, 4 + 845 LHS)	C8 - C7	2.83	2,500.00	14,500.00	29,000.00
40	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/GAM/2021/17	Construction of Bridge (2/1) at Thundeniya Kahawaththa Samarakoonhena Road	C7 - C6	5.62	3,500.00	28,500.00	57,000.00
<b>Matale District</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Matale</b>							
41	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/MAT/2021/05	Asphalt Laying and Construction of "U" Drain at Ovilikanda Thibbatuwawa Morahela Road (From 2 + 320-3 + 200 Km)	C6 - C5	16.73	6,000.00	84,000.00	168,000.00
42	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/MAT/2021/06	Construction of Retaining Wall & "U" Drain and Premix Patching on Shoulders at Malsiripura Millawana Road (From 0 + 000-3 + 000 Km)	C7 - C6	7.18	3,500.00	36,000.00	72,000.00
43	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/MAT/2021/07	Construction of Culvert (Ch 0 + 490 Km), Retaining Wall (0 + 570 -0 + 599 Km) & "U" Drain (0 + 140-0 + 803 Km) and Premix Patching for Shoulders at Kubiyanigoda Kotuwegedara Road	C6 - C5	11.88	5,000.00	59,500.00	119,000.00
44	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/MAT/2021/08	Asphalt Laying & Construction of Retaining Wall at Bowaththa Nugapitiya Road (1 + 500-3 + 200) Km	C6 - C5	4.35	5,000.00	72,000.00	144,000.00
45	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/MAT/2021/09	Renovation of Building at Matale Executive Engineer's and Chief Engineer's Office Building	C8 - C7	2.74	2,500.00	14,000.00	28,000.00
46	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/MAT/2021/10	Construction of "U" Drain, Premix Patching for Hard Shoulder and Culvert Construction of Mahawela Yatawaththa Road and Dikkubura Pathinigaskotuwa	C6 - C5	14.24	5,000.00	71,500.00	143,000.00

No.	Contract No.	Description	CIDA Registration	BOO Cost Rs. (Million)	Non-Refundable Amount (Tender Form Fee)	Value of Bid Security (Validity Period 120 Days)	
						In Cash Rs.	By Bank Bond Rs.
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Naula</b>							
47	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/NAU/2021/06	Asphalt Laying and Construction of "U" Drain at Pannampitiya Embulambe Road (From 0+000-1+969Km)	C6 - C5	23.12	7,000.00	116,000.00	232,000.00
48	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/M/NAU/2021/07	Extension of Culverts (Ch 4 + 836 Km, 5 + 126 Km) and Construction of Retaining wall (Ch 5 + 600Km) at Thalakiriyagama Thennakoonpura Makulgaswewa Road	C8 - C7	3.11	2,500.00	16,000.00	32,000.00
<b>Nuwaraeliya District</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Rikillagaskada</b>							
49	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/05	Construction of Retaining Wall & Concrete Shoulder at Poramadulla Pallebawala Road (Culvert 4/4-4/5)	C9 - C8	1.51	1,000.00	8,000.00	16,000.00
50	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/06	Construction of Toe Wall at Dibulkumbura Dodamkumbura Road (Culvert 1/1-1/2)	C8 - C7	4.42	2,500.00	22,500.00	45,000.00
51	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/07	Construction of Retaining wall & Concrete Drain at Padiyapelella Elamulla Road (Culvert 7/1-7/3 & 3/2 - 3/3)	C7 - C6	6.77	3,500.00	34,000.00	68,000.00
52	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/08	Construction of Toe Wall (Ch - 0 + 900 LHS) Culvert (Ch - 0 + 925) & "U" Drains at Perawanguwa Unanthenna Road	C7 - C6	5.45	3,500.00	27,500.00	55,000.00
53	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/09	Construction of Retaining Wall (Ch-1 + 900LHS) "U" Drains at Unanthenna Kosgahadebala Kithulpe Road & "U" Drains at Pallebawala Gannewa Udagama Road	C7 - C6	9.28	3,500.00	46,500.00	93,000.00
54	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/10	Improvement of Padiyapelella Yard Premises	C8 - C7	2.61	2,500.00	13,500.00	27,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Dimbula</b>							
55	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/04	Renovation of Dining Room & Wash Rooms, Construction of Store Rooms at Pathana office & Construction of Security Fence around Pathana Office Premises & Officers Quarters	C7 - C6	9.12	3,500.00	46,000.00	92,000.00
56	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/05	Construction of Hard Shoulders & RCC Build Up Drains at Gorakaoya Rubber Factory Road (0+000-1+000 Km)	C8 - C7	3.35	2,500.00	17,000.00	34,000.00
57	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/06	Construction of RCC Build up Drains & Hard Shoulders at Ginigathena Homagama Road (0+350-1+230 Km)	C7 - C6	5.00	3,500.00	25,500.00	51,000.00
58	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/07	Asphalt Laying and Construction of Structures at Badupola Medilla Thiniyagala Road (0+000-1+500) Km	C6 - C5	22.22	7,000.00	111,500.00	223,000.00
59	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/08	Construction of Security Room, Vehicle Washing Bay & Vehicle Shed at Bagathuluwa Yard Premises	C9 - C8	1.09	1,000.00	5,500.00	11,000.00
60	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/09	Premix Patching & Sand Sealing of Thiburtan Murunthanna Hagarapitiya Road (10+902-14+830) Km	C7 - C6	7.85	3,500.00	39,500.00	79,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Ragala</b>							
61	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RAG/2021/05	1). Construction of Retaining Wall at Udussellawa Nildandahinna Wathumulla Road (Location-Culvert 20/1) 2). Rock Blasting at Udussellawa Nildandahinna Wathumulla Road (0+000-25+000)Km	C7 - C6	7.82	3,500.00	39,500.00	79,000.00
62	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RAG/2021/06	Construction of Retaining Wall & Jacket Wall at Dambogolla Paragaharawa Road (Location 0+450 Km)	C7 - C6	5.97	3,500.00	30,000.00	60,000.00
63	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RAG/2021/07	Construction of Concrete "U" Drain & Hard Shoulder at Nildandahinna Galketiwala Theriphe Road (Ch-2+095-2+235) Km	C8 - C7	3.40	2,500.00	17,500.00	35,000.00
64	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RAG/2021/08	Repairing of Executive Engineer's Office Ragala, 6-A & 4-A Quarters	C8 - C7	3.31	2,500.00	17,000.00	34,000.00
65	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RAG/2021/09	Asphalt Laying and Construction of Culvert & Concrete Drains at Tilkutree Agrass Road (3+000-5+100) Km	C5 - C4	26.58	8,000.00	133,000.00	266,000.00
<b>Special Maintenance Programme (10%)</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Kundasale</b>							
66	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/KUN/2021/03	Surface Concreting at Iddamalliyagoda Dawathella Road (0+090 - 0+160) Km	C9 - C8	0.82	1,000.00	4,500.00	9,000.00
<b>Material Supply</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Harispattuwa</b>							
67	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/23	Construction Material Supply for Asphalt Laying at Ankumbura Egodamulla Road (0+000-2+000 Km)	C9 - C8	0.52	1,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Rikillagaskada</b>							
68	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/RIK/2021/11	Material Supply for Rikillagaskada Office Yard - 2021	C9 - C8	0.73	1,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Dimbula</b>							
69	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/N/DIM/2021/10	Material Supply for Dimbula Executive Engineer's Division.	C9 - C8	1.77	1,000.00	9,000.00	18,000.00
<b>Asphalt Supply</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Harispattuwa</b>							
70	CPC/PRDA/MAIN/K/HAR/2021/24	Asphalt Supply for Asphalt Laying at Ankumbura Egodamulla Road (0+000-2+000 Km)	Asphalt Manufacturers and Suppliers	14.91	5,000.00	75,000.00	150,000.00
<b>Other Projects</b>							
<b>Executive Engineer Office - Gampola</b>							
71	CPC/PRDA/COM.BUILD/K/GAM/2021/01	Construction of Retaining Wall & Ramp at Gampola Commercial Building	C7 - C6	7.59	3,500.00	38,000.00	76,000.00
72	CPC/PRDA/COM.BUILD/K/GAM/2021/02	1st & 2nd Floor Balance Work for the Construction of Commercial Building at Gampola Office Premises	C6 - C5	22.86	7,000.00	114,500.00	229,000.00

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### Colombo South Teaching Hospital - Kalubowila Dehiwela

#### PURCHASE OF TEXTILE MATERIALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Quotations are invited by the Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital for the purchase of Textile Materials and related Products required by this hospital.

- Bid documents may be obtained by interested bidders from the Finance Division of this hospital between 9.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. on normal working days from 04.05.2021 until 17.05.2021 on submission of the receipt obtained upon payment of the non refundable application fee of Rs. 2,000.00 as bid document fee to the Director of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital along with the National Identity Card.
- Bids, mentioning "Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila, Dehiwela - Quotation for Textile Materials and related products - 18/05/2021" on the left hand top corner of the envelope containing the bid, may either be sent by registered post addressed to "Chairman, Regional Procurement Committee, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila, Dehiwela" or deposited in the Tender Box kept at the Office of the Accountant of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital to receive at or before 10.00 a.m. on 18/05/2021. Quotations will be closed at 10.00 a.m. on 18/05/2021 and will be opened on the same day at 10.00 a.m. at the Office of the Accountant. Before the bids are opened samples should be handed over to the Storekeeper of the General Stores and the copy of the letter certified by the Storekeeper of accepting the samples should be submitted with the quotation.
- Bids should be in duplicate in separate covers mentioning Original and Duplicate and both covers should be reinserted in a single cover and submitted.
- Bids will be opened immediately after closing of bids at the same place and the bidder or one authorized representative will be permitted to be present at the time of opening of bids.
- Bid documents may be inspected free of charge at the office of the Accountant of the Colombo South Teaching Hospital.
- Bid documents will not be issued to bidders who have defaulted government contracts and conditions and are blacklisted.
- Regional Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids in full or part thereof.
- For further details, please contact the Accountant of Colombo South Teaching Hospital. Tel. No. 0112763038.

**Chairman**  
Regional Procurement Committee  
Colombo South Teaching Hospital  
Kalubowila, Dehiwela.



## Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka



### Invitation for Bids

- Bids are invited by the Chairman of Procurement Committee of The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL), No: 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08, for **Repair, Maintenance & Service of Air Conditioner** for one year period from **01.06.2021 to 31.05.2022**
- The services should be provided at following centers.
  - Head office at 276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08
  - Frequency Monitoring Station at Kadirana
  - Frequency Monitoring Station at Hantana
  - Multifunctional TV & Telecommunications Tower at Kokavil
- Bidders may obtain further information and inspect bidding documents from the Administration Division of TRCSL (Tele: 0112689345)
- Bidding Documents may be obtained by qualified companies on submission of a written application to the office and upon a payment of a non - refundable tender fee of **Rs. 1000.00** during **9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. from 04/05/2021 to 18/05/2021**.
- The bid should be valid for **91 days** from the bid opening date. Duly completed and sealed bids in original and one photostat copy should be put in a one envelop and deposited in the Tender Box provided at the ground floor of TRCSL or sent by Registered post addressed to **Chairman, Procurement Committee, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, No:276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08, to reach on or before 10.00 a.m. on 19/05/2021. "Quotation for Repair, Maintenance & Service of Air Conditioner (From 01.06.2021 to 31.05.2022)"** should be printed on top left hand corner of the envelop. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing time, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

**Chairman**  
**Procurement Committee,**  
**Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka**  
**276, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08**  
**Tel. No: 0112689345 Fax: 0112689355**

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KILINCHCHI**

**PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Chairman Department Procurement Committee on behalf of Sri Lanka German Training Institute (SLGTI) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Repairing and Maintaining of Fire Extinguisher at SLGTI - Kilinochchi for one-year period

1. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
2. Bidders having similar experience in supply of above service for at least five years shall be eligible to apply.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of the Accountant, Sri Lanka German Training Institute (SLGTI), Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi, and inspect the bidding documents at the address given above from 02/05/2021 up to 31/05/2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs on working days. Tel: 021-2060137, Fax: 021-2060138.
4. Qualification requirements are included in the Bidding Documents.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language for each tender may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to Accountant, Sri Lanka German Training Institute (SLGTI), Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi from 02/05/2021 up to 31/05/2021 from 09:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs on working days upon payment of a Non-refundable fee.
6. Sealed Bids for each tender shall be delivered separately in ORIGINAL and COPY addressed to the Chairman, Department Procurement Committee, Sri Lanka German Training Institute (SLGTI), Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi at or before 3.00pm on 31/05/2021. Bids will be opened soon after the closing in the presence of the bidder/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected and not accepted.
7. Bids shall be valid until 31/08/2021.
8. Procurement Committee has the right to reject all the bids, part of the bids or cancel the entire tender. Further, they reserve all the rights with respect to the procurement.

Director/Principal,  
Sri Lanka German Training Institute (SLGTI),  
Ariviyal Nagar,  
Kilinochchi

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**REVOCATION OF THE IRREVOCABLE  
POWER OF ATTORNEY**

It is hereby informed that the appointment of Lanka Orix Leasing Company, PLC (PQ 70) of No. 100/1, Sri Jayawardhanapura Mawatha, Rajagiriya as the Lawful Attorney of Zhiraz Developers (Private) Limited by the Irrevocable Power of Attorney No. 631 dated 15.02.2011 attested by Mullegama Mudiyansele Kanchana Kumari (Santhoshi S. Herat Associates), Notary Public, has been revoked.

Further Irrevocable Power of Attorney has been registered under the number of the day book 7826 volume/folio A 813/293 of the Register of written Power of Authorities and Power of Attorneys of the Land Registry of Colombo.

The Director,  
Zhiraz Developers (Private) Limited  
No. 135/1, Galle Road, Dehiwala.

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**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputable Companies who are capable of supplying **Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning for RTG gantry anti-collision system to Colombo International Container Terminals Limited ("CICT")**.

Inquiry No	Description	Closing Date
RFQ/06/04/21	Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning for RTG Gantry Anti-Collision System	24th May 2021

Prospective Vendors are requested to obtain Tender Documents (In Electronic Format Only) by email to Ranidu Laksiri of Procurement Department of CICT (Mob/Tel : 0766-666803, 0112-666803) (Email : ranidu.laksiri@cict.lk)

Please submit your sealed Tenders to be received to below address not later than **3.00 p.m. (local time), on 24th MAY 2021** & mention **"Procurement of Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning for RTG Gantry Anti-Collision System"**

**Management Committee  
Colombo International Container Terminals Limited,  
Port of Colombo,  
120/20, Marine Drive Road,  
Colombo 01,  
Sri Lanka.**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

**CONSTRUCTION OF PILE FOUNDATION FOR MINISTRY  
OF JUSTICE COMPLEX AT COLOMBO 12**

**CONTRACT NO: MOJ/AC/26/27/2021**

1. The Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Justice, now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for **Construction of Pile Foundation for Ministry of Justice Complex at Colombo 12** as described below and estimated to cost **Rs. 230 Million** (excluding VAT).

*The Works consists of construction of 112 Nos. of bored and cast in-situ reinforced concrete piles of 750, 1200, 1500mm diameter for the "Construction of Pile Foundation for Ministry Complex at Colombo 12". The Time for Completion for the Works shall be 105 Days.*

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedure.
3. Foreign bidders including joint ventures with foreign partners are not permitted to bid.
4. To be eligible for the contract award, the successful bidder shall not have been blacklisted by CIDA or any other registered organization and shall meet the following requirements:
  - Registered with the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) for Piling Works - Grade **GP-B1** for Geotechnical Piling - Bored Cast In-situ.
5. Qualification requirements to qualify for contract award shall be,
  - Average annual turnover of construction work performed in last five years shall be at least Rs. 345 Million.
  - Successful completion of a bored and cast in-situ piling project of value Rs. 230 million within 04 months or higher value within proportionate time period, during last 5 years.
  - Minimum 03 Nos., of "Hydraulic Rotary type" pile boring equipment, capable of boring through hard bed rock shall be made available for the project.
  - The minimum amount of liquid assets (after setting apart for other contractual commitments) and exclusive of any advance payment which may be made under this Contract, shall be not less than Rs. 200 million.
  - Engagement of qualified key personnel as specified.
  - Possess a valid certificate issued by the Registrar of Public Contracts in accordance with Section 8 of Public Contracts Act No 03 of 1987.
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Director-Engineering, No:19, Sangaraja Mawatha, (Kaluthota Building), Colombo 10 (Telephone: 0112331536) and inspect the bidding documents during 0900 hrs. and 1400 hrs. on working Days from 04<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at the office of Director-Engineering, No:19, Sangaraja Mawatha, (Kaluthota Building), Colombo 12.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC), Ministry of Justice, Superior Court Complex, Colombo 12 from 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Accounts Branch, Ministry of Justice, Superior Court Complex, Colombo 12 from 04<sup>th</sup> May 2021 until 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 between 0900 hrs. and 1400 hrs. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rupees Thirty Five Thousand only (Rs. 35,000.00). The method of payment shall be in cash.
8. Sealed bids shall be delivered and deposited **in duplicate** in the Tender Box available at the office of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Accounts Branch, Ministry of Justice, Superior Court Complex, Colombo 12 or sent by registered post addressed to the Accountant (Procurement) at the above address to reach at or before 1000 hrs. on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened soon after closing of the bids, in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Bids shall be valid up to 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
10. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, which shall be in the form included in the Section 11 in the Bidding Document, issued in favour of Secretary, Ministry of Justice for an amount of Rupees Three Million Five Hundred Thousand (Rs. 3,500,000.00) valid up to 21st September 2021 issued by a commercial bank operating in Sri Lanka approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
11. Pre-Bid meeting will be held at 1000 hrs. on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ministry of Justice, Superior Court Complex, Colombo 12 followed by a site visit.

**The Chairman,  
Ministry Procurement Committee (MPC),  
Ministry of Justice,  
Superior Court Complex,  
Colombo 12.**

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MULTI-DAY FISHING AND FISH EXPORTS



**NATIONAL AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
OF SRI LANKA (NAQDA)**

**CALLING FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

**From the interested parties for the  
Establishment of cluster based sea cucumber farms in  
Sea Cucumber Export Villages in  
Kilinochchi and Jaffna Districts**

**Contract No: NQ/DPC/2021/PPP/03**

National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) which comes under purview of the State Ministry of Ornamental Fish, Freshwater Fish and Shrimp Farming, Fisheries Harbour Development, Multi-Day Fishing and Fish Exports is the main Government Organization for development and promotion of aquaculture & inland fisheries in Sri Lanka.

The National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA) has planned to implement cluster based sea cucumber farming project in Kilinochchi & Jaffna districts to enhance of export based sea food production and also to develop livelihood activities in the area. It is anticipated to establish a cluster based sea cucumber pens in the sea areas of those districts. These projects will be expected to run under partnership with selected investor and cluster farmers.

Expressions of Interest are called from Fisheries organizations, Fisheries community, Companies and other interested individual investors to establish and carry out cluster based Sea Cucumber farming with owned supply of hatchery bred Juveniles.

The following details should be mentioned briefly in the application. (a) General Information of the Company (b) Legal Status (c) Documents proving the financial capability of the entrepreneur (d) Experience in farming, breeding & marketing of sea cucumber (e) The details of ability of providing of Sea cucumber juveniles for this project (f) The Details of technical personnel (g) Affidavit stating that the entrepreneur has not been convicted by any court or authorized body in relation to the aquaculture industry.

The applications with the details of interested parties for the relevant project should reach the address of the **Chairman, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka, No. 41/1, New Parliament Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla** on or before **04th June 2021 at 2.00 p.m.** Please indicate "Expression of Interest - Establishment of cluster based sea cucumber farms in Sea Cucumber Export Villages" on the top left corner of the envelope.

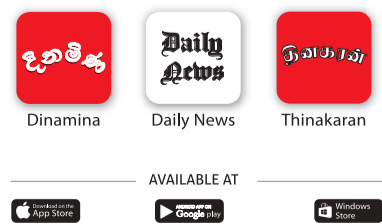
Upon a systematic evaluation of the EOIs received, the applicants shall be shortlisted and Requests for Proposals (RFP) shall be sent to the shortlisted applicants with the relevant Terms of Reference (TOR) in regard to this project. The proposals, both Technical and Financial shall be evaluated separately and the most qualified applicant shall be selected for the implementation of the project.

**Chairman  
National Aquaculture Development Authority  
of Sri Lanka  
04.05 2021**

**For more Information,  
Assistant Director  
(Northern Coastal Aquaculture Development)  
Tel. No : + 9421 2283890 / + 9477 8415543  
E mail : [adcad.np@naqda.gov.lk](mailto:adcad.np@naqda.gov.lk)  
Web site: [www.naqda.gov.lk](http://www.naqda.gov.lk)**

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### AUCTION SALE OF UNREDEEMED GOLD ARTICLES

All Gold articles pawned and pledged at all branches of Pan Asia Bank and unredeemed up to 21.05.2021 and due to be redeemed on or before 28.02.2021 will be sold by Public Auction from 22.05.2021 Daily (until auction is cleared) at 9.00 a.m. at the **Negombo Branch** No. 199, St. Joseph's Street, Negombo. The Bank reserves the right to postpone or cancel the Auction.

**PAN ASIA BANK**  
The Truly Sri Lankan Bank  
Assistant General Manager (Operations and Administration)  
450, Galle Road, Colombo 03.

### PUBLIC AUCTION

Gold articles, kept as a surety for loans obtained from Vallibel Finance and default in payment as agreed will be auctioned at No 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03 on 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

VALLIBEL FINANCE RESERVES RIGHT TO CANCEL, POSTPONE AUCTIONS WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE.

Manager - Gold Loan Division, Vallibel Finance PLC  
No 310, Galle Road, Colombo 03.



### MINISTRY OF FINANCE EMPLOYEES' TRUST FUND BOARD

#### BUILDING SPACE REQUIRED FOR RENT OR LEASE

ETF Sub Offices are to be established with consideration providing better services to the Members. Therefore, sealed bids are invited herewith from eligible bidders for the building spaces in the area given below.

Bid Document No.	Location	Required space area
ETF/PROC/A/2021/050	Maharagama City (close to the high level Road)	750 -1000 sqft.
ETF/PROC/A/2021/051	Between Mount Lavinia and Moratuwa (close to the Galle Road)	750 -1000 sqft.

#### Basic Requirements

- Lease period shall be minimum 03 years and thereafter renewal shall be considered.
- The building shall be provided with pipe borne water, Electricity, Telephone, basic hygienically needs etc.
- Adequate parking facilities to the customers
- Easy access for the general public especially who uses the public transport
- Availability of 3 Phase Electricity wiring and Generator would be an added qualification.

The interested bidders are requested to download the Bidding document from the ETF Board official website [www.etfb.lk](http://www.etfb.lk)

The completed bidding document to be inserted in to the Tender Box No.08 kept at Procurement Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Mehwara Piyasa, Narahenpita, Colombo 05 on or before 10.30 a.m. on 25.05.2021.

Please state the bid number and "Building space" in the left corner of the envelope in the relevant bidding document.

Further details please contact Assistant General Manager (A & HR), Telephone No. 011 7747200.

Chairman/CEO,  
**EMPLOYEES' TRUST FUND BOARD**  
P.O Box 807 (19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> Floors), Mehwara Piyasa, Narahenpita, Colombo 05.

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### SRI LANKA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE ASSOCIATION (SASA)

#### POSTPONEMENT OF 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby served to the membership that The 38<sup>th</sup> AGM of SASA which was scheduled to be held on May 07, 2021 has postponed on the decision of Executive Committee according to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation related health guidelines.

The new date and place for holding 38<sup>th</sup> AGM will be published in [www.sasa.lk](http://www.sasa.lk) SASA website.

Aruna Devendra  
Honorary Secretary

Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association (SASA)

### CONSTRUCTION OF GRAND HYATT COLOMBO

#### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION BIDS FROM AUTHORIZED/LICENSED SUPPLIERS FOR GRAND HYATT COLOMBO PROJECT

The Employer, Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Pvt) Ltd, No. 116, Galle Road, Colombo 3, invites bids for pre-qualification of suppliers for following upcoming tenders for Grand Hyatt Colombo Project;

- Supply of Bathroom Tap Fittings & Fixtures – OS1
- Supply of Pantry Equipment for Serviced Apartments – OS2
- Supply of Gym Equipment – OS3
- Supply of Front of House Kitchen Display Items – OS4

Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure.

The eligibility criteria in order to Pre-qualify for the due tender procedure is specified in the Pre-qualification document in detail. This document can be inspected at the aforementioned office free of cost. If any bidder is willing to collect the document it can be purchased by paying the non-refundable sum of Rs. 2500.

Bidders non-compliant with any of the items specified in the pre-qualification document shall be deemed as a non-responsive bidder and rejected.

The pre-qualification documents can be purchased upon written request from Sinolanka Hotels and Spa (Pvt) Ltd at Level 32, No. 116, Galle Road, Colombo 3 from 4th May 2021 to 18th May 2021 during working hours (from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) on payment of non-refundable sums of Rs. 2,500 in cash.

The Employer shall not be responsible for any expenses or losses which may be incurred by the bidder related to preparation, submission and participation in this process. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any document at any time prior to issue the Pre-qualification document.

The deadline for submission of completed and sealed Pre-qualification documents shall be on or before 3.00p.m. on 20th May 2021 and the venue for submission of bids is the office of Sinolanka Hotels and Spa (Pvt) Ltd at Level 32, No. 116, Galle Road, Colombo 3

#### For further information please write to;

Managing Director,  
Sinolanka Hotels & Spa (Pvt) Ltd,  
116, Galle Road,  
Colombo 3.

Fax: + 0112446719  
TP: + 0112249288/0112446705  
E-mail: [md@canwillholdings.com](mailto:md@canwillholdings.com) and [tony@canwillholdings.com](mailto:tony@canwillholdings.com)

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## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

### Supply of Cleaning Services for Hospitals and Health Institutions under National Competitive Bid Invitation - 2021/2022

#### BID NOTICE

The Chairman, Procurement C<sub>2</sub> Committee of Ministry of Health invites Bids from registered institutions for the supply of cleaning services for following hospitals and institutes under the Ministry of Health for the year 2021/2022.

1. Following basic qualifications should be fulfilled for this contract.
  - i. Should be an institute registered at least before one year from the date this advertisement is published, as a cleaning services provider under Business names registration Act or Companies Act No. 07 of 2007.
  - ii. Should possess a minimum of one year's experience in providing cleaning services in a government/semi government or reputed private sector organization and it should be proved through the letter awarding the contract and letters obtained from the relevant client/institute.
  - iii. The registration certificate under section 08 of Public Contract Act (separate registration certificate should be submitted for each hospital/institute).
  - iv. The worth certificate in Form Gen. 170 for the following values for hospitals and health institutions obtained from the Divisional Secretary within 06 months (The original) (If the contractor is submitting bids for several hospitals/institutions, the certificate should be for the total value or more of such hospitals/institutes). Further, the annual value should be as mentioned below according to the hospital/institute you apply for.

#### Annual Value

1. Health Ministry/Teaching Hospitals and General Hospitals	-	Rs. 1,000,000.00
2. Base Hospitals, District Hospitals and Divisional Hospitals	-	Rs. 500,000.00
3. Health Institutions	-	Rs. 300,000.00

- v. The letter issued by the Bank which with the contractor is engaged in transaction to the effect that Bank OD facilities could be provided for the amount mentioned in the table for each of the hospitals and institutes. (The original) (If the contractor is submitting Bids for several hospitals/institutes the certificate should be for the total value or more of such hospitals/institutes).
  - vi. The receipts obtained from Central Bank of Sri Lanka / Employees Provident Fund and "C" reports and electronic proof received for the payment of contributions to the relevant accounts in favour of the employees up to 31.12.2020 inclusive of date to the effect that EPF & ETF contributions have been made for the previous year under their business registration for all workers employed in the cleaning service. Payment documents for the previous 12 months relevant to the year 2020/2021 should be submitted.
  - vii. It should be confirmed through written evidence that VAT/Revenue Tax have been paid in favour of the Cleaning Service for the previous assessed year. Written documents to the effect that VAT, revenue Tax have been paid should be produced in the name of the company if it is a Limited Company and individual/joint venture institutions in the name of all partners. (only for the year 2019/2020).
  - viii. A bid security worth Rs. .... or a Bid Bond valid up to a period of 119 days from the last date of receiving Bids obtained from a Finance Institution / Insurance firm approved by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in favour of the Secretary, Ministry of Health, No. 385, "Suwasiripaya", Ven. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mawatha, Colombo 10. (as per form in annexure 01) (should be valid from 25.05.2021 to 20.09.2021)
2. Bid application forms could be obtained from the Procurement Division of the Ministry of Health, (New Building) at No. 26, 2nd Floor, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10, from 04.05.2021 to 24.05.2021 during working days of the week from 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. A request letter and the receipt obtained for the payment of non-refundable fee for each hospital/institute as mentioned below to Account No. 7040244 of Director General of Health Services at Taprobane Branch of Bank of Ceylon by cash should be submitted to obtain Bid application forms.

#### Hospitals/Institutes

Ser/No.	Name of Hospital	Tender No.	Certificate (Rs.)	Amount loan facilities to be obtained (Rs.) (Not below)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Bid Documents Fee (Rs.)
1	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area including Neuro Trauma Unit & Emergency Accident Section	MH/PB/CL/01/2021	1,000,000.00	1,504,517.00	602,000.00	12,500.00
2	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area including ENT Clinic, 18, 45 clinic X'ray section & X'ray waste, 15, 16, 62, 63, 64, 66 white house surrounding, wattle garden surrounding, skin disease, Buddhist Centre, PHI Office, Private Office, AB Overseer's Office, ABC Nawaloka Surgery, Blood Bank Surrounding, Physical Radiation, Surrounding all floor area, ward 65.	MH/PB/CL/02/2021	1,000,000.00	711,503.50	285,000.00	3,500.00
3	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area including ward Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 65 AB, Operation Theaters, OPD, ECG rooms, Vascular Lab, Zone Surrounding Boddhiya, Ground surrounding	MH/PB/CL/03/2021	1,000,000.00	758,972.25	304,000.00	3,500.00
4	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area of the Zone including 02 kitchens, Dispensary, Pharmacist school, Documentary Stores, Record room, Infection control auditing, Book binding, A/C maintenance, Nutritious, Nursing Matron Medical rest room, Minor Service Controller, Chief Overseer's Office.	MH/PB/CL/04/2021	1,000,000.00	267,844.93	108,000.00	3,500.00
5	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area including wards 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Laboratory, Mortuary, Overseer's Office, Insulator area.	MH/PB/CL/05/2021	1,000,000.00	646,936.70	259,000.00	3,500.00
6	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area of the Zone including 52, 53, 54, BU, BMOT, VNOT, JMO's Office overseer, High Accident Deformity clinic (ASOC) Orthopaedic clinics (GSSD) DPM Dispensary, Technical work shop	MH/PB/CL/06/2021	1,000,000.00	533,059.10	214,000.00	3,500.00
7	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area of the Zone including 60, 61, 69, 70, CCU, JCU, NICU, NDU, OTJ, OPD, CIU I, CIU II, ECG, Lecture Hall, CIU III, NTS, 93 NG, 200 NQ, PBS, Physio Therapist school, DQ quarters garden.	MH/PB/CL/07/2021	1,000,000.00	1,061,342.48	425,000.00	3,500.00
8	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area that includes Outdoor Patients Department	MH/PB/CL/08/2021	1,000,000.00	327,952.00	132,000.00	3,500.00
9	National Hospital of Sri Lanka - area including Epilepsy building and surrounding	MH/PB/CL/09/2021	1,000,000.00	515,446.13	207,000.00	3,500.00
10	National Health Institute - Kalutara	MH/PB/CL/10/2021	300,000.00	215,378.30	86,200.00	1,000.00
11	Health Promotion Office	MH/PB/CL/11/2021	300,000.00	84,530.50	34,000.00	1,000.00
12	General Hospital, Chilaw	MH/PB/CL/12/2021	1,000,000.00	1,182,595.62	474,000.00	3,500.00
13	Apeksha Hospital, Maharagama	MH/PB/CL/13/2021	1,000,000.00	1,741,262.65	697,000.00	12,500.00
14	Family Health Bureau	MH/PB/CL/14/2021	300,000.00	87,950.00	36,000.00	1,000.00
15	General Hospital (Teaching), Kegalle	MH/PB/CL/15/2021	1,000,000.00	825,845.16	331,000.00	3,500.00
16	General Hospital - Matara and affiliated institute	MH/PB/CL/16/2021	1,000,000.00	1,786,080.85	715,000.00	12,500.00
17	Base Hospital (Teaching), Gampola	MH/PB/CL/17/2021	500,000.00	730,950.50	293,000.00	3,500.00
18	Medical Research Institute, Borella	MH/PB/CL/18/2021	300,000.00	216,000.00	87,000.00	1,000.00
19	Castle Street Women's Hospital, Borella	MH/PB/CL/19/2021	1,000,000.00	1,180,548.15	473,000.00	3,500.00
20	General Hospital, Trincomalee	MH/PB/CL/20/2021	1,000,000.00	1,117,221.50	447,000.00	3,500.00
21	District General Hospital, Monaragala	MH/PB/CL/21/2021	1,000,000.00	1,275,817.19	511,000.00	12,500.00
22	Provincial General Hospital, Ratnapura	MH/PB/CL/22/2021	1,000,000.00	2,461,152.00	985,000.00	12,500.00
23	National Programme of Anti, TB and Heart Diseases, Narahenpita	MH/PB/CL/23/2021	300,000.00	134,344.00	54,000.00	1,000.00
24	Provincial General Hospital, Badulla	MH/PB/CL/24/2021	1,000,000.00	1,809,593.56	724,000.00	12,500.00
25	De Soysa Women's Hospital	MH/PB/CL/25/2021	1,000,000.00	653,397.00	262,000.00	3,500.00
26	Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa	MH/PB/CL/26/2021	1,000,000.00	1,679,178.44	672,000.00	12,500.00
27	Colombo East Base Hospital, Mulleriyawa	MH/PB/CL/27/2021	500,000.00	788,604.44	316,000.00	3,500.00
28	Mulleriyawa No. II and Nursing School	MH/PB/CL/28/2021	1,000,000.00	1,026,602.70	411,000.00	3,500.00
29	Sirimavo Bandaranaike Specific Children's Hospital, Peradeniya	MH/PB/CL/29/2021	1,000,000.00	803,376.31	322,000.00	3,500.00
30	Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya affiliated National Bikku Centre, Galaha	MH/PB/CL/30/2021	1,000,000.00	95,095.44	39,000.00	1,000.00
31	Teaching Hospital, Kuliyaipitiya	MH/PB/CL/31/2021	1,000,000.00	877,475.22	351,000.00	3,500.00
32	Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila	MH/PB/CL/32/2021	1,000,000.00	2,027,500.00	811,000.00	12,500.00
33	District General Hospital, Negombo	MH/PB/CL/33/2021	1,000,000.00	947,480.03	379,000.00	3,500.00
34	Vijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital, Seeduwa	MH/PB/CL/34/2021	1,000,000.00	256,031.48	103,000.00	3,500.00
35	Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya	MH/PB/CL/35/2021	1,000,000.00	2,694,642.01	1,078,000.00	20,000.00
36	National Eye Hospital, Colombo 10.	MH/PB/CL/36/2021	1,000,000.00	599,603.34	240,000.00	3,500.00

3. Perfected Bid documents should either be sent by registered post to reach the Chairman, Ministry Procurement Committee "C<sub>2</sub>", Ministry of Health (New Building) 2nd Floor, No. 26, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10 or deposited in the tender box kept at the Office of the Additional Secretary (Procurement), 2nd Floor, New Building, Ministry of Health delivered before 10.00 a.m. on 25.05.2021. The top left hand corner of the envelope containing tenders should be marked as "Supply of Cleaning Services to the ..... hospital/institute for the year 2021/2022". Bid received late will be rejected.

4. Bid submitted for the supply of cleaning services to hospitals/institutes under the Ministry of Health should be forwarded separately for each hospital/institute and the original of the documents requested should be sent with one bid and the certified copies with each Bid separately.

5. Bids in duplicate inserted in two separate covers marked as the "Original" and "Duplicate" should be enclosed in one envelope and submitted.

6. Bids will be received up to 10.00 a.m. on 25.05.2021 at the office of the Additional Secretary (Procurement) in the Second Floor, New Building, Ministry of Health, No. 26, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha, Colombo 10. Bids will be opened immediately after closing of receiving Bids and Bidders or their authorized representatives could be present at the opening time. For further details contact the Additional Secretary (Procurement) (Telephone: 011-2112713, 011-2112717).

7. The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject whole Bid or a part thereof.

**Chairman,**  
**Ministry Procurement Committee "C<sub>2</sub>"**  
**Procurement Division,**  
**Ministry of Health (New Building)**  
**Second Floor,**  
**No. 26, Sri Sangaraja Mawatha,**  
**Colombo 10.**

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