



Sri Lanka Army FORTNIGHT NEWS BULLETIN

15 - 31 January 2025 | Volume - 46

Directorate of Media & Psychological Operations



www.army.lk



[www.youtube.com/
SLArmyMedia](https://www.youtube.com/SLArmyMedia)



[www.facebook.com/
SriLankaArmyDefendersoftheNation](https://www.facebook.com/SriLankaArmyDefendersoftheNation)



[www.x.com/
sri_lanka_army](https://www.x.com/sri_lanka_army)



[www.instagram.com/
sl_army](https://www.instagram.com/sl_army)

Army Chief Pays Courtesy Call on the Prime Minister



Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army, paid a formal courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon. Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, at her office in Colombo on 16th January 2025.

During the discussion, the Prime Minister congratulated the Commander of the Army on his new appointment and extended her best wishes for his future endeavours. She also emphasised the military's vital role in maintaining national security and contributing to the nation's progress, while reaffirming the Army's steadfast support for the government.

As a gesture of goodwill, the Commander of the Army presented a memento to the Prime Minister during the cordial meeting.

Sri Lanka Artillery Honours the Army Chief



The Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery hosted a grand felicitation parade on 17th January 2025 to honour Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the newly appointed 25th Commander of the Army. Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo is the fourth Commander of the Army to have emerged from the Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery.

Upon his arrival at the Regimental Headquarters, the Commander of the Army was warmly received by Major General B.G.S Fernando USP Hdmc psc, General Officer Commanding of the 55 Infantry Division. He then paid tribute to the Fallen War Heroes by laying a floral wreath at the Regimental Monument.

Cont. on page 02

'Engage in your national duty with strong self-discipline and true commitment' - Acting Minister of Defence

'To recover from the present crisis faced by the country, we should take up our duty with a strong sense of self-discipline and true commitment and must act with responsibility and accountability' stated Acting Minister of Defence Major General Aruna Jayasekara (Retd) while speaking during his visit to the Army Hospital in Colombo, 16 Jan 2025.

Arriving at the hospital, the Acting Minister of Defence was received by the Commander of the Army Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo, and hospital authorities. Subsequently, he made an inspection visit to several wards and other hospital facilities before attending a briefing by the hospital director at the SL Army's premier medical facility.

Cont. on page 02



Army Chief Inducted into DSCSC Wall of Fame

The Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) held a historic ceremony to induct Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, into its prestigious Wall of Fame at the DSCSC premises.

Upon arrival, the Army Chief was warmly welcomed by the Commandant of the DSCSC, Major General H.H.K.S.S Hewage RWP RSP USP rcds psc. Then, he was accorded a Guard Turnout by Tri-services troops.

Cont. on page 02



Sri Lanka Army Organises Medical Camp to Support Disabled Veterans

The Sri Lanka Army, under the guidance of the Commander of the Army, has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the well-being of its veterans by organising a medical camp for disabled military personnel. This significant initiative is scheduled to take place from 20th to 24th January 2025 at Ranaviru Sevana, Ragama,

Cont. on page 03

Sri Lanka Army's 11th SRIMED Contingent Honoured Before Deployment to UN Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan

The Contingent presented a ceremonial salute to Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, before their departure. Major General D.K.S.K Dolage USP nps psc, Commander, Security Forces (Central) and Colonel Commandant, SLAMC, welcomed the Army Chief, who was honoured with a Guard Turnout at the entrance before reviewing the parade.

During the formal proceedings, the Army Chief symbolically handed over the National Flag, UN Flag, Army Flag, and SLAMC Flag to the SRIMED-bound Contingent Commander, signifying their readiness for the mission. The 11th Contingent, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel R.M.D.B Rajapaksha USP, with Lieutenant Colonel K.D.P de A Wijesinghe as Second-in-Command, consists of 64 Army personnel, including 18 Army Officers, 02 Naval Officers and 46 Other Ranks.

Addressing the Contingent, the Army Chief offered them his well wishes and emphasized the significance of Sri Lanka's UN peacekeeping commitment, highlighting the importance of the mission for both the country and the Sri Lanka Army. The 10th SRIMED Contingent, currently stationed in South Sudan, is expected to return home following the handover of responsibilities to the new team.

The event was attended by Major General M.G.W.W.M.C.B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc, Deputy Chief of Staff and Colonel of the Regiment of the Gajaba Regiment along with Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks.



'Engage in your national duty with strong self-discipline and true commitment' Acting Minister of Defence

Cont. from page 01

While expressing his appreciation for the valuable services provided by the hospital, he emphasised that the current era necessitates a new and noble political culture where corruption in any form is unequivocally unacceptable and intolerable. He stressed that upholding the rule of law is paramount for the nation's recovery from the socio-economic crisis, which has an adverse impact on citizens' lives. He further emphasised that the government's 'Clean Sri Lanka' programme is a testamentary genuine move to this commitment.

He also took time to speak with patients, hospital staff, and those visiting the hospital during his visit.

Before concluding his visit, the Acting Minister of Defence made remarks in the Visitor's Book to mark his first official visit to the hospital since assuming office.

The Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army Major General Chandana Wikramasinghe, other Senior Officers, medical and administrative staff of the hospital were also present at the occasion.



Troops Complete Construction of Rural Hospital at Pansiyagama

Troops of the 9 (V) Engineer Services Regiment (9 ESR), under the instructions and approval of the Ministry of Defence and the guidance of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, successfully completed the construction of the Rural Hospital at Pansiyagama, Melsiripura, in the Kurunegala District.

The project was initiated on 26th June 2022 and troops of the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment and the Sri Lanka National Guard gave their assistance to complete the project with the supervision of the Directorate of Engineer Services. The completed building was officially vested in the hospital authorities on 31st December 2024, marking a significant milestone in enhancing healthcare services in the area.



Sri Lanka Artillery Honours the Army Chief

Cont. from page 01

Following this, the Army Chief was accorded a guard turnout by the troops of the Regiment of Sri Lanka Artillery, followed by a ceremonial Regimental Parade at the parade ground of the 6th Regiment, Sri Lanka Artillery. The Regimental Parade was commanded by Major General K.A.U. Kodituwakku RSP USP psc IG, General Officer Commanding of the 11 Infantry Division. The Army Chief also planted a sapling in the premises to commemorate the occasion.

During the All-Ranks tea session, the Army Chief engaged with the Artillery troops, sharing his thoughts and experiences. Concluding the event, he penned down complimentary remarks in the visitors' book, marking the significance of the day's proceedings.

General C.S. Weerasooriya (Retd) RWP RSP VSV USP ndu IG, a former Commander of the Army, Major General K.V.N.P. Premaratne RSP USP psc, Adjutant General and Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Artillery, retired Senior Officers and Senior Officers along with their spouses, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Army Chief Inducted into DSCSC Wall of Fame

Cont. from page 01

Afterward, the Army Chief unveiled his profile on the Wall of Fame, joining an esteemed group of distinguished military leaders. Following the induction, he addressed the Officers attending the DSCSC Course No 19. The audience comprised 125 local Officers and 26 foreign Officers from friendly foreign nations. The Army Chief shared his invaluable experiences and insights, inspiring the participants and emphasising the significance of professional military education.

As a mark of appreciation, the Commandant presented a commemorative plaque to the Commander of the Army. In return, he

expressed his gratitude for the honour.

During a tea reception hosted in his honour, the Army Chief interacted with the course participants, providing guidance and fostering camaraderie. He also recorded his thoughts and reflections on the event in the Induction Registry of the Wall of Fame.

The day's proceedings concluded with a group photograph, capturing the memorable visit of the Commander of the Army to the DSCSC.

Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Beach Cleaning Programme by 61 Infantry Division in Matara

Troops of the 61 Infantry Division participated in a beach cleaning programme on 16th January 2025, in Matara, Devinuwara, and Dikwella as part of the “Clean Sri Lanka” initiative under the theme “Beautiful Island, Smiling People.”

The event, organised by the Matara District Secretariat, was held under the patronage of the Honourable Mr. Sunil Handunnetti, Minister of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development, with the participation of government officials and civilians.

Under the supervision of Major General K.T.P De Silva RSP ndu psc, the General Officer Commanding of 61 Infantry Division and the guidance of the Commander, 613 Infantry Brigade, troops cleaned beaches across 18 locations, including Matara, Dickwella, Hiriketiya Divisional Secretariat areas.

A total of 104 troops from the 9th Battalion of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and the 3 (V) Battalion of the Gemunu Watch, government officials and civilians, participated in the event.



Sri Lanka Army Wins 2024 National Beach Sepaktakraw Championship

The 2024 National Beach Sepaktakraw Championship, organised by the Sri Lanka National Sepaktakraw Association, concluded on 19th January 2025 at Mount Lavinia Beach. The Sri Lanka Army men's and women's Sepaktakraw teams emerged victorious in both the men's and women's events.

The Sri Lanka Army Sepaktakraw teams achieved this remarkable feat under the guidance of the Chairman of the Army Football Committee, Major General K.A.U Kodithuwakku RSP USP psc IG.



Sri Lanka Army Organises Medical Camp to Support Disabled Veterans

Cont. from page 01
to address the healthcare needs of Army veterans in and around the Colombo province. The medical camp is managed by the Directorate of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and will focus on providing essential medical support to veterans, particularly those with amputations or in need of prosthetic limbs and surgical devices. The participants will include retirees, those with over 22 years of service, and actively serving personnel who have faced medical challenges.

The medical camp will offer a range of services, including professional health consultations to assess and address ongoing medical concerns. There will also be maintenance services for prosthetic limbs and surgical devices, with inspections, repairs, and optimisations to ensure their proper functioning. Additionally, counseling services will be provided to support mental health and emotional wellbeing, while nutrition experts will offer personalised dietary advice to improve overall health and quality of life.

The camp aims to serve around 500 military personnel per day, with medical examinations conducted by a team of five doctors. Specialist clinics for dermatology and dental services will also be available, tailored specifically to the needs of veterans.

This initiative seeks to address the challenges many veterans face in accessing consistent medical follow-up and adequate healthcare after retirement. By providing comprehensive care, the Army aims to prevent potential complications and improve the quality of life for these veterans. Furthermore, the camp's focus on prosthetic device maintenance helps reduce financial burdens by ensuring timely repairs and extending the lifespan of these critical tools, showcasing the Army's commitment to sustainable resource management.



ATS Hosts Passing Out Parade for CIJW and SIO Course Graduates

The Passing Out Parade of 16 Officers and 263 Other Ranks from the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare Course (Other Ranks) No. 38 and the Special Infantry Operations (SIO) Course No. 76, was held on 15th January 2025 at the Army Training School, Maduruoya.

Major General W.B.J.K Wimalaratne RWP RSP, the Director General Infantry and Colonel of the Regiment, the Gemunu Watch, graced the event as the Chief Guest and reviewed the parade. The Chief Guest, together with Senior Officers, presented badges to the course participants.

The following Officers and Other Ranks received special awards during the Passing Out Parade:

CIJW (Other Ranks) Course No. 38:

- Best Student - Corporal H.A.P Piumal of the 1st Battalion of the Special Forces Regiment

SIO Course No. 76:

- Best in Physical Training - Lance Corporal W.S.K Wijethunga of the 5th Battalion, the Gajaba Regiment
- Best Shooter - Lieutenant R.A.M.S.D Rathnayake of the 8th Battalion of the Sri Lanka National Guard
- Best Student (Other Rank) - Rifleman W.P.C Rasidu of the 16th Battalion of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment
- Best Student (Officer) - Captain R.P.G.S.M Jayasekara of the 16th Battalion of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment
- Best Section - 19th Battalion of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry

Senior Officers, Officers, and Other Ranks participated in the event.



East Troops Repair Flood Damaged Bund of Weerayadi Lake

Troops of the 18th Battalion, Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment of 241 Infantry Brigade under the 24 Infantry Division successfully repaired the damaged bund of the Weerayadi Lake on 19th January 2025. The troops placed sandbags along the affected areas to prevent further erosion and damage. This prompt response helped stabilise the structure and mitigate potential risks to surrounding communities.



Troops of 21 Infantry Division Assist in Flood Relief and Infrastructure Repairs in Horowpothana

Under the guidance of Major General W.M.S.C.K Wanasinghe RSP USP, the General Officer Commanding of the 21 Infantry Division, and the close supervision of Brigadier B.A.P.M Balasooriya RSP, Commander of the 212 Infantry Brigade, the troops of the 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka National Guard promptly reconstructed the bund of Mahanochchikulam Lake at Galkulama, which had sustained slight damage due to adverse weather conditions, using sandbags.

Similarly, the bund of Kiri Ibba Lake at Horowpothana was promptly repaired by the troops of the 5 (Volunteer) Gajaba Regiment, under the supervision of Brigadier T.D.P Siriwardena psc, Commander of the 211 Infantry Brigade, using sandbags.

In addition, the 5 (V) Gajaba Regiment prepared and distributed over 300 lunch packets to the Divisional Secretary of Horowpothana for distribution among flood-affected residents in the Horowpothana town area. The dry rations for this initiative were provided by the Divisional Secretariat of Horowpothana.

Meanwhile, on 19th January 2025, the Veherathenna causeway bridge was inundated by approximately 6 feet of water. Troops of the 5 (Volunteer) Gajaba Regiment assisted the Sri Lanka Navy in providing transportation facilities to the villagers along the Veherathenna bridge.

Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks, and Civilians participated in the event.

Meanwhile, the bund of the Palugaswewa Sinnasittikulam Lake sustained minor damage. Troops of the 2 Mechanised Infantry Regiment carried out restoration work under the close supervision of Brigadier P.M De Silva RSP USP, Commander of the 213 Infantry Brigade, on 20th January 2025.

In the meanwhile, the Horowpothana - Ella Road was inundated on 20th January 2025. Troops of the 5th (V) Battalion of the Gajaba Regiment provided transportation facilities using Unibuffels.



Sri Lanka Army Triumphs at Defence Services Elle Tournament 2025

The Army Elle Team emerged victorious in the Defence Services Games (DSG) Elle Tournament 2025, securing the championship for the fourth consecutive year.

The tournament, organised by the Sri Lanka Navy Elle Committee, was held from 21 to 23 January at the Nawaloka Ground in Welisara. Teams from the Army, Navy, and Air Force competed and in the finals, the Army Elle Team showcased their skills defeating the Navy team decisively. The Army players scored an impressive 14 runs in the first innings.

Adding to the Army's triumph, Lance Corporal K.I Lakmal of the Sri Lanka National Guard was honoured with two prestigious awards: Best Batsman and Best Player of the Tournament. His exceptional performance was instrumental in the team's success.

The DSG Elle Tournament continues to serve as a platform to showcase the athletic prowess and camaraderie of Sri Lanka's tri-services.



Sniper Course at MSTs Concludes with a Grand Ceremony

The Sniper Course - 22 concluded with a Passing Out Parade (POP) and Badge Awarding Ceremony on 25th January 2025 at the Marksmanship and Sniper Training School (MSTS), Diyatalawa.

The event was graced by Major General D.K.S.K Dolage USP nps psc, Commander of the Security Forces (Central), as the Chief Guest.

The Chief Guest presented certificates and laurels, extending his best wishes to the graduates. Five Officers, eleven Other Ranks, and six Other Ranks from the Maldives qualified as snipers. The following Officer and Other Ranks were awarded special honours by the Chief Guest:

- The Best Student in Field Craft - N.K Veer Singh of the Indian Army
- Best in Physical Fitness - Corporal T.M.D.S.B Illangarathna of the

Special Forces Regiment

- Best Shooter - Lance Corporal R.P Nuwan of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry
- Best Foreign Student - N.K Veer Singh of the Indian Army
- The Best Sniper - Captain A.M.R.K.K Mullegama of the Special Forces Regiment

Additionally, on 26th January 2025, the closing address was delivered by Brigadier R.P Munipura RWP RSP, Commandant of MSTs. Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks, and civilians participated in the event.



18 GW Troops Prevent Breach of Tank Bund in Bibila

In response to a request from the Disaster Management Centre in Monaragala, troops of the 18th Battalion Gemunu Watch (18 GW), together with farmers from Karagahawela Village, successfully prevented the erosion of the Alawaththa Kumbura Tank bund in Bibila on 26th January 2025.

The tank bund, which sustained minor damage, was promptly repaired under the guidance of the General Officer Commanding of the 12 Infantry Division



Security Forces (West) Leads Housewarming Ceremony

Under the guidance of the Commander of the Army and the coordination of the Governor of the North Western Province, troops of the Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) conducted a cleaning programme at Kurunegala Railway Station on 28th January 2025. The initiative, carried out under the “Clean Sri Lanka” programme, was supervised by the Commander of the Security Force (East), Colonel of the Regiment SLNG, and the Centre Commandant of SLNG.

A total of 30 troops, staff from the Railway Department, participated in the effort, contributing to maintaining a cleaner and healthier environment.



23 Infantry Division Troops Evacuate Three Villagers from Flooded Area

Three villagers in Divulpathana became stranded due to adverse weather conditions on 19th January 2025. Troops from the 12th Battalion the Gemunu Watch of 231 Infantry Brigade promptly conducted a rescue operation, ensuring their safety and providing immediate assistance.



23 Infantry Division Troops Evacuate Three Villagers from Flooded Area

Due to prevailing adverse weather conditions, the overflow point of the Thenniyankulam Tank Bund was slightly damaged. Promptly addressing the upcoming disaster, troops of the 10th Battalion Sri Lanka Light Infantry (10 SLLI) successfully repaired the damage, on 19th January 2025, under the direction of the General Officer Commanding of 56 Infantry Division, with the guidance of Commander, 561 Infantry Brigade, and the close supervision of the Commanding Officer of 10 SLLI, Lieutenant Colonel K.A.K Hewapathage RWP RSP USP.



Security Forces (West) Leads Housewarming Ceremony

Major General A.H.L.G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, the Commandant (Overlooking) Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and the Commander Security Forces (West), attended a housewarming ceremony on 22nd January 2025, marking the official handover of a newly constructed house to Miss. M Nilusha Kumari and her family in Walgama, Bandaragama.

This project, was completed under the diligent leadership of the Commander Security Forces (West) as part of the Sri Lanka Army's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

The construction work was executed by the 1st Battalion Sri Lanka Army Pioneer Corps, with the supervision of the General Officer Commanding 14 Infantry Division and the Commander 612 Infantry Brigade.

The successful completion of the house was facilitated by financial and material contributions from the National Housing Development Authority, the Department of Samurdhi Development through the Divisional Secretariat in Bandaragama and the 1st Battalion Sri Lanka Army Pioneer Corps and local donors.

During the ceremony, the Chief Guest handed over the keys to the beneficiary and extended his best wishes to Miss. M Nilusha Kumari for a prosperous future. He also commended the dedication and hard work of the construction team, acknowledging their significant efforts in making this project a reality.

The ceremony was attended by Major General K.J.N.M.P.K Nawarathne RWP RSP ndu the General Officer Commanding 14 Infantry Division, Divisional Secretary (Assistant Government Agent) of Bandaragama and the Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion Sri Lanka Army Pioneer Corps. Senior Officers, Government Officials, Donors, and Local Villagers also reflected the spirit of community support for the project. A dedicated team of 10 SLLI, comprising 03 Officers and 30 Other Ranks, undertook the repair with the active support of the respective government officials and nearly 100 local civilians, demonstrating a strong sense of community partnership.

