THE FIVE-YEAR MISSION

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Sri Lanka

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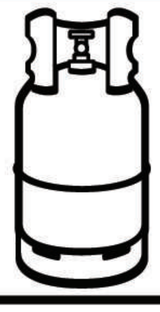
ரணில் விக்ரமசிங்ஹ
Ranil Wickremesinghe



Five Triumphant Years for Sri Lanka with Ranil

The Five-Year Mission

- The Theravada Trade Economy
- Operation – Beyond 2025
- Towards a Prosperous Nation
- A Win for the Motherland
- A United Sri Lanka

Everyone said it was impossible… but I did it. I believed it was possible.

At a time when the economy of the country had gone to rack and ruin with no hope for the future, no political party or leader came forward to take the challenge of rebuilding the country, they thought it was impossible.

But I accepted the challenge.

You know this story so well.

Do you remember those anarchic times?

Those bygone days when we stayed in queues, holding empty gas cylinders…we took turns, remember? Mother in the morning, daughter in the evening, father at night and son at the crack of dawn. Remember how we spent terrible nights inside cars and three-wheelers by petrol stations waiting for fuel? People lost lives in those queues. But was there anybody to complain? No, there was nobody to listen to your pains. So, when people could not take it anymore, they all took to the streets and screamed their frustrations out. They set fire to houses and killed politicians on the streets in broad daylight.

The Prime Minister resigned. The President stepped down. And all those politicians who now boast and inflate themselves declared that the country was beyond redemption and they fled into hiding.

I was just a UNP MP in the Parliament. Just one man.

Eventually, they set fire to my house as well. The entire country was in flames.

Nobody believed it was possible to build a peaceful and prosperous country again, a country where people could be free and happy. A by-gone dream.

But I rose from the ashes. I took the challenge because I have always loved my motherland, I always believed that this country could do better. It was my time to prove it.

So today, when I see people in my country smiling again, somehow having three meals a day, when I see vehicles back on the roads, and, Sinhala and Tamil New Year, Thai Pongal, Ramazan, and Christmas being celebrated, dansals being initiated everywhere once again during Vesak, I feel a sincere pride. I have achieved the impossible!

The politicians who fled and hid during the crisis have now come out of their dens and are criticizing me. I, who found 10 billion rupees to hold the Presidential Elections in this country again. It is with much compassion I gaze at them.

Of course, I took over a bankrupt country. But we are gradually gaining speed. We have restructured our debt and we are recovering rhythmically.

In 2019, when I left the post of Prime Minister, our Gross National Product (GNP) was USD 89 billion. But in 2022, when I took over the country as President, it was USD 76.9 billion. Our GNP had dropped by USD 12.1 billion!

However, by the end of 2023, we were able to increase it to USD 84.4 billion even amidst a crisis! That is what I call possibility.

If we continue to tread this path, we can reach USD 89 billion by the end of 2025. And from

there onwards, it will only keep increasing. When the GNP increases, our income increases, and our purchasing power gets strengthened and our quality of life improves.

We have come so far on this precarious rope bridge, now we cannot turn back! We only have a few more steps to reach the end of the bridge. We can complete this arduous journey. Yes, we can!

Some say that things feel better now because we do not have to pay back the loans. It's not true. We did pay back the loans, approximately 2.5 billion rupees in 2022, and 2.6 billion rupees in 2023. The journey we have undertaken through hardships and obstacles has so far been a tremendous path of success. And I intend to complete this journey with you!

Do you want to take these crucial steps once and for all and enter a prosperous future with a strengthened economy? Or, do you want to get deceived by false promises and do experiments for change and fall back into a bottomless abyss? It's your decision.

Think before you decide.

One more thing.

I did all this with just one seat in the Parliament. However, I garnered the support of many parties to pass relevant Acts in the Parliament and make plans which are critical for development.

All of you, despite your political preferences, extended me your full support.

That is why I am contesting this Presidential Election as an independent candidate.

I do not represent a party or a group of people. I stand for all of you who have varied political views. My service is not only for you who are from the previous and the new generations but also for those children who are yet to be born - the future generation.

I am here for your future. For our motherland.

Yes, I am here for you, and I will do my best for my country in the next five years. I will rebuild this country. The next five years will be a triumphant time for Sri Lanka.

When our country celebrates 100 years of independence in 2048, it will be a developed nation on the world map. I believe I can do it. I may not live so long. But what I am doing now is rebuilding the nation that hit rock bottom in 2022, and laying a strong foundation for its recovery and revitalization.

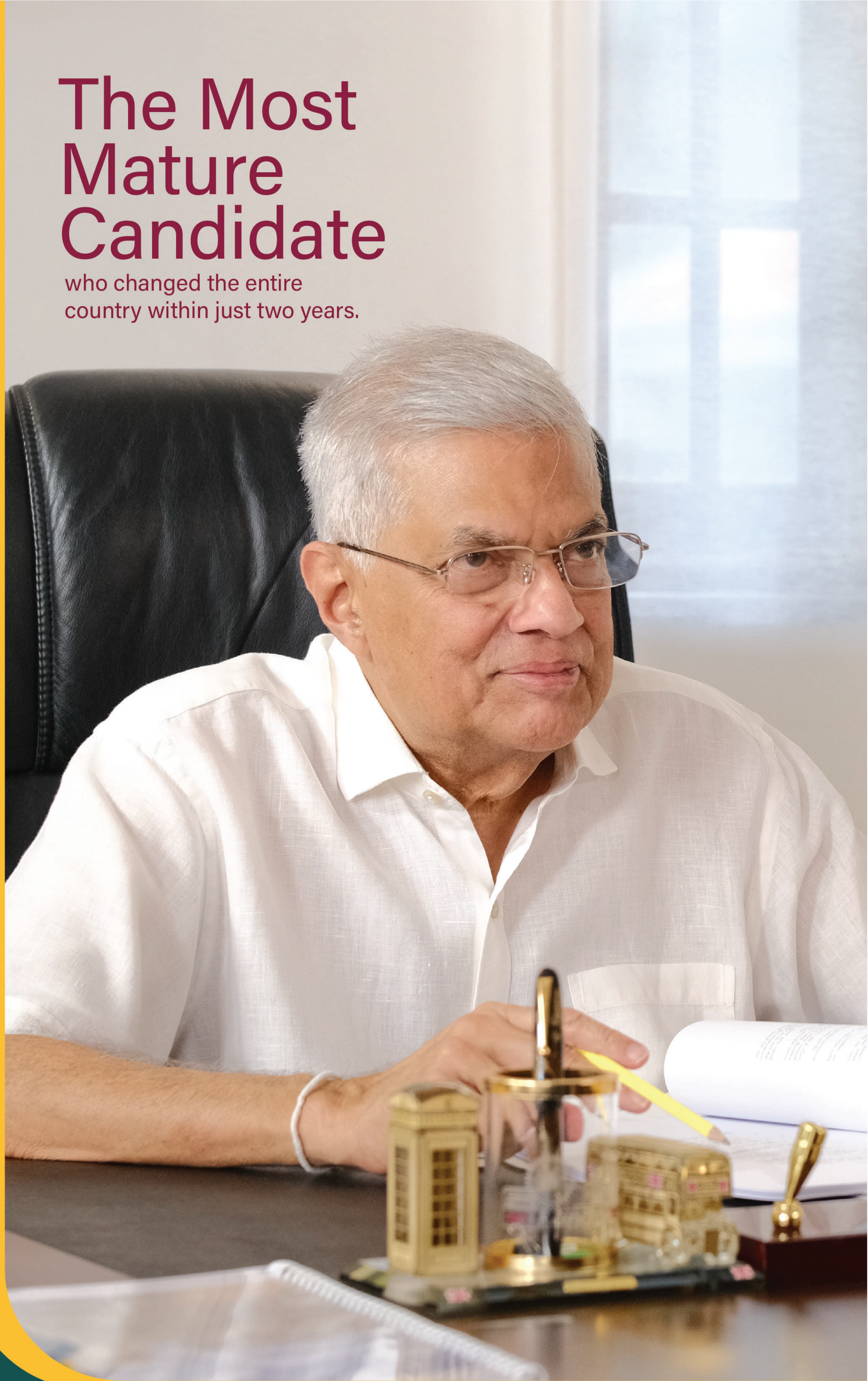
Come, let's rebuild our motherland.

Yes, we can!

Yours sincerely,

The Most Mature Candidate

who changed the entire country within just two years.



A nation can only be built and transformed through visionary thinking and action, not merely by words. He has proven it within the past two years.

People who were stuck in fuel queues then are now laughing in dansal queues.

Pause for a moment and compare the present situation with the state of the country two years back.

He accepted the enormous challenge of crossing over an arduous rope bridge of economic uncertainty. He finished what he started, he completed what he took responsibility for.

He worked according to a plan. He had a far-sighted vision.

During the past two years, he introduced new Acts unlike any other President. New laws were passed covering the areas that were never touched.

Within the aim of directing the country in the right direction, he has created approximately one hundred (yes, 100!) laws in the Parliament so far. The Anti-corruption Act, the Central Bank Act, the Election Expenditure Regulations, the Public Debt Management Act, the Truth and Reconciliation Act, the Online Safety Act, the Public Debt Act, the Electricity Act, the Women Empowerment Act, the Public Finance Management Act, the Economic Transformation Act, are some of the crucial Acts introduced by him.

The main candidates contesting this Presidential Election have held various ministerial positions under different governments. Some have even been Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Opposition Whip.

Among them, Ranil remains a gleaming beacon who has placed his seal in the history of Sri Lanka. It was during his time as the Minister of Youth, that this Ministry of Youth saw its golden years. When he was the Minister of Education, the Ministry was at its peak. The country saw growth in all its industries across the island when he was the Minister of Industries. The economy of the country took a new turn during his time as the Prime Minister and the Minister of Economic Policies.

Which other presidential candidate has such an illustrious past?

Yes, he held the post of Prime Minister several times, but there was always a President above him. Two years ago, when he became the President for the first time, he was able to perform his duties towards the country independently and drive us towards development. He recovered the nation from a state of misery within just two years – an unbelievable achievement.

He is the only person who has proven himself with action, not mere empty words.

Many people criticize his journey in public but sing his praises in private.

If you are still not certain about your vote in this crucial Presidential Election, read the following quotes and make your decision. These are not the claims made by ordinary people, but by international scholars who are experts in the fields of economy, social sciences and political sciences.

"We commended the Sri Lankan government for its effective measures in curbing inflation and nurturing a conducive environment for business growth, as well as the flourishing tourism industry. We are satisfied with the government's commitment to enhancing the overall economic landscape."

Ms. Kristalina Georgieva,
Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(September 2023)

"I pledge my support for President Ranil Wickremesinghe's economic recovery plan for Sri Lanka. I appreciate his unwavering dedication and commend his programme aimed at alleviating the severe economic crisis in the country."

Mr. Yoon Suk Yeol,
President of South Korea
(September 19, 2023)

"I convey my respect to the President for the achievements he has made during the most challenging period in Sri Lanka. He performed an extraordinary task in stabilizing the country following the economic crisis of two years ago."

Mr. Scott Morrison,
Former Prime Minister of Australia
(July 18, 2024)

"I commend President Ranil Wickramasinghe and the Government on the steady progress made on the economic recovery action plan."

Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa,
President of the Asian Development Bank
(May 5, 2024)

"I appreciate the President's efforts to overcome the economic crisis and debt restructuring, as well as pursuing an ambitious economic reforms agenda."

Ms. Yōko Kamikawa,
Foreign Minister of Japan
(May 4, 2024)

"In the region I serve, there is no story of revival like the narrative of Sri Lanka."

Mr. Donald Lu,
US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs
(February 19, 2024)

Ranil, is the one who performed such an impossible miracle within just two years.

Is there anyone of such caliber among the rest of the presidential candidates?

Not at all. We all know that.

Therefore, should he not be your choice?

Yes!

Ranil!

The Theravada Trade Economy

The term 'Theravada Trade Economy' may sound unfamiliar to you.
We have learned that in the past, different countries followed different economic systems. Some economic systems were successful while some failed.
We intend to develop our economy by generating income through several sectors under the Theravada Trade Economic System.

During the Kingdom of Rajarata in ancient Sri Lanka, an economic system based on the concept of Theravada was practiced.

Under this economic system, we exercised trade with countries from China to Persia. Sri Lanka was considered the economic center of the Indian Ocean, and was a key hub of the ancient Silk Road.

Our country was equipped with the mechanism, facilities and the capability to distribute grain to the entire Eastern part of the world, which is why Sri Lanka was called the 'Granary of the East.'

In the 13th Century, when the Kingdom of Rajarata collapsed, the Kingdom of Ayodhya which is present day Thailand, captured its trade. These two kingdoms dominated the regional market for 18 centuries.

But in recent years, Sri Lanka and Thailand have strived to regain economic strength.

In the late 1980s, Thailand transformed itself into a market economy based on exports and tourism. Sri Lanka was limited to domestic production and shifted to an import substitute economy.

Gross Domestic Product per Capita		
	Sri Lanka	Thailand
1960	USD 144	USD 104
2023	USD 3,828	USD 7,172

Our economic policies have been primarily focused on domestic production. The deficit is imported since the domestic products are not sufficient for daily needs. The budget deficit is settled by local and foreign debts.

The Lord Buddha has shown in the Samaññaphala Sutta that loans should be taken not for consumption but for investment. We have ignored such an important economic concept. By 2022 there was a burden of about USD 84 billion over our shoulders, but most of those loans have been utilized for consumption. As a result, we lost our image and reputation before the world, two years ago. The country completely collapsed.

By the year 2022, the economy of the country had undergone a severe contraction. The GDP dropped. The foreign sector of the economy collapsed. And then, the rupee started depreciating. The value of the dollar, which was 183.61 rupees in 2019, rose up to 363.11 rupees by 2022. Inflation, which was 3.53% in 2019, increased up to 70% in 2022.

As a result of the decreasing rate of development, the rate of decline of the economy accelerated. The only way to lessen the cost of living is to hit breaks on the country's decline and work towards an acceleration in the development of the economy.

We Started Afresh

Initiating a tough mission of recovery, we started negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The situation of the economy was serious during the initial discussions, and this weak position of the country posed a disadvantage to our standpoint during the discussions. But we did not give up, for, our aim was to transform the country back to normal; our expectation was to build a country which never sees queues for essential needs again.

And today, the world has accepted that the Theravada trade economy followed by us is a resounding success.

Reduced Cost of Living

We strive to lighten your burdens in life by reducing the cost of living, it will be part of our bigger plan of strengthening the economy. We will not borrow more and more foreign loans, as a strategy to gain popularity, for such reliefs are temporary.

Because of the plan we followed, inflation which was 70% in 2022 dropped to 2.81% by July 2024. The buying rate of USD which was initially Rs. 400 has now dropped below 300 rupees. In 2022, one litre of 92 Petrol was Rs. 470, but today it is Rs. 344. One litre of Auto diesel was Rs. 460 back then, but today it is Rs. 317. The electricity bills and water bills are gradually decreasing.

As a result, the cost of living is reducing day by day. Sri Lanka is gradually returning to normalcy.

More measures will be taken to further lighten the burden of living by providing essential items at more concessional rates in future.

Yes, we can!

Tax Relief

The fiscal reforms that were implemented since 2015 were suddenly suspended in 2019 by the then government. Taxes were reduced unreasonably. Government revenue dropped to the lowest level in the world. It is one of the main reasons for the country to fall into an economic disaster.

We sought the assistance of the IMF to save our country. We stood before them as a bankrupt nation that had broken their agreement 16 times. Hence, we had no power for negotiations. Accepting their policies on government revenue was the best option to save the country at that moment.

That is why we had to impose taxes. We did not do it willingly. We were out of options at that time. Doctors, engineers, and university academics had to suffer due to the taxes imposed.

However, now that the economy of the country has gained momentum and we have reached some stability, we received consensus from the IMF to revisit the tax conditions.

Accordingly, it has been proposed to increase the gap between the present tax slabs and to amend tax percentages.

Very soon, we can take a final decision in this regard.

We will be taking steps to pay tax-free service incentives to professionals in the future.

Many people are suffering due to indirect taxes; we will take measures to systematically abolish indirect taxes.

These two tasks will be executed within the next two years and tax relief will be provided to taxpayers, very soon.

And today, the world has accepted that the Theravada trade economy followed by us is a resounding success.

Let's Look at Thailand and Vietnam

Vietnam, a Mahayana Buddhist nation, stands as a fine example. In 1990, Vietnam followed our economic policy, but in 1995, it adopted the economic policy of Thailand. The results of the economic development of Vietnam speak for themselves.

Gross Domestic Product		
	Sri Lanka	Vietnam
1990	USD 8 billion	USD 6.5 billion
2023	USD 84.4 billion	USD 429 billion

Thailand and Vietnam have successfully crossed the rope bridge.

We have also started to follow the Theravada market economy, but it will only be successful if we meet the following targets.

Indicator	Present Condition	Target	Time Frame
Primary Budget Surplus	GDP 0.6% (2023)	GDP 2.3%	2025-2032
Public Debt	GDP 111% (2023)	GDP 95%	2032
Gross Financial Needs	GDP 27.8% (2023)	GDP 13%	Approximately 2027 – 2032
Foreign Debt Services	GDP 9.2% (2022)	GDP 4.5%	2027 – 2032 Annual Limit
Gross Foreign Reserves	USD billion 5.6 (July 2024)	USD Billion 15.1	2028
Inflation	2.4% (July 2024)	5%	Continuously
Treasury Bonds	GDP 7% (2023)	GDP less than 7.5%	Continuously

We will adhere to the following plan;

- No permission will be given to withhold arrears of government payments for more than three months.
- Printing of money by the Central Bank to settle the budget deficit will be strictly prohibited.
- The price for electricity and fuel, should be decided based on the cost borne. If the Electricity Board and the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation incur losses, the Treasury should immediately and directly provide funds for the same.
- The amount spent on social security should not be reduced beyond the amount prescribed.

These targets and limits are fixed and we will not compromise or negotiate them under any circumstance.

Our official creditors and China have granted us the concessions, subject to the above targets and limits.

If we cannot achieve those targets and limits, we will lose not only the assistance of the IMF, but also all the debt concessions. In which case that happens, we will fall back to the bottomless abyss and will be beyond redemption.

Therefore, what we should do is, stabilize our economy and gain a higher economic growth rate within these limits and targets.

During the election period, many political parties will hide this truth and give you various false promises, but none of those promises are practical, but mere lies to win votes. This is why none of those parties or candidates have come forward for an open discussion with the IMF.

Towards a Thriving Nation

We are aiming at creating an export-oriented manufacturing and service economy.

If the economy is not strengthened, any other sector of the country cannot be developed. A hungry nation has no room for spiritual development. Lord Buddha has also pointed out that it is useless to preach to a hungry person.

If we do not proceed with this plan, we will face an even worse economic crisis in a few years. It can only be prevented by moving forward on the path we have followed so far.

We cannot be indebted to the world forever. A debt economy cannot uplift a nation. But, if we continue along this path, we will be able to build a debt-free, developed economy by 2048.

A Generation Free of Poverty

Around 25% of the community is facing various hardships due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent economic crisis. Be it the unavailability of opportunities, lack of facilities to get a decent education, denied access to clean water and electricity, unemployment, or denied rights to get married and raise children, all these issues have to be addressed.

We pledge to prioritize providing solutions to these problems. We will work hard to reduce the proportion of low-income people suffering from diverse hazards to 10%, during the next 5 years. We have formulated the National Social Protection Policy which would lay a foundation for solving this issue.

With the intention of redeeming people from poverty, we launched Aswesuma, which is a massive and more extensive programme than Samurdhi. Under this programme, we are providing financial assistance to 2.4 million families. Families facing economic difficulties are receiving a maximum of Rs. 15,000 and the senior citizens, individuals with special needs and kidney patients in these families are receiving financial assistance separately. This amount is higher than the Samurdhi allowance. Aswesuma and Samurdhi programmes will be integrated and utilized for this purpose systematically.

We have identified the communities that are suffering from extreme poverty and social oppression. These families will be made regular participants in divisional development programmes and priority will be given to such communities when recruiting employees for government projects related to local infrastructure development, thereby empowering them economically.

Areas with such community groups will be further identified and special attention will be given to those areas in complying with the overall programme to eradicate poverty.

Towards a Beautiful 2048

The Theravada Trade Economy will ensure an adequate standard of living for all the citizens. We will be able to create a highly competitive, export-oriented digital green economy through this journey, and we will be able to achieve all our economic goals by 2048. We have already passed and implemented the primary laws aiming for necessary transformation towards such a development stage.

Particularly, the Central Bank Act, the Public Finance Management Act, the Public Debt Management Act and the Economic Transformation Act hold a significant importance in this matter and through these enactments, the following will be achieved;

I. New employment opportunities will be created, and thereby the job market will be expanded. New income generation opportunities will be created.

II. The income generation will be increased.

Most of the countries worldwide have achieved development by resting a larger fraction of the economy on the private sector. We plan to establish the Theravada Trade Economy on a wider dimension.

We will add two sectors to our economy to compete with a robust private sector.

I. The Government Sector

The Government has the power to regulate the entire economic system. Government-owned banks, financial institutions and enterprises conduct this financial management on a competitive basis.

II. Peoples' Sector

Article 27(2)(e) of the Constitution is the basis for the new concept of the Peoples' Sector.

"the establishment of a just social order in which the means of production, distribution and exchange are not concentrated and centralised in the State, State agencies or in the hands of a privileged few, but are dispersed among and owned by, all the People of Sri Lanka; "

In order to make the Peoples' Sector a solid stakeholder in the economy,

- Opportunities will be given to every citizen to be entitled to a land or a house
- National Wealth Fund will be established
- The cooperative movement will be completely restructured

Property Rights

A separate authority will be established to ensure systematic and expeditious delivery of rights to citizens. This will ensure land ownership to 2 million people through the Urumaya programme and the transfer of low-income housing owned by the government in the Colombo city to the residents within 4 years.

Loans will be granted at concessional rates to middle-class families for the construction of houses. Low-income families shall be given the opportunity to own their houses in condominiums.

New villages will be established for the plantation workers and those living in line rooms will be granted the right to own a plot of land.

Several housing schemes will be launched under local and foreign investments within the next two years with the government intervention and we will encourage the local and foreign investors to construct apartments comprising of numerous floors covering all the major cities in the country.

The above measure will pave the way to reviving the construction industry which has been halted at present, within the next two years.

Financial Rights

Significant Trade Union representation will be allowed in the Board membership of the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' Trust Fund (ETF). Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce will also be included to ensure better financial administration.

These funds are currently utilized for government purposes. Whenever the government faces a shortage of finance, these funds are utilized for treasury bonds. We aim to change this practice. When the economy of the country is stable, the utilization of these funds for government purposes will eventually cease.

This would allow the investment of these funds in safe local and international financial institutions which would bring a high income to the country. By 2023, the Employees' Provident Fund and the Employees' Trust Fund will become the largest investment fund in the country. This would bring more benefits to the members of the fund.

- **National Wealth Fund**

The National Wealth Fund will be formed by combining the budget surplus and the profits of government institutions. This fund will be invested in local and international stock markets.

- **Cooperatives**

The cooperative movement will be completely reorganized in accordance with international standards. New rules will be introduced to make the cooperative movement independent so that changes in political and government systems will not intervene in the management of this sector. A series of new cooperative laws will be adopted in compliance with the cooperative model functioned in Scandinavian countries. The cooperative movement will thus be raised to a higher level to make it capable of facing the current market competition.

Operation – Beyond 2025

This operation is 100% practical. It has been designed based on the future growth rate of development of the country, scientific estimates about the future income generated, and the resources that could be utilized. That is why this plan includes specific time frames as well.

Climate Change

There are a number of climate change challenges we will have to face in future as a tropical country, such as the increase of global warming, changes in rainfall, and sea level rise. We will build disaster-resilient cities in the districts that are prone to natural disasters.

We foresaw these issues and took measures within the last two years, paving the way for a green economy. Thus, we have been taking action to lay a foundation to convert the disadvantages of global climate change into advantages for our country.

We have been given a foremost place in the World Climate Change Programme due to our commitment to addressing climate change. We have launched a number initiatives in this regard such as the **Climate Justice Forum, the Climate Prosperity Plan and the International Climate Change University.**

We are a principal stakeholder of the Global Financing Pact entered into by the countries of the Global North and the Global South under the patronage of France, in order to address the global climate changes. We have also joined the Global Blended Financial Alliance initiated by Indonesia focusing on the countries in the Global South.

We have launched a Tropical Region Collaboration programme at present with the aim of ensuring environmental safety in the tropical region.

Active participation in these initiatives provides us with opportunities to strengthen our economy. Creating an apt background for the said purpose, we are also determined to enforce the Climate Change Act.

We will be taking action to establish a **Climate Change Secretariat and a Climate Change Fund,** which will help us face climate challenges successfully while protecting our environment.

Sri Lanka has been blessed with a wealth of biodiversity. We wish to enact a new Biodiversity Law and establish a Regulatory Body to conserve the biodiversity of the country.

Since climate change is impacting all aspects of development, environmental-friendly procedures with a focus on climate change, will introduced for sectors such as agriculture, industries, energy, etc, as specified in this five-year action plan.

These tasks have already been initiated. The progress will be evident in future.

A Modern Agro-Culture

The current world population is around 8 billion. By 2050, this will increase by 29% totalling up to 9.8 billion. Agricultural production therefore should be increased to cater to this rising population in future.

Our target should be to supply at least a miniscule percentage of that requirement.

In this context, we will introduce a highly competitive export-oriented, high-income generating, modern agro-culture. We will encourage organic cultivation targeting large foreign markets.

Farmers will be provided with seeds, fertilizer and modern machinery required for modern agricultural methods. A supply chain where agro-products will be directly purchased from the farmers will be created. The establishment of a chain of storages across the island in order to uplift the rural agriculture industry, is also in the works.

Home garden cultivations and subsistence crop cultivations in urban apartments will be highly encouraged.

Three hundred thousand (300,000) acres of land will be allocated out of the underutilized State Land for export-oriented commercial crop cultivation.

Proper instructions and assistance will be provided to Urumaya freehold deed recipient farmers to expand and improve their cultivations. We will encourage them to use those lands for productive crop cultivation and activities related to other agro-enterprises.

We have drawn up plans to modernize crop transport and sales, while minimizing waste during storage.

A well-organized programme to popularize the local foods in collaboration with the Government will be launched.

The completion of Malwathu Oya, Thalpitigala and Vayamba Ela projects will be expedited in order to fulfill the water requirement for agricultural purposes and daily chores.

The first phase of these projects is expected to be completed by 2030.

An amount of Rs. 25,000 will be directly credited to the accounts of farmers for the purchase of fertilizer and other requirements needed for paddy cultivation. A fixed rate will be declared for the selling price of paddy from season to season.

A Sustainable Ocean Economy

Although our island home is surrounded by the ocean, even less than 40% of the boats we own at present are utilized for fishing. It is planned to implement a plan to reap maximum benefits from the ocean with the patronage of the local and foreign experts. This is expected to double the income of USD 300 million we currently earn via fisheries products exportation.

The freshwater fishery industry, prawn cultivation, aquatic plants, and ornamental fish industry are expected to be promoted and expanded.

The fishery harbours across the island will be developed and upgraded to Fishery Economic Centres. Fishing societies, fishermen, investors and experts will be linked to these centers in order to yield the best out of the economic centres.

We will be launching a concessionary scheme for the purchase of vessels from small fishing vessels to multi-day fishing trawlers.

Foreign investments for the development of the fishery industry will be encouraged.

Steps will be taken to modernize the fishery industry to be in par with the international trends. The fishing community will be given the required assistance regarding the use of modern vessels, equipment and technology.

In this manner, within a period of a few years, we will be able to uplift the living standards of the fishing community.

Fishing towns around fishing harbours are expected to be developed and fishermen will be equipped with proper housing and other community facilities. Steps have already been taken to credit the fuel allowance provided to fishermen directly to their bank accounts.

These initiatives will be implemented within the year 2025.

Since we are an island, we are surrounded by a rich seabed, which we have not yet utilized to get maximum benefits. A long-term action plan to reap the maximum benefits of the resources in the seabed will be implemented with the aid of international expertise.

The first phase of all these plans will be launched from 2025 to 2029.

Strengthening the Dairy Sector

Only an amount of 35% of the dairy requirement is manufactured within the country. Due to the low dairy harvest, Milko Ltd operates many of its modern machinery only during a short period of the year.

As a result of this, USD 282 million flows to other countries for milk importation per year.

While 35 litres of milk is extracted from each cow in the Ambewela Private Farm daily, only about 5 litres are extracted from a cow in other dairy farms in the country.

A programme to raise the dairy harvest by connecting the National Livestock Development Board with Indian authorities related to the dairy industry is already in progress. This would positively impact the local dairy industry in the aspects of technology and investment.

Through this programme, the following will be achieved.

- Increase the current annual dairy production from 380 million litres to 820 million litres by the year 2035.
- Provide a glass of fresh milk for all school children in the country free of charge.
- Be self-sufficient with dairy production and be able to save the money that flows out of the country to import milk and create income-generating opportunities with the byproducts manufactured using the excess.
- Provide facilities such as high genetic animals, animal food, medicine, and cattle semen for artificial insemination for over 200,000 of small dairy farmers and entrepreneurs.
- Provide 20,000 high-genetic cattle within the year 2025 for the local dairy farmers.
- Increase the income currently generated by local dairy farmers up to an amount more than 40 billion rupees by 2035 and thereby strengthen the rural economy.
- Launch a concessionary loan scheme for local dairy farmers.
- Increase the dairy harvest yielded by the local dairy farmers from one cow per day up to 20 litres.

The first phase of this programme will be launched in 2025 and the tasks will be completed by 2035.

Visit Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a top tourist destination in the world.

The infrastructure required to provide a better experience for the tourists will be upgraded and the tourist arrivals which is 2.5 million will be increased to 5 million within the forthcoming five years. The gross income received to the country from one tourist is currently USD 150, and it will be increased up to USD 500 by the year 2035.

The cities Colombo, Galle, Kandy and Trincomalee will be developed as the main tourist hubs. We will also provide necessary facilities to convert the Eastern coast and Jaffna to high-end tourist destinations. Steps will be taken to further increase the demand for the Southern coastal area. The tourist industry will be expanded to the hill country with better activities and attractions for tourists.

The sacred city of Anuradhapura will be transformed into an iconic city of cultural heritage, and it is expected to be as popular as the Sigiriya.

The construction of several tourist zones will be completed within the next five years;

- Iranawila - 400 acres
- Bentota - 1000 acres
- Haputale-Welimada - 100 acres

Public-Private Partnerships for various aspects of the tourism industry will be encouraged, which would include the refurbishment of hotels/rest houses and the construction of new hotels.

These tasks will be commenced in the year 2025 and completed by 2033.

Taking our Products to the World

If we need to take the next leap in the economy, we will have to uplift our industries and improve our products to a level where they can compete in the international market. We already have gained international acclamation for apparel, tyres for industrial vehicles, etc. and it is high time we utilized the recognition. It is expected to import modern machinery made with modern technology to improve the aforementioned productions. International investments, technology and expertise will thus be optimally utilized to overcome the current obstacles in order to nourish the production economy.

A new Economic Commission will be established for investment promotion and an Office for Internal Trade will be set up to promote all aspects related to international trade. We will also establish a National Productivity Commission to enhance the productivity of the country.

Trincomalee is expected to be the Primary Economic Hub which will be equipped with a harbour, efficient transport, industrial facilities, energy generation possibilities and also naval and aviation strength. The Government of India has pledged to assist us in this matter.

I. Expansion of the Bingiriya Investment Promotion Zone has already commenced.

II. New Economic Zones will be established in Kankasanturai, Paranthan and Mankulam consisting of 1000 acres in 2025.

III. A new Investment Zone of 120 acres will be set up in Dompe by year 2027. Sapugaskanda Investment Promotion Zone will be expanded by 400 more acres.

IV. The first phase of the Hambantota Zone which will be constructed in an area of 4000 acres will commence in 2026.

V. A Technological Zone of approximately 100 acres will be established centered around the city of Kandy in 2026.

National Development Bank will be established in the year 2025, in order to fund the large-scale projects and industries.

The operation of several entities for the promotion of production industries is inconvenient to small and medium-scale entrepreneurs. Therefore, a new single entity will be established by the name of Enterprise Sri Lanka to address the requirements of entrepreneurs.

Micro, small and medium-scale entrepreneurs have faced major difficulties and see a downturn in their growth due to the recent economic crisis. A number of measures have been taken to resolve their issues. The interest rate of the loans up to 2.5 million issued to them, will be brought down to 5%. A Special Unit will be established for this purpose in the General Treasury to coordinate the related activities.

Provincial Councils will be provided with funds and guidelines and for the upliftment of micro, small and medium scale entrepreneurs at provincial level, opportunities will also be given on selling their products.

A mechanism will be designed to sell their production through the currently operating and proposed economic centers.

We will address the issues faced by the owners of rice mill through a special mechanism.

Production industries will be operated on an environmental-friendly basis. An emission trading scheme will be introduced in line with international standards in order to minimize the environmental pollution caused by the industries. It will thereby control the emission of pollutants to the environment. Steps will be taken to introduce carbon tax.

Universal Power: Energy

Investments in renewable energy production including green hydrogen will be highly encouraged. By 2030, we will obtain 70% of the power supply network from renewable energy sources.

Sri Lanka will thus be transferred to a Green Energy Hub and it will enable us to export energy to India and other neighbouring countries.

Natural gas power generation is also expected to see a rise.

The cost the citizens have to bear in respect of energy consumption will be reduced within the next few years and a continuous supply of electricity, fuel and gas is ensured without any scarcity or cut-off. The development of Trincomalee as an Energy Hub will strengthen the energy sector.

Digitalization

The latest and the most advanced trends shaping the world in future are Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Automation based on digital technology. AI will be the base of all disciplines in future, from health to education to financial and economic sectors.

A Technology Promotion Act will be passed in the year 2025 with the aim of bringing about a digital transformation. **A Digital Transformation Agency** and a **Technology and Innovation Council** will thereon be established. Amendments have already been made to the Sri Lanka **Telecommunications Act** in an attempt to create the background for this purpose.

Steps will be taken to accelerate the digital revolution through the introduction of internet services based on the satellite technology.

The present and future generation of the country will be brought closer to the new trends in technology. The young generation will be empowered with knowledge on digital technologies.

It is aimed to completely shift to e-Governance within a period of three years, by digitizing the entire public service and utilizing AI to deliver effective and efficient services to the public.

At present, the share of our digital economy is USD 5 billion. We will be laying a robust foundation required to raise that figure to USD 15 billion within the next five years.

A proper and comprehensive legal framework will be formulated to prevent and control the misuse of AI and to ensure the privacy of content and intellectual property rights. All trademarks will be protected through the Madrid Protocol.

Issuing the digital identity cards to citizens has already been initiated and it is expected to introduce an electronic voting system for elections in the near future.

A Knowledge-Based Society

A society which is equipped with knowledge and professional expertise should be created in order to overcome the technological, economic and societal challenges we have to undergo in future.

A new entity named Vocational Skills Sri Lanka (VSSL) will be established in the year 2025 amalgamating the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority and the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka. All the vocational training schools and centres will be brought under its purview.

A Post-School Education Commission is also planned to be set up.

We will enable vocational training for students who are leaving school. As the initial step of this project, the government will provide the funds required to give vocational training to 50000 students in 2025. Basing this pilot project, funds will be more extensively provided with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank.

Provincial Vocational Education Boards will be established in all nine provinces before the end of 2026, and all the vocational training centres located in the provinces will be upgraded to vocational schools and brought under the established Provincial Vocational Education Boards.

Technical and Vocational and Management University Colleges will be opened in all the provinces, with faculties thereunder in all districts. Steps will be taken to award the related degrees upon the completion of an academic period of two years, similar to developed countries.

The subject of Technology has not been given significant attention in the current university system. A new university will be established in Galaha-Kandy with the sponsorship of the Chennai IIT (Chennai Institute of Information Technology). Several other Technological Universities will be opened in Hewagam Korale, Siyane Korale and Sath Korale. These activities will be commenced from 2025 to 2028.

University of Vocational Technology established by the Act No. 31 of 2008 will be restructured and be renamed as Wimalasurendra Technological University by the year 2026.

The following universities will be added to the Sri Lankan University network by the year 2029.

- **International Climate Change University**
- **University of Agricultural Technology**

Better Standards of Education

The present school infrastructure was created by taking into consideration the situation that prevailed decades ago. These infrastructure facilities are therefore now completely outdated. Steps will be taken to modernize the school infrastructure system to face the era of technology which will be dawned in 2040. Funding will be provided by the government.

A programme to equip teachers with new knowledge and training will be implemented in the year 2025.

The establishment of School Boards with representatives from School Development Societies and Past Pupils Associations will be completed within the period from 2025 to 2027.

School education will be revised with a focus on soft skills, life skills and moral values. The system of examinations and evaluations will be revisited enabling the students to start university education at the age of 17 years.

"English for All" programme which provides English education to all the school children will be implemented within the next decade. It has been planned to recruit 2500 English teachers as a short-term remedy to fill the vacancies for English teachers throughout the country; 1000 retired teachers, 400 from Teaching Colleges and 1100 graduates recruited through a competitive examination will come under the aforementioned 2500 new teachers. The graduates recruited will be given a special training for a period of 3 months before their posting.

Steps will be taken to change the method of compilation of school textbooks, and to revise the curricula to with a focus on interesting approaches to subject matter.

The main objective of education would be the development of the personalities and characters of students while equipping them with new knowledge and skills, creativity and self-confidence.

The foundation of the future generation is laid by the preschools. A special programme will be launched to improve and regulate preschool education, along with a standard training for preschool teachers.

Health, the Greatest Wealth

Sri Lanka has free health service. But, is health service truly free? The less fortunate have to be in the waiting list for years even to get an essential treatment such as cardiac surgeries. Our health service must be perceived at a new angle, and an atmosphere where optimal service is provided to the people, must be created.

A favourable environment will be built for doctors, nurses, other medical professionals and members of the supporting staff, to carry out their duties in a better manner. A key expectation of improving the condition of healthcare personnel is to reduce the brain drain.

Local and foreign training opportunities for the medical staff headed by the doctors will be expanded.

Medical Officers will be provided more facilities to obtain postgraduate degrees.

In Sri Lanka, we have skilled and eminent Medical Officers serving all over the country. Our health service is also equipped with well-experienced supportive cadres. Therefore, we need to upgrade our health services to a higher standard to offer medical treatments to foreigners. On one hand, it will bring in foreign exchange and on the other, it will create a background to upgrade the healthcare facilities offered to the general public through the money generated through medical tourism.

With this objective also in mind, we will rebuild the Colombo National Hospital as a modern hospital with international facilities. It is expected to be converted into one of the key hospitals in South Asia.

The conditions of government hospitals located across the country are to be upgraded. Government hospitals will be constructed in proportion to the population ratio and the healthcare services will be upgraded to an optimal level within the next 15 years.

The Medical Research Institute will be strengthened with modern technology with the intention of making it the supreme research laboratory in the region.

With the objective of ensuring the availability of high quality medicine, steps will be taken to establish a Pharmaceutical Standardization Institute recognized by the international standardization institutes.

Proper measures will be taken to minimize waste through a smart healthcare service using Artificial Intelligence, digitalization and automation.

Traditional and indigenous medicine will be promoted and preserved. We will introduce a system to gift the invaluable knowledge of traditional and indigenous medicine to the future generation.

New laws will be introduced to subject private hospitals to proper regulation.

The establishment of private hospitals in all nine provinces shall be encouraged.

Special attention will be provided to introduce a resilient health care insurance scheme enabling all citizens to receive treatments from any hospital of their preference.

Beyond the Horizon

Steps will be taken to link our country more with the world not only through the air and sea, but also via land.

Palali International Airport expansion activities will commence in the year 2026.

We will commence the establishment of an international airport in Hingurakgoda.

Colombo Harbour will be further expanded and upgraded it to a level where it could compete with international harbours.

Trincomalee Harbour development activities which will be done with the assistance of India, will be started in 2026.

Harbours across the country will be gradually developed and modernized.

City Splendour

The area from Kalutara to Negombo will be developed into one extensive megapolis. These city planning activities will be carried out in consultation with Surbana Jurong Pvt Ltd of Singapore, which is a world-renowned company with urban planning expertise.

One more sub-city will be developed and equipped with key facilities in addition to the city which is considered the main city of each district at present.

State-of-the-art facilities in par with international standards will be given to all the cities and megapolises thus created and developed.

We will develop a disaster-resilient plan for the newly designed cities, as well as the existing cities that are vulnerable to natural disasters. The new cities built will be equipped with the ability to minimize the damage done by natural disasters.

Such inadequacies have been identified and a programme is planned to be launched in 2025 to address these issues.

The sewage systems currently existing in most of the main cities are decades old. We will develop and improve the conditions of urban sewage systems.

We will make the water supply to cities systematic. We will provide tap water to the dry zone, central hills, coastal areas and other areas that face scarcity of water.

Improvements to Transport

We have made future plans for the sectors of transport and highways with the aim of providing sustainable green transport services.

We will use digital technologies from issuing driving licenses to driving vehicles.

In order to encourage the use of electrical vehicles, we will establish charging centres around the country.

We will regulate public transport.

While continuing the current road developments, we will design a road network which will suit the needs of the future.

The construction of Kandy Highway will be continued.

The above mentioned tasks will be commenced in 2025.

A Key to the North

From ancient times, the Northern Province held an important key to the country's economy. Even though, the northern economy regrettably collapsed due to the decades-long war, we have already launched plans to revive the country's economy through the Northern Province. Our aim is to strengthen the North into being a major economic stronghold which renders a greater contribution to the Western Province as well as to our economy.

Water scarcity has been a burning issue in the North for many years. We have already launched a seawater desalination project and more projects of similar nature are yet to be implemented.

'River for Jaffna' project has been given the foremost priority in the list of newly commencing water supply projects and it will be commenced in the year 2027. We will rebuild the Punarin Tank in 2026 and refurbish all other small tanks scattered in the Northern Province. A reservoir will be built across the Paliaru River which falls to the sea at Mannar.

We will transform the Pooneryn new town into a stronghold of renewable energy.

Jaffna will be developed as a Technological Education Hub.

'Saraswathi Mahal' constructed with Indian aid will be further developed as a centre for the promotion of Tamil arts and culture.

A **Tamil Literary Festival** will be launched with the same glamour and scale as the internationally renowned Galle Literary Festival.

The economic, social, and cultural ties between South India and the Northern Province will be further strengthened by developing the air, maritime and land based transportation modes.

Revival of the Eastern Province

Trincomalee will be transformed into one of the major economic centres equipped with all aspects such as transport, energy, industries, ports, naval, and aviation. The transformation will be supported by the Government of India.

We will develop the Verigalara to Panama-Kumana coastline to utilize them optimally in the tourism industry.

We will commence Hedaoya Water Project in 2025.

A Brighter Future for the Plantation Community

A Gazette Notification is already issued increasing the wages of plantation workers. In addition to this, a number of specific measures to uplift the living standards of the plantation community will be taken in future.

Steps will be taken to transfer the freehold ownerships of the houses and land to the plantation community, in order to transform their current lives in line rooms to better standards of living. Thus, in future, the plantation community will be living in villages instead of line rooms and this project will be started in the year 2025.

We will launch a proper mechanism to provide facilities such as land required for the plantation community to engage in other cultivation activities.

The Sri Pada National College of Education will be expanded and developed with the intention of training talented youth in the plantation community as a solution for the present vacancies for teachers in estate schools.

The subject streams offered in estate schools will be expanded and more facilities will be provided for science subjects.

Special attention will be given to improving the healthcare and sanitary facilities in plantation areas.

Aswesuma will be provided to low-income families in the plantation sector.

Towards a Prosperous Nation

The true meaning of progress is gradually elevating the social standard and the standard of living of people. The society comprises of vulnerable, not quite vulnerable and empowered groups, and the contribution of all these groups is required for the economic development of the country. On the other hand, the benefits of development should be equally distributed among all these communities. That alone will lead us to a prosperous nation.

Laws for Justice

None of the political leaders who have boasted about catching thieves took action or showed interest in passing the necessary laws to ensure justice.

We did not waste time bragging but discussed with the IMF and adopted modern anti-corruption laws, based on global best practices to prevent bribery and corruption.

We will be implementing the Anti-Corruption Agenda to make our country the least corrupt State in South Asia through the following action;

1. Full commitment to eradicating corruption
2. Strengthening institutions for a transparent future
3. Recovery of stolen assets
4. Collaboration with international partners

Further, under this process,

- Anti-Corruption Act No. 09 of 2023 will be fully enforced
- A National Anti-Corruption Plan will be formulated and implemented from 2025 to 2029
- The National Audit Act will be revised to strengthen audit functions
- Asset, liability, and interest disclosures will be made transparent and efficient
- Financial crime and money laundering regulations will be tightened
- Anti-Corruption laws and investigations will be stregthened
- Company law will be amended and ownership benefits framework will be aligned with the standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- Public procurement will be made transparent
- The list of organizations receiving tax relief will be published
- The Right to Information Act will be further strengthened

Empowered Women

The female population in Sri Lanka is 51.6%.

We are taking various actions to protect the rights of minorities. But what have we truly done to protect the rights of the majority of the population, which is women?

We are determined to create a society where women are respected and treated equally. A society which enables women to be independent and empowered will be the objective. The basic laws required for this purpose have already been formulated. Women Empowerment Act has already been passed.

A separate commission for women's rights will be established as per the Women Empowerment Act.

We will formulate new policies to support the women suffering from poverty.

The current process of liberating women from the burden of micro-finance loans and other debts will be further expanded.

We will provide concessional loans to female-headed families at a maximum of Rs. 1,000,000 at an interest rate of 3%, and more opportunities will be provided for self-employment.

We will take measures to prevent violence against women including harassment at home, on the streets and at work.

We will increase the number of female police officers to ensure the maintenance of regular and well-functioning Women and Children Affairs Units in every Police Station.

Around 51.6% of Sri Lanka's population are women. In order to ensure equality, we will implement a special programme to boost female representation in politics and business.

We have planned a programme to work together with other SAARC countries to enact legislation for women's rights. A regional conference on the rights of women will be organized in Sri Lanka.

The above-mentioned action will be completed during the period from 2025 to 2030.

THE FIVE-YEAR MISSION
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Sri Lanka

A Better Tomorrow for the Children of the Nation

Within the year 2025, we will formulate necessary laws that protect children's human rights and child rights while protecting them from abuse, delinquency and child sexual exploitation,

Laws are already being drafted in collaboration with the UNESCO, against the uploading of children's images to cyberspace by infringing their privacy. Necessary steps will be taken to create a more appropriate model for the protection of the child with respect to child victims.

We will introduce rules to protect children's safety, opportunities and rights by regulating children's homes, pre-schools, tuition classes, sports training institutes and daycare centres.

Counselling services will be made available to children who feel isolated in the present digitalized society. We will take all necessary action for the same under our government both inside and outside the school system.

The above tasks will be complete in 2029.

Blossoming Youth

The future belongs to the youth, especially Generation Z, who are growing up in a fast-paced, digital world. Generation Z, grew up in a rapidly developing world of technology. Therefore, they are designed to be quick in action and decision making.

We have a series of plans in the works to equip the youth with the knowledge and experience required to lead the nation in the future.

They will be given opportunities and guidance to generate income by working from home. Training programmes will be implemented in the fields of Digital Marketing, Freelancing, E-Commerce, etc.

The necessary creativity skills and technical guidance will be provided to the young generation who would like to professionally engage in social media as content creators. We will form the necessary background to create employment opportunities in emerging areas such as modern agriculture and, the eco-friendly tourism industry. These opportunities will be efficiently expanded as the economy of the country gets strengthened.

We will expand National Youth Mental Health Promotion Services and implement a comprehensive programme to help individuals overcome harmful addictions and adopt effective socialization practices.

We will provide opportunities and support for cultural, aesthetic and creative activities as well as sports activities.

The necessary background will be created to increase the representation of youth in the political field. The new generation of politicians will be equipped with knowledge through the establishment of the Youth Parliamentary Consultation Office and a Faculty of Political Science.

Youth engagement in governance will be encouraged through the 'Gen Z Dialogue', a dialogue where youth could present their novel and creative ideas of governance to the state.

We will revive Provincial Youth Centres and provide modern facilities.

Sports

Informal practices and external interferences in the past have led to current weaknesses in sports administration. As a result, our athletes are facing various difficulties.

New legislation will be introduced for sports to address this situation.

According to the recommendations of the committee appointed on cricket, Sri Lanka Cricket will be restructured. The draft presented by the committee has now been submitted to the International Cricket Council for approval.

The sports training institute will be modernized to be on par with present-day requirements.

A well-structured development programme will be implemented at both the village and school levels in order to recognize and improve the skills of rural athletes up to international standards.

We will develop the Diyagama Mahinda Rajapaksa Stadium to international standards.

All these tasks will commence in 2025.

Senior Citizens

In the current fast-paced and complex society, it is increasingly challenging for senior citizens to rely on their children for necessary care.

Both adults and children often find themselves in difficult and helpless situations when it comes to providing care for elders.

Therefore, it is expected to establish care centres for senior citizens all over the country, that are armed with modern facilities.

We will amend the National Policy for Senior Citizens in 2025.

Various activities will be carried out by the Divisional Secretariats and Community Organizations to enhance the social and cultural lives of senior citizens.

The Requirements of the Community with Special Needs

Abiding by Article 4 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we will be introducing a new Bill in 2025, ensuring that all citizens, including those with disabilities, enjoy full human rights and freedom.

We will take steps to adopt the Sign Language Bill and develop a comprehensive national policy for people with special needs.

The building access policies will be revised to ensure that they meet the requirements of individuals with disabilities.

We will allocate a special employment quota for such communities.

Respect for All Communities

Across the country, there are small community groups that often go unnoticed and are marginalized by society. Although these groups have faced different forms of suppression and difficulties, no attention has been given to their requirements so far.

We are committed to building a society where no citizen is discriminated against or disadvantaged based on religion, language, caste, gender, political opinion, or place of birth.

A New Hope for the Public Service

Public servants will receive salary increments starting from a minimum of 24%. The lowest salary, inclusive of the Cost of Living Allowance, will be increased to Rs. 55,000.

Government employees below the age of 40 will be given one year's leave with scholarships to follow courses to improve service efficiency.

A University of Public Policy and Administration will be established.

A skills or merit-based promotion system will be introduced.

Our plan includes digitalizing the entire public service to make it more efficient and streamlined. To support this initiative, we are hoping to provide laptops, tablets, and smartphones at subsidized rates.

Government employees without access to housing will be given priority under a new housing scheme.

As the economy strengthens, we will increase the amount of distress loans and reissue property and housing loans.

The services that can be performed remotely will be given the option of working from home.

We will implement a formal and transparent transfer system within the Public Service.

We are committed to eliminating salary anomalies among pensioners.

The above tasks will be commenced in 2025.

One Hundred Thousand New Employment Opportunities in the Next Year!

As a result of our economic policies, an increasing number of new enterprises will emerge through local and foreign investments, creating numerous employment opportunities in the future. While this may take a year or two to develop, in the meantime, one hundred thousand new employment opportunities will be provided in the year 2025 as follows;

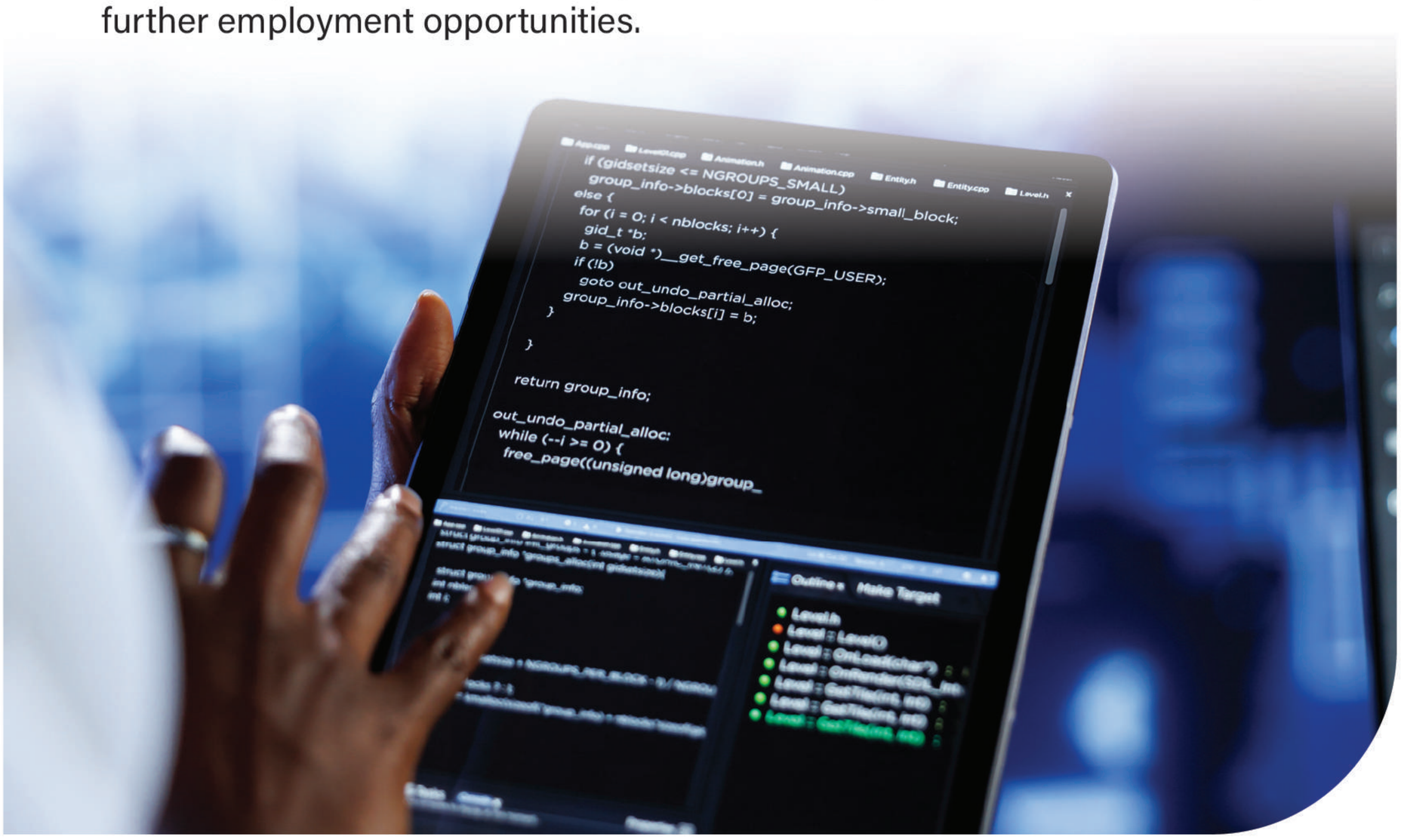
- Development projects supported by foreign countries, which were previously suspended, are now being resumed since we are presently emerging out of bankruptcy. Many of these projects are in the construction industry, and this will create numerous job opportunities.

- In 2025, we will launch a new programme for youth who do not get through Ordinary Level and Advanced Level examinations. This programme, in collaboration with the private sector including tourism and manufacturing industries, will provide vocational training and a monthly allowance of Rs. 35,000 for a period of one year. Private companies could also contribute additional funds to this allowance. They will be provided with employment opportunities in those companies after the training.

- New employment opportunities are emerging nationwide, owing to the concessional loans given to small and medium enterprises. It is also a great opportunity to offer a solution to unemployment.

- Agricultural modernization will create a significant number of new employment opportunities from the year 2025 to 2027.

- Additionally, vacancies created by retirements in government service will provide further employment opportunities.



Foreign Employment

Foreign workers are a crucial source of our country's foreign exchange.

We are in the process of amending the Foreign Employment Bureau Act, which will introduce benefits such as housing schemes and daycare centres, to provide them with better facilities and working conditions.

We will also be taking necessary steps to enhance foreign employment opportunities. We will establish an Information Centre which will provide continuously updated data on the international job market.

Employment opportunities in the fields of elderly care and childcare are abundant in foreign countries. We will train the youth who wish to be employed in those areas and improve their language skills.

These tasks will be commenced in 2025.

Support for Informal Workers

A large number of people work in the informal labour market, which includes three-wheeler drivers, private bus drivers and conductors, labourers and many others.

We will be introducing a contributory pension and social security system for all these workers in the year 2025.

Standardized training will be provided to enhance the professional dignity of these roles. NVQ Level 4 certification courses for female massage therapists have already been introduced.

Many three-wheeler drivers are currently suffering due to debt. We will be providing the defaulters with an opportunity through state banks to restructure their loans. Discussions will be done to make the necessary arrangements to extend this relief through private banks as well.

Country First

The Security (Special Provisions) Act has now been drafted to enhance the status of our Tri Forces and stabilize the security of the nation.

The committee's report on modernizing security forces to meet the demands of 2030 has been received, and its recommendations will be implemented.

'One Rank - One Pension' system will be introduced for the Tri Forces.

This will eliminate the issues related to pensions of war heroes.

Opportunities will be expanded for our military personnel to serve in the UN Peacekeeping Missions.

Avenues will be created for retired military personnel to contribute to the security sector by encouraging the establishment of related manufacturing industries.

Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Air Force will be given opportunities to gain valuable experience and generate income through deployments in the Gulf region.

We will empower our armed forces with advanced knowledge and technology, ensuring that the nation's security remains safe from the threats that may come from land, sea, air, or cyberspace.

Renaissance of the Police Service

The basic foundation of a strong criminal justice system is to create a Police Service consisting of safe, responsible, active, competent, brave and honest officials who ensure the safety of citizens.

A Police University will be established with the aim of improving the institutional and extracurricular knowledge and skills of police officers. Thereby police officers will be given the opportunity to obtain degrees and post-graduate degrees while in service.

In our effort to build a disciplined society, we will establish the foundation for the Sri Lanka Police to deliver service with maximum efficiency.

Prisoners are Human Beings Too

At present, prisons are overcrowded, and this posing significant harm to the mental and physical health of inmates. It also impedes the effective rehabilitation of prisoners, hindering their reintegration into society as productive individuals.

We have planned to build a number of new prisons in accordance with international standards.

It is expected to equip these new prisons with facilities in the aspects of health, sanitation, food, and welfare services for both prisoners and prison officers. This will strengthen the process of rehabilitating prisoners and helping them reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens.

The cases of long-term detainees and those serving lengthy sentences will be reviewed.

Necessary facilities and training will be provided to prison officers.

Combating Illegal Drugs

Illicit drug use, drug trafficking, drug addiction and the inability to recover from addiction have created serious social problems. We are ready to take action to control all illegal drug-related activities.

In 2025, we will draft a bill to establish a comprehensive Anti-narcotics **Command Headquarters** covering all functions from drug control to rehabilitation of drug addicts, and ensure that it is passed in 2025 itself.

A Win for the Motherland

A country will gleam brighter and brighter if her people are lovers of arts who can dive into the depths of literature, music, dance and history, and emerge sympathetic, creative, open-minded individuals who want the best for their motherland.

Cultural Citizens

It is no secret that Sinhala Language, Literature and Fine Arts are nourished by Buddhist teachings. These teachings alone can shape people to be good and exemplary citizens.

Sri Lanka is a multi-religious and multi-cultural nation. Hinduism, Christianity and Islam have been practiced in Sri Lanka from the past. I pledge to protecting and respecting all religions, places of worship, and cultural identities in our multi-cultural society.

The invaluable heritage found at the historical sites of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa should be further studied and utilized for the benefit of the country. We aim to give priority to peace and eliminate disputes, that are found in the values of governance in the Eastern world. While promoting non-violence, kindness and compassion, we would also seek to be nourished by the lessons from the Western world.

We are looking forward to establishing **a digital museum dedicated to Buddhist civilization of** the historic city of Kandy.

Measures will be taken to utilize AI and new technologies to study the Thripitakaya. Establishing **Mahavihara University** is another important objective we have.

A fund will be established to provide necessary facilities to the forest-dwelling monks. We have already started work to develop the Pirivena education. We will also develop infrastructure facilities for the spiritual development of the Buddhist nuns.

Hinduism began spreading across the country during the Anuradhapura – Polonnaruwa periods. Steps will be taken to develop Hindu temples as well.

We will introduce Dakshina Kailasa based on Thiruketheeshwaram in Mannar, Naguleshwaram in Jaffna, and Munneshwaram in Chillaw. Koneshwarama temple will be upgraded as the main Hindu temple of this pilgrimage.

The establish an education center to obtain formal education on Hinduism has been planned after having discussions with the Hindu religious leaders.

We will provide facilities to teach Christian and Catholic children in Christian/Catholic settings. The government will provide funds and support for seminaries and other centres that provide Christian and Catholic education. We will develop infrastructure facilities around important shrines such as the Madu Shrine and improve facilities available for devotees.

We will be taking steps to develop Madrasa education to facilitate Islamic education. Recently there have been unscientific and anti-religious incidents such as the forced cremation of the dead despite them being Muslims. Necessary measures will be taken to compensate all families who had to undergo this tragedy. Taking further steps, new laws will be enacted in 2025 to prevent such incidents in the future. We will establish a society that does not interrupt any religious practice or belief, or disregard cultural identities.

We will continue the programme where solar power systems are given to religious places.

Improving Fine Arts

The spiritual and intellectual lives of people in any country are nourished by arts and culture.

Our country has been gifted with dance styles from upcountry to low country to Sabaragamuwa, a rich folk culture and various forms of arts and crafts including paintings, sculpting etc. Today, Sri Lanka is blessed with artists representing all forms of arts including musicians, dancers, writers, painters, sculptors who have brought international honours to the country.

We will launch programmes to artists to developing their skills to meet international standards so that they will take our cultural identity to the world.

Sri Lanka now has world famous writers and it is our responsibility to facilitate and encourage their writing.

We will establish an International Fine Arts and Cultural Center near Ananda Coomarswamy Mawatha by combining the Nelum Pokuna Theatre, John De Silva Theatre, the Science Museum, Mahaweli Centre, and the New Town Hall Premises. This center shall provide the facilities to improve the skills of the local artists, and produce art of international standard. This center will be named the Ananda Coomaraswamy Arts and Cultural Centre.

A South Asian Cultural Centre and a Museum for Modern and Contemporary Art will be established in the same premises. This task will be commenced in 2025.

The old military hospital located in Galle Face, Colombo has been allocated for a modern art museum and will commence its construction in 2025.

The centre will provide facilities for the sectors such as traditional and modern dancing, music, painting, crafts, cooking, decorations and designs, fashion and will take measures to generate employment opportunities. This will be a key site of tourist attraction.

Today, book publication has faced competition with the e-book technology. We will be taking measures to strengthen the economic power of both the writers and publishers by widening the facilities for printing books.

Further, we will create the support required to uplift stage drama, ballet, and opera in Sri Lanka.

We will reawaken the SAARC Cultural Centre, and lay a strong foundation for art and cultural activities of the region.

We will commence a pop music and dancing academy for the youth who love the popular culture.

We will setup a fully equipped theatre in every district and organize annual events with the cultural centres, that are currently functioning.

All the government-owned theaters in Colombo including the Tower Hall and Elphinstone Theatre will be established under one umbrella institute and developed to utilise them in a better manner.

The National Film Corporation will be established as Film Development Commission to keep up with the current international trends and will be renamed "Film Sri Lanka". It will be a gateway to raise our cinema industry up to international level on digital platforms. The relevant Bill that gives the authority to implement a number of tasks focusing on the development of cinema is now at its final stage of drafting. After the approval, the government will not intervene with any of the businesses in the field of cinema since it will established as an independent entity. Only regulation would be done by the government. This Bill will be presented to the Parliament in 2025.

The draft Bill for establishing the Public Performance Classification Board cancelling the present Censor Board is now completed. No accusation shall thus be made against a work of art under criminal law if the work holds a classification certificate. The draft bill will be passed in the Parliament in 2025.

A Better Environment for Media

Both multi-community media and modern media are needed to create a sensitive society.

We will be drafting a national journalism policy and building a strong foundation to create a society that values humanity, discipline, loyalty and integrity.

We will empower and strengthen journalists and freelance writers.

A higher education institute on journalism will be established in 2025.

We will work towards solving the issues faced by the regional journalists.

An Electronic Media Regulatory Commission will be established to generate a transparent media environment which holds values.

A United Sri Lanka

A country where children smile from all directions,
North, South, East and West
walking hand in hand,
finding strength in the beauty of their diversity…

One Nation

Sri Lanka is home to people from different ethnicities, all of whom are citizens of the country and thus have the right to live decent lives. We will ensure happy and free living for all in a unified Sri Lanka.

Two years ago, the economic crisis shattered the people's hopes in all aspects. People lost the hope of moving forward.

But now, the time has come for everyone to be united and come together to create a beautiful future for the country. The future which we will be creating will benefits all citizens equally, irrespective of ethnicity.

No citizen who speaks in Tamil should be neglected by the Sinhala community, and similarly, no citizen who speaks in Sinhala should be neglected by the Tamil and Muslim communities. We will make sure that an atmosphere where people from different ethnicities and religions could live harmoniously like relatives and friends, will be created.

We will give prominence to reconciliation and creating prosperous lives for all citizens. Viable solutions will be provided for the social, economic, political, cultural and educational issues of the Northern and Eastern provinces.

The lands people have lost during the time of war is a complex issue. A National Land Commission will be established to provide viable solutions for these land issues.

Tamil and Muslim communities in the Northern and Eastern provinces who have started lives anew after the war are facing a number of issues. The following action will be taken to address their issues;

- Enacting the Truth and Reconciliation Act
- Implementing the Nawaz Commission Report on missing persons
- Provide financial assistance to the rehabilitated LTTE members to engage in self-employment

A Great Power

A single government will not be able to accomplish all these work over the next five years on its own. Therefore, both the central government and the local government system need to collaboratively share the responsibility.

Based on the proposals we have made about implementing the 13th Amendment to the Constitution;

1. We will devolve power to the Provincial Councils as per the Constitution. The powers of the Provincial Councils that come under Schedule 1, which are now vested under the Central Government will be devolved back to the Provincial Councils.

2. The decision of vesting police powers to Provincial Councils will be decided by the new Parliament.

3. The powers given under Schedule 3 that are approved by the party leaders will be given to the Provincial Councils.

Provincial Councils will be given the power over the following areas;

- School education
- Vocational training
- Degree awarding institutions

  (with the ability to upgrade to university level later, if necessary)
- Provincial tourism promotion
- Agriculture modernization

Required laws will be passed regarding the above.

We will be taking measures to establish District Development Committees. Every community irrespective of the fact they are Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher, Malay, Indigenous or other, will have the right to act independently with a sense of justice as members of one nation despite different views. New laws will be formulated to devolve powers from the Central Government to Provincial Councils and Local Government Authorities.

It is expected to change the local government system in the year 2025. We will restructure the present Urban Councils and upgrade them to Municipal Councils. A system where power is executed through Pradeshiya Sabhas and Municipal Councils shall be introduced.

A Win for the Motherland

Several key reforms need to be made in order to rebuild the country to make the future stronger.

I will give the Parliament the responsibility of drafting a new Constitution within a year after the forthcoming Parliamentary Election following the Presidential Election.

The new Parliament will need to decide whether or not to abolish the Executive Presidency.

▪ A New Election System

The new Parliament will introduce a new election procedure based on the recommendations presented by the Commission headed by the retired Chief Justice Priyasath Dep in making the election reforms.

The political parties in Europe are following systems of high standards in maintaining transparency. We will introduce new rules and regulations regarding election expenditure and other activities of political parties.

▪ Parliamentary Standards Act

Parliamentary Standards Act will come into force and it will contain sections enabling the removal of Parliamentary Members who strongly violate the standards given in the Act.

It will enact the laws that prevent the elected representatives from doing business with the government.

▪ Second State Council

The Second State Council consists of representatives from the Provincial Council and the Civil Society as per the Constitutional Council Report.

This Council is responsible for supervising the execution of powers given to the Provincial Councils by the Constitution and other laws.

Empowering the Citizen

Powerful citizens are assets to a country. But, currently, we have very few rules and regulations that empower citizens. Action will be taken to introduce new laws and agencies that are targeting empowering citizens.

▪ Social Justice Commission

We will establish the Social Justice Commission to prevent discrimination and marginalization of citizens, with the main aim of making people's voices heard.

▪ Peoples' Initiative Act

One of the main methods where people's sovereignty is exercised, is through voting, which takes place at the Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial Council election levels.

Peoples' Initiative Act will further enable citizens to submit proposals to the Parliament. In this manner, citizens could be directly involved in the law and policy-making process of the country. This Act will further strengthen democracy practised in the country.

▪ Jana Sabha

The aim of Jana Sabha is to have the active participation of provincial and rural communities in the decision-making process. Currently, several pilot projects are being implemented in this regard. We will establish Jana Sabhas with representatives from the 50,000 villages in the country dispersed throughout 14,002 Grama Niladhari Divisions.

Let Us Build a New Country!

This plan of action is to make Sri Lanka victorious, not to uphold a party or a single person.

For, Ranil represents neither a party, nor a person, but the whole nation.

A Sri Lanka, without racial, religious, linguistic or any other differences.

This is our future.

Come, join him in this mission of making the motherland win.

Together, we can build our nation…our future.

Yes, we can!

Ranil will win this election. There is absolutely no doubt.

Two years ago, we witnessed sadness everywhere. We saw people languishing in queues for essential needs. Homes were in darkness. There was no electricity. People couldn't even engage in their jobs. Everyone had economic difficulties.

But today, we see a country that smiles. A country illuminated with light and hope. A country where people can earn a living and live freely.

Who brought this change? Ranil. Yes, Ranil.

Ranil is a leader who knows how to face challenges. He finishes what he starts. He does not give up mid-way. He has always been like that. He talks less, and he acts with precision.

It was twenty-three years ago when he envisioned giving freehold deeds to people and did the groundwork. He strove to make it a reality all these years. The Presidents before him never permitted the proposal, but Ranil never gave up. Today, people not only have the rights of ownership to the lands but also the houses.

Therefore, it is crystal clear that it is only Ranil who can elevate our country to a higher standard. It is only him who can make our lives better. Ranil, and Ranil alone.

When other candidates fight over the Presidency, Ranil is far removed from the battle. For, he has no fight against individuals. His fight is against poverty, unemployment and malnourishment.

He is not fighting for a position. He is in the midst of a struggle to make the lives of the youth better.

Ranil is fighting to bring victory to our motherland. His battle is to make Sri Lanka a developed nation, that is a pleasure to live in.

That is why Ranil will win this election. That is why Ranil will remain unbeatable.

He believes we can.

Yes, we can!

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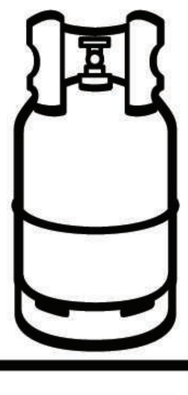
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