



BELLATOR

R A N A V I R U W A



Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, paid a courtesy call on His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Honourable Anura Kumara Dissanayake on 06th February 2025 at the Presidential Secretariat



Commander of the Army Receives Religious Blessings



Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, along with Mrs. Swendrini Dissanayake, received blessings from the clergy and sacred sites, including the Sri Maha Bodhi and Ruwanweli Seya, on 05th February 2025.

During the visit, the Commander of the Army, paid a visit to the Venerable Maha Sangha, including the Chief Sanghanayake of Nuwara Kalaviya and Chief Incumbent of 'Atamasthana', Sahithyashuri Most Venerable Pallegama Hemarathana Thero, the Chief Sanghanayake of the North and North Central Provinces and Chief Incumbent of Sri Sambuddha Jayanthi Viharaya, Most Venerable Nugethenne Pagngnananda Nayaka Thero, as well as the Chief Incumbent of Ruwanweli Maha Seya, Most Venerable Ithalawatunuwewe Ghanathilake Thero.

Further, the both took part in the sacred offering ceremony held at the Sri Maha Bodhi and Ruwanweli Seya.

During the visit, the Commander also met Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert M Andradi OMI, Bishop of the Diocese of Anuradhapura, to receive blessings.

New Javelin for Paralympics World Record Holder

Warrant Officer II Samitha Dulan Kodithuwakku of Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police (SLCMP), who achieved a remarkable feat by winning a silver medal in Men's F44 Javelin Throw event, setting a new world record of 67.03 meters at the Paris Paralympics 2024, was presented with a new Javelin by the Prime Minister at the Ministry of Education on 29th January 2025. Mrs. Subhashini Niranjala Weerasinghe who made the initiative and Mr. Pradeep Nishantha, Samitha Dulan's coach were present at the occasion.

Mrs. Subhashini Niranjala Weerasinghe, who met Warrant Officer II Samitha Dulan Kodithuwakku when he participated in the Paris Paralympics 2024 in France, had planned to present this special javelin during her visit to Sri Lanka.



President Meets Senior Army Officials



A discussion on Sri Lanka's present security situation was held on 25th February 2025 at the Presidential Secretariat, under the patronage of His Excellency the President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

Major General K P Aruna Jayasekara (Retd) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Dr. Nandika Sanath Kumanayake, Secretary to the President, Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd) WWV, RWP and two Bars, RSP and Bar, USP, MMSc (Strat Stu-China), MSc (Def Stu) in Mgt, MSc (Def & Strat Stu), fndu (China), psc, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, and Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army along with several senior officials of the Sri Lanka Army participated in the meeting. The discussion was focused on future measures regarding the security situation in Sri Lanka.



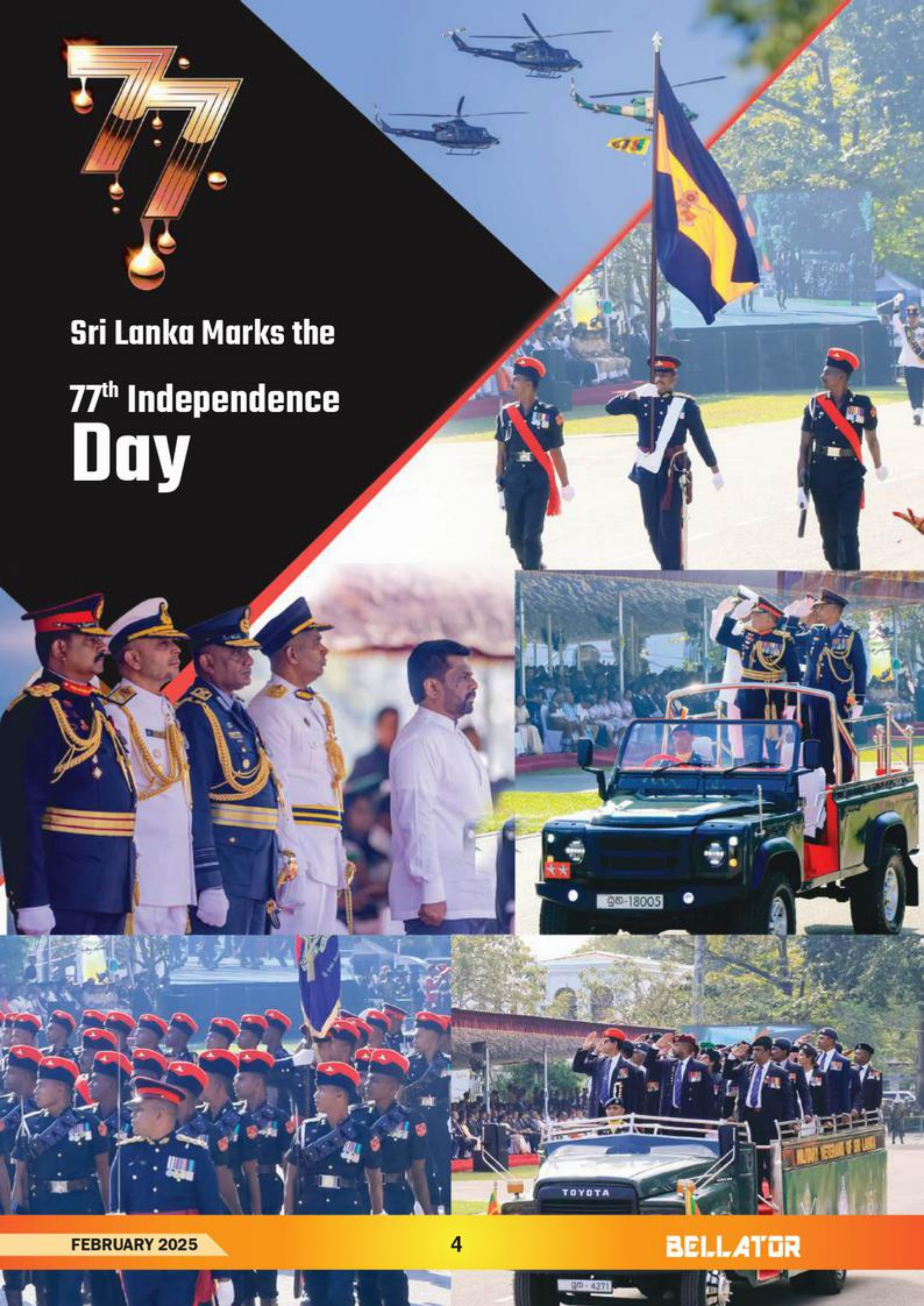
Commander of the Army Meets Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism



Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army, paid a formal courtesy call on Honourable Vijitha Herath, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism at his office in Colombo on 07th February 2025.



Sri Lanka Marks the 77th Independence Day





Sri Lanka's 77th National Independence Day was celebrated on 04th February 2025 at the Independence Square in Colombo under the theme "Nawa Punaruda Yugayaka Arabuma" (Let's Join the National Renaissance). The ceremony was presided by His Excellency the President, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, accompanied by the Honourable Prime Minister and a distinguished gathering of multi-religious leaders, Diplomats, Ministers, Military Officers, Civil Dignitaries and invitees.

His Excellency the President hoisted the National Flag marking the official commencement of the national event amidst the resonating singing of the National Anthem by a choir of school children. Following the flag hoisting, the President received blessings through the recital of the 'Jayamangala Gatha' and 'Devo Vassatu Kalena' by a group of school girls. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of those who sacrificed their lives to defend the nation's territorial integrity, including Fallen War Heroes and patriots.

After accepting the Tri-Services Guard of Honour, the President addressed the nation, sharing his reflections on the country's progress. The independence parade, commanded by Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, the Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and the Commander of Security Forces (West), included Tri-Services personnel, members of the Sri Lanka Police, Special Task Force (STF), Civil Security Department, National Cadet Corps and both retired and serving differently-abled War Heroes. The parade saluted His Excellency the President, proudly displaying their discipline and national pride in line with military tradition.

The celebration featured vibrant performances by cultural troupes with traditional dances showcasing the rich diversity of Sri Lankan culture.



Sri Lanka Army Hosts "Clean Sri Lanka" Training Programme

A two day training programme for trainers of the "Clean Sri Lanka" initiative was held at the Regimental Headquarters of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry in Panagoda on 18th and 19th February 2025. Dr. Nandika Sanath Kumanyake, Secretary to the President, Senior Additional Secretaries to the President, the Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Commanders of the Army and Air Force, Senior Officers of Tri-Services & Sri Lanka Police and other key Government officials took part in the training programme.

Following the inaugural session, the two-day training programme began under the direction of a specialised training team organised by the Presidential Secretariat. 135 participants from the Tri-Services and the Sri Lanka Police attended the training session.

New Logistics Management Systems from Sri Lanka Army



The official launch of the Automated Material Management System - Version 2 and the myQ1 Application was held on 19th February 2025 at the Army Headquarters marking a significant advancement in the Army's logistical and material management capabilities. Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army graced the occasion and officially launched the new application.

SLCOMM Inaugurates its 8th Annual Academic Sessions



The 8th Annual Academic Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Military Medicine (SLCOMM) commenced with an inaugural ceremony at the Galadari Hotel Colombo on 14th February 2025 under the theme "Advancing Military Healthcare Excellence Innovation and Global Impact." The event serves as a platform to enhance civil-military cooperation among experts in military medicine.



Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (Retd) WWV, RWP and two Bars, RSP and Bar, USP, MMSc (Strat Stu-China), MSc (Def Stu) in Mgt, MSc (Def & Strat Stu), fndu (China), psc, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Dr. Narendra Pinto, Consultant Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgeon, attended as the Guest of Honour at the invitation of SLCOMM.



Tri-forces Commanders, special invitees in Indian delegation, Brigadier Tathagatha Chatterjee along with Dr. Jyotsna Punj and Dr. Ravinder Kumar Pandey from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) also participated in the academic sessions, highlighting the international scope of the discussions, including more than 350 professionals from various medical and dental institutions. The event further created a platform for productive discussions and strengthened collaborations across multiple fields of expertise.

SLCOMM is a professional body comprising medical and dental doctors from the Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force. The Annual Academic Sessions of SLCOMM continue to serve as a vital forum for advancing knowledge and fostering innovation while enhancing global contributions to military healthcare.



Renovation Initiative Commences at Ilukowita Primary School



The nationwide initiative to renovate 1,000 schools under the "Clean Sri Lanka" project officially commenced on 20th February 2025 at WP/HO/Ilukowita Primary School, Ilukowita.

The Principal, Mr. Wasantha Udayasiri, delivering the welcome address, emphasised the significance of the project. Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army laid the foundation stone, officially marking the start of renovation work to be carried out by troops from the Engineer Services Regiment. Major General K V N P Premaratne RSP USP nps psc, the Adjutant General, Major General U K D D P Udugama RWP RSP USP ndc psc, Commander, Security Forces (West), Senior Officers, Government Officials, teachers, parents and students attended the event.



Mother Regiment Bids Farewell

Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment bade farewell to the former Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army and Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR), Major General W P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu on 08th February 2025. The outgoing Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment was warmly welcomed to the premises offering him a Guard Turnout. After a while, he was invited to commemorate the fallen War Heroes at the SLSR War Heroes' monument. Taking part in an All - Ranks tea, the outgoing Colonel of the Regiment SLSR interacted with the troops. During the occasion, Major General J K R Jayakody RWP USP, General Officer Commanding of 58 Infantry Division presented a special memento to the outgoing Colonel of the Regiment, SLSR. Retired Officers and friends of the outgoing Senior Officer were among the gathering.



Senior Appointments

Chief of Staff

Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc of the Gajaba Regiment officially assumed duties as the 66th Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army during a formal ceremony held at Army Headquarters on 10th February 2025.

Prior to this prestigious appointment, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army and Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF).



Deputy Chief of Staff

Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, of Sri Lanka Engineers officially assumed duties as the 46th Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) of the Sri Lanka Army during a formal ceremony held at Army Headquarters on 14th February 2025.

Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, is currently serving as the Colonel Commandant of Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers, and previously served as the Commander, Security Forces (West) and Overlooking Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) prior to this prestigious appointment.



Commandant, SLAVF

Major General D K S K Dolage USP nps psc assumed duties as the 60th Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) on 13th February 2025 at the Volunteer Force Headquarters, amidst military formalities.

Prior to this prestigious appointment, he served as the Commander, Security Forces (Central), Commandant, Defence Services Command and Staff College and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps.





Commander of the Army Graces Felicitation Ceremony at St. Benedict's College, Colombo



Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, graced the felicitation ceremony organised by his alma mater, St. Benedict's College, Colombo, on 07th February 2025. Rev. Brother Director of the school warmly welcomed the Chief Guest to the event with a grand reception extended by the school band and an elegant 'Ves Dance' performance. The school Cadets also held a ceremonial parade for the Commander of the Army. Addressing the students, the Chief Guest inspired the students, emphasising that values and discipline gained from the school had shaped him to reach the highest position of the Sri Lanka Army. Highlighting the importance of resilience, he further added "the world will not hand you victories but you must earn them through determination and unwavering effort."

Major General W P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu, former Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, Major General U L J S Perera RSP USP nps psc, Military Secretary of the Sri Lanka Army, Air Vice Marshal D B V Weerasinghe USP, MDS, BSc (Def Stu), MIM (SL), psc, Brigadier L W V S R Wettasinghe (SLAC), Director of Administration at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) Hospital, Brigadier S D N C De Silva, Centre Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps and S M Y Seneviratne, Deputy Inspector General attended the event.

Further strengthening the school's technological infrastructure, the Commander of the Army inaugurated the newly constructed IT laboratory.



Series of Community Service Programmes from 51 Infantry Division

On the occasion of the 77th Independence Day, the troops of 51 Infantry Division launched a cleaning programme at St. Teresa Elders' Home under the guidance of Major General M P N A Muthumala USP psc, General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division on 04th February 2025. Subsequently, a delicious lunch treat was provided to the residents. Before the culmination of the event, sanitary items were donated for the use of the senior citizens. Under the second phase of the initiative, a special lunch was arranged for 150 children in the Kopay area. Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), Major General M P N A Muthumala USP psc, General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division Officers and Other Ranks took part in the event.



Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) Hosts an Educative Lecture



Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) organised a lecture about "Drugs Prevention Programme" at the auditorium of Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) on 25th February 2025. Mr. N G Danushka Sampath Wijesinghe, Assistant Counselor of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board conducted the session addressing various topics including repercussion of drugs use and prevention, nature of addiction of drugs use and law on drugs. Officers and Other Ranks of Security Forces (Wanni) participated in the lecture on site and online through the zoom.





Commander of the Army Joins Navam Perahera at Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Temple

Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army, took part in the Navam Perahera held on Navam Full Moon Poya Day (12th February 2025), at Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Temple. Honourable Professor Hiniduma Sunil Senevi, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs graced the annual procession held for the 45th consecutive year as the Chief Guest.

Former Presidents, Ministers, and other dignitaries also joined the inaugural proceedings of the final procession. The Navam Perahera was organised under the guidance of the Maha Sangha, led by Venerable Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero, Viharadhikari of Gangaramaya Temple.



Commander of the Army Visits War Heroes at 'Abhimansala - III'

Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army along with Mrs. Swendrini Dissanayake, President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU), visited War Heroes at Abhimansala III - Wellness Resort in Pangolla on 05th February 2025. During the visit, the Commander of the Army inspected the villas, the hospital, the DPM Ayurvedic Hospital and Abhiman Shilpa Piyasa located in the premises.

Later, the Commander of the Army and the President of the ASVU distributed gift packs to the residents of the Abhimansala III - Wellness Resort. In the meantime, two residents presented a handcrafted item and a mystery painting painted by the War Heroes to the Commander of the Army and the President of the ASVU.

Major General K V N P Premaratne RSP USP nps psc, the Adjutant General of Sri Lanka Army, Major General W M P M Wijesooriya RWP RSP ndu, General Officer Commanding, 57 Infantry Division, Brigadier W A S R Wijedasa WWV RSP USP ndc psc, Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Brigadier G R S Dharmarathne USP, Commandant of Abhimansala III, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks were also present at the event.



Courtesy Meetings



Australian Defence Attaché



The Australian Defence Attaché to Sri Lanka, Colonel Amanda Johnston, met Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army at the Army Headquarters on 17th February 2025.

Israeli Defence Attaché



Colonel Avihay Zafrany, the Defence Attaché of the Embassy of Israel in New Delhi, accredited to Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy call on Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army at the Army Headquarters on 18th February 2025.

Korean Ambassador

Her Excellency Miyon LEE, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy call on Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army, at the Army Headquarters on 03rd February 2025. Ms. Sohngye JUNG, Deputy Head of Mission also joined the delegation for the courtesy visit.

Her Excellency was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Han Jonghun, the Defence Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in New Delhi, accredited to Sri Lanka and Nepal.



During the meeting, both parties engaged in discussions on enhancing bilateral ties between Sri Lanka and the Republic of Korea particularly in the sphere of military cooperation.

KDU Vice Chancellor



Rear Admiral H G U Dammika Kumara VSV, USP, psc, MMaritimePol, BSc (DS), the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) paid a courtesy call on Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, at the Army Headquarters on 25th February 2025.

Delegation from the Rwanda Defence Force Command and Staff College

A delegation from the Rwanda Defence Force Command and Staff College (RDFCSC), met Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army during their visit to Sri Lanka on 11th February 2025 as a part of the RDFCSC's annual training programme for Senior Officers. The delegation was led by Colonel Lausanne Nsengimana and included Senior Directing Staff member Lieutenant Colonel Jean Baptiste Uwiminsi, and two student Officers.



During the meeting, the Commander of the Army welcomed the RDFCSC Officers to his office and engaged in discussions on their visit, exchanging insights on security matters and bilateral military relations.

US Ambassador

Her Excellency Julie Chung, the Ambassador of the United States of America to Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy call on Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army, on 19th February 2025 at Army Headquarters.

Mr. Seth [®] Nevins, the United States Assistant Defence Attaché to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and Captain Thaddeus Black, Foreign Area Officer were also present during the courtesy visit.



School Accessories Distribution Programme

A book and school equipment donation programme was conducted for children from underprivileged families in Selvapuram and Yogapuram on 14th January 2025, at the CIMIC Park premises under the guidance of Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) and the supervision of Major General M P N A Muthumala USP psc, General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division.



The financial contributions for this initiative were generously provided by Major General Ravi Rathnasingham (Retd), Mr. Sivakumar Ponnathurai and his spouse, Mr. Thabocharan, Mr. Bawan, and Mr. Thenujan.



Newly Constructed House for a Deserving Family

The newly constructed house was handed over to a needy family in Walikamam South, Uduvil on 11th January 2025, signifying a gesture of support and community collaboration. The house was constructed under the guidance of Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Commander of the Security Forces (Jaffna) and supervision of Major General M P N A Muthumala USP psc, General Officer Commanding the 51 Infantry



Division. The troops of 17th Battalion the Gemunu Watch extended their manpower and technical expertise for the housing project and Vanni Aid Canada extended the financial generosity for the project through the coordination of Major General Ravi Rathnasingham (Retd).

Commander, Security Forces (East) Meets Governor and Bishop of the Eastern Province



Major General P R Pathirawithana USAWC psc, Commander, Security Forces (East) called on Honourable Prof. Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera, Governor of the Eastern Province and Mr. W G M Hemantha Kumara, District Secretary on 22nd January 2025. Extending the visit further, Commander, Security Forces (East) met His Eminence Bishop Christian Noel Emmanuel, Bishop of the Eastern Province on 22nd January 2025. General Officer Commanding, 22 Infantry Division, Senior Officers of the 22 Infantry Division participated in this visit.

Army Members Set Exemplary Standard with Honesty



Setting an admirable example for all members of the Sri Lanka Army, Colonel W M D H R K Welikanna RWP, the Colonel General Staff of the 61 Infantry Division, found a wallet containing cash and valuables on the roadside in the Boossa area while cycling along Galle Road, handed over to the rightful owner - Mr. W E Sameera Madusanka. The wallet was returned to him on 17th February 2025 summoning him to the 61 Infantry Division Headquarters.

The wallet contained Rs. 39,770.00 in cash, two ATM bank cards, a bank passbook, a national identity card, a driving license and an insurance card. The owner expressed his deep gratitude to the Colonel General Staff of the 61 Infantry Division for his honesty and exemplary conduct, appreciating his courtesy.

The virtues of soldiers who conduct such exemplary acts are deeply appreciated and brings immense pride for both the organisation and the nation. Despite the waves of negative narratives that occasionally surface, these commendable attributes of brave War Heroes should be acclaimed as these qualities truly deserve recognition and honour.



Corporal Gunasekara K P M N of the 2 (V) Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps, serving at the 54 Infantry Division Headquarters, set an inspiring example of honesty by returning a lost wallet containing Rs. 102,220.00 along with important documents. On 11th February 2025, while at a bank in Mannar town, she discovered the misplaced wallet and handed it over to the Mannar Police Station, ensuring its safe return to its rightful owner, Ms. Sundararasa Merry Sudarshani. Recognising her integrity, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 54 Infantry Division commended her for upholding the highest values of the Sri Lanka Army. Additionally, the Officer-in-Charge of the Mannar Police Station presented her with a letter of appreciation in recognition of her exemplary conduct.





CISM

Run 2025



In line with World Military Day, Sri Lanka Army successfully hosted the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) run with the participation of more than 300 Tri-Service personnel including Tri-Force Commanders and Senior Officers on 18th February 2025. The event aimed to highlight the importance of physical fitness, military preparedness and international camaraderie among armed forces worldwide.

Commencing from Parliament Grounds in Battaramulla, the CISM run covered a distance of approximately 2.6 km, culminating at the main entrance of Army Headquarters. The event concluded with a certificate awarding ceremony.



Commander of the Army Visits Security Forces (Wanni)

Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, Commander of the Army visited Security Forces (Wanni) on 08th February 2025. Major General J P C Peiris RWP RSP ndc, Commander, Security Forces (Wanni), warmly welcomed the Commander of the Army to the Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) together with the troops according a formal Guard Turnout at the entrance.

Addressing the troops, the Commander of the Army shared valuable insights and encouraged personnel to continue their exemplary service with dedication and pride as proud citizens. His speech emphasised the importance of unity, discipline and continuous development within the Armed Forces. He also highlighted the role of every Officer and soldier as not only defenders of the nation but also as a role model in the society while stressing the importance of maintaining high moral standards both on and off duty.

During the visit, the Commander of the Army also formally vested a newly constructed house to Mr. S D Suresh Kumara and his family, who reside in the Atambagaskada area of Vavuniya. The troops of Corps of Engineer Services extended their manpower and technical expertise for the project under the guidance of the Commander, Security Forces (Wanni).

The visit of the Commander of the Army culminated with the visit to Venerable Atambagaskada Kalyana Thissa Abhidana Nayaka Thero, the Chief Incumbent of Sudharmaramaya Maha Viharaya and Venerable Muwatagama Ananda Thero, the Chief Incumbent of the Madukanda Sri Dalada Viharaya.



United Nations Resident Coordinator Visits SFHQ (Jaffna)



Mr. Marc-André Franche, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, paid a courtesy visit to Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) at the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) on 14th February 2025. During the meeting, the Commander of Security Forces (Jaffna) provided an insightful briefing on Army involvement in community relations projects, security operations and other key concerns affecting the region. The discussion highlighted the commitment of the Army to maintain the peace and development in the Jaffna Peninsula.



10th Contingent at SRIMED Level 2 Hospital in South Sudan Returns Home



The 10th contingent of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) at SRIMED Level 2 UN Hospital in Bor, South Sudan, comprising 09 Officers and 42 Other Ranks, arrived in Sri Lanka on 11th February 2025, following the successful completion of their one year mission. Meanwhile, the remaining 07 Officers and 05 Other Ranks stayed in South Sudan as a rear party and are expected to arrive in due course.

Major General W A U S Wanasekara RWP USP, the Centre Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps, Director of Movement and several Senior Officers of the Sri Lanka Army welcomed the returned 10th contingent of the Level 2 Hospital UNMISS at Bandaranaike International Airport. During their one year tenure, the SRIMED troops were committed to ensure the smooth operation of the Level 2 Hospital, making significant contributions to maintain UN healthcare standards and quality, with a strong emphasis on patient safety.

GOC - 53 Infantry Division Visits Airmobile Training School



Major General K H M S Wickramaratne RSP, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 53 Infantry Division undertook an official visit to Airmobile Training School, Nikawewa on 28th January 2025. Major H M T H Lakmal, Chief Instructor of the Airmobile Training School warmly welcomed the GOC, 53 Infantry Division and briefed the status of ongoing training programmes. The visit culminated with an inspection of the camp facilities.

Agri – Equipment Distribution Programme



Troops of 16th Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment organised an Agri – equipment Distribution Programme under the guidance of Major W H Wickramasinghe RSP USP psc Lsc, SLSR Commanding Officer, 16th Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment deployed at Karappukutti, Vavuniya on 29th January 2025. Rs.40,000.00 worth agri – equipment were distributed among 50 deserving families under the programme. Brigadier B D Fernando USP Hdmc psc, Commander, 561 Infantry Brigade graced the event. Hadabima Authority extended much-required sponsorship for the programme.

Prefects' Investiture Ceremony at Lakpahana International School



The Prefects' Investiture Ceremony for the newly appointed prefects of Lakpahana International School, Kandana, was held on 14th February 2025 at the school premises. Brigadier R R de S Dharmawickrama RSP, the Commander of the 141 Infantry Brigade graced the event as the Chief Guest. During the ceremony, he delivered an insightful and motivational lecture on the principles of leadership, empowering the newly appointed prefects to embrace their roles with responsibility and confidence. His address further emphasised the importance of leading by example and fostering teamwork within the school community. The Principal, teachers and parents attended the event.

Commander of the Army Inspects Refurbished TATA 709 Trucks



Under the guidance of Commander of the Army, the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (SLEME) recently added ten refurbished TATA 709 trucks into the Army's fleet at the Base Workshop, Udawalawa. The Commander of the Army inspected these vehicles at the Army Headquarters on 19th February 2025.

The refurbishment of these vehicles was done by the troops of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Base Workshop, Udawalawa, ensuring their operational readiness before being handed over to respective units.

Quarter Master General, Master General Ordnance, Director General Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Director Supply & Transport, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

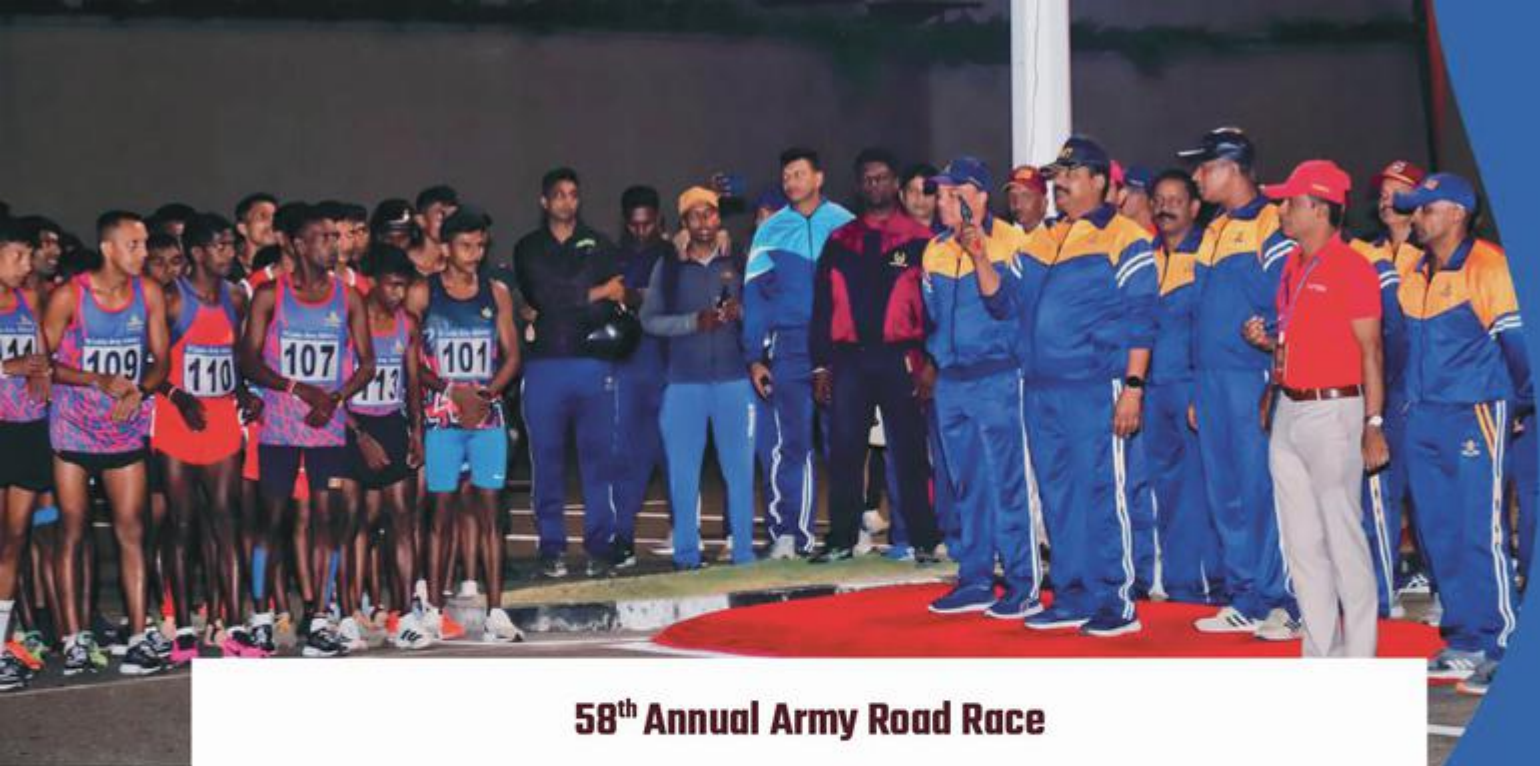


Medical Camp for Differently - abled War Heroes



Following directives of Commander of the Army, the Directorate of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation conducted a medical camp at the Sri Lanka Army Prosthetics and Orthopedics Workshop – "SANASUMA" in Galle on 25th January 2025. The initiative aimed to address the healthcare needs of disabled veterans in the Southern Province, recognising the profound and invaluable contributions that they have made to the nation.

The medical camp focused on providing essential support, particularly for veterans in need of prosthetic limbs or surgical devices. Around 300 Army personnel benefited from the medical camp. The services offered included health consultations, prosthetic maintenance, mental health counseling, and personalised dietary advice. Specialist clinics for dermatology and dental services were also available.

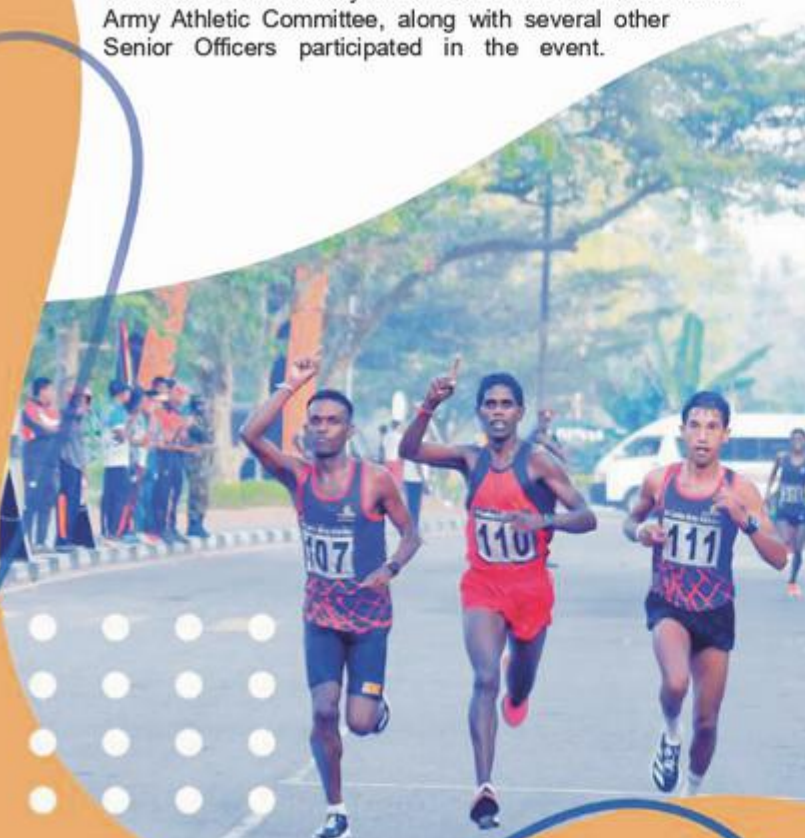


58th Annual Army Road Race

The Annual 'Army Road Race', organised for the 58th consecutive time, began at the entrance of the Army Headquarters on 16th February 2025 morning in the presence of Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army.

The marathon, spanning approximately 22km from Battaramulla to the Panagoda Army Cantonment, attracted 111 participants from 21 Regiments, including 22 women runners. The event was successfully arranged under the guidance of Major General B G S Fernando USP Hdmc psc, the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Army Athletic Committee.

The race began at 6.00 a.m, traversing through Diyatha Uyana, Battaramulla, Malabe, Athurugiriya, and Habarakada before culminating near the Army Physical Training School (APTS) at Panagoda. Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, the Deputy Chief of Staff, the Adjutant General, Major General K V N P Premaratne RSP USP nps psc, Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Artillery and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Army Athletic Committee, along with several other Senior Officers participated in the event.



Sri Lanka Artillery claimed the overall championship in the Men's category, while the Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps secured the overall championship in the Women's category. Recruit Fernando M S A of Sri Lanka Artillery took the First Place, Lance Corporal Gunasekara H D S D of the Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers earned the Second Place and Lance Corporal Kariyawasam K G V D of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment finished in the Third Place in the Men's category. In the Women's category, Lance Corporal Herath H M C S of the Sri Lanka General Service Corps claimed the First Place, Lance Corporal Nidarshani W A M N of the Sri Lanka Signal Corps won the Second Place and Lance Corporal Bandara A S N of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps secured the Third Place.

Colonel of the Regiment Visits 3 SLSR



Major General W P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army and Colonel of the Regiment of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR), paid an official visit to the 3rd Battalion of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment on 31st January 2025. Colonel of the Regiment of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) was warmly welcomed to the premises by Major F J Samaranayake RSP, SLSR the Commanding Officer, 3 SLSR according a Guard Turnout.



Addressing the troops, the Colonel of the Regiment emphasised the importance of maintaining discipline and developing positive attitudes. The visit of the Colonel of the Regiment of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment was also extended to Alpha Rifle Company at Piduruthalagala.

Commander Security Forces (East) Visits 23 Infantry Division



Major General P R Pathiravithana USAWC psc, Commander of Security Forces (East), paid his first official visit to the Headquarters 24 Infantry Division at Ampara on 31st February 2025. Major General H C L Galappaththi RSP USP, General Officer Commanding, 24 Infantry Division together with the Officers warmly welcomed the Commander, Security Forces (East) according him a colourful Guard Turnout at the entrance.

Commander of Security Forces (East), addressed the troops of 24 Infantry Division and reviewed the progress of the Deegawapiya Restoration project conducted by 24 Infantry Division.

Further, the Commander of Security Forces (East) also visited 23 Infantry Division at Punani on 01st February 2025. Major General W P Kariyawasam and Officers of the 23 Infantry Division warmly welcomed the Commander of Security Force (East). After addressing the troops, the Commander, Security Forces (East) also inspected the welfare and administrative requirements of the troops.



Troops of Sri Lanka Force Protection Company at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Commended



The prestigious Medal Awarding Ceremony of the 15th Sri Lanka Force Protection Company at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) took place on 11th February 2025 at the UNIFIL Headquarters in Naqoura, Lebanon. During the significant event, the Sri Lankan contingent was honoured for their exemplary dedication and awarded UN medals for their service.



Major General C B Dhakal, the Deputy Force Commander of UNIFIL, graced the event as the Chief Guest. HE Mr. K S Jayaweera, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Lebanon, Senior Officers of the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL officials participated in the event. Major General U K D D P Udugama RWP RSP USP ndc psc, Major General K A W N H Bandaranayake USP and Brigadier S A Hettige RSP psc represented the Sri Lanka Army at the event.

Major General U K D D P Udugama RWP RSP USP ndc psc, Major General K A W N H Bandaranayake USP and Brigadier S A Hettige RSP psc representing the Sri Lanka Army paid a courtesy call to Major General C B Dhakal, the Deputy Force Commander of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon on 10th February 2025.

The Senior Officers also inspected the 15th Sri Lanka Force Protection Company at the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on 11th February 2025 at the UNIFIL Headquarters in Naqoura, Lebanon. During the visit, the Sri Lankan Officers also addressed the troops and visited the injured.



Security Forces (Central) Assists Muslim Community



The Security Force Headquarters (Central) conducted a programme to distribute dates to the Haputale, Diyatalawa and Kahagolla Jummah Masjids on 24th February 2025 to support the Muslim community in preparation for the upcoming fasting season.

The required stock of dates for this initiative was donated by philanthropists from the Diyatalawa area and each masjid received dates. Major General K A W N H Bandaranayake USP, Commander, Security Forces (Central), along with several Senior Officers, were present at the occasion.

GOC - Infantry Division Visits 212 Infantry Brigade



Major General W M S C K Wanasinghe RSP USP, the General Officer Commanding, 21 Infantry Division, paid an official visit to the 7 (V) Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and 4th Battalion of Sri Lanka National Guard undercommand to 212 Infantry Brigade on 28th January 2025. All Officers including Commanding Officers and Other Ranks warmly welcomed the General Officer Commanding, 21 Infantry Division according him a Drive Pass. Before the culmination, the General Officer Commanding, 21 Infantry Division addressed the troops.

Programme to Enhance Tactical Knowledge at SFHQ (Wanni)



The Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) conducted a Map Reading Exercise from 18th to 21st February 2025 under the patronage of Major General J P C Peiris RWP RSP ndc, Commander Security Forces (Wanni) with the aim of enhancing the operational readiness and tactical planning capabilities of the Officers serving at the formations undercommand to Security Force Headquarters (Wanni). Further, this Map Exercise focused on enhancing the tactical knowledge, understanding and reviewing of the estimate process.



Troops of 232 Infantry Brigade distributed lunch packets for villagers in Kolawadi on 04th February 2025.



Troops of 241 Infantry Brigade distributed school accessories and lunch for a girls' children's home in Akkaraipattu on 04th February 2025.

Troops of 242 Infantry Brigade distributed school accessories and lunch for a children's home in Thirukkivil on 04th February 2025.



Troops of the 243 Infantry Brigade organised a lunch treat and gift donation programme for children's homes in Akkaraipattu and Arugampuli on 04th February 2025.



A delicious lunch treat was provided to Kathiraweli Thilakawathie Orphanage by the troops of 7th Battalion of the Gemunu Watch under command to 233 Infantry Brigade on 04th February 2025.



Troops of Security Forces (East) distributed school accessories and lunch for Mahasen Elder's and Children's Home in Polonnaruwa on 04th February 2025.

The troops of the 3rd Sri Lanka Ordnance Corps together with their Commanding Officer established a water supply project in Parakum Village on 11th February 2025, with the intention of providing purified, safe drinking water to the community. Mr. Mangala Pieris extended the financial generosity. The event was held under the patronage of Major General W M S N Wijekoon ndc AATO, the Commander Logistics Command (East).



Colonel E W R S B Ehelepola USP USACGSC, Commander (Officiating) 211 Infantry Bridge vested a new osmosis plant (water purification unit) installed fulfilling a long standing requirement of the brigade on 12th February 2025.



A Series of Lectures to Inspire Soliders



55 Infantry Division in Kilinochchi



1 Corps in Iranamadu



22 Infantry Division in Trincomalee

A series of motivational lectures for soldiers, conducted under the directives of the Director of Media and Psychological Operations was successfully organised across multiple military formations islandwide. These sessions took place at the 22 Infantry Division in Trincomalee, the Army School of Logistics in Trincomalee, 1 Corps in Iranamadu, the Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture and Livestock's Training School in Murukkandi, and the 55 Infantry Division in Kilinochchi.

Lieutenant Colonel Sujith Chaminda Edirisingha from the Directorate of Media and Psychological Operations delivered an insightful lecture on soldier motivation through military literature, inculcating a deep sense of pride, sharing wartime experiences and underscoring the endurance, patience, and unwavering commitment of War Heroes. Additionally, Major M I Marikkar of the same directorate conducted an instructive session titled 'The Proud Soldier', highlighting the responsible use of social media, prudent economic management, and the necessity of avoiding involvement in illicit activities.

Sixteen years have passed since the end of the war, and for many, its memories have begun to fade. A new generation has emerged on both sides, largely unaware of the history that once shaped their nation. While war is never a pleasant topic to recall, the courage and sacrifice of the War Heroes, those who were wounded, left differently abled, or laid down their lives should never be forgotten. The freedom we enjoy today is a result of their valour and sacrifices. Lest we forget the sacrifices made by our War Heroes.



Army School of Logistics in Trincomalee

Angampora Training Programme at 59 Infantry Division



An Angampora training programme organised by the 59 Infantry Division, under the guidance of Major General D R N Hettiarachchi RWP RSP USP was successfully held from 15th to 28th February 2025 at the 6th Battalion of the Gemunu Watch. The programme consisted of 90 members, aimed to enhance the combat skills of the participating troops. 10 skilled instructors from the Army Angampora team provided the resource assistance for the programme.

President - ASVU Inspects Seva Vanitha Paper Recycling Project



Mrs. Swendrini Dissanayake, President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) together with Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctfndu psc IG, Commander of the Army, visited the Seva Vanitha Paper Recycling Project at Pangolla on 06th February 2025.



During the visit, they inspected the ongoing paper recycling operations, and provided valuable guidance to enhance efficiency and productivity of the project. Further, they inspected the accommodation facilities of the soldiers and issued instructions for the construction of a new billet to provide improved living conditions for the personnel.

Viru Kekulu Preschool Hosts a Vibrant Variety Show



The Annual variety entertainment concert of Viru Kekulu Preschool, Minneriya was held at the Auditorium of the School of Artillery under the patronage of Mrs. Nirmalee Wijekoon, a Senior Seva Vanitha member of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit on 24th January 2025. Major General W M S N Wijekoon ndc AATO Commander, Logistics Command (East), Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks, teachers, staff and parents participated in the event.

ASVU President Inaugurates English Medium Classrooms at the Viru Kekulu Preschool

The newly constructed English medium classrooms, which fulfilled a long-standing requirement at the Viru Kekulu Preschool in Panagoda, were officially inaugurated on 17th February 2025, under the guidance of Mrs. Swendrini Dissanayake, President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU). After welcoming the President ASVU, new students were symbolically registered for the English medium classes and served snacks. Thereafter, the President ASVU, inspected the preschool and daycare centre providing necessary instructions for the further improvement of the facilities.



Subsequently, the President, ASVU visited the Panagoda beauty salon and a house at Romial Mawatha, Panagoda, which had been donated to ASVU for the construction of a holiday bungalow for War Heroes and their families. During her visit, she provided necessary directives for the future enhancement of these facilities as well. Mrs. Surangi Amarapala, senior member in charge of Panagoda Viru Kekulu Preschool, Colonel (Coord) of ASVU, teachers and parents, attended the event.



The Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch (SLLI-SVB), under the direction of Mrs. Darshani Yahampath, the Chairperson, SLLI-SVB launched a programme on 30th January 2025 at the SLLI Regimental Centre to promote self-employment among soldiers and their families. The initiative aimed to empower soldiers by providing them with an opportunity for sustainable income generation. As part of the programme, banana saplings were distributed among members of the Regiment. The project was implemented with the support of the Plant Virus Identification Centre, Homagama.

The Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch



The Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch (GW-SVB) organised its Annual Bodhi Puja Pinkama at Bellanwila Rajamaha Viharaya on 29th January 2025. Major General W B J K Wimalaratne RWP RSP, the Colonel of the Regiment of the Gemunu Watch and Dr. (Mrs.) Dilurukshi Wimalaratne, the Chairperson of GW-SVB, members of GW-SVB, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (SLAOC-SVB) was conducted under the patronage of Mrs. Iresha Fernando, the Chairperson of SLAOC-SVB on 25th January 2025. During the meeting, a financial assistance worth of Rs. 50,000.00 was extended to support the medical expenses of Lance Corporal Adikari S P K P. During the meeting, a motivational lecture delivered by Lieutenant Colonel EA AS Chamindha, inspiring the attendees and providing valuable insights.

Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (SLAGSC-SVB) completed the partially constructed house of Mr. Hasith Udana, a civil employee of SLAGSC and officially vested in the beneficiary on 31st January 2025. Mrs. Thushari Abeysinghe, the Chairperson of SLAGSC-SVB graced the event. Mrs. Nayomi Silva, Vice President of SLAGSC-SVB, members of SLAGSC-SVB, Senior Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.

Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch



Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch (SLCMP-SVB), in collaboration with the 7 SLCMP, provided a delicious lunch treat, distributed dry ration packs and organised an entertaining session for the wellbeing of the resident War Heroes at the Abimansala - III, Pangolla Wellness Centre on 23rd January 2025. Mrs. Iresha Perera, the Chairperson of the SLCMP-SVB graced the occasion as the Chief Guest together with SLCMP-SVB members.

New Presidents of Seva Vanitha Branches



Mrs. Mahesha Ariyasena, the newly appointed Chairperson of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch (MIR-SVB), officially assumed her duties during a brief ceremony held at the Regimental Headquarters, Dambuluhmillawawa, Kakirawa on 09th February 2025. After assuming duties, the Chairperson, MIR-SVB had a discussion with its members on the future welfare activities.



Mrs. Vindya Premaratne assumed the office as the new Chairperson of the Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch, (SLA-SVB) on 11th January 2025 at the Artillery Seva Vanitha Branch Office in Panagoda. Members of the SLA-SVB took part in the duty assumption and congratulated the new Chairperson of SLA-SVB.



Mrs. Indunil Jayakody, new Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch (SLSR-SVB), assumed duties on 11th February 2025 during a simple ceremony at the SLSR Regimental Headquarters, amidst religious blessings and warm greetings. Members of the SLA-SVB took part in the duty assumption.



Mrs. Ayesha Liyange was appointed as the new Chairperson of Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch on 25th January 2025. Members of the SLSC-SVB took part in the duty assumption.

Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch



The Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch (SLNG-SVB), in collaboration with the troops of the 4th Battalion of the Sri Lanka National Guard, completed and vested a house for Private Kumarasinghe K J D on 9th February 2025. Major General P R Pathiravithana USAWC psc, Commander, Security Forces (East), and Colonel of the Regiment of the Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) and Mrs. Sumangali Pathiravithana, Chairperson of SLNG-SVB graced the event as the distinguished guests. The project was made possible through the financial contributions of philanthropists and the technical assistance of the 4 SLNG troops. Additionally, SLNG-SVB provided essential household items and furniture for the family. Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in this occasion.

Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

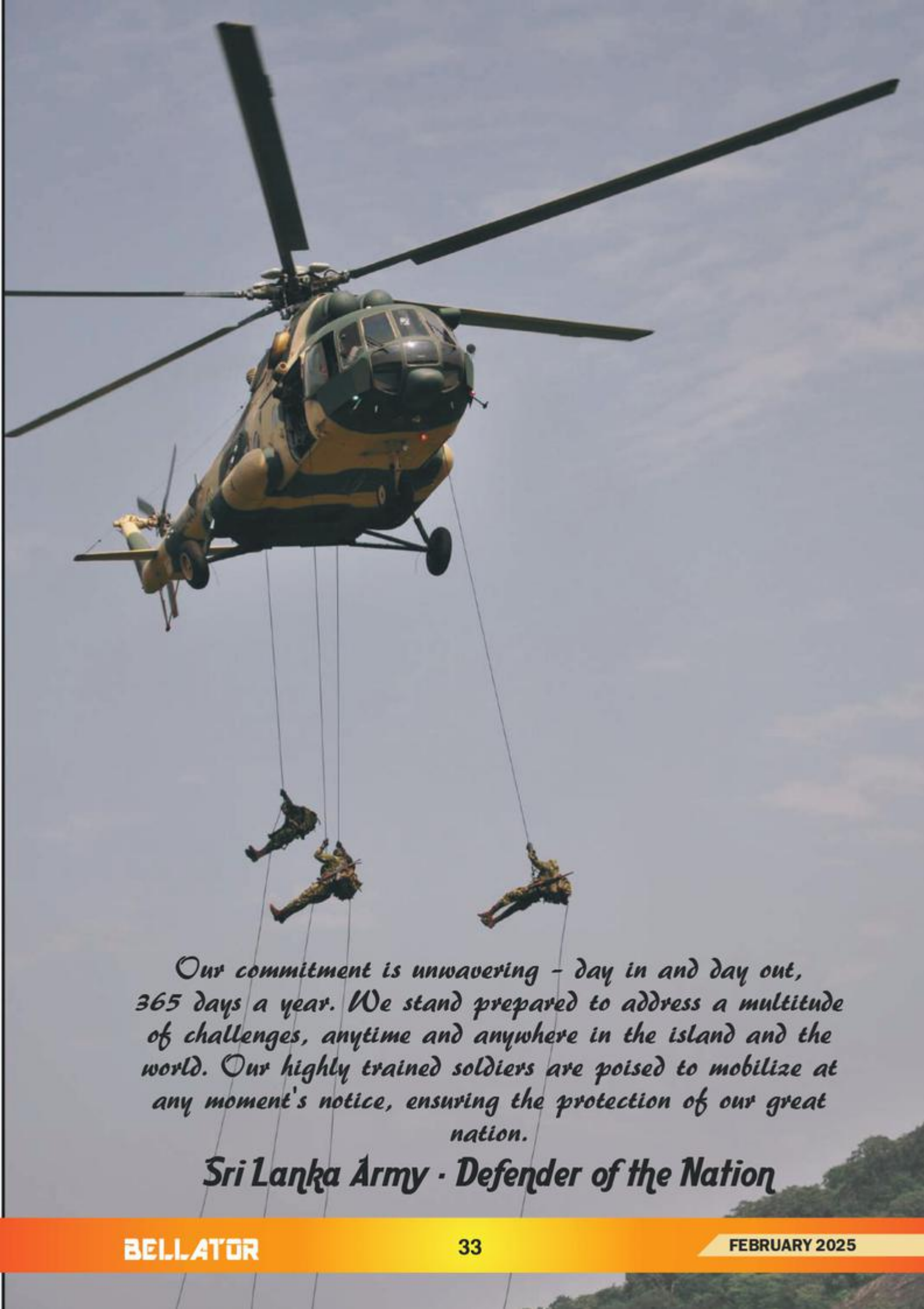


Marking the 32nd Anniversary of the Military Intelligence Corps (MIC), the Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (MIC-SVB) held "Ranaviru Pranama Ceremony – 2025" (Tribute to War Heroes) on 25th January 2025, at the Regimental Headquarters of MIC, Karadeniya. Mrs. Hansika Mahalekam, the Chairperson of MIC-SVB graced the event as the Chief Guest and distributed Keells vouchers worth Rs. 7,500.00 each among families of 56 Fallen War Heroes.

Sri Lanka Army Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch



Major General A K Rajapakse RSP, the Master General Ordnance and the Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps (SLASC) along with Mrs. Chandi Rajapakse, Chairperson of the SLASC Seva Vanitha Branch (SLASC-SVB), officially handed over the keys to a newly constructed house to Mrs. Asha Abeysooriya, spouse of Late Major A P S U Abeysooriya on 20th January 2025, in Trincomalee. Troops of 3rd Engineer Service Regiment extended much required expertise for the construction project under the supervision of 4th Regiment of Sri Lanka Army Service Corps. Mr. Nirmala Dayarathne and Mrs. Priyanga Amarasinghe extended Rs. 582,295.00 for the project.



Our commitment is unwavering - day in and day out, 365 days a year. We stand prepared to address a multitude of challenges, anytime and anywhere in the island and the world. Our highly trained soldiers are poised to mobilize at any moment's notice, ensuring the protection of our great nation.

Sri Lanka Army - Defender of the Nation

History of Military Canines

Canines have served alongside humans in military roles throughout military history. Their versatility, loyalty and courage have made them invaluable assets on the battlefield from ancient times to modern warfare. Their keen senses and adaptability have made them invaluable for tasks such as detection, communication, protection, and companionship. From ancient battlefields to modern warfare, canines have played both combat and support roles, often becoming celebrated heroes. As technology advances, canines continue to play irreplaceable roles, especially in tasks where human or machine capabilities fall short.

During the ancient and classical periods canines were used as guards and for hunting but also found their place on ancient battlefields. Early depictions and records indicate the use of hounds in warfare in ancient Mesopotamian armies around 2000 BCE. In ancient Egypt, hounds were revered and evidence suggests their use as sentries in military settings. Greek armies used canines primarily for guard duties and camp security. Roman legions deployed canines as sentries, attack animals and messengers.

The Molossian hound, an ancestor of modern mastiffs, was used in battle, often armoured and trained to attack enemy soldiers.

During medieval times, canines continued to serve in both protective and combat roles. In European armies canines were guarding encampments, accompanying knights and participating in hunts that prepared soldiers for battle. Nobles and Knights often trained canines for personal protection and battlefield assistance. In Mongol armies canines were used in auxiliary roles, such as guarding supplies and herding livestock accompanying mobile armies. While the direct combat use of canines declined during the Early Modern period (16th–18th Century) due to advancements in gunpowder weapons, canines were still valued for their roles in guarding, tracking and messaging. European colonial powers, such as the Spanish and Portuguese, used canines during conquests in the Americas. Conquistadors used large mastiff-like canines as weapons of psychological and physical warfare against



Indigenous populations. During the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815) canines were used for guarding camps and messenger duties in various European armies.

During World War I (1914–1918) canines played a significant role in trench warfare due to their agility, loyalty and ability to navigating dangerous terrains. Messenger canines delivered critical messages across the treacherous landscape of no-man's land, sentry canines warned of enemy advances or impending attacks and rescue canines located wounded soldiers on the battlefield. Sergeant Stubby was a Boston Terrier who served with the US Army's 102nd Infantry Regiment. Stubby was credited with detecting gas attacks, finding wounded soldiers and capturing a German spy. He became one of the most decorated war canines in the United States history.

The role of canines expanded significantly during World War II (1939–1945), with many countries establishing formal war canine programmes. Scout and sentry canines used to detect ambushes and alert troops to enemy presence, messenger canines continued to deliver messages in areas where radio communication was impossible, mine detection canines were trained to sniff out landmines and explosives and search and rescue canines were deployed to find injured soldiers under rubble or in difficult terrains. US Army's K-9 Corps was established in 1942, it trained over 10,000 canines for various roles. British Army deployed canines in the North African Campaign for patrol and mine-detection work.

During World War II, the Soviet Union employed an unconventional and controversial method to counter the advancing German armoured divisions: anti-tank canines. These dogs were trained to carry explosives to enemy tanks, effectively acting as mobile mines. While the concept was innovative, its effectiveness and ethical implications remain subjects of debate. The idea of using canines as anti-tank weapons is often credited to Soviet canines trainers like A P Mazover. The Soviet military sought innovative methods to counter German Panzer Divisions, given the technological superiority of German tanks during the early stages of the war. Canines were trained to associate tanks with food. Trainers would starve the canines and then place food under stationary Soviet tanks. The idea was that the canines, upon release, would run under enemy tanks in search of food. The canines carried saddlebag-style pouches filled with explosives. A pressure-triggered detonator was attached to the device. When the canines crawled under a tank, the protruding lever would contact the tank's underbelly, triggering the explosion and destroying the tank along with the canines. Anti-tank canines were first deployed on the Eastern Front around 1941-1942, particularly during the Battle of Stalingrad and Battle of Kursk, two of the largest tank battles of the war.

Early reports claimed that anti-tank canines were successful in disabling German tanks, with some estimates suggesting 300 German tanks were destroyed by these canines during the war but some historians question the effectiveness of the programme, arguing that Soviet propaganda may have exaggerated its success to boost morale and demonstrate Soviet ingenuity. A significant flaw in the programme was that the canines were trained using stationary Soviet tanks, leading them to sometimes run towards friendly Soviet tanks during actual battles,

causing unintended friendly fire incidents. The difference in fuel types between Soviet and German tanks likely played a role in the confusion of anti-tank canines, but it wasn't the sole reason for the programme's limited success. A combination of sensory confusion, inadequate training for dynamic battlefield conditions and the stress of warfare likely contributed to the canines mistakenly targeting Soviet tanks. The German Army quickly adapted, reportedly shooting canines on sight or avoiding using tanks in areas where dogs were deployed. Additionally, German tanks were sometimes equipped with flamethrowers to deter the canines. The use of canines in such a sacrificial role raised ethical questions and affected the morale of some Soviet soldiers. Due to mixed results and the numerous challenges faced, the use of anti-tank dogs declined after 1943. The Soviet military shifted focus to more reliable anti-tank tactics, such as anti-tank rifles, molotov cocktails and artillery. The Soviet anti-tank canines programme represents one of the most unusual and controversial strategies employed during World War II. While it had some initial successes, the practical challenges and ethical concerns

surrounding the use of canines as living bombs ultimately led to its decline. Nevertheless, the programme reflects the desperation and innovation of the Soviet military during one of the most intense conflicts in modern history.

During the Cold War, canines continued to serve in multiple roles, with an emphasis on detection and security in the context of modern warfare. During the Vietnam War (1955–1975) scout canines were used to detect hidden enemy troops, booby traps, tunnels in the dense jungles while sentry dogs used to guard military installations, detect infiltrators. Tracker canines were trained to follow the scent of enemy soldiers through difficult terrains. Over 4,000 canines served in Vietnam. Unfortunately, many were classified as equipment and were not returned home, a decision that later led to widespread public criticism and reforms. Canines were also trained



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Snowy



military

to detect nuclear weapons and radiation in sensitive areas. Both the US and Soviet Union used canines to patrol borders and secure installations.

trained as sniffer dogs for detecting narcotic substances and are deployed at international airports.

The Sri Lanka Navy established its canine unit in July 2008 with an initial cadre of 10 canines and handlers. Training was initially conducted with assistance from the Police and Air Force Canines, but the Navy later developed its own mission-specific training modules. The canine unit plays a crucial role in maintaining security at Naval Headquarters and other strategic harbours.

Canines continue to play critical roles in modern military operations, particularly in counter-terrorism, explosives detection and search and rescue missions. Canines are trained to sniff out improvised explosive devices (IEDs), landmines and other hidden ordnance. Widely used in Iraq, Afghanistan and other conflict zones where IEDs pose a significant threat. US Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, and other elite forces used canines in parachute jumps, fast-roping and urban combat. Canines have been used in disaster zones to locate survivors in the rubble.

During the Sri Lanka's Humanitarian Operation, the Army utilised canines for tracking enemy movements and supporting combat operations. A notable example is Snowy, a Golden Labrador Retriever attached to the 4th Commando Regiment handled by Lance Corporal Sampath D H P. For the bravery, Snowy received the Rana Wickrama Padakkama, becoming the first canine to receive such an honour in Sri Lanka military history.

Demonstrating the versatility of military canine, Teesha, a Golden Retriever from the Commando Regiment K-9 unit, made history on 21st November 2015. She completed a high-altitude parachute jump from 5000 ft alongside Major M N P S Siranjeewa over the Uva-Kudaoya Commando Training Camp grounds from Mi-7 helicopter. This feat marked the first time a Sri Lankan military canines participated in such an event.

Established on 23rd August 1972, the SLAF Air Dog Unit has a long history of service. Initially, the unit focused on security and detection roles. In 2020, the unit expanded by inducting 20 Air Dogs from Netherlands including Belgian Malinois, Labrador Retrievers, German Shepherds, and English Springer Spaniels. These canines are specially

In collaboration with international partners, the Sri Lanka Army has utilised Mine Detection Dogs (MDDs) in demining operations. Canines like Alvin and Sammy have been recognised internationally for their contributions. Alvin and his handler received the MDD Award of the Year 2016 and Sammy together with his handler recognised as the Best MDD Team of the Year 2019 at the annual "Clearing the Path Gala - 2019" acknowledging their efforts in clearing minefields and enhancing safety in post-conflict areas.

Canines have played a significant role in the Sri Lanka military, serving in various capacities such as tracking, mine detection and security. Their contributions have been particularly notable during and after the Sri Lankan Humanitarian Operation. The integration of canines into the Sri Lankan military has proven invaluable across various operations, showcasing their versatility and the strong bond between handlers and their canine partners.

Dogs have been awarded medals and commendations for their bravery. The Dickin Medal, often referred to as the "Animal Victoria Cross," has been awarded to numerous military canines. The National War Dogs Cemetery in Guam honours the canines that served in the Pacific during World War - II and Animals in War Memorial in London commemorates animals, including dogs for their military service. Modern military protocols emphasise the humane treatment of canines with many countries enacting laws allowing for retirement and adoption of military canines after their service.



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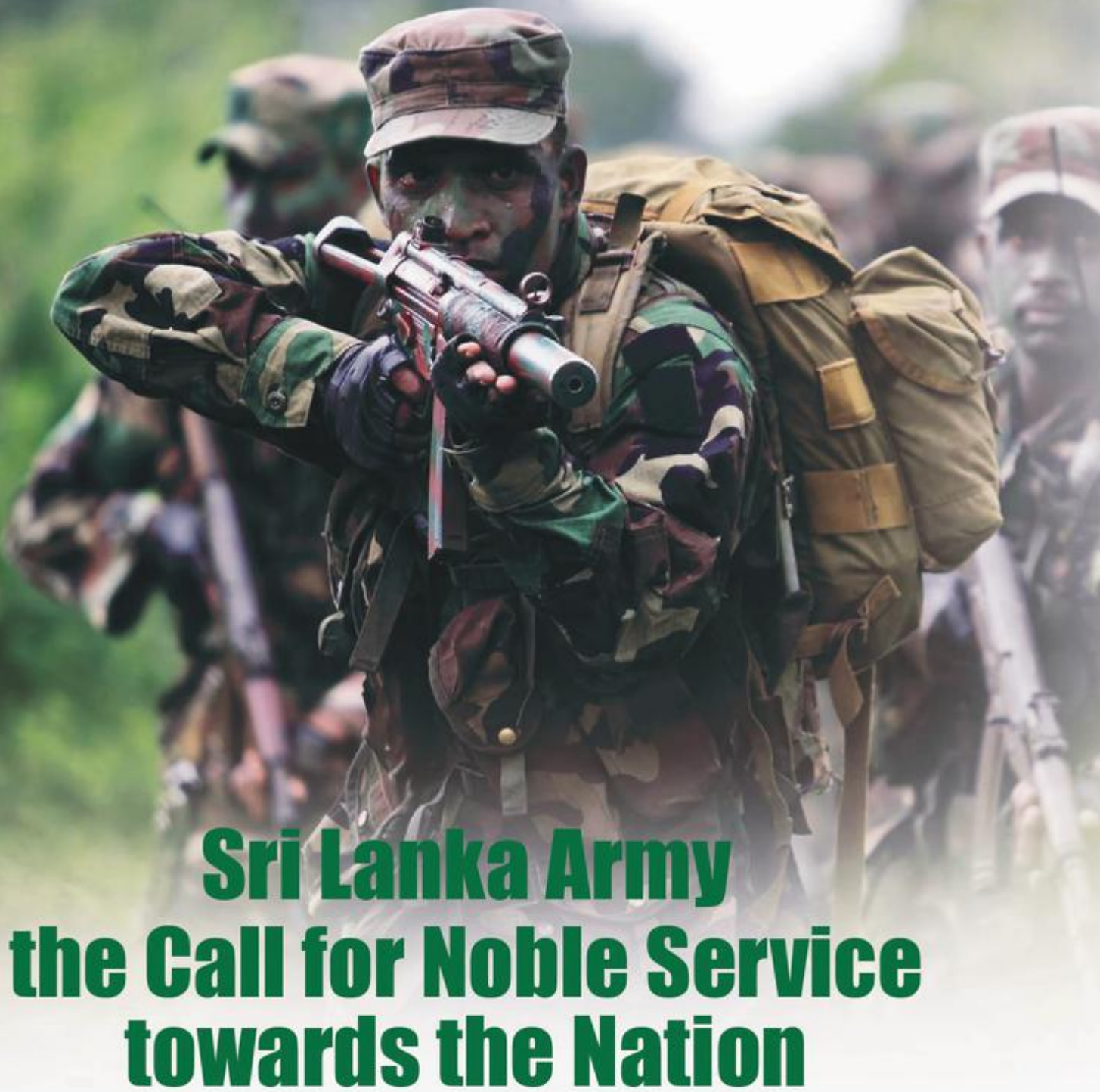
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Keido Kurberg



Sri Lanka Army **the Call for Noble Service** **towards the Nation**

The Sri Lanka Army has long stood as the "Defender of the Nation", protecting its sovereignty, territorial integrity while ensuring stability, assisting in times where the Nation was in crisis or disaster. The passion to serve the Nation is not just another typical career for members serving in the Sri Lanka Army but a symbol of dignity, unwavering dedication and gallantry. The "Defender of the Nation" protects the soul of the Nation with vigilant eyes day and night.

Why Join the Sri Lanka Army?

For many members, the decision to enlist in the Sri Lanka Army is driven by a deep sense of patriotism and duty. The Army offers a structured career path, world-class military training at prestigious training centres, and opportunities for both personal and professional development. It instills discipline, leadership, and teamwork, grooming Officer Cadets and recruits into charismatic individuals who can withstand adversity and emergency of the Nation.

Beyond defending the country against external threats, the Army plays a crucial role in national development, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance. Whether it be rebuilding after natural disasters or assisting during crises, the Army stands as a symbol of hope and resilience for every citizen of the country.

The Enlistment Process

The Sri Lanka Army conducts enlistment campaigns for various roles, including Regular and Volunteer Officers, Other Ranks, and specialist trades such as engineering, translations, medical, and legal services. After completing the selection process and a series of tests, only the most capable and committed individuals will gain the privilege to don the uniform. The selection process generally covers;

Physical and Medical Fitness

Candidates must meet strict physical and medical standards to ensure they can endure the demanding nature of Army life.

Educational and Aptitude Tests

The Army seeks individuals with sharp intellect and problem-solving skills. Certain trades require specific academic qualifications.

Interviews and Leadership

Leadership potential is a key criterion in Officer enlistment. Candidates undergo extensive assessments to evaluate their suitability for command responsibilities.

Paths to Serve in the Sri Lanka Army

The Army welcomes new members to their family from various backgrounds through different areas:

Regular and Volunteer Forces

Those who wish to serve full-time can join the Regular Force, while the Volunteer Force allows individuals to contribute while maintaining civilian careers.

Officer Cadet Training

Aspiring leaders can join the Army as Officers through the prestigious Officer Cadet Training programme at Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA),

which grooms them for command and strategic roles.

Technical and Professional Roles

The Army seeks professionals in fields such as medicine, engineering, translations and interpreting, law, and information technology to support its diverse operations.

Specialized Units

Those with exceptional skills can join elite forces such as the Special Forces (SF), Commando Regiment, (CR) and Mechanized Infantry.

Life in the Army

Joining the Sri Lanka Army is a transformative journey. The newly enlisted Officer Cadets/recruits undergo intense military training designed to build endurance, discipline, and combat readiness over years. Life in the Army is structured and challenging but equally rewarding. Officers and non - commissioned Officers have the opportunity to gain specialised skills, advance in rank, and contribute meaningfully to the country's security and stability.

Apart from the honour of serving, the Army provides various benefits, including career progression, educational sponsorships, overseas training, and pension schemes, ensuring a secure future for its personnel.

The Role Beyond the Battlefield

The Sri Lanka Army is not solely focused on military engagements. With the successful termination of the Humanitarian Operation in 2009, Sri Lanka Army has become pivotal in nation building. Its members have engaged in development projects, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts. From constructing roads and bridges to assisting in flood and pandemic response, the Army extends its services beyond the battlefield to uplift the nation.

The Service Beyond Motherland

The Sri Lanka Army has actively contributed to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions, demonstrating its commitment to global peace and security. Over the years, Sri Lankan troops have been deployed in various conflict zones, including Haiti, Lebanon,

“The passion to serve the Nation is not another typical career for the member serving in the Sri Lanka Army but a symbol of dignity of unwavering dedication and gallantry while being a proud legacy of the “Defender of the Nation” who guard the four corners of the Nation (North, East, West, South) with vigilant eyes day and night.

South Sudan, and the Central African Republic (Sahara), serving under the UN flag. These peacekeepers undertake crucial tasks such as maintaining ceasefires, protecting civilians, bomb disposals, and supporting humanitarian efforts. Their professionalism, discipline, and resilience have earned international recognition, enhancing Sri Lanka's reputation in global military cooperations. The Army's involvement in UN missions also provides its personnel with valuable exposure to multinational operations and modern peacekeeping strategies.

A Call to the Brave

Call for service in the Sri Lanka Army is not just about enlisting individuals but it is about building a generation of brave men and women who are ready to put the Nation above self. It is an opportunity to be part of a legacy of courage and commitment, to stand as a Defender of the Nation, and to be the force that ensures peace and stability.

For those with the will to serve, the Army welcomes you. This is more than a job, a duty, a purpose, and an honour. Answer the call for service and become part of something greater than yourself.



*Capt KVN Lakmali SLAGSC
Army Headquarters*



Guide to a Powerful To-Do List

A notebook, in very common, a tool placed in every soldier's pocket. Though it is small, its service to the soldier is immeasurable during the career. Military operations require careful planning and even the smallest tasks may have significant consequences. The use of notebook assists in prioritising tasks, preventing oversights and improving time management. A well-structured notebook that carries the to-do list ensures that no task is forgotten while ensuring teams stay on the right track. Here are the tips to prepare a practical to – do – list !



1. Prioritize Tasks

Identify high-priority tasks and complete them first. Use categories such as urgent, important, and routine. Without hesitation your task is half way completed.

2. Use the Eisenhower Matrix

Classify tasks into four quadrants: urgent & important, important but not urgent, urgent but not important, and neither urgent nor important. This helps in effective decision-making.

3. Set Clear Deadlines

Assign realistic timeframes to ensure timely completion of each task. Remember, deadlines promote discipline and accountability.

4. Keep It Simple

Avoid overcomplicating your list. Focus on essential tasks that contribute to mission success.

5. Use Digital Tools

Digital tools like task management apps or note-taking software can help synchronise tasks across multiple devices.

6. Update Regularly

The priorities may change in time. Thus, review and update your list frequently to reflect new priorities.

Conclusion

A to-do list in the notebook is more than just a simple checklist. It also serves as a strategic tool that enhances efficiency, discipline, and mission readiness. By following these tips, you can stay organised, complete tasks effectively and contribute to overall operational success.

7. Delegate Tasks

Not all tasks need to be handled alone. Effective delegation helps to function smoothly and tasks will be completed efficiently.

8. Stay Realistic

Overloading your list with too many tasks can lead to burnout. Set achievable goals to maintain motivation.

9. Review the Day

Evaluate what was accomplished and prepare for the next day. This improves planning and efficiency while saving your time.

10. Stay Disciplined

Consistency in maintaining a to-do list enhances personal and professional effectiveness.

UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA AND SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

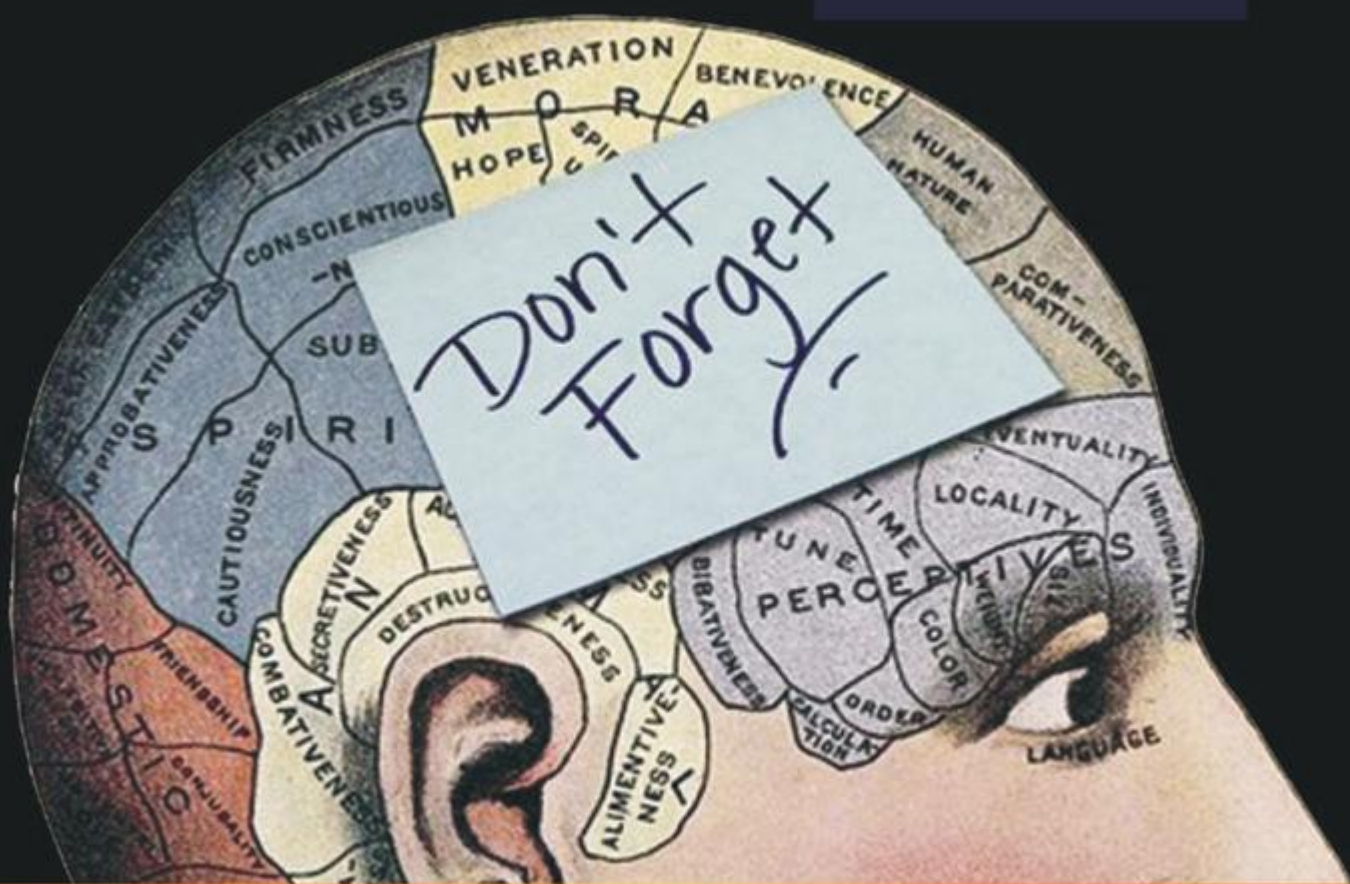
Life is a continuous cycle of change, making each person's journey unique. Among these changes, our ability to interact with others gives life its true meaning. However, there are moments such as instances of forgetfulness. Have you heard of Dementia?" have you encountered such patients?

This article aims to provide a clearer understanding of Dementia, encouraging more thoughtful discussions about the condition rather than using the term lightly for minor lapses in memory. In simple terms, Dementia refers to a collection of symptoms resulting from cognitive decline, which significantly interferes with a person's daily life. Individuals with Dementia may experience memory loss, difficulty in thinking clearly, trouble focusing, and challenges in controlling their emotions.

Symptoms

In the context of Dementia, symptoms include confusion, difficulty recognising others, challenges with reading and writing difficulty in speaking, hallucinations, delusions, paranoia, impulsivity, memory loss, poor judgement, disorientation of familiar environments, repetitive behaviour, taking longer to complete a task.

It is crucial to understand that while cognitive and behavioural difficulties may indicate Dementia, they do not confirm its presence. Dementia can only be suspected based on these symptoms, but a definitive diagnosis requires a thorough medical examination by a specialised doctor, along with proper certification.



Stages of Dementia

Once Dementia is diagnosed, its progression can be categorised into different stages, each with distinct symptoms. Understanding these stages is essential for recognising the condition and providing appropriate care.

In the early stage, individuals may experience mild symptoms such as forgetfulness, losing track of time, and difficulty recognising familiar places. Despite these challenges, they can still function independently.

As Dementia progresses to the second stage, symptoms become more pronounced. Individuals may struggle to recall recent events or recognise familiar names, experience frequent confusion, have difficulty communicating, and repeatedly ask the same questions. At this stage, they require assistance with daily activities, particularly in areas like personal hygiene.

The final stage, known as late-stage Dementia, is marked by severe cognitive and physical decline. Symptoms may include significant memory loss, paranoia, delusions, hallucinations, impaired mobility, and loss of bladder or bowel control. During this stage, individuals require constant care and support.

Diagnosis

In the modern world, with technology, the diagnosis of Dementia is not very complex. Tests with technologically connected CT scans and MRI Magnetic Resonance Imaging PET can easily identify the changes in the brain. Additionally, blood tests can provide clues, like measuring levels of beta-amyloid proteins associated with Alzheimer's (the most common type of Dementia in the world).

Cognitive tests like solving problems, mental appreciation, situation handling language, etc, are also used as cognitive tests to diagnose Dementia.

Risk Factors

Like any other disease, Dementia has its own risk factors. Among them, age is a significant factor, with individuals aged 65 and older being more susceptible, as noted by medical experts. Family history also plays a crucial role, increasing the likelihood of developing Dementia with age. Additionally, certain health conditions, including traumatic brain injuries (TBI), have been identified as contributing factors. Other considerations include gender and race. Studies indicate that African American and Hispanic individuals have a higher risk of developing Dementia compared to White individuals, and some research suggests that women may be at greater risk than men.

A common question surrounding Dementia is whether it is the same as Alzheimer's disease. The answer is no! Alzheimer's disease is a specific type of Dementia, whereas Dementia itself is a broad term referring to a set of symptoms that affect brain function.

Types of Dementia

There are several types of Dementia worldwide. According to the data, the following are the most common types:

Alzheimer's Dementia is recognised as the most common type of Dementia. The individuals characterised by a slow, progressive degeneration of brain cells.

Lewy Body Dementia

It involves a brain chemical process in which the protein alpha-synuclein is deposited in the brain. These deposits are called Lewy bodies. As a result, they lead to changes in the brain that results in complications with memory, movement, and behaviour.

Mixed Dementia

It elaborates individuals who exhibit more than one type of Dementia at a time.

Vascular Dementia

This indicates reduced blood flow to the brain which results in deficiencies in cognitive abilities and executive functioning.

Treatments for Dementia

The treatments include both medical and psychological approaches. A medical specialist will prescribe the medicines for Dementia which should be taken under supervision.

Psychological treatments include Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (group activities and exercises to improve memory, problem-solving skills, and language), cognitive rehabilitation (to practice skills to enhance day-to-day activities), reminiscence and life story work (talking about events from the past and using pictures, videos, etc. to improve), and a variety of other therapies.



How can we Assist someone with Dementia?

Alzheimers.gov, an official website of the United States, provides guidance to look after patients with Dementia and caregivers as follows:

For Everyday Care for People With Dementia

- Try to keep a daily routine, such as bathing, dressing, and eating simultaneously.
- Help the person to write to-do lists, appointments, and events in a notebook or a calendar.
- Plan activities the person enjoys and try to do them simultaneously daily.
- Consider a system or reminders for helping those who must take medications regularly.
- When dressing or bathing, allow the person to do such things by themselves as much as possible.
- Buy loose-fitting, comfortable, easy-to-use clothing, such as clothes with elastic waistbands, fabric fasteners, or large zipper pulls instead of shoelaces, buttons, or buckles.
- Use a sturdy shower chair to support an unsteady person and prevent falls. Shower chairs are available at drug stores and medical supply stores.
- Be gentle and respectful. Let the person know what he should do, step by step, while you help them in bathing or dressing.
- Serve meals in a consistent, familiar place and give the person enough time to eat.

Changes in Communication and Behavior

When you encounter a patient with Dementia, speak calmly. Listen to their concerns and frustrations. Try to show that you understand if the person is angry or fearful.

Allow the person to keep as much control in their life as possible.

Respect the person's personal space.

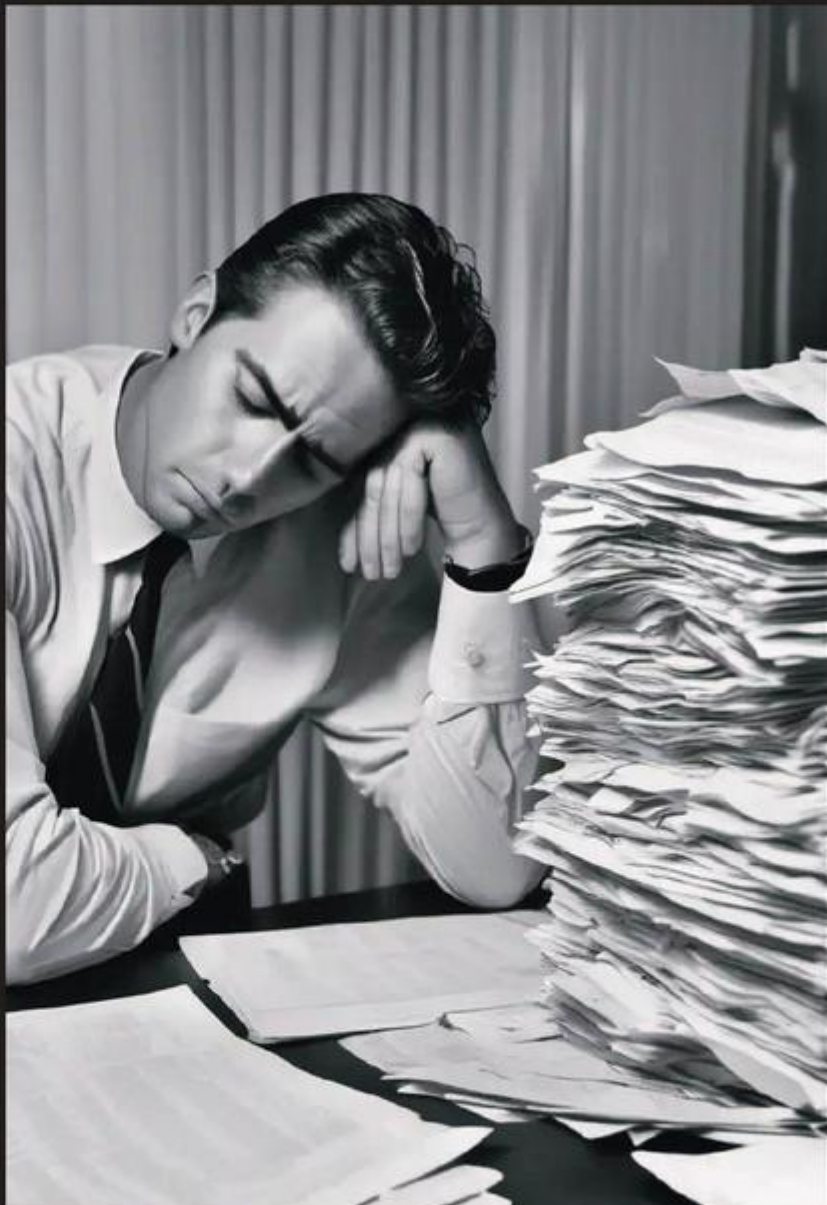
Build quiet times and activities into the day.

Keep well-loved objects and photographs around the house to help the person feel more secured.

If the person doesn't remember who you are, remind him or her, but try not to say, "Don't you remember?"

Encourage a two-way conversation as long as possible.

Try distracting the person with an activity, such as a familiar book or photo album, if you are having trouble communicating with words.



For a Healthy and Active Lifestyle

- Consider different activities that the person can engage into stay active, such as household chores, cooking and baking, exercising and gardening. Match the activity to the individual's abilities.
- Help start an activity or join in to make it more enjoyable. People with Dementia may lack interest or initiative and may have difficulty starting activities. However, if others do the planning, they may join in.
- Add music to exercises or activities if it helps motivate the person. Dance to music if possible.
- Be realistic about how much activities you can do at one time. Several short "mini-workouts" may be more effective.
- Take a walk together each day. Exercise is good for caregivers.
- Buy a variety of healthy foods, but consider easy-to-prepare foods such as premade salads and single portions.
- Give the person choices about what to eat, for example, "Would you like yogurt or cottage cheese?"

For Home Safety

If you have stairs, make sure there is at least one handrail. You can also put carpet or safety grip strips on the stairs or mark the edges of steps with brightly coloured tape so they are more visible.

Insert safety plugs into unused electrical outlets and consider safety latches on cabinet doors.

Clear away unused items and remove small rugs, electrical cords, and other items the person may trip over.

Make sure all rooms and outdoor areas the person visits have good lighting.

Remove curtains and rugs with busy patterns that may confuse the person.

Remove or lock up cleaning and household products, such as paint thinner and matches.

References:

<https://www.alzheimers.gov/life-with-dementia/tips-caregivers>, Verywellmind.com



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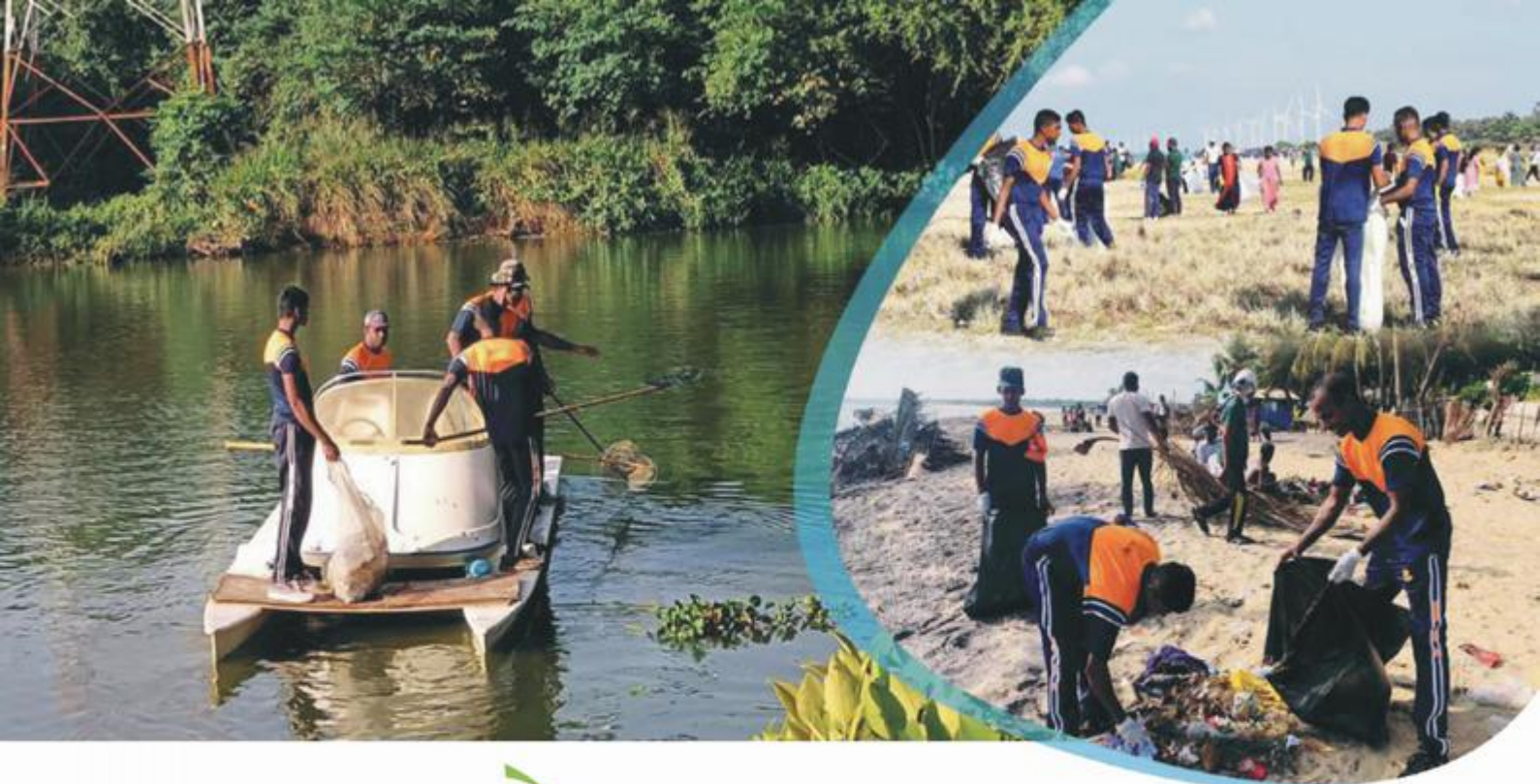
Name:.....

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Your Story: English/ Times New Roman/ Font Size 12/ on or before 20th of every month / 1500 words maximum



CLEAN SRI LANKA

SOCIALLY . ENVIRONMENTALLY . ETHICALLY



Mission

The mission of the Clean Sri Lanka project is to redefine the nation's environmental, social, and governance efforts by promoting change, fostering integration, and encouraging collaboration among various stakeholders.

Introduction

Sri Lanka, often referred to as the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean," is a land of immense natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and a vibrant cultural heritage. However, such as many developing nations, Sri Lanka faces significant environmental and ethical challenges, particularly in waste management and sustainability. The Clean Sri Lanka initiative was established recognising the requirement for a systematic approach to address these issues. This initiative is a nationwide movement aimed at fostering a cleaner, healthier environment while instilling a strong moral commitment to ethical principles.

The Clean Sri Lanka initiative is structured around three fundamental pillars:

- Social Pillar
- Environmental Pillar
- Ethical Pillar

This structured framework aims to address challenges in these key areas by aligning specific stakeholder goals and actions to achieve measurable outcomes.

Vision

Beautiful Island, Smiling People

Contributions of the Sri Lanka Army

As a major stakeholder in the Clean Sri Lanka initiative, the Sri Lanka Army plays a pivotal role in implementing and supporting various projects under two stages. The valorous members of the Army have contributed significantly through numerous efforts, including:

1. Beach and Public Space Cleanups

The Sri Lanka Army regularly conducts cleaning campaigns in coastal regions, public parks, and religious sites to promote environmental awareness and responsibility. These efforts not only help in maintaining cleanliness but also encourage local communities to take an active role in preserving their surroundings. By conducting routine cleanups, the initiative aims to protect marine ecosystems, reduce plastic pollution, and maintain Sri Lanka's reputation as a premier tourist destination.

2. School Renovation Projects

The Army actively engages in renovating school infrastructure and conducting cleaning initiatives to provide a better academic environment for future generations under two stages basically. Many schools in rural areas are poor in proper sanitation facilities

and infrastructure, making learning conditions suboptimal. Addressing these shortcomings, 1000 schools are assigned for the Tri-forces whereas 502 schools come under Sri Lanka Army. Members of Sri Lanka Army have so far successfully completed more than half of the project assigned through the Security Forces levels under the each stages. Through these initiatives, classrooms are repaired, sanitations are upgraded, and playgrounds are revitalised, boundary fences are repaired fostering a conducive atmosphere for education.

3. Waste Management Initiatives

Proper waste disposal and recycling programmes have been introduced in Army camps and surrounding areas to minimise pollution under the Clean Sri Lanka programme. The Sri Lanka Army has established efficient waste segregation and recycling systems to ensure that biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste are disposed responsibly. These practices serve as a model for communities to adopt sustainable waste management strategies.

4. Sapling Planting Campaigns

With the aim to combat deforestation and enhance the country's green cover, the Army conducts large-scale tree planting drives covering all Security Force Headquarters areas. These campaigns contribute to environmental sustainability by increasing forested areas, improving air quality, and fostering biodiversity. By planting saplings each year, the initiative supports the long-term ecological balance and resilience of the country's natural resources.

5. Disaster Response & Environmental Protection

Sri Lanka frequently faces natural disasters such as floods and landslides. The Army plays a crucial role in post-disaster cleanup efforts, including clearing debris, restoring damaged infrastructure, and rehabilitating affected communities. Additionally, they assist in the renovation of damaged tank bunds, which are essential for irrigation and water conservation. These efforts ensure that communities can recover quickly and sustainably after disasters.

6. Community Awareness Programmes

Education and awareness are key components of the Clean Sri Lanka initiative. The Army collaborates with public and private sectors to conduct educational programmes that encourage sustainable practices among civilians. Through the Train the Trainer (TOT) programme, the Ministry of Defence, educate Tri-force members, community leaders, school teachers, and local organisations on effective steps of the Clean Sri Lanka programme. This initiative empowers communities to take ownership of sustainability efforts and ensures long-term behavioural change.

Conclusion

The Clean Sri Lanka initiative serves as a significant milestone to the nation's commitment to environmental preservation and ethical governance. With the active participation of the Sri Lanka Army, the movement has made greater strides in addressing waste management, promoting sustainability while fostering social responsibility. By integrating social, environmental, and ethical pillars, Clean Sri Lanka envisions a future where the country remains a pristine, vibrant island with a thriving population committed to sustainability. Through collective effort and continued commitment, Sri Lanka will achieve its vision of being a Beautiful Island with Smiling People.





Core Values of the Sri Lanka Army

The Pillars of Strength and Service

The Sri Lanka Army stands as the Defender of the Nation, upholding its sovereignty, security, and stability. Since its establishment, the Army has remained in its mission, guided by a set of unwavering core values. These values include, i.e Patriotism, Discipline, Loyalty, Integrity, Honour, Knowledge, Courage, Valour, Unity and Commitment. The core values define the character of every soldier and shape the Army's professionalism, effectiveness, and dedication to duty.

1. Patriotism

Patriotism is the driving force behind every soldier's service. A deep love for the motherland fuels their unwavering commitment to protect it from external and internal visible and invisible threats. This devotion is evident in their sacrifices, resilience, and readiness to serve, ensuring the nation's peace

and prosperity. From King Pandukabhaya to Monarawila Keppetipola to Sargeant Chnadrasi Bandara D M S (PWV) are fine examples for the patriotism.

2. Discipline

Discipline is known as the backbone of military excellence. Thus it is often called as the foundation upon which military efficiency and professionalism are built. It ensures order, obedience, and loyal commitment to the duty, enabling the Army to function as a cohesive and effective force. Every soldier is trained to maintain self-discipline, follow commands and uphold the Army's high standards at all times. This includes self-discipline, understanding of the duty, adhering the rules and service.



3. Loyalty

Loyalty refers to the faithfulness to the Nation and duty. Thus it is often considered as the heart of military service. Soldiers pledge allegiance to the Nation, the Constitution, and their Commanders, ensuring unity and strength within the Army. This loyalty fosters trust, teamwork, and dedication to duty, even in the face of adversity. For a soldier, he may miss the birthday of his child, or wedding anniversary but never a service or a command.

4. Integrity

Integrity refers to upholding honesty and trust for the service. This defines the moral and ethical standards of a soldier. It demands honesty, transparency, and accountability in all actions. A soldier with integrity remains truthful, responsible, and righteous, earning the trust of both the Army and the people they serve.

5. Honour

Honour is the essence of military pride and self-respect. It compels soldiers to uphold the highest moral and ethical standards, ensuring that their actions reflect the dignity of the Sri Lanka Army. A soldier's honour is inseparable from their duty and commitment to the nation.

However, there are 12 qualities under 'Honour' and 'Integrity'. These include being true to one's self, keeping good company, confidence, doing the right thing, honesty and transparency, honouring one's word, loyalty, accountability, resilience, making a difference and living greater than yourself.

6. Knowledge

A modern Army thrives on knowledge. Continuous learning, strategic thinking, and technical expertise empower soldiers to adapt to evolving challenges. The Sri Lanka Army prioritises education, training, and professional development, ensuring that its personnel remain competent and prepared for any mission.

7. Courage

Courage is essential for every soldier, both on and off the battlefield. Courage manifests as physical bravery in combat and moral strength in making difficult decisions. Courage enables soldiers to overcome fear in the face of challenges and prepare them to stand firm in their duty to the

Nation. The courage includes: social courage, intellectual courage, emotional courage and spiritual courage.

8. Valour

Valour represents extraordinary bravery and selflessness in service. Soldiers of the Sri Lanka Army have displayed remarkable acts of valour throughout history, risking their lives for the safety and sovereignty of the Nation. This spirit of heroism is a defining trait of the Sri Lanka Army which paved the way to eradicate the 30 year prolonged terrorism from the country.

9. Unity

Unity refers to the state of being united or joined as a whole. Soldiers operate as one team, regardless of rank, background or personal differences. This unbreakable bond ensures cohesion, mutual support, and collective strength, making the Army a formidable force. The probable ways to inculcate the unity among the organisations are, instilling a strong belief in family and unity, choosing right people, constant communication of vision, mission and goals of the organisation, creating a working environment within adversity, displaying window and mirror maturity, avoiding being dictators, encourage communication, effective problem solving, shared purpose, serve other people and mutual trust.

10. Commitments

Commitment drives every soldier to fulfill their responsibilities with unwavering determination. Whether in combat, peacekeeping, or humanitarian missions, the Sri Lanka Army upholds its duty with relentless perseverance, ensuring the safety and well-being of the Nation.

These values instill a sense of patriotism, resilience, and sacrifice, shaping the Army into a disciplined force that is ready to serve the Nation in both times of war and peace. Ultimately, the commitment to these core values reinforces the Army's role as a defender of national security, stability, and unity.



Capt KVN Lakmali SLAGSC
Army Headquarters



The Legacy of the Sam Browne Belt



Capt KVN Lakmali SLAGSC
Army Headquarters

During the final days before their official passing-out ceremony, Officer Cadets meticulously polish their Sam Browne Belts following a revered tradition deeply woven into the Army culture. Instructors demonstrate the proper technique and emphasise the significance of this cross belt, a seemingly simple yet iconic part of an Officer's uniform. The story behind the name and the respect accorded to this belt leave many curious to uncover its rich history.

The Importance

The Sam Browne Belt often referred to as a Cross Belt is a wide leather belt supported by a strap running diagonally over the right shoulder. The Cross Belt was originally designed to carry a sword. The belt has become a key component of many military dresses in worldwide Armies. Despite swords becoming relics of the past, the belt remains as an essential part of ceremonial and duty uniforms for Army Officers across various military services worldwide. Crafted from fine leather, the Sam Browne Belt is worn with pride symbolising discipline, heritage and military bearing.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the Sam Browne Belt serves as a reminder of the discipline of the military service. Its inclusion

in modern military uniforms is not merely ceremonial but reflects the importance of maintaining a connection to historical military traditions. Officers wearing the belt carry forward a legacy that spans generations, reinforcing their commitment to upholding the values of honour, responsibility, and leadership. The polished brass buckles and perfectly maintained leather symbolise attention to detail, personal pride and the continuous pursuit of excellence.

The Origin

The belt traces its origin to British Army Officer Sam Browne who served with the 2nd Punjab Irregular Cavalry. In 1858, during a battle near Seeporah, Browne led a charge on an enemy cannon. In the heat of combat, he suffered two devastating wounds in his left knee and left arm in the shoulder. Though he survived, his injuries left him at a disadvantage when wielding his sword.

Traditionally, swords were suspended from a frog or by a small metal clip on the waist belt. However, this design proved cumbersome as the scabbard would slide unpredictably during movement. With only one arm, Army Officer Browne struggled to control his sword effectively. To solve this problem, he devised a diagonal cross belt that secured the scabbard in place, allowing for a fast draw. This innovation not only improved efficiency but also reduced movement, making it ideal for combat situations. The belt's design also featured attaching essential accessories such as a pistol holster and whistle.

Gaining Popularity Among Armies

Army Officer Browne's innovation quickly gained attraction among Cavalry Officers in the Indian Army before being adopted by the British Army. During the Boer War, Commonwealth forces also



Sam Browne Belt

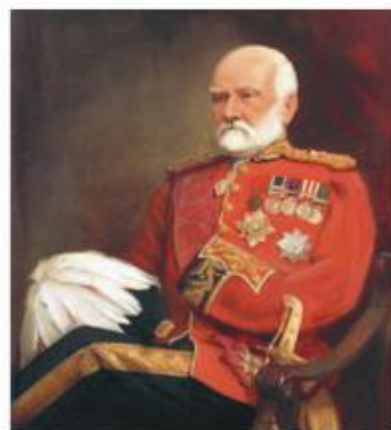
embraced the belt, recognising its practicality. Beyond its functional advantages the belt encouraged Officers to maintain an upright posture, reinforcing the ideals of military discipline and presence.

By the early 20th century, the Sam Browne Belt had become a standard part of military dress code across multiple nations. The British Army formally adopted the belt in 1900 and it soon became a staple for Officers across the Commonwealth, including Sri Lanka, India, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The belt's utility extended beyond combat, finding a place in formal military attire, particularly in dress uniforms for high-ranking Officers and ceremonial occasions.

In both World Wars, the Sam Browne Belt became a symbol of leadership. Senior Officers and high-ranking officials often wore it as a mark of distinction. Even as combat uniforms evolved, the belt remained a recognisable accessory in military tradition. Its presence in modern military academies and Officer Cadet Training Programs serves as a reminder of the legacy of those who have worn it before.

The Belt in the Modern Era

Despite advancements in military technology and changes in uniform design, the Sam Browne Belt remains as an integral part of military tradition. In contemporary armed forces, it is most commonly seen in ceremonial parades, official functions. Officers continue to wear the belt as a mark of their status, reinforcing its role as a symbol of discipline, history and leadership.



Lieutenant-General Sam Browne

Many military institutions still emphasise the proper care and maintenance of the Sam Browne Belt, with a sense of pride and responsibility. It is not just an accessory but a representation of the sacrifices and dedication of military personnel throughout history. The tradition of polishing and wearing the belt is a reflection of the meticulous standards of discipline that define the core of military service.

Conclusion

Today, the Sam Browne Belt remains as a symbol of military tradition, signifying both historical ingenuity and the enduring legacy of those who served and serve. While its practical use has diminished, its role as a ceremonial and symbolic piece of military attire continues to thrive to this day.

Officers wearing the belt uphold a connection to a proud history, honouring the resilience and resourcefulness of those who came before them. The legacy of the Sam Browne Belt is not just in its design but in the values discipline, tradition, and the unwavering commitment to duty.

Charity Palmcard

We are always dedicated to serve anywhere on the planet..!

1. Environment Cleaning Programme



Troops of the Battalion Training School, Punani & 7th Light Regiment, Sri Lanka Artillery (SLA) cleaned the Punani area (A-11 road) and roadside on 04th February 2025.

2. Blood Donation Programme



Troops of the 241 Infantry Brigade conducted a blood donation programme in collaboration with the Blood Bank of Base Hospital Akkaraipaththu at Athaula Arangam Hall, Municipal Council Akkaraipaththu on 06th February 2025.

3. Renovation of St. Joseph College in Mathagal



Troops of the 10th Battalion of Sri Lanka Artillery, conducted a cleaning and painting initiative at St. Joseph College, Mathagal on 28th February 2025.

4. Sapling Planting Programme



Troops of 10th Battalion, Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment (10 VIR), conducted a sapling planting programme at St. Anthony's Church, Manalkadu on 04th February 2025.

5. Preventing Damage from Wild Elephants



Troops of 12th Battalion, the Gemunu Watch and the Department of Wildlife Conservation (Wildlife Office at Piburaththawa) and Mahaweli Officers translocated 21 wild elephants from Weeralanda Tank to Maduru Oya National Park on 01st February 2025.

6. Cleaning Programme



Troops of the Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) and staff of the Railway Department conducted a cleaning programme at Kurunegala Railway Station on 28th January 2025.

7. Breach of Tank Bund in Bibila Repaired



Troops of the 18th Battalion, the Gemunu Watch (18 GW), together with farmers from Karagahawela Village, prevented the erosion of the Alawaththa Kumbura Tank bund in Bibila on 26th January 2025.

8. Troops Saves Lives from Flood



Troops from the 12th Battalion, the Gemunu Watch rescued villagers stranded in Divulpathana, Hingurakgoda due to adverse weather conditions on 19th January 2025.

9. Cleaning Initiative



Troops of the 7(V) Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and 212 Infantry Brigade conducted a cleaning campaign at Ancient Temple in Awukana on 15th February 2025.

10. Beach Cleaning Programme



The troops of 12 Infantry Division conducted a beach cleaning programme on 09th February 2025 as part of the "Clean Sri Lanka Programme" covering the coastal stretch from Hambantota to Tangalle.

11. Beach Cleaning Programme



The 6th Battalion Sri Lanka National Guard (6 SLNG) conducted a beach cleaning programme along the Mullivaikkal coastal line on 18th February 2025, with the participation of Officers and Other Ranks.

12. Sapling Planting Programme



The troops of 53 Infantry Division conducted a sapling planting programme in conjunction with the 77th National Independence Day, under the theme "Let's Line Up for National Renaissance" on 04th February 2025.





EXCELLENCE

ON PLAYGROUND

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025



Sri Lanka Army athlete Warrant Officer II K A Samitha Dulan made history at the World Para-Athletics Grand Prix 2025 securing a gold medal in the Javelin Throw event. Competing against world's top para-athletes in Dubai, Dulan's exceptional throw of 61.88 meters earned him the top podium finish.

The World Para Athletics Grand Prix is a prestigious global event that brings elite para-athletes together to compete at the highest level. His victory marks another significant milestone in Sri Lanka's growing presence in international para-sports. His gold medal is expected to elevate Sri Lanka's standing in the global para-athletic community while inspiring young athletes to pursue excellence, regardless of the challenges they face.



Sri Lanka Army athlete, Staff Sergeant Palitha Bandara H G achieved a historic milestone by securing the gold medal in the Shot Put (F42) event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 held in Dubai on 11th February 2025 competing against top international athletes.



National Indoor Rowing Championship 2025



The Sri Lanka Army Rowing Team emerged victorious at the National Indoor Rowing Championship 2025, held from 31st January to 01st February 2025 at the Diyawanna Rowing Centre with the participation of Tri-services, clubs, universities, and schools. Demonstrating exceptional skills and endurance, Army rowers secured a total of 19 gold medals, 9 silver medals, and 4 bronze medals, dominating multiple categories.

Achievements:

Men's Open Category – 1st and 2nd Places

Women's Open Category – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Places

500 x 4 Men's Category – 2nd and 3rd Places

500 x 4 Women's Category – 1st Place

500 x 4 Open Category – 1st Place



Sunquick National Beach Volleyball Championship 2025



The Sri Lanka Army showcased outstanding performances at the Sunquick National Beach Volleyball Championship 2025, securing multiple titles, including the Men's Open Championship. The tournament took place at Browns Beach Park in Negombo from 31st January to 02nd February 2025, with the participation of over 160 teams across the island. The Army B Team emerged victorious in the Men's Open Final, defeating the Sri Lanka Air Force team in straight sets, 2 - 0 (21 - 15, 21 - 16).

Achievements

Men's Open Category

Champions - Army B Team

2nd Runner-Up - Army A Team

3rd Runner-Up - Army C Team

Men's Under-25 Category

2nd Runner-Up - Army A Team



Defence Services Golf Tournament



The 13th Defence Services Golf Championship, organised by the Sri Lanka Army Golf Committee, took place from 10th to 11th February 2025 at the Golf Club, Nuwara Eliya, with the participation of over 100 golfers from the Tri-Forces. During the event, the Sri Lanka Army Men's Golf Team secured a remarkable victory, becoming champions in the Men's category for the first time in the history of the Defence Services Games winning the title with a margin of 26 points over the Sri Lanka Air Force Team.

In the Women's category, the Sri Lanka Army Women's Golf Team finished as the runner-up. Corporal Rathnayake R M A S of the Sri Lanka Army Golf Team was named as the 'Best Female Player' of the tournament. Additionally, Lance Corporal Wijegunaratne K W V S won the longest drive in the women's division and Private Dilrukshi K U N of the Army Golf Team secured the 'Nearest-to-the-pin award'. Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, Commander, Security Forces (West) and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Army Golf Committee, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



97th National Boxing Championship



The Sri Lanka Army pugilists captured the spotlight at the 97th National Boxing Championship, hosted by the Boxing Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) at the iconic Galle Face Green. Over 130 male and female boxers from 25 clubs battled for top honours during the four-day event in the 2024 edition of the nationals. During the tournament, Sri Lanka Army Men's boxing team clinched 09 gold medals, 05 silver medals and 03 bronze medals emerging as champions whilst Women's team achieved runners-up title clinching 03 gold medals, 05 silver medals and 03 bronze medals. Showcasing the highest performances, Army boxers secured the 'Sergeant Selladorai Memorial Challenge Cup' for the Champion Team, 'the Mauttaiyah Xavier Rose Memorial Challenge Cup' for the 'Most Successful Team of the Year', the 'Best Boxer Men's Award', the 'Best Loser Men's Award' and the 'Best Boxer Women's Award' further solidifying their position.

Lance Corporal Dharmasena R M P was adjudged the 'Most Outstanding Boxer Men's Award' and Bombadier Jayawardena M M L P was adjudged the 'Best Loser Men's Award' whilst Sergeant Priyadarshani S H was adjudged the 'Most Outstanding Boxer Women's Award' of the tournament. Army Boxing team marked this victory under the guidance of Major General A K Rajapakse RSP, Chairman of the Army Boxing Committee.

Army Football Tournament - 2025



The Inter-regimental Seven Men's Football Tournament 2025, organised by the Army Football Committee was held on 14th February 2025 at Panagoda Football Stadium with the participation of 11 Regiments. The event was held under the guidance of Major General K A U Kodithuwakku RSP USP psc IG, Chairman of the Army Football Committee.

During the finals, the Military Intelligence Corps (MIC) football team emerged as the champions, while the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment (VIR) football team secured the runners-up position.

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

COMIC CORNER

Why did the new recruit get kicked out of camouflage training?

He kept standing out!



What's a military chef's favourite dish?

Grenade stew - it's the bomb!



Sudoku Puzzle QUESTION

How to Play

Fill in the blank squares, using 1 to 9 without repeating any number within the row, column or square.

				3			9	
5		7	4					
2			9					3
6					8		5	
				5	1			
	4						6	
7								
4	8		2	1				
			7		4	2	1	

BELLATOR



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Brigadier
WS Gamage RSP USP ndc
psc SLE



ADVISOR

Lieutenant Colonel
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USP psc IG SLA



TRANSLATOR

Captain
KVN Lakmali SLAGSC

COMPUTER FONTS, COVER DESIGN AND PAGE LAYOUT

S/ 752158 WO11 Senarathna GC - 3 CES
S/ 753797 Cpl Kumarasinghe MGAM - 11 CES

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PUBLICATION

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Sri Lanka Army

Besides a War Hero, who else stands in need of aid ?

Other than War Heroes, who else stands as the ultimate symbol of selflessness, sacrificing their own lives to save others. They lift those who fall and are in glee in the success of others. Even after liberating the nation from a brutal 30-year war, their service did not come to an end. They remain ever vigilant, protecting their people in times of crises. Whether facing devastating floods, landslides, cyclone, or any disaster, they are always at the forefront, ensuring the safety of others before their own. Their unwavering commitment is a testimonial to the greatness of their service, a legacy that shall never be forgotten.



In a remarkable display of courage and coordination, the disaster relief troops located at Nonperial detachment of the Gemunu Watch successfully rescued 35 civilians on 01st March 2025 who were trapped due to the sudden rising of the water level of Hirikatu oya.

As the water levels continued to rise, the troops of the Gemunu Watch, deployed in the area, swiftly initiated a daring rescue operation. With unwavering determination, the troops took part themselves in the rescue operation, safeguarding every life in danger, regardless of the risk to their lives. Their selfless actions served as a powerful reminder that, even in times of crises, they remain as the 'Defenders of the Nation' now and always.



*The heroic
memories.....*

The Whispers of Gallantry Still Echoes...

"During the battle,
the barriers were as close to
the War Heroes
as their weapons.
Countless untold stories
lie within the brown soil,
where
blood was spilled and tears were shed.
Though people walk in
every corner of the same land today,
few realise that
the brave souls
who
sacrificed their lives
now rest beneath the very soil they
tread."

