



# A WIN FOR ALL

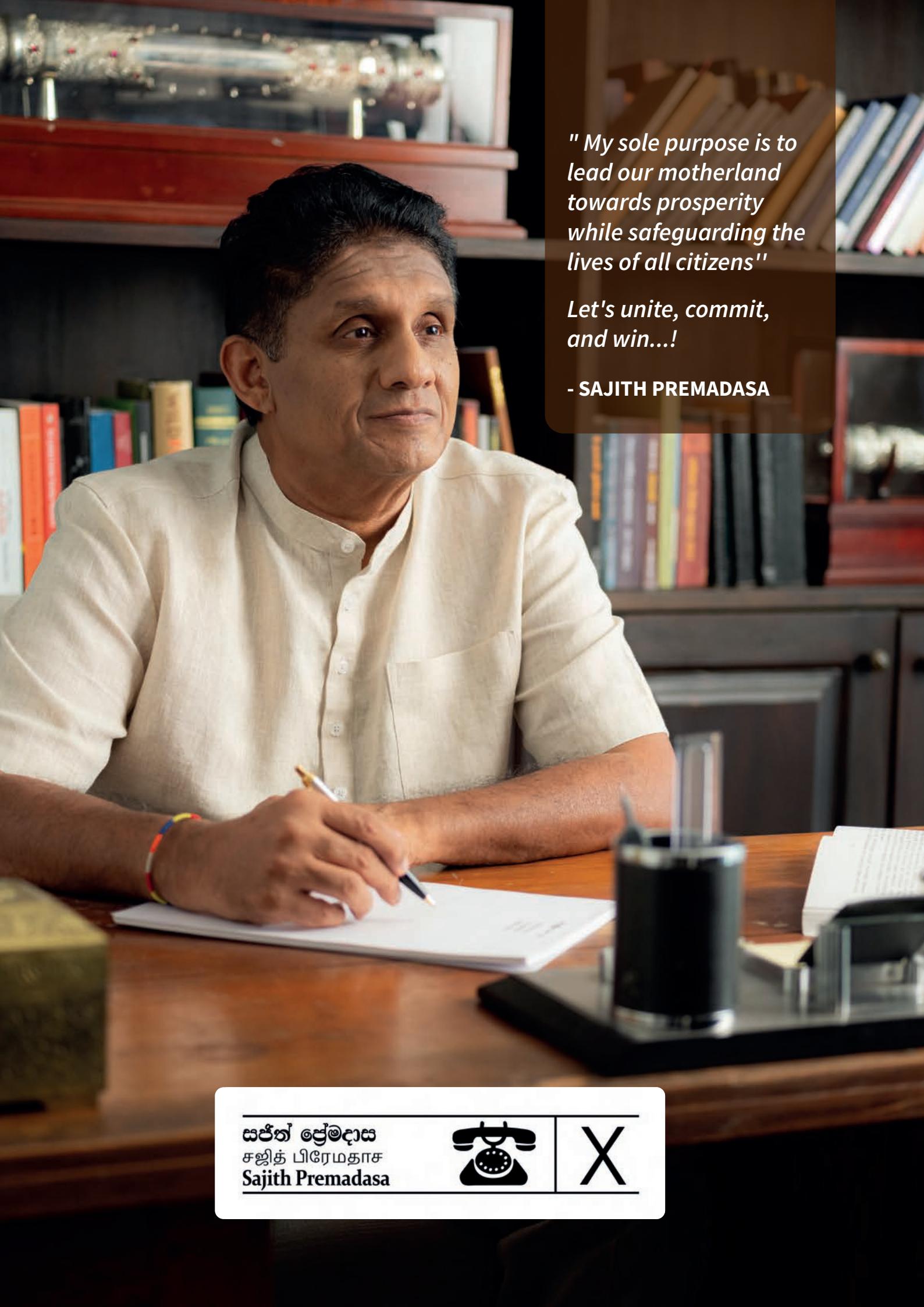


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SAMAGI JANA SANDHANAYA

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**A WIN  
FOR ALL**

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*" My sole purpose is to lead our motherland towards prosperity while safeguarding the lives of all citizens"*

*Let's unite, commit, and win...!*

- SAJITH PREMADASA

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Sajith Premadasa



***My fellow Sri Lankans,***

As we approach a defining moment in our nation's political journey with the forthcoming Presidential election, I, Sajith Premadasa, proudly present this manifesto (A Win for All) on behalf of the Samagi Jana Sandhanaya (SJS) to outline our vision for a positive national transformation.

The SJS is a new political force with a vision to create a new Sri Lanka by introducing a social market economy with social justice at its core. We believe a true democracy is one in which every citizen's voice is heard.

Therefore, our manifesto and economic vision is not just about statistical growth but about tangible prosperity in every segment of society. We will create a resilient and inclusive economy, combining the strength of free markets with a deep commitment to equality, to ensure no Sri Lankan is left behind.

Another crucial pillar of our vision is the fight against corruption. Corruption has long been a stain on Sri Lanka and has ultimately led us to bankruptcy, undermining trust in government and robbing our citizens. The future SJS government will root out corruption by embedding transparency and accountability in every aspect of governance with the necessary system reforms.

In our pursuit of prosperity, special attention will be provided to the crucial housing, healthcare and education sectors. We will ensure every citizen can access quality housing. The healthcare sector, which is facing myriad crises, will be reinforced with professional and technological resources to create a healthy nation. The education sector will be revamped to build internationally competitive human capital, which can thrive in a rapidly changing world while contributing to the growth of Sri Lanka.

Throughout history, nations have been developed with strong team leadership. This is why the SJS has assembled the most qualified and pragmatic team of politicians to ensure that the ambitious goals in this manifesto are achieved.

Let me end by stating that the SJS is more than just a new alliance; it is a movement for much-needed change, driven by the belief that Sri Lanka can and must finally realise its true potential. I seek your support in this election, not just for myself as your candidate but for the vision we all share for a stronger, fairer, and more prosperous nation. Let us come together to finally create the Sri Lanka we all deserve.



**Sajith Premadasa**

Leader

Samagi Jana Sandanya (SJS)

29th August 2024

# A WIN FOR ALL

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CONTACT :

**Samagi Jana Balawegaya**

592, Kotte Road, Sri Jayewardenepura - Kotte. 10100

Phone: 011 287 0112

e-mail : [info@sajith.lk](mailto:info@sajith.lk)

Web : [www.sajith.lk](http://www.sajith.lk)

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# BUILD A RESILIENT ECONOMY

“

We prioritize equitable growth through a Social Market Economy model, ensuring that the benefits of development reach all citizens. As we chart a course toward economic recovery and lasting prosperity, we pledge transparency, sustainability and empowerment creating a future where all can thrive.

”



Sri Lanka is still facing its most severe economic crisis to date, caused by heavy debt, poor policy decisions, and weak governance. While recent steps have helped by lowering inflation and boosting foreign reserves, the road to full recovery and becoming an advanced economy remains extremely challenging. The average Sri Lankan has been forced to bear the brunt of the crisis, struggling with high prices, increased taxes and hopelessness.

We will follow a Social Market Economy model guided by Social Democratic Political Principles to foster equitable and inclusive growth, harnessing the power of markets while ensuring social justice and protection for all. Our Blueprint 3.0 provides a strategic plan to tackle these challenges, rebuild the economy through strong growth, and secure a prosperous future for all. A key part of this plan is erasing corruption, a necessary but not sufficient solution. Further, we will promote a green economy and environmental sustainability as foundational principles for economic growth and development.

To achieve sustainable growth, we need a two-part approach: First, we must reform the economy to make it more competitive and globally connected. This will create wealth among the people. Second, we need to ensure economic justice and equity through a strong social safety net with targeted subsidies to protect the vulnerable. Additionally, we will aim to increase Gross National Happiness (GNH) by fostering a society where economic progress goes hand in hand with the well-being and overall happiness of our citizens.



## **TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Introducing strong anti-corruption laws and strengthening the implementation of the current legal framework will speed up justice. The recovery of stolen assets and a robust

programme to curb rampant corruption in the country's administrative system shall be the key. Establishing an independent Public Prosecutor's Office free of political interference to bring corrupt individuals to justice will be done on an urgent basis by a simple amendment to the legislation. We will enact a Public Procurement Law to guarantee that procurement is conducted in a transparent, corruption-free and efficient manner. All government procurement shall be transferred to a digital platform.

To provide the consumer with the best quality and price, monopolistic and oligopolistic behaviour will be corrected through the immediate introduction of a competition law.

We will bring in transparency in public finance management. There shall be full disclosure on expenditure plans and debt management strategies as well as in tax administration. The establishment of the Parliamentary Budget Office would henceforth provide a detailed analysis of all government tax and expenditure proposals.



## **MANAGING THE DEBT CRISIS AND THE IMF**

We will strengthen fiscal discipline as per the IMF agreement and continue with difficult but necessary reforms to meet the targets of revenue, primary balance and debt. However, we will make amendments to the current programme to guarantee relief to those below poverty line and improve quality of life for Sri Lankans.

In the case of agreeing to a solution that allows for 'claw back' clauses for foreign creditors to benefit from more than expected GDP growth, we will insist that 'comparability of treatment' be extended to the EPF that bore the brunt of the domestic debt restructure.



## MONETARY AND EXCHANGE RATE POLICY

We will respect the autonomy of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) provided by the new Act but hold the bank fully accountable for meeting its inflation target. Furthermore, we will help ensure low and stable interest rate and an internationally competitive foreign exchange rate.

to widen the tax net. Certain identified items in addition to essential food as consumables and inputs shall be made zero rated for VAT.

- Excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol and taxes on casinos will be adjusted to fund tax reductions.
- A guaranteed interest rate of up to 15% will be provided for senior citizen savings.



## ACHIEVING A REVENUE GROWTH

The solution to increase government revenue is not confined to raising taxes. One of our first acts will be to introduce digital technology to increase revenue, minimize expenditure and corruption. We will revise the unfair burden sharing structure of the IMF supported tax code revision that is forcing professionals to seek employment abroad.

Some highlights of our revised structure that will not disturb the overall revenue targets but will reduce the heavy burden on the middle are:

- Personal income tax: Personal income tax after the Tax-free slab of Rs 100,000 per month will start at just 1% and increase up to 24% income up to around half a million per month. Thereafter, current rates will apply to high-income earners.
- Corporate income tax: We intend reducing up to 6% from the present 30% rate for profits on exports and introduce 15% Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) minimum alternate tax for multinational companies.
- VAT: We intend to reduce VAT to 15% once tax compliance improves through the use of Public Digital Infrastructure



## EXPENDITURE CONTROL

Although the IMF programme has focused on increasing revenue, it has not adequately addressed government expenditure control. Therefore, our economic vision aims to control wasteful government spending and corruption. This includes reforming state enterprises. Funds so saved will be utilised to implement a social safety net for the distressed population and to strengthen education and health sectors.

We will use data-based planning to control government expenditure and strengthen transparency and accountability of government spending to increase public trust.



## STIMULATING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Our government will be committed to transforming Sri Lanka into a globally connected social market economy, with private enterprise, both large and small, as the principal driver of growth. This transformation requires two key actions: enhancing global economic integration through trade liberalisation and foreign direct investment and unshackling domestic markets, including product and labour markets. Ensuring effective market signals will enable full private sector engagement in national development.



## ● AGRICULTURAL REFORMS

We shall address challenges at multiple levels. Archaic laws need modernisation. Reforms will unshackle agriculture markets, provide equitable water access through rehabilitated irrigation tanks, and offer access to finance and insurance. For the individual farmer, the entire value chain—from obtaining information on what, how much, and when to produce, to financing inputs and managing the cultivation cycle—needs improvement. Thereafter, post-harvest management in terms of storage to logistics to sale must be addressed.

We will implement a rapid, smart technology-driven agricultural modernisation programme to reduce rural poverty, increase productivity, and promote sector growth. This includes interventions – in paddy, vegetable, and plantation crops – from planting to sale, like protected agriculture, lift irrigation, drip irrigation, and perhaps even AI-assisted hydroponic farming. This effort will become possible with the launching of the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

To reduce and maintain the price of rice, we will reintroduce the ‘Shakthi’ rice miller nationwide cooperative programme. We will also immediately establish ‘Prabhawara’, a network of climate-controlled agricultural produce warehouses around the country, to reduce the 40% post-harvest loss of produce. This, too, will contribute to lowering the price of food.

## ● INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: CONNECTING TO THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN

Sri Lanka will be connected to Global Manufacturing Value Chains (GMVCs) starting with manufacturing sliced components utilising the still untapped trainable workforce and our strategic location. Here, we plan to integrate with global electronic and electrical goods production as well as

in EV components using transformation of critical material including graphite. Our government will also be committed to further advancing the success of the apparel sector.

## ● SERVICES: A KEY DRIVER OF VALUE CREATION

A key component of the growth plan is the service sector. We will focus on e-commerce and information technology services and in transforming Sri Lanka into a logistics service centre.

## ● MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMES) AND THE STARTUP ECO SYSTEM

MSMEs and start-ups are as important large corporations in driving economic growth, contributing to approximately half of value addition and half of employment. MSMEs have been long neglected and are currently in crisis, particularly since the pandemic and then the economic meltdown. Our government will place special emphasis on rescuing and setting a path for MSMEs to become a key contributor to the expected high growth trajectory of Sri Lanka through access to digitalisation, capital and programmes for training.

## ● PORT CITY

We will amend the law to make the Port City the Asian Regional Centre for technology services including Fintech, Biotech and Nanotech.

## PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND DIGITALIZATION

Efficient and equitable public provision of health, education and social services is vital for economic development and civil security. Sri Lanka’s public sector is responsible for providing these services. Yet, although it



is massive, it is plagued by overlapping roles, redundancy, and underpayment. Decades of reform have failed to address corruption and accountability issues, from public procurement to service delivery. We plan to overhaul the public service through digitalisation and introduce key performance indicators to enhance productivity. This will improve management, transparency and efficiency while minimising corruption.

Establishing a SOE Holding Company is a key part of state-owned enterprise reform. This SOE Holding Company will provide a centralised and strategic framework for managing SOE ownership, under a structure like Singapore's 'Temasek model'. What shareholding the State shall hold in each of the SOEs shall be determined based on multiple objectives of the various stakeholders, balancing national security interests with international competitiveness and efficiency.

- **BUILDING A DIGITAL HEALTH PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

The health sector will be transformed with high-tech solutions from drug procurement to all health services. Lessons learnt in using digital technology in '1990 Suwa Seriya', being classified as one of the world's most advanced and fastest ambulance services, will be incorporated into enhancing quality and efficiency.



## **ENERGY AND UTILITY REFORMS**

Our approach to power and energy will focus on implementing transparent, automated systems that minimise individual discretion, close loopholes for manipulation, and eliminate the incentives for 'dealmakers' to push unsolicited proposals.

While creating competition in generation and distribution is necessary, consumers and industry should not bear the burden of high energy costs due to monopoly power and inefficiency. We support cost-reflective electricity tariffs, but these costs must exclude corruption and inefficiency in power purchase agreements.

We will reassess the proposed structure in the new Act and recommend amendments to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the reform process. Our priorities include establishing a fair electricity market, safeguarding consumer interests, improving accountability and depoliticising the industry.

We envision not just meeting but exceeding the target of 70% renewable energy generation by 2030, aiming to make Sri Lanka a regional renewable energy powerhouse.



## **REFORMING THE MARKET OF FACTORS OF PRODUCTION**

We shall implement factor market reforms by relaxing restrictions on land, labour, and capital markets to facilitate doing business in Sri Lanka and promote both domestic and foreign investments.

Our government is committed to implementing a national land reforms programme aimed at improving land productivity and securing land rights. A key priority will be the creation of a digital land registry, completing the ongoing "Bim Saviya" programme.

Recognising the importance of human capital development, we will prioritise policies aimed at improving educational outcomes, developing job-relevant skills, and fostering innovation. Enhancing the quality and accessibility of education is crucial to building a competitive workforce.



Programmes will be implemented to ensure that Sri Lanka's workforce possesses the skills necessary for the jobs of tomorrow.

We will swiftly implement reforms to boost capital inflows and strengthen the domestic capital market. Key regulations will be reformed to enhance foreign direct investment (FDI) to stimulate economic growth and support existing investors.



## **AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT**

- We will implement measures to ease the debt burden on farmers by waiving off their existing farmer loans (Govi Naya). Additionally, we will ensure farmers have access to essential credit facilities to support their farming.
- We will offer a 50kg fertiliser bag for Rs. 5,000, ensuring its continuous availability.
- We will ensure that farmers receive high, certified prices for their rice production, protecting them from exploitation and securing their livelihoods.
- We will also ensure the protection and uninterrupted provision of high-yield seeds, planting materials, pesticides, tools, and technology necessary for cultivation, all at a fair price.
- Establishing the “Farmer Intelligence Service” agricultural information market to provide farmers with the opportunity to obtain a fair price for agricultural products. This programme will enable direct connections with domestic and foreign buyers for agricultural products along with the formation of forward sales contracts with them.
- Improving mobile and internet facilities in agricultural areas, enabling farmers to receive technical advice and connect with domestic and foreign agricultural buyers using digital platforms.
- Redesigning and modernising agricultural institutions to ensure food security.
- Improving agriculture and animal husbandry by value addition, crop diversification, introduction of modern agricultural inputs, and market expansion. Tax incentives will be provided for agricultural exports.
- Preparing “land use plans” necessary for the expansion of agricultural and commercial crops.
- Priority will be given to amending outdated laws that limit land use in a way that enhances the productivity of agricultural lands.
- Facilities will be provided to farmers to recultivate abandoned traditionally owned lands and paddy fields that have been left uncultivated due to various issues.
- We will introduce an insurance scheme for farmers affected by animal incursions and cultivation or production losses.
- Establishing “Prabhawara” cool room facilities with humidity and temperature control, and other facilities at selected locations across the island to store farmers’ products to provide them with a stable price.
- Providing technical support and assistance to modernise farms with new technology to increase milk, egg and meat production and ensure supply without scarcity. The production of essential food items will be encouraged through guaranteed prices.
- Providing tax incentives and

encouragement for introducing modern methods such as drip irrigation, protected indoor cultivation, greenhouses, drone technology, and AI technology to agriculture.

- Developing a methodology to encourage small and medium-scale entrepreneurs of agriculture entrepreneurs with access to affordable credit.
- Continuously providing necessary state patronage to promote tea, rubber, coconut, sugarcane, cinnamon, and other export agricultural crops.
- Controlling the large-scale rice mill mafia that exploits paddy farmers and sells rice to consumers at excessive prices and re-implementing the “Shakthi Rice” programme with small and medium-scale rice mill owners.
- We acknowledge the challenges tea smallholders face in Sri Lanka and are dedicated to implementing targeted policies that address their current issues, enhance their productivity, and ensure their long-term prosperity for them.
- Steps will be taken to expand the international export market for spices including cinnamon and pepper, and measures taken to provide the necessary technology to introduce value-added products, and to ensure product standards and quality. Cultivations will be expanded, and modern technology will be introduced for research, technology, and management.



## LAND, IRRIGATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT

- The government will establish a comprehensive National Land Bank to optimise land utilisation and streamline market operations. Recognising that

land is a crucial factor in economic development and market dynamics, this initiative will centralise land information, facilitate efficient allocation, and support sustainable development.

- Steps will be taken to provide freehold deeds within five years to land permit holders occupying government lands.
- The legal system necessary for protecting water sources and catchment areas will be strengthened.
- The government will make necessary investments to maintain the capacity of inland reservoirs at the maximum level. To ensure that all minor, medium, and major irrigation schemes will be rehabilitated and maintained to achieve required water demand.



## TRANSPORTATION – ROAD, SEA AND AIR

- Building a multi-faceted public transport system with eco-friendly, modern buses, electrification of railways, light rail system, and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) empowered by smart technology.
- Speedy completion of the work on the Central Expressway will be ensured. We consider the construction of Ruwanpura Expressway from Kahathuduwa to Pelmadulla as a key component of our major transport network and the construction work will be completed in stages. Priority will be given to the rehabilitation of rural roads.
- We will launch a targeted programme to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB), empowering it to effectively compete with the private sector and deliver quality transport services to all citizens.
- Railway modernisation projects, including the Kelani Valley railway line, which was halted by the present government, will be expedited.
- Improving the efficiency of expressways by introducing a Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) system.



- Prioritising the rapid completion of the second terminal at Katunayake International Airport, which will be of immense support for the tourism industry, and converting the existing domestic airports within the country into civil airports.
- Given Sri Lanka's unique strategic positioning, we will invite private sector participation in developing the seaports.



## **FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES**

Leverage Sri Lanka's maritime potential by developing blue economy initiatives that promote sustainable economic activities through public-private partnerships (PPP), maximising the utilisation of aquatic resources of the Sea of Sri Lanka.

- Establishing a low-interest loan scheme through state and private banks for entrepreneurs to economically strengthen the fishing community and implementing special programmes to promote their entrepreneurial skills.
- Improving deep-sea fish harvest forecasting programmes through the use of technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), and developing simple methods to instantly communicate such information to the fishing community.
- Taking necessary steps to promote fisheries tourism and thereby create alternative income sources to economically strengthen the fishing community. Providing training and encouragement for women in fishing families to engage in alternative entrepreneurship.
- Regularizing the distribution of fish resources across the island, enabling residents in any part of the island to access fresh fish.

- Recognising the untapped potential of inland waterways, the government aims to elevate freshwater fishing to a key component of the national fishing industry.
- The ornamental fishing industry and its exports will be facilitated through enhanced support measures, including streamlined regulations and targeted marketing strategies.
- Diplomatically resolve illegal activities by unauthorised foreign fishing vessels and improve communication and technological facilities to monitor them.
- Prioritising the provision of necessary investments to improve fishing harbours and anchorages.



## **TOURISM**

- Implementing the detailed recommendations outlined in the "Tourism Policy for Sri Lanka: A Blueprint for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth" policy prepared by the Samagi Jana Balawegaya, and taking steps to make Sri Lanka's tourism sector the country's foremost foreign exchange earning avenue will be considered a prime responsibility of the government.
- The corrupt "VFS Visa Agreement" signed by the current government will be annulled, and a new modern system will be established to allow foreign tourists to obtain visas easily at a lower cost. Additionally, steps will be taken to ensure accountability of this transaction, which is considered the largest corruption case in Sri Lanka.
- The government will implement a visa-free entry programme for citizens of 100 countries, allowing them to visit Sri Lanka for up to one month without the need for a pre-arrival visa.

- We will expedite the implementation of the Overseas Citizens of Sri Lanka Programme, facilitating easier access to the country for individuals of Sri Lankan origin living abroad and making it easy for them to access the Government Services of Sri Lanka.
- We will transform Colombo into South Asia's most beautiful and investor-friendly capital, spearheading our shift to year-round tourism. This urban rejuvenation, coupled with tourist market diversification, will position the city as a regional business and leisure hub, stimulating tourism growth across all seasons.
- Promote eco-tourism by positioning Sri Lanka as a premier wildlife destination, especially for leopard watching, ensuring sustainable practices that protect natural habitats while boosting local economies through responsible tourism.
- Implement comprehensive training programmes for both formal and informal tourism industry employers through public-private partnerships (PPP), focusing on language proficiency and professional skills development.



## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH**

- To promote Artificial Intelligence in Sri Lanka, the government will establish a “State Research Fund” of 5 billion rupees per year, which can be applied for and claimed by state and non-state universities in Sri Lanka for research and development including curriculum development.
- An Incubator centre will be created near the Homagama Technology City to support the university and external young research teams engaged in commercially important research.
- As in developed countries, the possibility will be considered of implementing the best research conducted by university students for their degree requirements as projects important to the country's economy.
- We aim to establish 25 cutting-edge IT parks.



## **INDUSTRY SECTOR**

- Expedite the work at Millawa, Millaniya and Bingiriya export processing zones and establish 25 new state-of-the-art industrial zones strategically located across all districts of Sri Lanka, ensuring balanced regional development and creating employment opportunities nationwide. The zones will be initiated with the start of a manufacturing plant in each zone immediately. The number of industries will be started gradually in all 341 divisional secretariats.
- Create a nationwide ‘Green Tech Innovation Hub’ network, leveraging Sri Lanka’s natural resources and tech talent to become a leader in sustainable technology. This initiative will attract foreign investment, create high-skilled jobs, and position Sri Lanka as a pioneer in eco-friendly solutions for the global market.

- We will spark innovation by facilitating One Million Start-ups and launching the ‘18+ Startup Project’ to empower young entrepreneurs, especially recent graduates, with loans, mentorship, and essential resources.
- Establish a streamlined ‘One-Stop Shop’ for new industry registrations, enabling entrepreneurs to register their businesses efficiently by consolidating all necessary government approvals in a single location. This initiative will significantly reduce administrative



hurdles, cut through red tape, and accelerate the process of setting up new enterprises in Sri Lanka.

- Sri Lanka's village, cottage, and traditional industries, which preserve generational production knowledge as part of their cultural heritage, will be recognised as a distinct sector. We will provide targeted support through improved facilities, market positioning expertise, cost-effective production strategies, packaging enhancements, and financial assistance for capital acquisition, enabling these industries to thrive in niche markets.
- Cooperatives will be completely depoliticised, and legislative reforms will strengthen cooperative banks and protect savings. We will revitalise Sri Lanka's cooperative sector through these reforms, as well as contributory pension schemes and technological modernisation. These measures aim to enhance operational efficiency, diversify business models, and create mutual benefits for cooperatives and their communities, driving sustainable grassroots economic growth.
- Conduct comprehensive institutional reforms and update laws to better protect and promote innovation, trademarks, intellectual property rights, and operational efficiency across the economy.
- We recognise the invaluable contributions made by the apparel sector to our economy. In acknowledgement of this, we are committed to developing a special policy charter aimed at securing the well-being of both workers and the industry. This charter will emphasise the importance of skilled labour as a driving force in the global production value chain. Considering this, we plan to introduce initiatives such as insurance and childcare facilities to ensure a sustainable environment for all stakeholders.

## **MSME (MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES) SECTOR**

- The SJB was the first political party to recognise the critical situation facing the MSME sector. We have consistently voiced concerns about the sector's conditions both in and outside of parliament. Furthermore, we facilitated meetings between MSME sector representatives and key international financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), European Union (EU), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to explore potential support and solutions.
- In response to pressure from the SJB, the government suspended the enforcement of the Parate Law until December 15, 2024, providing relief to the MSME sector. Under future governance, we commit to granting a reasonable extension to this suspension. Additionally, we will mandate all state and commercial banks to establish dedicated MSME loan departments. These departments will analyse loan situations on a case-by-case basis. Through Central Bank directives, banks will be instructed to convert existing loans into long-term loans with concessionary interest rates for genuinely affected businesses, ensuring sustainable support for the MSME sector.
- Tuk Tuk: We will be providing an interest subsidy facility for the conversion of the three-wheelers with combustion engine to electric engine saving three-wheeler driver's daily petrol cost. The loan scheme will be administered through the banking system.
- National policy on MSME shall be developed via consultation among all stakeholders incorporating all aspects towards creating a thriving

sector and also towards achieving the goal of creating significant number of entrepreneurs.



## GEM AND JEWELLERY SECTOR

- Implement efficient, fast, and transparent systems to facilitate mining licenses.
- Provide financial facilities for small-scale miners to acquire modern mining technology.
- Open more lands for mining in an equitable and fair manner.
- Restructure the National Gem and Jewellery Authority to enable a smoother export process without NGJA interference. All exporters will have direct access to the Customs online platform to submit their declarations and export goods directly from their offices, similar to practices in Thailand and Hong Kong.
- Enable all Sri Lankans to trade gems and Jewellery globally through effective, non-interfering export mechanisms, utilising couriers and postal services online.
- Considering the assessing industry income tax based on turnover as the final tax, replacing the current 30% on net profits.
- Consider the discontinuation of VAT and SSL on gemstone imports to encourage greater gemstone flow into Sri Lanka for value addition and re-export. Consider reinstating the USD 200 fee for hand-carried gem parcel imports.
- Exempt all gem and Jewellery sales in foreign currency from VAT.
- Propose duty waivers for legitimate Jewellers who pay for gold imports with foreign currency earned from sales, whether direct or indirect exports.

- Remove tariffs on these items to create greater opportunities for value addition and exports of finished gems and Jewellery.

- Restructure the Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute to relocate closer to main trading centres and enhance talent development in the sector.



## CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

- Launch the ‘Build Sri Lanka Fair’ initiative to create an equitable and innovative construction industry. This comprehensive policy will reintroduce contractor grade clustering, ensuring fair competition among small, medium, and large firms. It will also establish a Research and Innovation Division to spearhead the adoption of cutting-edge technologies like Building Information Modeling (BIM). This initiative aims to modernise the sector, promote local material production, and create a resilient, efficient, and transparent construction ecosystem.
- Implement the ‘Swift Build, Smart Resolve’ programme to streamline dispute resolution and enhance regulatory compliance in the construction sector. This programme will introduce a Standing Advisory Committee on Construction Projects (SACCP) for efficient mediation of disputes, and a National Steering Committee for Construction Projects (NSCCP) to oversee high-value projects. It will also empower CIDA to enforce compliance with Standard Bidding Documents, ensuring uniformity and minimising conflicts.
- Restarting Halted Projects with Strategic Review.



- The future government will allocate funds to resume these essential projects while cancelling or restructuring non-essential ones, ensuring cost-effective solutions and preventing further financial burdens on contractors and the state.
- Promoting the Export of Construction Services and Products.
- The government should prioritise the promotion of the construction sector as an export industry. This can be operationalised by facilitating Cross-Border Guarantees, extending diplomatic Support, and initiating Export Promotion.
- Creating a demand for the domestic housing market granting facilities for housing and Mortgage Loan Schemes for First-Time Builders.
- Modernising the Supply Chain and Localizing construction inputs Production.
- Allow Fair Competition and regulatory enforcement to ensure level playing.
- The government will mandate that the Employer release retention money once the work reaches 60% completion, replacing retention funds with guarantees or bonds.
- The “Battle for Solar Energy” project, which has already added 1,300 megawatts to the national power grid, will be further promoted. Home owners and industrialists will be encouraged to build “solar power plants” with concessionary interest rates. The goal is to empower 1 million homes with solar power within five years.
- Priority will be given to a 1,200-megawatt offshore wind power project. Transparent and competitive mechanisms will be introduced to promote onshore wind and solar power. This is expected to encourage both domestic and foreign investors.
- Sri Lanka’s National power grid will be transformed into a Smart Grid within five years.
- Within two years, existing thermal power plants will be modernised to operate on LNG, and the necessary infrastructure for using NG, LNG, and CNG for domestic energy needs will be provided through public and private sector involvement.
- Steps will be taken to establish facilities within the country for manufacturing and maintaining equipment needed for renewable energy sources, including wind and solar power sectors, with public and private sector intervention.
- Provisions in the Electricity Act No. 36 of 2024 that are against the rights of electricity workers and consumers will be removed, prioritising the development of an efficient smart electricity system in the country.
- Given Sri Lanka’s Sustainable energy potential, the opportunity to export beyond our domestic needs is promising. We will pursue the production of green hydrogen and invite direct foreign investments.
- We will pursue regional energy connectivity arrangements.



## **POWER AND ENERGY**

- Necessary legislative amendments and administrative changes will be made to eliminate corruption and inefficiency in the power sector and ensure the provision of electricity to consumers at fair and competitive prices.
- Local and foreign investments will be encouraged in the fields of electricity, petroleum, and gas, and a world-standard method of buying electricity that is completely corruption-free and efficient will be introduced.



# EMPOWER EVERY CITIZEN

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“ We are dedicated to fostering equal access to education, healthcare and social services for every citizen, cultivating a self-reliant society where everyone can thrive. Through transformative initiatives like ‘Sakwala’ and ‘Husma’ we will champion gender equality and ensure that no individual or community is left behind.

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## **EDUCATION, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND YOUTH**

Education is a fundamental right. Human capital development is our priority.

- In recognition of their crucial role in developing the nation's human capital, the government will provide free public transportation to all teachers across Sri Lanka.
- Formulating a work plan by making policy decisions before January 2025 to address long-drawn-out salary, pension and service issues in the education sector.
- Developing a roadmap to transform every school into a smart school by providing 100% electricity, water facilities, and physical resources to all schools in Sri Lanka.
- Teacher vacancies for the teaching of religion will be filled. Religious education in schools will be handled by those qualified to teach religion.
- Building a Smart Sri Lanka, ensuring students can access digital learning platforms in schools shall be prioritised via an expanded 'Sakwala' programme. This shall involve a total overhaul of delivering content using digital technology. This programme shall be extended to technical and vocational institutions and universities making quality education services affordable. Create 10,096 foster school programmes that attract generous donors to support the establishment and improvement of SMART schools and digital infrastructure.
- Initiate a school twinning programme to foster global partnerships, cultural exchange, and collaborative learning opportunities between schools.
- Mandate that every school establish a trust fund supported by local communities to ensure the maintenance and sustainability of school facilities.
- Initiating actions from January 2025 to create a system of "STEAM" education that prioritizes Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics in all institutions of education by expediting teacher training activities.
- When updating school curricula, expert opinions will be sought from domestic, multilateral institutions, and foreign governments and private sector human resource specialists. Efforts will be made to give due consideration to modern technological trends including Artificial Intelligence.
- Simplifying and restructuring the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination, which has put children under immense mental stress.
- Recognizing Early Childhood Education (ECE) as fundamental to developing responsible citizens, we will establish a regulatory authority with a multi-stakeholder advisory committee, upgrade child-friendly and modern infrastructure, enhance teacher training and accreditation, and promote parental engagement.
- Primary and secondary school education will be designed with the use of tools of modern technology so that a student can understand, speak, and write English from an early stage of schooling.
- All female school students from Grade 6 -13 can avail themselves on a self-selection basis to receive a monthly cash transfer for the purchase menstrual hygiene products.

- Taking immediate steps to restructure the University Grants Commission to address professional issues in the university sector. Reforming the University Grants Commission Act and strengthening the independence of the University. Appointing a higher education commission to oversee the quality of state, non-state and private higher education institutions. Take necessary measures to improve the international rankings of all government and non-governmental universities, thereby enhancing their international recognition.
- Sri Lanka will coordinate with IIT / IIM India to facilitate the establishment of such a university in the country, advancing technology and innovation.
- Enhance university twinning initiatives aimed at improving academic standards, research collaborations, and student exchange programmes.
- The current loan programme of the government for education at non-governmental and private universities will be expanded to cover recognized private vocational training institutions as well.
- Vocational training curricula will be comprehensively modernized and standardized to align with current market demands, ensuring graduates possess relevant, in-demand skills.
- The youth, who are the lifeblood of the country, should be satisfied and happy citizens. To productively utilize their labor contribution for the country's development, we will provide them with the latest facilities for education, vocational training, and entrepreneurship, facilitating their access to new domestic and foreign opportunities.



## **WOMEN AND CHILD EMPOWERMENT**

- The government will encourage private entrepreneurs to start daycare centres covering every Grama Niladhari division and will provide financial incentives. The government will also take steps to provide all necessary support to establish daycare centres in public and private institutions as appropriate, and to regulate these daycare centres.
- The cost of maternity leave will be borne by the state encouraging higher participation of women in the work force.
- Necessary legal reforms will be implemented to ensure a minimum of 25% female representation in Parliament, Provincial Councils, and Local Government institutions.
- A Presidential Task Force will be established within three months with responsibilities for ensuring gender equality, empowering women, and ensuring child protection and physical and mental well-being.
- A panel of experts will be appointed to provide recommendations for ensuring full implementation of existing laws for the protection of women's and children's rights, and these recommendations will be implemented within a year.
- The Women and Children's Desks at every police station will operate 24 hours a day.
- We will launch a transformative initiative to empower women-headed households, offering comprehensive



support and protection to ensure both women and their children thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

- The regulations of micro credit institutions will be strengthened. Unauthorized micro finance businesses will be shut down and punitive action on those responsible will be expedited. We will launch a dynamic support programme to rescue individuals trapped in microfinance debt, empowering them to regain financial stability and thrive. A special intervention will be made for the protection of women pressured and abused by micro credit lenders.
- Companies that employ more than 50% of women in selected sectors, evidenced through EPF/ ETF, will receive tax benefits.



## **HEALTH, NUTRITION, INDIGENOUS MEDICINE AND SOCIAL WELLBEING**

- We will ensure the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy.
- Over the past 25 years, there has been no improvement in the stunting of children under five, which significantly impacts our country's development. Our strategy includes providing essential nutrients to foster healthier growth in children.
- Recognising malnutrition in pregnant mothers and young children as a serious health issue, the programme of distributing "Thriposha" and "Nutrition Packs" to pregnant mothers and young children will be restarted.
- A midday meal program will be implemented for school children in food-

insecure areas to ensure they receive the necessary nutrition to enhance learning, growth, and skills.

- In partnership with the food industry, affordable and healthy food options will be developed to meet community needs.
- Recreational facilities will be upgraded to promote active lifestyles and combat sedentary behavior.
- The expansion of care facilities for the elderly and those with chronic diseases is a priority to enhance their well-being and quality of life.
- A full medical test will be conducted with state contribution once every three years for every citizen over 40 years of age targeting minimisation of the state healthcare expenses through early diagnosis of diseases and creating a healthy generation of citizens.
- "Husma" programme to improve the availability of medical services to the people of Sri Lanka will be top priority of our government. A total audit of the entire health services network shall be undertaken to allocate funds over a period of time to meet global quality standards. Encourage donors to continue funding the "Husma" programme to adapt hospitals to community needs, thereby promoting improved healthcare accessibility and quality.
- The digitised identity card will also provide health services to all citizens.
- Expanding the right to free healthcare, we will create opportunities for children to receive treatment from any hospital by expanding the "Suraksha Health Insurance".

- Consider indigenous medicine as a National Heritage.
- The government will be especially committed to promoting traditional systems of medicine including Ayurveda, traditional Sinhalese medicine, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy, and will develop a special programme to attract foreign tourists towards alternative medical practices.
- The 1990 “Suwa Seriya” Ambulance Service, recognized as one of the world’s best ambulance services and currently highly appreciated by the public, will be promoted and protected. Furthermore, arrangements will be made to provide a better service to the public in every area of the island by the use of new technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The unemployed and the underemployed will be trained and reskilled, and employment and entrepreneurial opportunities will be provided, contributing to the growth of the economy. Under this scheme, presently unemployed graduates will be given the highest priority. A quick assessment of unemployed graduates will be carried out to understand their present knowledge and skills and direct them towards the government organisations where there are relevant vacancies.
- Priority will be given to qualified youth from low-income families when providing foreign employment opportunities with government intervention.



## **EMPOWERMENT AND PROSPERITY BUILDING**

We are committed to social justice and the protection of the vulnerable segments of society. Our philosophy is to build a self-confident, self-reliant society not dependent on the state.

- Senior citizens, the disabled and the sick will be provided direct financial transfers.
- Continue benefits with enhanced amount to patients of chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu), and elderly citizens
- Rs. 10,000 per month (from Rs. 7,500) for 50,000 CKDu-affected persons.
- Rs. 5,000 per month (from Rs. 3,000) for 820,000 elderly citizens.



## **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

We will implement a programme of work that will recognise disability as part of the rich diversity of humanity. Within this conceptual framework, we will ensure the autonomy, inclusion and participation of citizens with disabilities within all Sri Lanka’s development and social structures.

- Continue benefits to disabled persons and increased welfare allowance of Rs. 10,000 per month (from Rs. 7,500) for 410,000.
- The domestic legal framework will be developed and implemented in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the National Policy on Disability.
- All goods and services related to education, work and employment, health, poverty alleviation and social security, housing, transportation, sports,



justice, public participation and social, religious, cultural other rights will be made appropriate and accessible to persons with disabilities.

- A national database will be established for the efficient and effective management of the national programme for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The policy of providing a 3% quota of job opportunities in the public service for persons with disabilities will be implemented.
- We will appoint a Disability Rights Commission to monitor the implementation of policies to ensure that disability rights will be on par with the rights of all citizens.



## **THE INDIGENOUS ADIWASI COMMUNITY**

The SJB/SJB Alliance firmly believes that the Indigenous Adiwasi community should be treated with dignity, enjoying full entitlement to all rights and privileges without any discrimination. Providing feasible and sustainable solutions for hardships faced by them due to the diminishing of forest lands and the scarcity of water will be a priority in future governance. A speedy solution will be provided for the micro-finance credit crisis faced by the Indigenous Adiwasi community, which has become a serious problem for the community.

Further, we will ensure that the religious, cultural, social, and economic rights of the Indigenous Adiwasi communities will be protected.

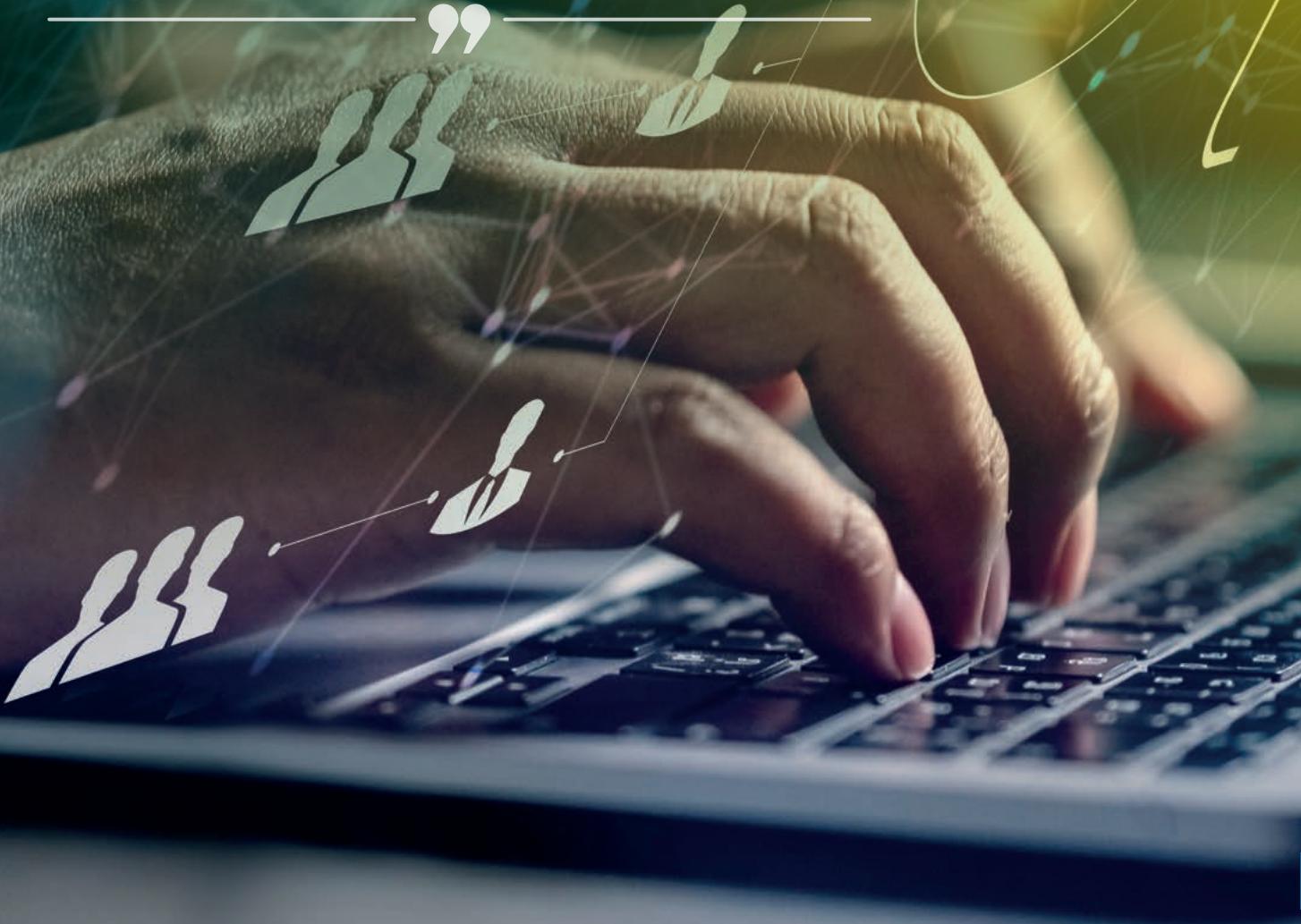


## **SPORTS**

- The outdated Sports Law No. 25 of 1973 will be replaced within a year with a new Sports Act that meets contemporary needs.
- Steps will be taken to establish a definite schedule for domestic sports competitions, also prioritising the provision of necessary infrastructure and trainers to improve the standard of domestic sports.
- A special fund will be established with contributions from the public and private sectors to provide necessary funding for athletes who qualify to represent Sri Lanka in international competitions.
- “Sri Lanka Cricket” will be established by an Act of Parliament, creating the necessary legal environment to eliminate corruption in cricket and promote the sport.

# ENHANCE GOVERNMENT SERVICE

“While aiming to modernize public service delivery through Digital Public Infrastructure, we work towards creating a skilled and accountable public service to serve all Sri Lankans, ensuring efficiency, transparency and accessibility.





## A DIGITAL SRI LANKA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Under the future government, a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) would be created to improve public service delivery, accelerate the development goals, and ensure good governance.

- Under the DPI initiative, all citizens of Sri Lanka would be given a specific identification number. This would ensure the efficiency of services provided to them by enabling them to provide currently cumbersome services such as obtaining birth, marriage, and death certificates, passports, and certified copies of important documents with the press of a button.
  - The DPI that creates Data Interoperability between the government and the citizen, and between government institutions, banks and recognised financial institutions would be put in place within two years. A system to enhance digital financial transactions will be instituted, transforming Sri Lanka into a cashless, transaction-oriented modern society.
  - Expanding the Lanka Government Network and Lanka Government Cloud to cover the entire Sri Lankan government institutional system, and technologically empowering it to provide optimal service to all government institutions.
  - A comprehensive Cyber Security law will be introduced to Sri Lanka within three months.
  - Necessary regulations will be enacted, and facilities will be provided for the effective implementation of the Personal Data Protection Act No. 09 of 2022.
- Establishment of a Development Fund, with private sector participation, to promote startups.
  - Resolving the issue of lack of high-speed internet facilities, which has been a barrier to the development of information technology enterprises and efficient citizen service delivery in Sri Lanka, will be considered a priority of this government.
  - Removing unfair taxes imposed on businesses in the information technology sector and introducing a new, fair, and attractive tax policy for the sector, recognizing its unique contribution to the country's development.
  - Minimizing taxes on electronic equipment imported to Sri Lanka for information technology businesses.



## PLANNING AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- A Cabinet Ministry for Policy Planning and Implementation will be re-established. This ministry will be responsible for policy formulation, policy updating, and reviewing the progress of policy implementation.
- We will establish a “Policy Implementation Commission” composed of fully authorized scholarly professionals to ensure the implementation of the policies mentioned in this policy statement. The role of this commission will be to set implementation targets for these policies, review progress, study setbacks, and recommend remedies. The commission will publish an annual report showing the progress of implementing election promises.



## PUBLIC SERVICE

- Conducting a comprehensive human resource audit covering the entire public service and rationalizing the entire public service in terms of a human resource management plan. All recruitments, appointments, and placements in the public service will be conducted based on meritocracy, ensuring that the most talented and capable individuals are strategically positioned.
- Standardising public service delivery and continuously evaluating the public service based on performance evaluation targets. We are committed to investing in public sector training both locally and internationally. We will rationalise civil service training institutions by establishing a Civil Service College with international standards.
- Increase in the Cost-of-Living allowance for public servants: Our government shall increase the monthly cost of living allowance to all eligible public sector employees to a minimum of Rs. 25,000 from current amount Rs 17,800 and be adjusted for current allowances.
- Increase in basic salary for public servants: The minimum initial monthly salary for government service will increase by at least 24% (based on the current ratios for grades). This adjustment shall include any terms and conditions of various adjustments and allowances currently being enjoyed.
- The above two adjustments shall make the minimum gross salary in public service Rs. 57,500, including the cost-of-living allowance.
- In light of the ongoing uncertainty caused by the 2016 budget proposals

concerning pension entitlements for newly recruited government servants, we propose to cancel the prior decision and ensure that all government employees hired since 2016 receive their pensions in accordance with the Minutes of Pensions. Their appointments will be altered accordingly.

- The Development Officers in public service at present will be reassigned to suitable positions within the public service based on their qualifications, abilities, and preferences. The government will also provide support for the Development Officers serving at present to obtain appropriate skills or vocational training to enable them to competitively seek job opportunities in both local and foreign job markets based on their preference.



## AN END TO PASSPORT QUEUE

- To provide passports and identity cards quickly without queues, 25 service centres will be established in each administrative district, jointly operated by the Department of Immigration and Emigration and the Department of Registration of Persons.
- All Divisional Secretariat offices will be connected to the Lanka Government Network to ensure that birth, death, and marriage certificates can be obtained from every Divisional Secretariat.







# PROTECT QUALITY OF LIFE

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A new intervention mechanism will soon be established to make poverty a part of history, drawing on the best practices of “Jana Saviya,” “Samurdhi,” “Aswasuma,” and “Gamidiriya,” and developing a comprehensive new programme.

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## RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- We are committed to building a society that spreads compassion, loving-kindness, equanimity, and sympathetic joy. While giving Buddhism the foremost place and nurturing and protecting the Buddha Sasana, we will work to protect the rights of those who follow other religions and ensure the fundamental right to practice and worship the religion of their choice.
- Full state patronage will be provided to strengthen Dhamma schools, Pirivenas, and religious education.
- Steps will be taken to include inter-religious education in the school curriculum to provide children with an adequate understanding of religions other than their own.
- State patronage will be provided for research on examples that can be derived from Buddhist philosophy and other religious philosophies for the humane and ethical development of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- We will remove all censorship for artistic creations. Instead, we will establish a specific mechanism for categorizing and evaluating creations.
- We will provide necessary state patronage for traditional artists to elevate their professional lives to a higher standard.
- We will establish a special unit within the Intellectual Property Office to resolve intellectual property issues related to artistic works.
- We will work to attract Sri Lankan audiences to cinemas by promoting digital cluster cinemas.

- We will establish free art spaces in every district to organise training and exhibitions for cultural and artistic activities, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and musical dramas.



## MEDIA

- A priority of the new government will be to introduce a bill that removes clauses against freedom of expression in the Online Safety Act No. 9 of 2024, permitting internet service providers to operate their industries without hindrance.
- An independent National Media Commission will be established with responsibilities for policy decisions and regulation related to media, considering the needs of all stakeholders in the print and electronic media.
- New laws and regulations will be enacted to provide necessary legal protection to ensure job stability for professionals in the media sector, including regional journalists.
- The Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will be governed under a “Trust” and will be directly accountable to Parliament following the administrative model of the BBC in Britain.



## HOUSING AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Government-owned lands will be provided for the construction of low-income and middle-class housing schemes.
- The incomplete government-led housing scheme will soon be completed, and the

newly developed diversified housing programme will prioritise rural, urban, hill country, disaster-affected regions, the northeast, and fisheries communities to ensure equitable living conditions for all.

- Steps will be taken to reduce construction costs by removing the excessive taxes currently imposed on importing raw materials needed for housing and commercial building construction.
- A special housing loan scheme (Two Generation Loan) will be introduced for households purchasing their first housing unit or a plot of land for housing construction with minimum interest and long-term repayment options.
- The Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) will be strengthened to ensure the regulations of all utilities, including Electricity, Petroleum, Gas and Water.



## MIGRANT WORKERS AND EMPLOYMENT

- We will implement a new vehicle permit system that facilitates the purchase of electric vehicles, utilizing remittance as the basis for eligibility.
- The government will implement a tax exemption programme on housing materials for migrant workers post implementation of the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity.
- Necessary legal and administrative reforms will be implemented to make the Foreign Employment Bureau a more efficient and effective institution.
- The election law will be amended to allow overseas workers to vote from abroad.
- Swift action will be taken to bring back Sri Lankan workers who are imprisoned or facing difficult situations in the Middle

East and other countries and are unable to return to Sri Lanka.

- We will introduce a new contributory insurance scheme and a special housing programme to enhance the well-being of private sector employees.
- Enacting laws to regulate domestic work, addressing workplace harassment, ratifying relevant ILO conventions and increasing monitoring by labour officers to protect workers.
- Gig economy self-employed and domestic employees' rights and safety nets to be strengthened. We will bring laws and also introduce a contributory saving scheme.



## FOR MALAIYAHĀ COMMUNITY

We acknowledge the immense contribution to Sri Lanka made by the Malaiyaha Tamil community over two centuries. Given the structural exclusion they suffered, we recognize the need for affirmative action to improve their wellbeing. We will work towards that by :

- Raising the educational attainment of Malaiyaha students at all levels through a targeted programme including establishment of national schools with Science, Mathematics and Technology streams and improving infrastructure facilities.
- Establishing an additional College of Education to train teachers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) in Tamil medium and a Nurses Training Institute.
- Initiating a campus in Hatton affiliated with an existing University as a first step



towards a full-fledged university with the proposed name of Highland University of Sri Lanka (HUSL).

- Providing targeted and accessible Vocational Training programmes and support for entrepreneurship of Malaiyaha youth.
- Integrating all health facilities in the estate sector into the national health systems.
- Implementing a targeted support programme to address stunting among children, anaemia among women of reproductive age, and infant and maternal mortality.
- Ensuring fair and just implementation of the social protection programme to the plantation community.
- Introducing and implementing a government policy to transform plantation workers into land-owning smallholder farmers.
- Assuring a living wage to plantation workers during this transition period.
- Distributing abandoned land in estates to the estate residents for livelihood purposes of cultivation, animal husbandry and entrepreneurial activities. Providing titles to the lands already being cultivated by estate residents as per the government policy.
- Implementing an affirmative action programme, in line with President Ranasinghe Premadasa's policy, in public sector employment in areas where representation of the Malaiyaha community is woefully inadequate. Establishing new villages in plantation areas and providing adequate resources to NEVIDA to fulfil its mandate. Demarcating new GN and DS divisions and assuring equitable access to decentralised state services that enable transformation from workers – tied to plantation employers – to full-fledged citizens.
- Taking legislative and administrative measures to ensure that resident families in the estates are given land with title deeds for housing. Such lands shall be located with easy access to approach roads. The extent of land distributed shall be in parity with what was distributed to others in the same Divisional Secretariat area.
- Regularising with title deeds the houses that have already been built under PHDT, NHDA and other government programmes.
- Integrating the Tamil people migrating to the urban centres into the social safety net programmes including low-income housing programmes and improving resources in schools in the area to accommodate children of these families.
- While ensuring power-sharing at the center and periphery we will review the numbers of local government bodies in the plantation areas.
- Creating a Non-Territorial Community Council (NTCC) as a governance body, in a constitutional reform process, considering the dispersed population pattern of the Malaiyaha community with advisory and executive capacity to engage in development programme and to monitor and scrutinise bills and laws that have an implication for the cultural, social, economic and political lives of Malaiyaha Tamil community.



## PROTECTING PENSION BENEFITS

- Providing pension revisions that were denied to pensioners during the period 2016-2019 and offering a sustainable solution to pension disparities.
- Extending Agrahara insurance coverage to pensioners who retired before 2016.
- Will amend the Public Service Pensioners Trust Fund Act No. 40 of 1999 to enable its management in a way that provides greater benefits to the retired community.

pension system. This involves creating a universal, contributory pension scheme that is accessible to all citizens, including public service employees, private sector workers, and migrant workers. The existing model, where public servants receive pensions without contributing, is financially unsustainable.

- We propose to revise the minimum wage of private sector workers to at least Rs 25,000 per month from Rs. 17,500 per month upon discussions with all stakeholders.
- A new intervention mechanism will soon be established to make poverty a part of history, drawing on the best practices of “Jana Saviya,” “Samurdhi,” “Aswasuma,” and “Gamidiriya,” and developing a comprehensive new programme. The new programme will provide a monthly allowance of Rs. 20,000 for up to 24 months for beneficiary families. Until the new programme launches, Aswasuma benefits with enhanced amounts will continue to be disbursed as follows;
  - Rs. 10,000 per month (from 5,000) for vulnerable and transitional poor families
  - Rs. 10,000 per month (from 8,500) for poor families
  - No changes to Rs. 15,000 per month for extremely poor families
- This initiative will empower beneficiary families and communities by enhancing their capacities and skills, featuring components of consumption, savings, investment, production, and exports. At its core, this programme will implement a credit-based participatory poverty alleviation strategy through a robust social protection framework.
- Recognising the tremendous impact of the Samurdhi programme in eradicating poverty in Sri Lanka, a fresh scientific



## “RANAVIRU” WELFARE

- To protect the dignity of war heroes who sacrificed their lives for the nation’s security and to ensure their welfare, a Department of Veteran Affairs will be established within six months. All existing institutions currently responsible for the welfare of war heroes will be integrated under this department. This will provide the services of rehabilitation, health, vocational education, counselling, and resolution of housing issues.
- Adoption of the ‘One Rank-One Pension’ policy for retired war heroes.
- Appointment of a special Ombudsman to listen to and resolve the issues of war heroes and implement the recommendations received from that Ombudsman within six months.



## BUILDING A STRONG SOCIAL PROTECTION NETWORK

- For long-term sustainability, we propose a comprehensive overhaul of Sri Lanka’s



survey will be conducted before the new programme is implemented. This survey aims to address the mis-targeting of beneficiaries in the current programme, ensuring proper support for underserved Samurdhi beneficiaries and those affected by the economic crisis. The capital of Samurdhi banks will be strengthened with a focus on improving management, creating sustainable career paths for employees, and continuing mandatory savings programs and housing lottery initiatives while also resolving longstanding management and pension issues for Samurdhi employees.

- We will implement a fuel subsidy through a QR-based system, benefiting farmers, "Shakithi" rice millers, three-wheel drivers, fishermen, and school transport sector drivers, ensuring targeted support for those who keep our economy and communities thriving.



# SAFEGUARD THE NATION

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“  
We are committed to ensuring national security and environmental sustainability while strengthening democracy, promoting reconciliation and protecting the rights of all citizens for a secure Sri Lanka characterized by harmony, coexistence and safety.

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## **STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND RECONCILIATION**

- Racism, extremism or separatism will not be promoted in any way. Every citizen shall be treated equally under the law irrespective of race, religion, caste, class or sex.
- We will Implement the Trilingual language Policy as required under the current constitution of Sri Lanka.
- We will enact legislation to ensure women and youth representation in all elected bodies.
- Samagi Jana Sandhanaya is committed to change the present constitution and formulation of a new constitution with proper consultation with religious dignitaries, political parties representing the parliament, and members of the civil societies. In that process, our principle is to convert our present political system to parliamentary system and with maximum devolution based on 13th amendment under one country.
- “Grama Rajya” and “Nagara Rajya”, community based democratic institutions will be created to actively engage the citizen in the decision-making process.
- The government will be committed to fully implement the current constitution including the 13th amendment to the constitution till the passage of the new Constitution. We will reaffirm the commitment to provincial councils by not retracting the powers granted to them, and instead, strengthen the developments made at the provincial level.
- The constitutional provision that permits Parliament to increase the number of ministers/deputy ministers/ state ministers in the event a national government is formed shall be repealed.
- The ceilings on the number of Ministers shall apply even if a National Government is formed.
- Provincial council elections will be held within six months, and steps will be taken promptly to ensure the operation of Provincial Councils with maximum financial efficiency and effectiveness.
- The Office of National Unity and Reconciliation, the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations will be strengthened to effectively and efficiently implement their objectives. We will facilitate the resettlement of those affected by displacement. All lands not required for security purposes will be returned to their owners without further delay. The policy of no state-sponsored demography changes will be maintained. Furthermore, specific concessions and incentives will be provided for investment in the reconstruction and development of conflict-affected areas.
- We will organize an international donor conference aimed at securing commitments to rebuild and develop conflict-affected areas, focusing on infrastructure restoration, community development, and sustainable economic growth.
- Taking necessary legal and administrative steps to promptly hold the unlawfully postponed Local Government Elections.
- Enacting legal reforms to prevent interference by the executive in the administration of justice and making necessary legal reforms to establish the independence and efficiency of the judiciary.

- The scope of the chapter on fundamental rights will be broadened to include social and economic rights, cultural rights, rights of women, children, the aged, the disabled, environmental, housing and development rights.
- To ensure citizens' easy access to justice, the Court of Appeal will conduct its sittings in each Province. It will have an original fundamental rights and language rights jurisdiction. An appeal would lie to the Supreme Court with leave from the Court of Appeal or special leave from the Supreme Court.
- Corruption in any form is deemed to be a violation of the Constitution and the Constitutional reform process will ensure that anti-corruption will be entrenched in the Constitution.
- Complete de-politicization of the public service and providing the associated standards and provisions to the Public Service Commission.
- Steps will be taken to fully implement the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament, which became law on 15.04.2018, in order to establish the standards and principles required in the performance of parliamentary responsibilities, and to instil public confidence in Parliament. Priority will also be given, in parallel, to legislating codes of conduct to be followed by provincial councillors and members of local government.
- Ministers will not be allowed, in making appointments, to recruit their family members to government and semi-government institutions falling under the purview of their ministries.
- Those currently indicted for corruption charges before the courts will not be given nominations in future elections or any government positions.
- Introducing legal amendments to prevent MPs from crossing over for privileges and favours, and presenting provisions making it mandatory to conclude related court proceedings within two months.



## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMERCIAL ALLIANCES**

We are a sovereign state with a multi-aligned foreign policy. Our vision is to be friends with all and enemies with none.

Sri Lanka's foreign policy embraces a multilateral system promoting a world order governed by the rule of law and international norms. The core principles include the non-use of force, peaceful resolution of conflict and adherence to human rights.

- Peaceful coexistence with immediate and regional neighbours devoid of military alliances, taking the lead in promoting regional integration will be the cornerstone.
- Sri Lanka will engage with all nations and economic diplomacy will be at the core of policy formulation. Our economic diplomacy strategy will be built on the pillars of investment, trade and tourism. We developed a trade and investment policy focused on establishing a dedicated government unit for trade negotiations, akin to U.S. trade representatives, to enhance Sri Lanka's global trade positioning.
- Promoting a rules-based order in the Indian ocean, ensuring the best interest of the population of the Indian Ocean Region.
- Sri Lanka will be committed to regional trading alliances.



- We will ensure a proportion of 75% career diplomats and a maximum of 25% non-career appointments. The recruitment process will be revamped, and the appointment of family members of politicians will be prohibited.
- Working to ensure all races and religious groups the respect they truly deserve and ensuring security based on mutual cooperation emerging from the community itself to all ethnic groups.



## NATIONAL SECURITY

- Strengthening national security through defence cooperation based on a farsighted and strong foreign policy.
- Establishing the National Security Council through a new law and assigning necessary powers.
- The country's security, law and order and intelligence agencies will be treated as separate and independent units with necessary inter-coordination. A Structural and operational recognition will be given to the state intelligence sector by establishing an integrated intelligence framework within this structure. This coordinated approach will improve information sharing, streamline operations, and improve overall national security capabilities by maintaining the independence of each sector. This framework will ensure efficient cooperation between independent agencies and create a strong and responsive national security mechanism.
- Provision of essential technical facilities, up-to-date weapons and equipment and adequate local and foreign training for the armed forces of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Civil Defence Force. The jobs of Tri Forces and Civil Security personnel will also be secured, with assurances of high wages, allowances, and welfare benefits.
- Modernizing the armed forces for the twenty-first century through institutional reforms.



## LAW AND ORDER

- A Commission of Inquiry with formal authority will be established within three months under Section 2(1)(c) of the Commission of Inquiry Act No. 17 of 1948 to deliver justice to the victims of the Easter Sunday bomb attacks. Based on the commission's recommendations, prosecuting those responsible for the Easter attacks through a High Court at Bar with daily hearings will be a priority of the government.
- The post-cremation policy of the former regime will be investigated, and those responsible will be held liable, with justice pursued.
- The Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act will be abolished, and a new anti-terrorism law that protects national security and human rights will be enacted.
- Necessary legal amendments will be made to prevent the misuse of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by law enforcement authorities. The government is committed to addressing the issue of hate speech and strengthening legal mechanisms.
- The judicial system will be fully digitalised within five years to improve the quality of justice and minimise delays.

- The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka will be further strengthened, ensuring that legal aid is provided to citizens for all types of cases.
  - A permanent office for a Mediation Board will be established within the Divisional Secretariat offices, provided with adequate facilities and a permanent staff.
  - Criminal cases withdrawn for political reasons will be re-filed within three months of the formation of the new government.
  - We will support legal action by those affected parties who have unjustly suffered due to the economic crisis inflicted by those held responsible by the court.
  - The 150-year-old Police Ordinance will be updated to provide for prompt and fair recruitment, promotions, and transfers of police officers, while providing adequate facilities to modernise the police service to international standards.
  - Providing necessary resources to the police department to ensure that 119 emergency calls are responded to within 30 minutes by the police throughout the island and digitising the judicial system. The police will be digitalised to be able to provide a more public-friendly and speedy service.
- An Independent Public Prosecutors Office will be established to ensure independence and efficiency in prosecution.
  - The Stolen Assets Recovery Bill, already presented to Parliament, will be passed within a month of the election of a new government. Recovery of assets obtained through corruption will be speedily pursued.
  - The existing Anti-Corruption High Court at Bar will be re-empowered, creating an environment for speedy day-to-day trials of bribery and corruption cases.



## **COMBATING DRUG MENACE**

- We will work more closely with Interpol and other foreign intelligence services to prevent the importation of drugs into Sri Lanka and to disrupt international drug trafficking routes passing through Sri Lanka.
- An Anti-narcotic special high court will be established to try cases against large-scale drug traffickers and impose sentences within six months.
- 25 rehabilitation centres with modern facilities will be established across the country to rehabilitate drug addicts and reintegrate them into society.
- We will work to eradicate toxic drug trafficking within two years completely.
- Steps will be taken to discourage alcohol consumption and smoking. We will cancel “liquor licenses” that were irregularly issued recently.



## **ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS**

- Necessary facilities and training will be provided to speedily implement the recently passed Anti-Corruption Act No. 9 of 2023.





## SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

- We affirm our commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in all sectors, and environmental protection will be ensured within the development process. The National Environmental Act of 1980 (with amendments) and other laws and regulations will be updated.
  - Priority will be given to acting in accordance with the agreements in the Paris Agreement on controlling global warming by promoting renewable energy sources including solar power, wind power, pump storage, wave energy, green hydrogen, and biomass, as well as by introducing eco-friendly alternative energy sources in the transmission system.
  - We commit to implementing science-based, ecologically sustainable solutions to mitigate and resolve human-wildlife conflicts, focusing on elephants, monkeys, peacocks, and other animals that frequently interact with the human population.
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A concise summary of the policies of the Samagi Jana Sandhanaya government under my leadership, Sajith Premadasa, and the future programs planned to be implemented under it has been printed here for your information.

Agreeing with this basic conceptual framework, the agreements, policies, and charters reached after extensive dialogue with experts, professionals, and activists working in each field will be unveiled simultaneously with this policy statement.



# A WIN FOR ALL

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Sajith Premadasa



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