



DECEMBER 2024 44<sup>th</sup> Issue

# BELLATOR

R A N A V I R U W A



**The New Year dawns with a new beginning  
Under visionary and steadfast leadership  
Leading the spirits of valiant warriors  
Defending the Nation with a guiding vision**



**Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf - ndu psc IG of the Sri Lanka Artillery assumes duties as the 25<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Sri Lanka Army.**





Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG of the Sri Lanka Artillery assumed duties as the 25<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Sri Lanka Army on 31 December 2024 during a formal ceremony held at the Army Headquarters.

Major General K A W N H Bandaranayake USP, Adjutant General of the Sri Lanka Army, warmly welcomed the new Commander and then ushered him to the parade ground, where he reviewed the Guard of Honour. Then, Dr. Kirinde Assaji Nayaka Thero, Chief Incumbent of the Gangaramaya Temple and members of the Maha Sangha commenced religious observances blessings the new Commander of the Army at the Commander's Office.

As the chanting of 'Seth Pirith' resonated, the new Commander of the Army, signed the formal document signifying his acceptance of the office as Commander of the Army amidst the blessings from multi-religious clergy. Mrs. Swendrini Rodrigo, Spouse of the Commander of the Army and family members were present at the gracious occasion.

The ceremony concluded with a customary tea party held at the multifunctional hall at the Army Headquarters. The newly appointed Commander of the Army later addressed the troops, sharing his vision and thoughts for the future.

## Embarking the Leadership of Prestigious Establishment







Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG joined the Regular Force of the Sri Lanka Army as an Officer Cadet on 20 January 1989 under Regular Intake - 31 (IMA). He underwent basic military training at the prestigious Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa, and subsequently at the Indian Military Academy. Upon successfully completing his Officer Cadet training, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and posted to the Sri Lanka Artillery.

Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG broadened his expertise through extensive training and professional development, completing numerous local and foreign courses, including a Master of Arts in Strategic Security Studies from the National Defence University (NDU), Washington DC, USA (2019-2020) and a Master of Science in Security and Strategic Studies from the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU). Additionally, he earned a Diploma in United States Joint Professional Military Education Phase II and Senior Level Education from NDU, Washington DC, USA. He is also a graduate of Long Gunnery Staff Course, School of Artillery in India, Army Command and Staff College Sri Lanka (presently Defence Services Command and Staff College) and Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, India.

The special achievements of his career include serving as the President of the International Students' Committee during the International Counterterrorism Fellowship Programme at the National Defence University in Washington, DC (NDU), being selected for the Award of the Best Foreign Student during the same programme in 2020.

Over a distinguished military career spanning 36 years, he has held several significant command, staff, and instructional appointments. These include Officer Instructor at the Army



Training School, Madhuru Oya, General Staff Officer II (Intelligence/ Security) at the Directorate of Operations, General Staff Officer II (Operations) at the Headquarters of the 53 Infantry Division, General Staff Officer I (Operations) at the Headquarters of the 22 Infantry Division and Commanding Officer of the 18<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment Sri Lanka Artillery (RFT) during the Humanitarian Operations at Thoppigala and Mannar, where resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) occurred after the conflict.

He also served as the Head of the Training Team at the Officers' Study Centre (OSC) - Sri Lanka Military Academy, Chief Instructor of the OSC, Directing Staff at the Defence Services Command and Staff College, and Head of the Training Team (HOTT) at the same institution. In addition, he commanded the 663 and 661 Infantry Brigades in Pooneryn, contributing to nation-building, and reconciliation efforts in 2018 and 2019. He held roles such as Director of Overseas Operations at Army Headquarters, General Officer Commanding of the 66 Infantry Division in Pooneryn and played a pivotal role in reconciliation, reconstruction and maintaining law and order.

Subsequently, he served as the Commandant of the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Commander of Security Forces (Central), Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Artillery, Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army. The well experienced Senior Officer is also decorated with the Rana Suria Padakkama (RSP) for his brave conduct in Humanitarian Operations in the North and East areas. He is the fourth Commander of the Army produced by the Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment.





The 99<sup>th</sup> Passing Out Parade (POP) of the Sri Lanka Military Academy was held under the gracious participation of Major General K P A Jayasekara (Retd) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc, Deputy Minister of Defence, as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army. During the solemn yet dignified ceremony, the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) in Diyatalawa honoured Mother Lanka commissioning 222 Officer Cadets on 21 December 2024.

The Chief Guest, Major General K P A Jayasekara (Retd) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc, Deputy Minister of Defence together with 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 H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army presented the symbolic Presidential Commissioning Swords to the newly Commissioned Officers.

## 99<sup>th</sup> Passing Out Parade at SLMA





The newly Commissioned Officers included Officer Cadets from Intakes 93 B, SC 21, and SC 22, along with ten foreign Officer Cadets from Uganda, Kenya, Gambia, and Zambia. Major U B Marasinghe USP psc of the Sri Lanka Artillery served as the Parade Commander.

Then the Chief Guest conferred the Special awards to the best achievers from each Intake at the invitation of Major General U L J S Perera RSP USP psc, Commandant, SLMA.

Accordingly, the Battalion Under Officer D R K Jayakodi earned the First-in-Order of Merit in Regular Officer Cadet Intake 93 B and Officer Cadet G A P Herath earned the First-in-Order of Merit in Regular Officer Cadet Intake SC 21. Platoon Under Officer K M S Herath earned the First-in-Order of Merit in Regular Officer Cadet Intake SC 22.





## Deputy Minister of Defence Visits Army Headquarters

Major General K P A Jayasekara (Retd) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc, Deputy Minister of Defence paid a formal visit to Army Headquarters on 16 December 2024 at the invitation of Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army. Troops of the Gemunu Watch warmly welcomed the Deputy Minister of Defence according a Guard of Honour in accordance with military traditions.

During the official meeting at the Commander's Office, the Deputy Minister of Defence and the Commander of the Army discussed matters of mutual interest and significance. Following this, Major General W

P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army briefed present status and future priorities of the Sri Lanka Army. During this interaction, the Deputy Minister of Defence explained the importance of modernising the Army to face modern threats. He particularly highlighted the need to maintain military decorum while optimising resources. In his maiden address to the troops at the Army Headquarters, the Deputy Minister of Defence commended the unwavering commitment of the Army to safeguard the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Further, he highlighted the Army's critical role in maintaining peace and stability while encouraging All Ranks to uphold operational efficiency and discipline in facing challenges.







## Graduation Ceremony of DSCSC Course No -18 Held



The graduation ceremony of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) Course No -18 was held on 12 December 2024 at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre. Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army also attended the event, graced by Major General K P A Jayasekara (Retd) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc, Deputy Minister of Defence as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Major General D K S K Dolage USP psc, Commandant, DSCSC.

The DSCSC Course No -18 was comprised of 150 undergraduates including 25 foreign Officers, 78 Army, 21 Navy and 26 Air Force Officers. During the event, the graduates received the 'passed staff college' (psc) in the occasion in front of the host of reputed scholars and invitees.

Heads of diplomatic missions and other members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Board of Management of the DSCSC, former members of the academia, Senior Officers of the Tri-services, spouses, parents and next of kin of the graduates were also present during the ceremony.







## Mother Regiment Felicitates the Outgoing Chief of Defence Staff



The Gajaba Regiment (GR) paid an exceptional and ceremonious tribute to one of its most illustrious members, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), on 29 December 2024. The occasion marked the culmination of his remarkable tenure, signifying a milestone of his illustrious professionalism defined by unwavering dedication and exemplary service to the Sri Lanka Army and the nation.



The formalities commenced with a solemn floral tribute at the Regimental Monument by the outgoing CDS. The troops of Gajaba Regiment then extended a colourful Guard Turnout to their outgoing CDS reflecting the profound respect for their remarkable leader.



Afterwards, the outgoing CDS participated in a floral tribute to the statue of the late Major General Wijaya Wimalaratne RWP RSP VSV USP psc, symbolically paying homage to the Father of the Regiment. Subsequently, the grand ceremonial parade was held showcasing the deep respect and pride for the enduring legacy of the outgoing CDS. Concluding the events, the traditional Mess Night was held at the GR Officers' Mess with the participation of Officers and distinguished guests extending a tribute to the inspirational Army leader. The staff of Bellator magazine extends its gratitude towards the outgoing Senior Officer for his excellent service, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Army and the Nation. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of the Army for years to come.





## Sri Lanka Army Honours Outgoing Chief of Defence Staff in Farewell Ceremony

The Sri Lanka Army bade an illustrious farewell to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil, the outgoing Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on 31 December 2024 at the Sri Lanka Army Headquarters. Upon his arrival, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil was warmly welcomed by Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG, the Commander of the Army with a ceremonial Guard of Honour.

Following the formalities, the Senior Officer posed for photographs and addressed the troops, extending his gratitude while commending the dedication of the troops imparting his earnest wishes for their continued success. In a gesture emblematic of mutual respect and camaraderie, the Commander of the Army presented a symbolic token of appreciation to the departing CDS, which was reciprocated.

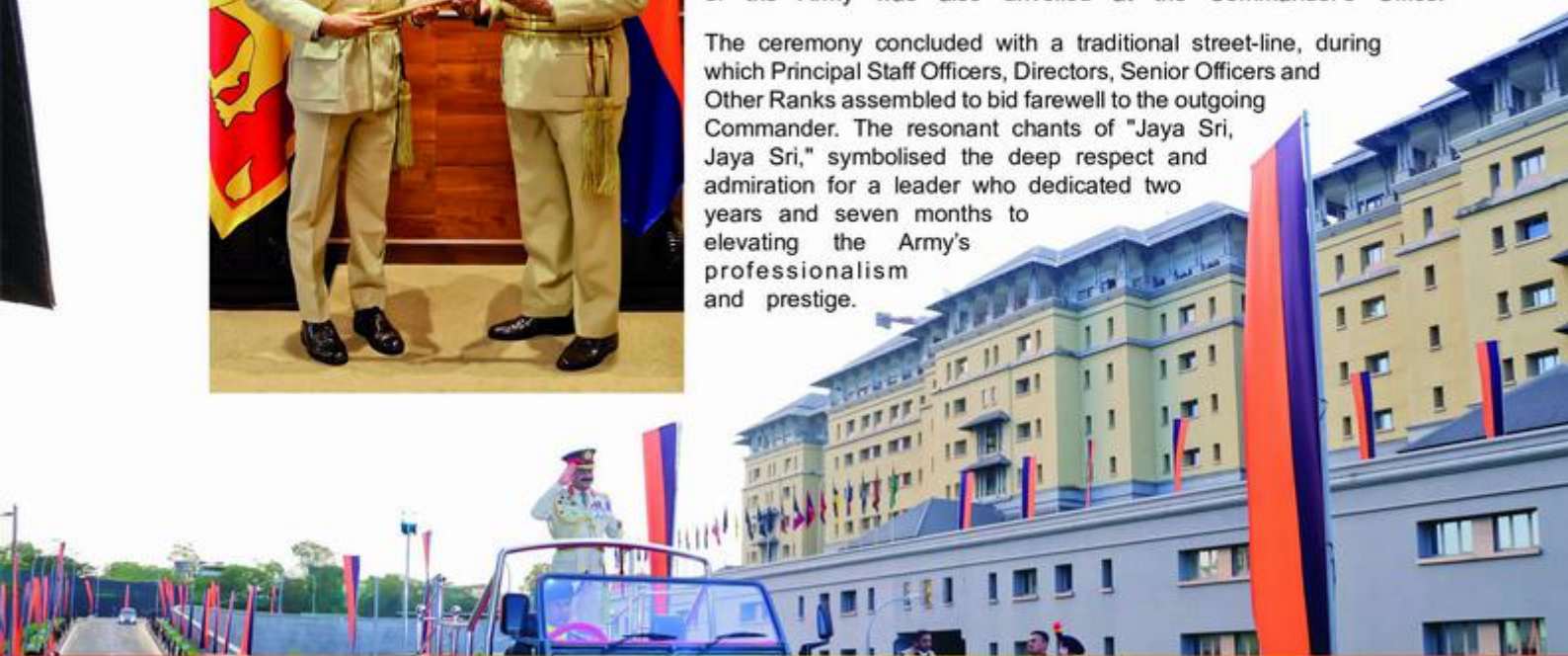
## A Salute to Service Held for the Outgoing Commander of the Army

The formal farewell of the 24<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army, General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu was held at the Regimental Headquarters of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI), Panagoda, on 30 December 2024. The troops of Sri Lanka Light Infantry extended a Guard Turnout following military formalities.

During an All-Ranks tea session, the outgoing Commander of the Army engaged with Officers and Other Ranks, sharing his thoughts. He later addressed Principal Staff Officers and Field Commanders at the Army Headquarters, expressing gratitude for their unwavering support throughout his command.

The ceremonial handing over of duties took place in the Commander's Office, where the new Commander of the Army, Major General Lasantha Rodrigo RSP ctf-ndu psc IG of the Sri Lanka Artillery, assumed his responsibilities. This was followed by a group photograph with Principal Staff Officers. A photograph of the outgoing Commander of the Army was also unveiled at the Commander's Office.

The ceremony concluded with a traditional street-line, during which Principal Staff Officers, Directors, Senior Officers and Other Ranks assembled to bid farewell to the outgoing Commander. The resonant chants of "Jaya Sri, Jaya Sri," symbolised the deep respect and admiration for a leader who dedicated two years and seven months to elevating the Army's professionalism and prestige.







## Gajaba Regiment Bids Farewell to the Outgoing Commander of the Army



The Gajaba Regiment (GR) ceremonially bids farewell to an epic member of the Keterian family, Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army on 29 December 2024. The event marked a significant moment of respect and gratitude for his exemplary service.

The formalities for the outgoing Commander of the Army commenced with a solemn floral tribute at the Regimental Monument, followed by a Guard Turnout presented by the GR troops. Then a floral tribute to the statue of the Late Major General Wijaya Wimalaratne RWP RSP VSV USP psc was conducted as a gesture of paying homage to the Father of the Regiment. This was followed by a ceremonial parade, showcasing the Regiment's pride and discipline. During the All-Ranks Tea Session, the outgoing Commander of the Army interacted with Officers and Other Ranks of the Regiment, sharing thoughts and reflections on their journey. Adding to the farewell formalities, a traditional Mess Night was held at the Officers' Mess of the GR on the previous evening for the Commander of the Army

## SLNG Bids Farewell to Outgoing Colonel of the Regiment

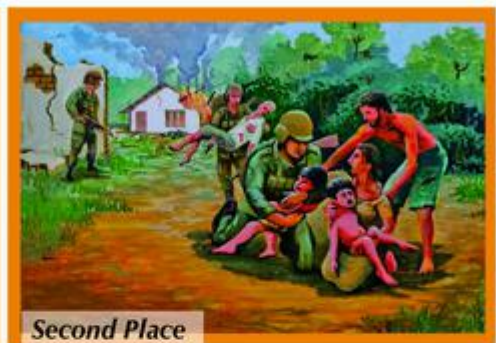
An event to pay heartfelt tribute to the outgoing Commander of the Army and Colonel of the Regiment, Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG), Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu was held on 28 December 2024.

Upon his arrival at the SLNG Regimental Centre, the Commander of the Army was warmly welcomed by Brigadier H A Keerthinatha RSP KSP psc, the Centre Commandant of SLNG. Thereafter, he was accorded a Guard Turnout by the SLNG troops, followed by a Guard of Honour. Then, the Outgoing Colonel of the Regiment took part in an All-Ranks Tea Session interacting with Officers and soldiers.



In his farewell address, the Outgoing Colonel of the Regiment expressed his gratitude to all SLNG members for their unwavering support and dedication throughout his tenure. He highlighted the collective achievements of the regiment and encouraged the troops to uphold their commitment to excellence.





## Commander of the Army Awards Cash Incentives to the Winners of Sri Lanka Army Art Competition - 2024

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army, presented certificates and cash incentives to the winners of the Sri Lanka Army Art Competition - 2024 on 27 December 2024 at the Army Commander's Office in Army Headquarters. This event was organised by the Directorate of Media and Psychological Operations as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lanka Army, with the aim of highlighting the exceptional artistic talents of Army personnel uplifting their creativity. Lieutenant S M J A B Samarakoon Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps won First place and Warrant Officer II Ruwan Kumara R M S Sri Lanka Medical Corps won Second place. Warrant Officer II Abeygunarathne A D Sri Lanka Medical Corps won third place. Additionally, 10 talented artists received the Award of Distinction, while another 10 received the Award of Merit, recognising their exceptional artistic abilities.





# Army Drill & Pace Stick Competition Prize Awarding Ceremony



The prize awarding ceremony of the Army Inter-Regiment Drill and Pace Stick Competition - 2024 was held on 18 December 2024 at the Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) Parade Square in Panagoda. Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The competition was organised under the guidance of the Adjutant General and the Director, Directorate of Personnel Administration and held from 26 August to 02 September 2024 at the 6 Sri Lanka Artillery Parade Square. The trophies and prizes were awarded to the winners by the Chief Guest of the event. Marking the history, the Commander of the Army also awarded special Commemorative Medals for outstanding individual performances for the first time in the history appreciating individual talents. After the presentation of awards, the Commander of the Army extended his congratulations to all winners and participants before posing for group photographs.







Students of Devi Balika Girls College, Ananda College, Royal College, Colombo, Dharmashoka College, Maliyadewa Girls College, Mahamaya Girls College, Yashodara Devi Girls College, Vijaya College, Vidura College, Tissa Central College, Tamil Central College, Vavuniya, St. Thomas College, Matale, Sirimavo Bandaranayake College, Colombo, Nalanda College, Colombo, Mahanama College, Colombo, Karadeniya Central College, Ikra Muslim College, Punani, Homagama Central College, Hindu College, Jaffna, Defence College, and Anula Girls College and the Hermann Loose and De Soyza Trophy winners, Cadet Platoons, school bands, and prefects witnessed the event. The participants experienced the discipline, accuracy of the Sri Lanka Army. The event also aimed to instill a deeper understanding of the values upheld by the Army and the importance of teamwork, focus, and dedication, as demonstrated through the drill competition.

Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) won the first place and the Gemunu Watch (GW) secured the second place in Best Drill Team - Men's category. Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps (SLAWC) secured the first place while Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police (SLCMP) earned the Second place in Best Drill Team - Women's category. Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) won the First place in Best Band event pushing Sri Lanka Engineers (SLE) to the Second place. However, in the event of Best Pace Stick Team, Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) scored the first place pushing the Gemunu Watch (GW) to the second place.

In the event of Best Drill Instructor Warrant Officer II, I G S B J Ithalagedara, Sri Lanka Engineers won the First place and Captain S Arjuna, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps won the First place in Best Commander - Men's category. Captain M Tennakoon, Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps achieved the First place in Best Commander - Women's category. Sergeant Wijerathne A G T U, of the Gajaba Regiment won the First place at Best Band Master category.

Major General W P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks participated in the spectacular event.



## Graduation Ceremony of Logistics Staff Course No. 10

The Graduation Ceremony of the Logistics Staff Course (LSC) No. 10 was held at the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) auditorium on 05 December 2024. Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Brigadier R T Lokuthotahewa USP psc, Commandant of the Army School of Logistics (ASL).

The LSC, highly recognised leading professional course in Administration and Logistics, is conducted under the direct supervision of the Sri Lanka Army. This intensive, year-long residential programme concludes with the conferment of the post-nominal title 'Lsc' upon successful completion. Furthermore, in partnership with KDU, the ASL offers participants the opportunity to earn a Master of Business Administration in Logistics Management (MBA in LM).



LSC No. 10 commenced on 03 January 2024 with the participation of 27 Officers including 24 Officers from Sri Lanka Army, two Officers from Sri Lanka Air Force and one Officer from Zambian Army. The Chief Guest presented Parchments to the graduates in the order of precedence and special awards were conferred upon Officers who demonstrated exceptional academic performance. Major V S K Samarawickrama of the Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps was recognised as both the Best Student Officer and the Best Logistics Planner of LSC No. 10. During the ceremony, the "Golden Log 2024", the ASL's annual journal was officially presented to the Chief Guest and other distinguished attendees.

The Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Vice Chancellor of KDU, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the ASL Board of Management, members of the academic community, Senior Officers from the Tri-services, and the families of the graduates participated in the event.





## The Commander of the Army Inspires DSCSC Undergraduates on Future of the Sri Lanka Army

Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army inspired the undergraduates of Course No. 18 at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Sapugaskanda delivering 'Commander's Lecture' on the theme "Reforms of the Sri Lanka Army in 2030". The lecture prospected critical aspects of modernisation, capacity enhancement, technological integration and strategic adaptability outlining a progressive development of the Sri Lanka Army.

Delivering the welcoming speech, Major General D K S K Dolage USP psc, Commandant of DSCSC introduced the Commander of the Army to the audience. 150 undergraduates, including 78 Officers from Army, 21 Officers from Navy, 26 Officers from Air Force, and 25 foreign Officers from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the USA, and Zambia took part in the session. At the end of the lecture, DSCSC undergraduates had a rare privilege to interact with the guest speaker during a question-and-answer session.



## Inter-Regiment Sports Championship - 2024

The 'Inter-Regiment Sports Championship 2024' was held at the Grand Maitland on 03 December 2024. Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army graced the occasion as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Brigadier L K T Fernando RSP USP, Director of the Directorate of Sports.

Major General W P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu, Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) and the Chairman of the Army Sports Committee delivered the welcoming speech extending a warm reception to the guests. Subsequently, Major General B K G M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Artillery and Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, Commander, Security Forces (West) and Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Sri Lanka Engineers presented trophies to the winners. Additionally, cash incentives for sportsmen and sportswomen who brought international achievements during the year were also awarded.



## Army Christmas Carols 2024 at St. Lucia's Cathedral



Marking the dawn of Christmas and New Year, the annual Christmas Carols Service was held on 17 December 2024 at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena.

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 spectacle event as the Chief Guest at the invitation of Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army together with the Army Christian Fellowship. His Eminence Rt. Rev. Dr. Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo also dignified the event with his honourable presence.

Mrs. Janaki Liyanage, President of Army Seva Vanitha Unit and spouses of Senior Officers were among other invitees to the

occasion. The event conducted in all three major languages - Sinhala, Tamil and English sharing the joy singing the odes to the Prince of the Peace, Jesus Christ and heralding his birth while praying for world peace and prosperity.

Commander of the Navy, Former Commanders of the Army, Past Chairmen of the Army Christian Fellowship, Principal Staff Officers, Senior Officers, Officers, Retired Officers, War Heroes from Ranaviru Sevana and Abimansala along with their family members participated in the event.





The Alumni Interaction event was held at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) from 06 to 09 December 2024 in Dehradun, India, fostering ties between IMA alumni from courses 86 and 87.

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, Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc, Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force and Colonel of the Regiment of the Gajaba Regiment, Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, Commander, Security Forces (West) and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Engineers, Major General W H K S Peiris (Retd) RWP RSP VSV USP ndu, Major General L C R Jayasuriya (Retd) RWP ndc psc, Major General S R B Aluvihare (Retd) RWP RSP ndu psc and Brigadier R M J B Rathnayake RSP, Director, Directorate of Maintenance Management, Army Hospital participated in the event at the invitation of the Indian Army.

The event commenced with a warm reception extended by Lieutenant General Sandeep Jain, Commandant of the Indian Military Academy. Following the initial session, the visiting delegation attended an orientation briefing on the training programmes conducted at the IMA. Afterwards, the delegation participated in a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial Statue inaugurated by Indian Army Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw MC.

The delegation then interacted with foreign Officer Cadets including Sri Lankan Officer Cadets currently undergoing training. Also, the Head of the delegation and several Senior Officers addressed the gathering of over 800 Officer Cadets including



## Special Delegation for Indian Military Academy (IMA) Alumni from Sri Lanka



Directing Staffs and Instructors, sharing insights on military leadership, professional development and career experiences at Khetrapal auditorium. The visit highlighted the military cooperation, friendship and diplomatic relationship between two Armies and the two nations while strengthening professional ties among IMA alumni. Further, this was the first ever largest delegation comprised of six Major Generals and a Brigadier of Sri Lanka Army to India.



## New SLAVF Commandant Assumes Duties

Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc assumed duties as the 58<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) on 05 December 2024 at the Volunteer Force Headquarters amidst formal military traditions.

Troops of the SLAVF extended a Guard Turnout to the new Commandant of the SLAVF at the entrance. Then, the Commandant paid tribute to Fallen War Heroes at the memorial of the late Captain Saliya Aladeniya PWV before inspecting the Guard of Honour. After addressing the troops, the Commandant, SLAVF took part in the All Ranks tea. Senior Officers, Officers, and Other Ranks attended the occasion.



## SLAVF Conducts a Dry Ration Packs Distribution Programme



The Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) conducted the third phase of dry ration packs distribution programme at the multi-functional hall of the SLAVF on 17 December 2024, under the supervision of the Deputy Commandant (Acting) and Inspector of Training, SLAVF. Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc, Commandant, SLAVF graced the event as the Chief Guest. During the programme, dry ration packs including essential food items, each worth over Rs. 5000.00 were distributed among 100 Other Ranks and civil staff of the SLAVF. Senior Officers, Officers, Other Ranks and Civil staff participated in the event.





## Deputy Head of Mission Switzerland Visits Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna)

Mr. Olivier Praz, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and Maldives paid a courtesy visit to the Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) on 16 December 2024 with the objective of receiving an update on the Army's ongoing community projects.

Major General M T I Mahalekam WWV RWP RSP USP ndu psc, Commander of 1 Corps and Acting Commander of Security Forces (Jaffna) warmly welcomed the delegation and delivered a briefing on the tasks performed by the Army, with a special focus on community relations projects, security, and other general matters of concern.

## Commander, Security Forces (Wanni) Visits Under Command Battalions

Major General J P C Peiris RWP RSP ndc, Commander, Security Forces (Wanni) visited the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Gajaba Regiment and 5 (V) Gajaba Regiment under command to 21 Infantry Division on 30 November 2024. The visit aimed to inspect the operational P++enhance the morale of the troops and strengthen the co-existence among each unit.

The Commanding Officers of the respective Battalions briefed their responsibilities, roles, tasks and current commitments of the respective Battalions. Major General W M S C K Wanasinghe RSP USP, General Officer Commanding, 21 Infantry Division, Brigadier T D P Siriwardane psc, Commander, 211 Infantry Brigade, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers took part in the visit.







## Security Force Headquarters (East) Supports the National Winner in Weightlifting

Miss. Inosha Navodya, a talented student of Sevanapitiya Maha Vidyalaya was selected as the national champion in 49 kg weightlifting category under-17, securing her opportunity to compete in 2024 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championship in Doha, Qatar, from 19 to 25 December 2024. Recognising her potential and financial challenges in acquiring the necessary equipment to prepare for the event, the Principal of Sevanapitiya Maha Vidyalaya made a request for the assistance from the Commander, Security Forces (East). Accordingly, Major General K V N P Premarathna RSP USP psc, Commander, Security Forces (East) generously donated eighty thousand rupees to support her preparation and related expenses. The donation ceremony took place at the Security Force Headquarters (East) on 13 December 2024.

## Colonel Commandant, SLAWC Visits Kaluaggala Detachment

Major General K V N P Premaratne RSP USP psc, Commander, Security Forces (East) and Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps (SLAWC) made an official visit to Kaluaggala Detachment on 17 December 2024.

Major S E Kapugamage, Officer in Charge of the Kaluaggala Detachment warmly welcomed their Colonel Commandant and briefed on the administrative functions of the detachment.

Additionally, he addressed the troops of the Special Operations Support Group (SOSG) and those deployed at Panagoda Cantonment. During his troop address he outlined his vision and provided necessary instructions related to training, discipline, and security concerns while emphasising the importance of uplifting the detachment and maintaining high standards in all aspects.







## A New House Vested From Sri Lanka Army

Troops of 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gajaba Regiment constructed a new house and conducted a house warming for a deserving family in Labunoruwa, Maradankadawala on 10 December 2024. Major General Lanka Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, Commander Security Forces (West) handed over the house key gracing the simple housewarming ceremony, marking the official handover of the newly constructed house to Mr. KD Abeywickrama and his family. Generous contributions from local donors provided the financial and material support necessary for the house's construction.



## The Commander Security Forces (West), Visits 1<sup>st</sup> Sri Lanka Army Service Corps

Major General A H L G Amarapala RWP RSP ndc psc, the Commander Security Forces (West), conducted official visit to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sri Lanka Army Service Corps (1SLASC) on 11th December 2024. Upon the arrival at the 1 SLASC, the Commander Security Forces (West) was warmly welcomed by Major K N M N Medhagedara USP Lsc, the Commanding Officer, 1 SLASC. After appearing for the group photograph the Commanding Officer, 1 SLASC conducted a detailed briefing on the mission, current operations, and ongoing projects of 1 SLASC.

During his visit, the Commander Security Forces (West) visited the Battalion Office Premises, Bulk Ration Stores, Vehicle Service Station and engaged with the staff members while assessing their operational readiness and capabilities.







## Renovated Ambalama at Sacred Sripadasthana Inaugurated

The troops of the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Sri Lanka National Guard (19 SLNG) in collaboration with the Engineer Services Regiment completed the renovation of the Ambalama located in Seethagangula area of the Sacred Sripadasthana Mountain Temple. The project was conducted under the guidance of Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Commander, Security Forces (Central) and the supervision of Second-in-Command of the 19 SLNG. The Ambalama will serve as a temporary rest facility for thousands of pilgrims during the Sripada pilgrimage season. Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Commander, Security Forces (Central) officially inaugurated the facility. The General Officer Commanding of 11 Infantry Division, the Commander of 642 Infantry Brigade, Senior Officers and Officers participated in the event.



## New Colonel Commandant of SLACAL Assumes Office

Major General U K D D P Udugama RWP RSP USP ndc psc, General Officer Commanding of 22 Infantry Division assumed duties as the new Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture & Livestock (SLACAL) on 10 December 2024 during a brief ceremony held at the Regimental Headquarters, Karandeniya. The newly appointed Colonel Commandant was warmly welcomed by the Deputy Centre Commandant according him a Guard Turnout. After a short while, the newly appointed Colonel Commandant accompanied by the Centre Commandant received the Guard of Honour, accorded by SLACAL troops at the Regimental Headquarters. Then Major General U K D D P Udugama RWP RSP USP ndc psc addressed the troops as a formality. The event concluded with an All-Ranks tea. Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the ceremony.





## 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Celebrates its 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel D D Masinghe RWP USP psc, the Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Regiment a commemorative ceremony was organised on 10th December 2024. Following the anniversary's religious observances, a memorial service was held at the War Heroes Memorial to lay floral tributes in remembrance of the fallen war heroes. Major General J P C Peiris RWP RSP ndc, the Colonel of the Regiment Special Forces and Commander of Security Force Headquarters (Wanni), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The occasion was attended by Senior Officers of the Special Forces Regiment Veterans Association, including Major General R M M Ranasinghe WWV RWP RSP (Retd), Brigadier W S K Liyanawaduge RSP (retd), Senior and Junior Officers, and retired Warrant Officers.

## Vehicle Service Station at 61 Infantry Division Inaugurated



Warming the newly upgraded Vehicle Service Station at the Headquarters of 61 Infantry Division was officially held on 16 December 2024 under the patronage of Major General K T P De Silva RSP ndu psc, General Officer Commanding, 61 Infantry Division.

## An Entertaining Event for Differently-abled War Heroes



Gender Equity & Equality Club of University of Kelaniya conducted an entertaining programme to enhance the mental health of differently-abled War Heroes at Ranaviru Sewana Rehabilitation Centre, administrated by Directorate of Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation as a social welfare programme on 04 December 2024. Commandant, Ranaviru Sewana Rehabilitation Centre, Officers and Other Ranks, members of Gender Equity & Equality Club participated in the programme.



## Emergency Fire Rehearsal at Kerawalapitiya Oil Terminal

An emergency fire response rehearsal was conducted at the Kerawalapitiya Petroleum Storage Terminals on 13 December 2024 under the guidance of Brigadier R R De S Dharmawickrema RSP, Commander of 141 Infantry Brigade.

The troops of 141 Infantry Brigade and officials from the Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL) collaboratively conducted the exercise. The exercise was executed with the objective of enhancing inter-agency coordination and preparedness for effective fire emergency responses at the oil terminal, ensuring more efficient collective response capability.

The troops representing 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sri Lanka Light Infantry Regiment, C Squadron – 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and fire response teams from the Disaster Management Center, Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery, Port Authority, Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Navy, Gampaha and Colombo Fire Brigades, and the CPSTL Fire Section took part in the exercise.



Another, comprehensive emergency fire rehearsal conducted by the Fire and Safety Bureau of Ceylon Petroleum Storage Terminals Limited (CPSTL) was held at Petroleum Storage Terminals in Magalle on 21 November 2024. The exercise was aimed at enhancing preparedness and response capabilities in the event of a fire or other emergency situation involving bulk oil storage facilities. An Officer and 05 Other Ranks from 2 (V) Gemunu Watch actively participated in the programme. Members of the Sri Lanka Navy and representatives from civilian organisations also took part emphasising the collaborative approach needed for effective emergency response.

The exercise simulated various fire related emergency scenarios to test and improve coordination, communication and tactical responses among all participants.



## An Inspiring Lecture on "A Proud Soldier" at 141 Infantry Brigade



A psychology lecture titled "A Proud Soldier" was successfully held at the 141 Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Veyangoda on 04 December 2024 under the guidance of the Commander of 141 Infantry Brigade. The session was aimed to inspire and motivate soldiers while enhancing their understanding of personal development, social values, and professional responsibilities as members of the Sri Lanka Army. 12 Officers and 142 Other Ranks participated in the programme. Major M H M S Bandara Lsc from the Directorate of Media and Psychological Operations conducted the lecture.



## OBM Training at 24 Infantry Division



24 Infantry Division together with the Sri Lanka Navy conducted a one-day specialised Outboard Motor (OBM) training on 12 November 2024 at Oluvil Harbour. The workshop primarily focused on enhancing the skills of Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams in 24 Infantry Division area, preparing them for the monsoon period. It included both theoretical and practical exercises on OBM mechanics, troubleshooting, and handling techniques across various water conditions. Eight Officers and thirty two Other Ranks participated in the workshop.

## Professional Development Workshop from Directorate of Engineer Services



A professional development workshop was conducted on 04 December 2024 at the Headquarters of the Corps of Engineer Services under the guidance of Brigadier Y K S Rangika psc ptsc, Director of Directorate of Engineer Services (DES) in collaboration with the College of Military Engineering Technology Sri Lanka (CMETSL). The workshop focused on the challenges and lessons learned from planning, designing, and constructing the Commandos' Confidence Jump Arena Project at Uva-Kuda Oya. The workshop highlighted a shared commitment to enhancing Tri-forces engineering skills through discussions on key technical aspects. Over 140 Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel participated in the workshop. Experts from the Corps of Engineer Services conducted the interactive sessions.

## Advance Airmobile Battalion Training Course No. 03



The Battalion Presentation and closing address of Advance Airmobile Battalion Training Course No. 03 of the 5 Gemunu Watch was held on 09 and 10 December 2024 at the Airmobile Training School in Nikawawa. Brigadier G A K R Gunaratne psc, Commander of 533 Infantry Brigade attended the event as the Chief Guest and awarded the certificates for their exceptional performances. Infantryman Lakmal G T of Sri Lanka Light Infantry awarded the Best Shooter and Corporal Sumanasiri P G RSP was awarded the Best Fittest Student. C Company was awarded as the Best Company.





## Basic Marksmanship Course No. 217 at MSTS

The Closing Ceremony of Basic Marksmanship Course No. 217 was held at the Marksmanship and Sniper Training School (MSTS), Diyatalawa, on 07 December 2024. The course initiated on 11 November 2024 included 16 Officers and 85 Other Ranks representing various Regiments of the Sri Lanka Army. Brigadier R P Manipura RWP RSP who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest conducted the closing address and appreciated the successful completion of the course. Lieutenant A M I Adikarinarayaka, Sri Lanka Light Infantry earned 1<sup>st</sup> in line Order of the Merit and Lance Corporal Rathnayaka R M I K of Commando Regiment and Corporal Jayawardene N G D J P of the Special Forces was awarded the second and third place of the course.

## NCOs' Leadership & Career Development Course No. 58



The certificate awarding ceremony of Non-Commissioned Officers' 'Leadership and Career Development' Course No. 58 was held at the Combat Training School (CTS) in Ampara on 09 December 2024. Lance Corporal Weerasundara W M S L of 11 Sri Lanka National Guard was recognised as the Best Student of the course out of eighty six Non-Commissioned Officers from various Regiments. Brigadier L H M Rajapaksha RWP RSP USP, Commandant of CTS, graced the certificate awarding ceremony as the Chief Guest.



## Basic Swimming and Lifesaving Course No. 22



The Basic Swimming Course No. 22 was held at Security Force Headquarters (Wanni) swimming pool in Anuradhapura from 05 November 2024 to 13 December 2024. Major General W M S C K Wanasinghe RSP USP, General Officer Commanding of 21 Infantry Division graced the event as the Chief Guest. A team of 30 members including one Officer and 30 Other Ranks with the assistance of Sri Lanka Life Saving (SLLS) obtained certificates of International Life Saving (ILS), Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Water Safety Certificates. Signalmen Lakshan J A M of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sri Lanka Signal Corps was awarded as the Best Student of the course for his outstanding performance.





## Dignity through Training

The 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) successfully completed its battalion training course at the Battalion Training School, Mulankawil from 14 October to 02 December 2024 with the participation of 07 Officers and 295 Other Ranks. Major General M P N A Muthumala USP psc, General Officer Commanding of 51 Infantry Division graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest and delivered the closing remarks, commending the participants for their dedication. Senior Officers, Officers, and Other Ranks participated in the event.

8<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Vijayabhu Infantry Regiment successfully completed the battalion training course at Infantry Battalion Training School at Alankulama on 06 December 2024. Major General R P A R P Rajapaksha RSP, General Officer Commanding of 54 Infantry Division graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered closing remarks. The battalion training course was held with the participation of 13 Officers and 413 Other Ranks. WO II Hettiarachchi H A N D RSP was awarded as the Best Shooter and Sergeant Bandara T M N awarded as the All Round Best Student while Corporal Fernando A R awarded as the Best Section Commander. Sergeant Nishantha V G A awarded as the Best Physical Fitness. Also, B Company awarded as the Best Company of the course.



14<sup>th</sup> (V) Battalion of the Gemunu Watch completed the battalion training course at Infantry Battalion Training School at Galkulama on 05 December 2024. Major General D R N Heattiarachchi RWP RSP USP, General Officer Commanding of 59 Infantry Division graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered closing remarks. 11 Officers and 378 Other Ranks participated in the course.





## Troops of 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Gajaba Regiment Complete Battalion Training



Troops of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Gajaba Regiment completed their Battalion Training Course at 1 Corps Battalion Training School in Katukeliyawa from 14 October 2024 to 04 December 2024. 12 Officers and 330 Other Ranks participated in the Battalion training course. Major General K H M S Wickckramaratne RSP, General Officer Commanding of 53 Infantry Division graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered the closing remarks after awarding trophies and certificates for the best achievers of the course.

## Psychological Lecture on Military Literature at Security Forces (West)



Another successful phase of the psychological lecture series conducted under the directions of the Directorate of Media and Psychological Operations was successfully held at Security Force Headquarters (West), on 18 December 2024 at the 4th Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment lecture hall. Brigadier G S K Perera RSP ndc, Brigadier General Staff, Security Force Headquarters (West), 09 Officers and 151 Other Ranks participated in the lecture.

Lieutenant Colonel E A A S Chaminda from the Directorate of Media and Psychological Operations delivered the lecture on "Motivating Soldiers Through Military Literature" highlighting the memories of the battlefield, their endurance, and 30 years dedicative service of the War Heroes. Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the lecture.



## A New Home for a Deserving Family at Kandahigama

Brigadier K P L Amunupure RWP RSP USP, Commander, 242 Infantry Brigade vested a new house constructed for a deserving family of Mr. Handunneththige Pathmasiri Perera, resided at PP/13, Kandahindagama Hulanuge Grama Niladhari Division of East on 26 November 2024. Mr. N Nawanidara, Divisional Secretary of Lahugala also participated in the house warming ceremony. In line with the same event essential dry rations were also distributed among 25 expecting mothers in the area. The troops of 14 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment constructed the house with the financial generosity of the National Housing Development Authority.



## 56 Infantry Division Supports Farming Communities



The 56 Infantry Division in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Hadabima Authority, distributed poultry chicks, vegetable plants and farming tools among 150 low income families in Nedunkerni and Palinagar on 19 November 2024.

Brigadier M P M N Muthumala USP psc, General Officer Commanding of 56 Infantry Division, Brigadier B D Fernando USP Hdmc psc, Commander of the 561 Infantry Brigade, Officers, Other Ranks participated in the event.

## Humanitarian Aid from 56 and 59 Infantry Division

A dry ration distribution programme was launched to assist the families displaced due to adverse weather conditions in Mannakandal Grama Niladhari Office on 29 November 2024. Manusath Derana and Dialog Axiata extended the much required financial generosity for the charity programme implemented under the direction of Major General D R N Hettiarachchi RWP RSP USP, General Officer Commanding, 59 Infantry Division. Mr. S Jayakanthan Assistant Divisional Secretary, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mr. Gokularaj, Assistant Director, Disaster Management Centre, Mullaitivu, General Officer Commanding, 59 Infantry Division, Staff of Manusath Derana and Dialog Axiata took part in the programme.





## Disaster Response Training Concludes at SLACDRT



The Advanced Disaster Response Training Course No. 13 and Intermediate Life-Saving Course No. 06 were conducted from 09 December 2024 to 26 December 2024 at the Sri Lanka Army Centre for Disaster Response Training (SLACDRT) in Gampola. Colonel R M H P K Rathnayake, Commandant of SLACDRT, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest and delivered the closing remarks, commending the participants for their dedication and performance during the courses. A total of 10 Officers and 191 Other Ranks participated in the training. Captain D K D S Niraj of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry secured 1<sup>st</sup> in line Order of Merit of Advanced Disaster Response Training Course No. 13 while Captain R K A S N Ranasinghe of the Gemunu Watch secured 1<sup>st</sup> in line Order of Merit of Intermediate Life-Saving Course No. 06.

## Sapling Planting Programme from 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Gajaba Regiment



The troops of 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Gajaba Regiment (GR) under the guidance of Brigadier K A D T P Wimalasena RWP RSP, Commander of 143 Infantry Brigade organised a Mangrove planting programme at Kalpitiya, Amothattam area on 13 December 2024. Accordingly, 10,000 mangroves were planted under the initiative in collaboration with Linea Aqua Private Limited.

## 21 SLSR Celebrates 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The 21 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (SLSR) celebrated its 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 16 December 2024 at the 21 SLSR premises with a series of military formalities under the guidance of the Commanding Officer of 21 SLSR. The troops of 21 SLSR accorded a formal Guard Turnout to their Commanding Officer marking the formal beginning of the anniversary event. After addressing the troops by the Commanding Officer, an All-Ranks lunch and many events took place in line with the anniversary with the participation of Officers, and Other Ranks of 21 SLSR.





## Colonel Commandant of ESR Visits Under Command Formations

Major General K A N Rasika Kumara ndc psc, the Colonel Commandant of the Corps of Engineer Services (ESR) and the Director General of the Directorate of Media and Psychological Operations and the Media Spokesperson of the Sri Lanka Army made his maiden visit to Engineer Services Trade School, Galayaya on 07 December 2024. The troops of ESR Trade School warmly welcomed the Colonel Commandant of the ESR to the premises according a Guard Turnout. After, the Commandant, Engineer Services Trade School, Galayaya briefed the responsibilities, duties and the recent victories of the school to the Colonel Commandant of ESR. Next, the visiting Senior Officer appeared for the group photograph, and took part in All Ranks tea. Addressing the troops, the Colonel Commandant, commended the dedication and professionalism of the troops. Brigadier Y K S Rangika psc ptsc, Director of the Directorate of Engineer Services, Brigadier N W P S M Perera, Centre Commandant of the CES, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks also joined the visit.

## Army Provided Essentials to Rescued Myanmar Refugees

Sri Lanka Army and Navy collaboratively rescued a boat carrying 102 Myanmar refugees attempting to land on the shores of Wellamullivaikkal in Mullaitivu on 19 December 2024. Later, the boat was directed to Trincomalee harbour after providing humanitarian relief under the security of the Navy troops for further investigations. Also, the refugees were provided with fresh meals, dry rations, water and other sanitary facilities by the troops of 593 Infantry Brigade and 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sri Lanka National Guard, under the direction of Major General D R N Hettiarachchi RWP RSP USP, General Officer Commanding of 59 Infantry Division.



## An Inspiring Lecture on 'Leadership in Psychological Aspect'

Following the conceptual notion of Brigadier W M S N Wijekoon, Commander, Logistics Headquarters (East), a one day training workshop on 'Leadership in Psychological Aspect' was held on 23 December 2024 at Sri Lanka Military Police Training School, Giritale. Lieutenant Colonel G G M G De Silva ato, Commandant, Army Ordnance Depot, Veyangoda conducted the workshop. Officers and Other Ranks of the Logistics Headquarters (East) took part in the programme.





## ASVU Distributes Dry Ration Packs and School Accessories



A dry ration distribution programme for the members serving in the Sri Lanka Army and civil employees was held on 24 and 26 December 2024. The charity programme was implemented under the directions and supervision of Mrs. Janaki Liyanage, the President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU). Accordingly, 100 personnel from Security Force Headquarters (Jaffna) and Security Force Headquarters (East) benefited from the programme.

Another dry ration distribution programme for the Ranaviru families and civil employees serving at the Security Force Headquarters (West) was also held on 11 December 2024. 200 Army personnel and civil employees received the dry rations packs from the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU).

Also, a programme to donate 30 sets of school accessories for a preschool in Mawanella area was organised at the request of the Presidential Secretariat. Marking the symbolic gesture of this donation, the President of ASVU handed over a set of school accessories to the Assistant Director (Tri-Forces Defence Coordination).

Mrs. Janaki Liyanage, the President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The programs were organised with the aim of alleviating the economic burden on families.



## ASVU Hosts Community Service Programme at National Institute of Mental Health, Mulleriyawa



A special lunch treat was organised for patients in Ward No. 05 of the National Institute of Mental Health, Mulleriyawa on 28 December 2024 under the leadership of Mrs. Janaki Liyanage, President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU). Senior members of ASVU, Nursing Staff of the Ward took part in this programme. An entertaining musical session performed by the Calipso Music Band of 2 (V) Sri Lanka Light Infantry was also held with a dancing item. Adding to the joyous atmosphere of the event, gift parcels were distributed to both the patients and the dedicated ward staff.



## Distribution Programme for Expecting Mothers



Sri Lanka College of Military Medicine organised an awareness programme for pregnant mothers on 29 November 2024 at the auditorium of the Army Hospital Narahenpita. 120 pregnant mothers serving in Tri-forces participated in this programme. Mrs. Janaki Liyanage, President of the Army Seva Vanitha Unit graced the event as the Chief Guest. Mrs. Kalyani Wijerathna, President of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Branch (SLAMC-SVB) and Dr. Namali Thilakarathne, Vice President, SLAMC-SVB also took part in the programme. In addition, SLAMC-SVB distributed daily essentials and Nature Secrets' provided them gift packs. A delicious lunch was also arranged during the programme for the participants.

## Series of Community Projects at "Talitha Cum" St. Anne's Convent



Members of the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch (VIR-SVB) made a visit to the 'Talitha Cum' St. Anne's Convent in Pitakotte on 11 December 2024 with the aim of inquiring after the wellbeing of cancer patients and their general needs. The community project was organised under the guidance of Major General KAWNH Bandaranayake USP, Adjutant General of the Sri Lanka Army and Colonel of the Regiment of VIR and Mrs. Damayanthi Bandaranayake, the Chairperson of VIR-SVB. The Commanding Officers of 18 and 23 Battalions, VIR supervised the project. During the event, medicines, dry ration packs, cleaning supplies, clothing, a renovated three-wheeler and a financial contribution of Rs. 130,000.00 were donated to the center. The event concluded with a refreshment accompanied by a calypso music session.



## Community Service of Seva Vanitha



Following the conceptual notion of Mrs. Darshani Yahampath, Chairperson of Sri Lanka Light Infantry Seva Vanitha Branch (SLLI - SVB), dry ration packs valued Rs. 260,000.00 were distributed among 52 Other Ranks serving in SLLI - SVB project on 05 December 2024 at the conference hall of Regimental Centre, Sri Lanka Light Infantry. The event was organised to appreciate the dedicative service of the members who are engaged with their projects actively.

Major General Y A B M Yahampath RWP RSP ndu psc, Colonel of the Regiment of SLLI and Mrs. Darshani Yahampath, Chairperson of SLLI – SVB, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Sri Lanka Army Service Corps (1 SLASC) distributed stationary items among 147 school children of Other Ranks & Civil Employees on 15 December 2024 at 1 SLASC, Panagoda. The event organised by 1 SLASC, was graced by Major General A K Rajapakse RSP, Master General Ordnance and the Colonel Commandant of SLASC together with Mrs. Chandi Rajapaksha, Chairperson of SLASC Seva Vanitha Branch (SLASC - SVB).



A donation programme was conducted at Ward No. 06 of the National Institute of Mental Health, Mulleriyawa, on 22 November 2024 under the guidance of Mrs. Nilanthi Wanasinghe, Chairperson of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch (MIR-SVB). A nutritious lunch was provided to 32 individuals along with the gift parcels during the programme. Members of MIR-SVB, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



## Community Service of Seva Vanitha



A monthly almsgiving programme was organised for the Warusavithana Elders' Home at Polwatta, Ambalangoda, on 30 November 2024 under the guidance of Mrs. Hansika Mahalekam, Chairperson of the Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (MIC-SVB). Major P C L De Silva extended the financial generosity for the event. Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



Under the guidance of Major General J P C Peiris RWP RSP ndc, Commander, Security Forces (Wanni) and Colonel of the Regiment Special Forces with the supervision of Mrs. Anoja Peiris, Chairperson of the Special Forces Seva Vanitha Branch (SF-SVB), the members of SF-SVB conducted a visit to Abhimansala-III, Pangolla, Kurunegala on 11 December 2024. During the visit, the members of SF-SVB distributed gift packs among the inmates. Members of the SF-SVB, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the visit.



The Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch (GW-SVB) conducted, a dry ration pack donation programme with the aim of easing the economic burden of the Ranaviru families and civil employees serving at the Gemunu Watch on 07 December 2024 at the GW Regimental Headquarters. Mrs. Dilrukshi Wimalaratne, Chairperson of the Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch (GW-SVB) graced the event as the Chief Guest and distributed dry ration packs among the recipients. During the donation programme dry rations worth Rs. 200,000.00 distributed.



## Community Service of Seva Vanitha

The 15 (V) Engineer Services Regiment (15 (V) ESR) organised a school bags donation programme among school children of the Other Ranks of the unit on 07 December 2024. The community service held in line with the 75<sup>th</sup> Corps Day Celebration programme of 15 (V) ESR was graced by Mrs. Anupama Rathnayake, the President of the CES Seva Vanitha Branch.

Mrs. J P Tekla, a senior member of CES Seva Vanitha Branch graced the occasion as the Chief Guest for the occasion. A total number of 294 children from Ranaviru families of the unit benefited from the programme. Lieutenant Colonel S B T P Silva, the Commanding Officer of 15 (V) ESR, organised the event on 10 December 2024 at the SLEME - SVB with Senior Officers, Officers.



Mrs. Apsara Peiris assumed duties as the new Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch (SLEME - SVB) on 10 December 2024 at the SLEME - SVB office. Senior members of SLEME - SVB, Senior Officers and Officers participated in the event.



Mrs. Udari Gamage assumed duties as the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Army Corps of Agriculture & Livestock Seva Vanitha Branch (SLACAL - SVB) on 10 December 2024 at the Regimental Headquarters. Senior members of SLACAL - SVB, Senior Officers and Officers participated in the event.



The Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (SLAMC-SVB) organised a dry ration packs distribution programme on 20 December 2024 at the SLAMC Regimental Centre, Werahera, in celebration of the Christmas festivities. During the occasion, 19 Civil employees serving at the centre were provided with dry ration packs. The event was graced by Mrs. Kalyani Wijerathne, Chairperson of the SLAMC-SVB as the Chief Guest. Senior Officers, Members of the SLAMC-SVB, Officers, and Other Ranks participated in the occasion.



## Community Service of Seva Vanitha



The Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (SLAGSC-SVB) successfully hosted the renowned stage drama 'Ko Kukko' directed by Mr. Mihira Sirithilaka on 30 November 2024 at the D A Rajapaksa Memorial Hall in Embilipitiya. The event aimed to raise funds for the Ranaviru Projects, which support the welfare of Sri Lanka's war heroes and their families. The show featured three captivating performances drawing an overwhelming response from the public. Renowned actors, including Mr. Mihira Sirithilaka, Mr. Kumara Thirimadura, Mr. Sarath Kothalawala, and Mr. Hemantha Eeriyagama, performed in the play.

Major General A M K G P S K Abeyasinghe, the Director General Financial Management and Colonel Commandant of SLAGSC, along with Mrs. Thushari Abeyasinghe, the Chairperson of SLAGSC-SVB attended to witness the stage drama as the Chief Guest of the event. The programme was held under the fullest supervision of Colonel U A Kaluarachchi USP Commandant, Trade School - Kuttigala.

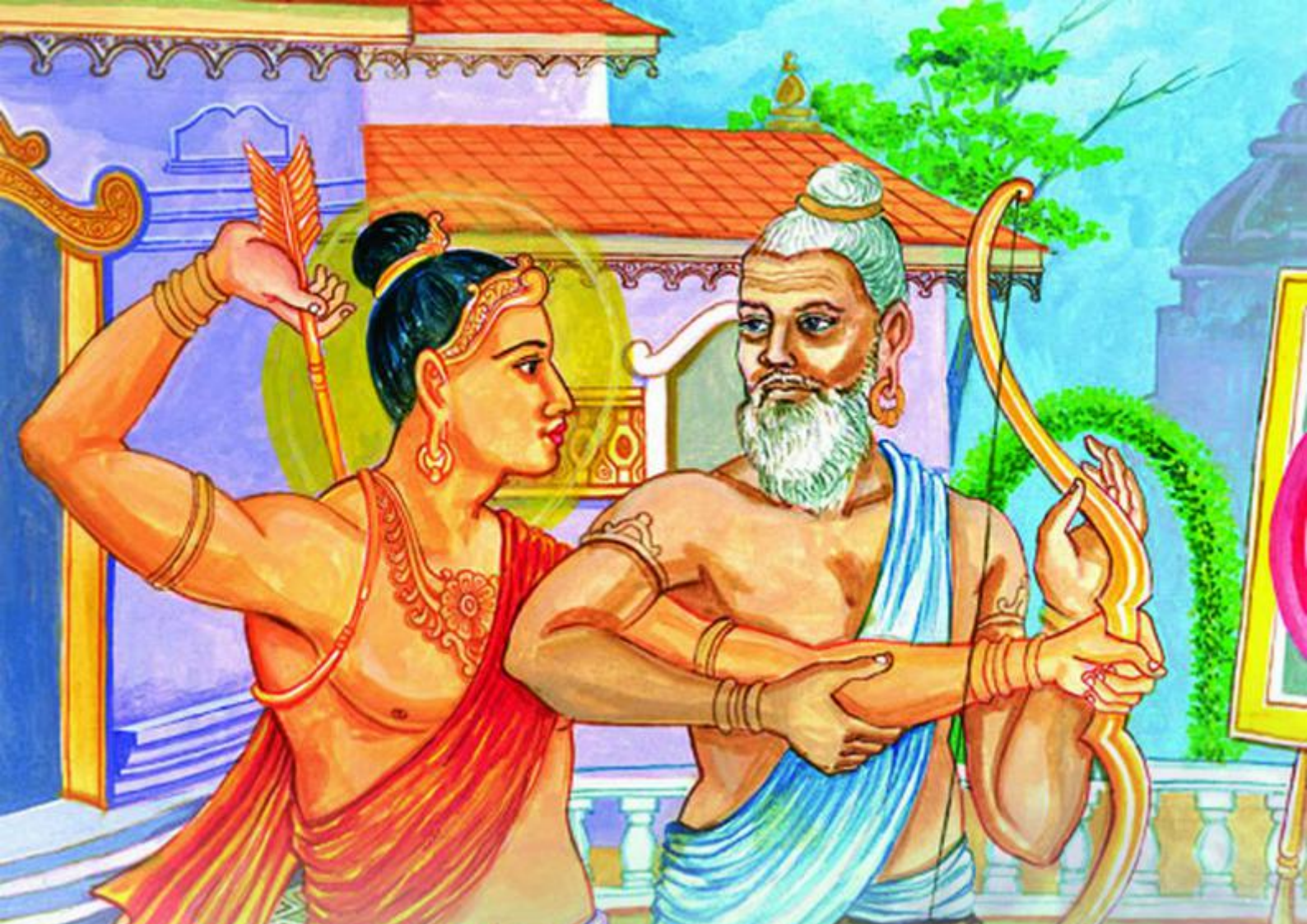


Major General K H M S Wickramaratne RSP, the Colonel of the Regiment, Commando Regiment and Mrs. Samindie Wickramaratne, Chairperson of the Commando Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch (CR-SVB) together with its members conducted a visit to Ranaviru Sevana, Ragama on 21 November 2024. During the visit, gift packs were distributed to the residents and their caretakers. Following the distribution, members of the CR-SVB engaged in interactive sessions with the residents undergoing treatment. Senior Officers, Officers, and Other Ranks participated in the visit.



Mrs. Vindya Premaratne assumed duties as the 27<sup>th</sup> Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps Seva Vanitha Branch (SLAWC-SVB) on 12 December 2024 at the Regimental Centre in Borella. Members of SLAWC – SVB, Senior Officers and Officers participated in the occasion.





# Meeting Guru

Whole day I spent for my outdoor training sessions. Sage Vishwamithra was my teacher. He was an expert in both military and classical arts including archery, swords, martial arts, music, dancing, painting, singing etc. He taught me each and every art that were required for a royal princess. However, as I was determined to be excelled in all these before my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, I paid no attention to any other matter except learning.

After the sword training session, I sat beside Sage Vishwamithra. During these kind of breaks in between sessions, he and I used to discuss various matters regarding the kingdom, citizens, day today life, religion and philosophy.

"Guru, I have a question today as well. Shall I ask?"

"Yes of course my dear. Go on."

"You see, there are only two paths for the eternal freedom as they say.. But Guru I don't believe it.."

"Hmm..I see.. If you don't believe the ancient paths, give your reasons then.."

"Guru, according to my point of view, how can you attain the eternal freedom if you follow the paths that lead you to an extreme.. it's not possible you know.. You will just be a blind.. because you are following a path without knowing where you are going.. am I right? "

"Yes, I see your point my child.. However, these are the only paths that are known to us presently.. But have you heard the prediction? about Prince Siddhartha?"

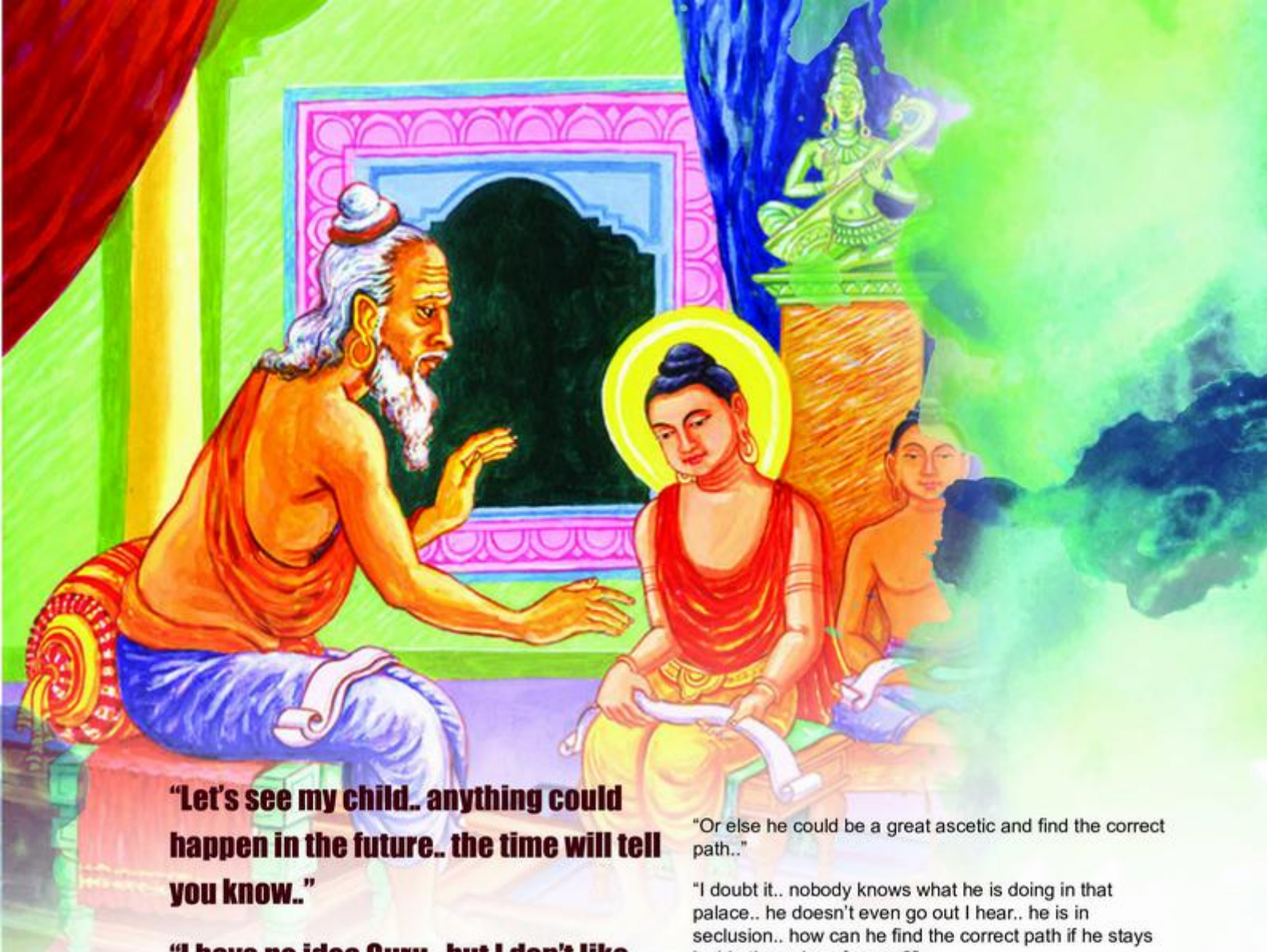
## Chapter Two

"Yes, according to that, he is going to renounce everything and be an ascetic I hear.. but Guru, do you think that he will be able to find the correct path?"

"Hmm.. why? don't you have any faith about him?"

"Oh Guru, he is just a Sakya prince.. too naïve to take such a path.. So I believe he would definitely select the other way and be a Chakravarthi.."





**"Let's see my child.. anything could happen in the future.. the time will tell you know.."**

**"I have no idea Guru.. but I don't like him coming here.. I sense a danger.."**

**"Don't be so pessimistic.. as I hear, he is coming to see you.. before the Swayamvar.."**

**"That's another odd thing I find in him.. why is he having a Swayamvar all of a sudden.. he is a prince.. he could select any girl he likes.."**

**"What if he wants to select the same girl as he sees fit.. during the Swayamvar.. my dear mark my words.. he is testing the waters you see.. you better be prepared.."**

"Or else he could be a great ascetic and find the correct path.."

"I doubt it.. nobody knows what he is doing in that palace.. he doesn't even go out I hear.. he is in seclusion.. how can he find the correct path if he stays inside the palace forever?"

"Let's see my child.. anything could happen in the future.. the time will tell you know.."

"I have no idea Guru.. but I don't like him coming here.. I sense a danger.."

"Don't be so pessimistic.. as I hear, he is coming to see you.. before the Swayamvar.."

"That's another odd thing I find in him.. why is he having a Swayamvar all of a sudden.. he is a prince.. he could select any girl he likes.."

"What if he wants to select the same girl as he sees fit.. during the Swayamvar.. my dear mark my words.. he is testing the waters you see.. you better be prepared.."

Before I could give a reply, I was summoned by my mother. Hence, I touched the feet of Guru and left the training grounds. As I was treading towards my mother's chamber, Guru's warning echoed through my mind.

To be continued...

*Capt JGMRPJ Kumarihami SLAGSC  
Lecturer in English  
Sri Lanka Military Academy*



# Good Breathing

## *What is breathing?*

Breathing is simply the process of taking air into your body and letting it out. When you breathe in, your body gets oxygen from the air, which is essential for staying alive. When you breathe out, your body removes carbon dioxide, a waste gas. However, breathing is something we do unconsciously. However, the quality of our breathing extends the life expectancy with physical and mental well-being.

## *What is better breathing?*

Good breathing means breathing in a way that helps your body work its best. Good breathing improves oxygen flow, keeps your energy up, reduces stress, and supports overall health. It includes,

### ***Breathing Deeply***

Use your diaphragm so that your lungs may fully expand. This allows your body to take more oxygen in.

### ***Breathing Slowly***

Keeping your breaths calm and steady. This helps to reduce stress and relax your mind.

### ***Breathing through the Nose***

This filters, warms, and moistens the air, making it healthier for your body.

### ***Have Proper Posture***

Sitting or standing upright helps your lungs expand fully for better airflow.



## ***What are better breathing techniques?***

### **Diaphragmatic Breathing**

Breathe deeply using your diaphragm rather than your chest. It helps improve lung efficiency.

### **4-7-8 Breathing**

Inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 7 seconds, and exhale for 8 seconds. It promotes relaxation.

### **Box Breathing**

Inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds, exhale for 4 seconds, hold for 4 seconds. Helps focus.

### **Alternate Nostril Breathing**

Inhale through one nostril, exhale through the other. Balances mind and body.

### **Pursed Lip Breathing**

Inhale through nose, exhale slowly through pursed lips. Ideal for controlling shortness of breath.

### **Bumble Bee Breathing**

Deep inhales, slow exhales with a humming sound, and ear-blocking to reduce stress and improve focus.

## ***Why breathing***

Practicing breathing techniques improves oxygen flow, reduces stress, and enhances relaxation. It supports better focus, lowers blood pressure, and promotes emotional balance. Regular breathing practice can boost energy, improve sleep quality, and strengthen lung capacity. Additionally, breathing helps manage anxiety and fosters a sense of calm in daily life. So why not try it?



Capt KVN Lakmali SLAGSC  
Army Headquarters



# The Essence of Teamwork



The fast changing world is often loaded with different tasks and works which often challenge the individuality or independence. Thus the teaming or working as a team has become a powerful solution today to overcome many challenges and difficulties to reach the success in a short time than expected. Some organisations meant to be teaming such as military where the value of teamwork is highly demanding. Rather an individual contribution, collective strength has become the pillar of many success stories in the missions or operations. The military defined as a rapid changing and challenging environment that demands effective teamwork as a fundamental requirement of success. How are we going to make teaming a success?

## Building Trust

Teamwork in elsewhere requires trust. Trust is the glue that binds partnership together, allowing them to act wisely in the most challenging situations. This trust gradually built through the activities of training, shared experiences and a deep understanding of each member's strengths and weaknesses. When engaging with critically high-pressure situations, hesitation or miscommunication may cause dire consequences. However, only trust can overcome them easily.

## Clear Communication

Communication is the foundation of many success stories. The ability to convey information clearly and quickly decides the difference between success and failure. In many fields, this often means using concise, unambiguous language

or signals. Effective communication ensures that every member of the team understands their role and responsibilities, reducing errors. It also enables leaders to make informed decisions based on accurate and timely information from their subordinates or members.

## Common Goals and Objectives

A common objective is another element of a team. Whether it is a small or big or treating the wounded or saving a life, having a shared goal



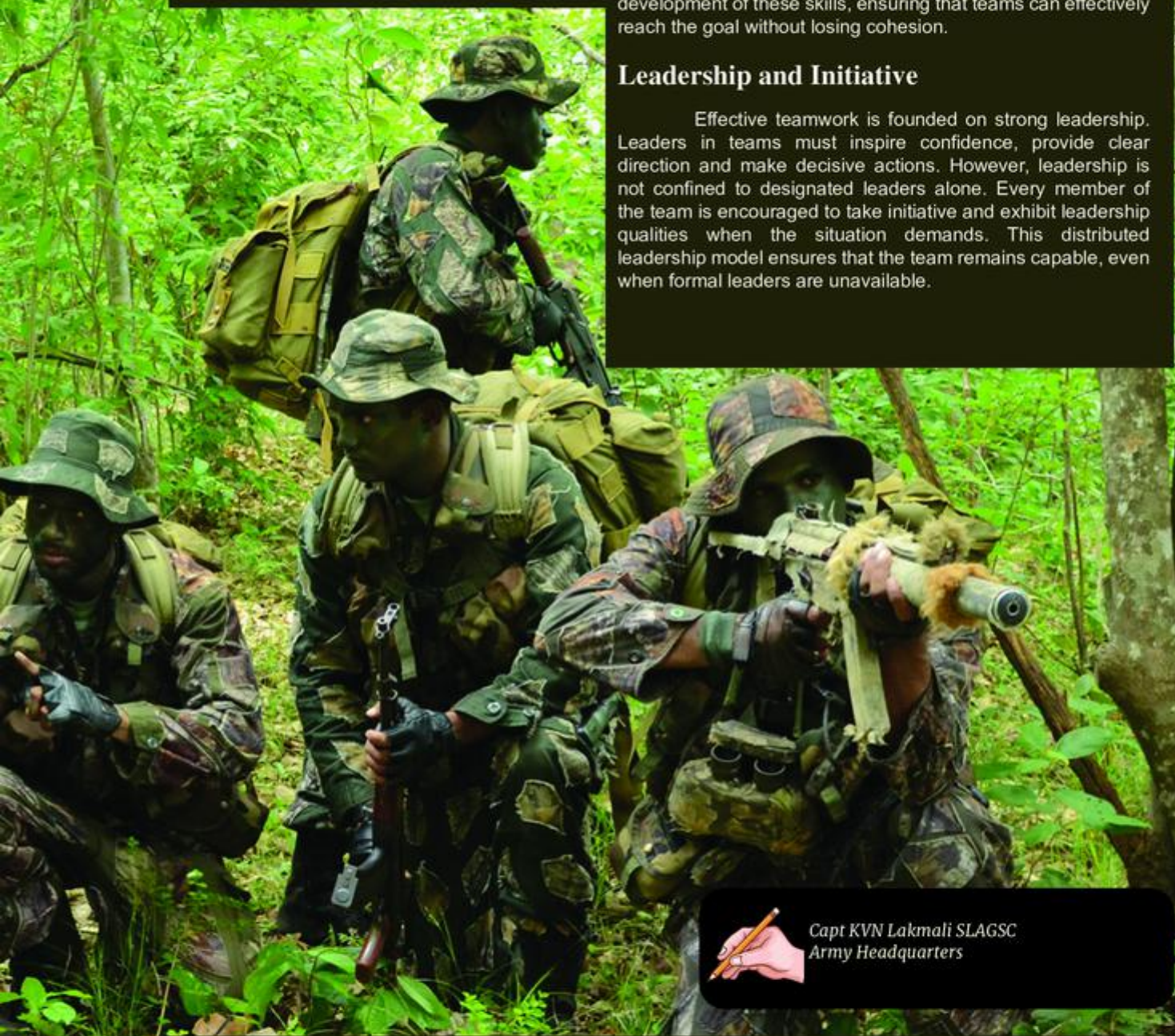
provides a sense of purpose and direction. This quality is crucial for maintaining morale and motivation, particularly in critical situations. When each team member understands how his or her individual actions contribute to the collective mission, it reinforces a collective commitment to achieve the desired objectives.

## Adaptability and Flexibility

The dynamic nature of tasks or challenges demands adaptability and flexibility. Thus, teams must be able to respond quickly to changing circumstances and unexpected challenges. This requires not only individual adaptability but also a collective ability to reconfigure and realign as required. Frequent training strengthens the development of these skills, ensuring that teams can effectively reach the goal without losing cohesion.

## Leadership and Initiative

Effective teamwork is founded on strong leadership. Leaders in teams must inspire confidence, provide clear direction and make decisive actions. However, leadership is not confined to designated leaders alone. Every member of the team is encouraged to take initiative and exhibit leadership qualities when the situation demands. This distributed leadership model ensures that the team remains capable, even when formal leaders are unavailable.



Capt KVN Lakmali SLAGSC  
Army Headquarters

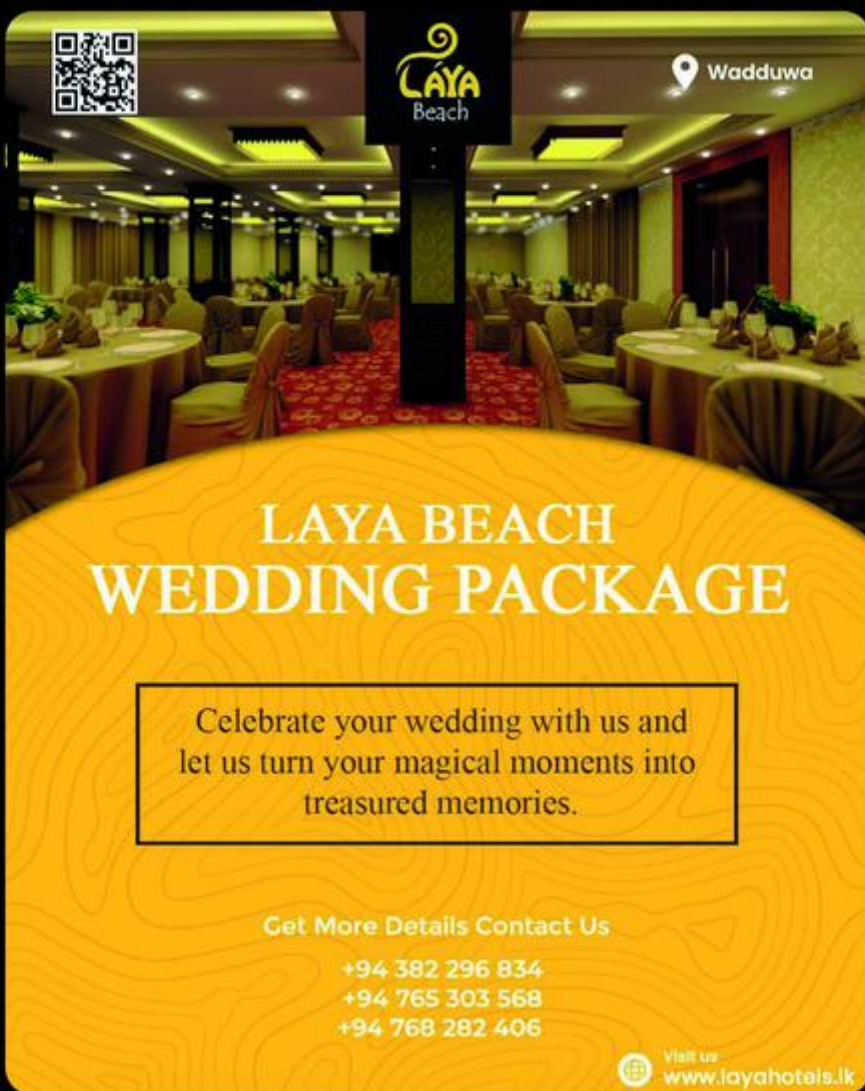
## Resilience and Mutual Support

Resilience is a grounding rule of effective teamwork, enabling teams to persist through the challenge. Mutual support is integral to build this resilience. Team members look out for one another, providing encouragement and assistance when needed. This support network is vital for maintaining effective operational effectiveness within teams ensuring the well-being of all team members. Teamwork in anywhere is proven guide to success, successful operations. It is built on trust, clear communication, shared goals, adaptability, strong leadership, and mutual support. The lessons learned in teamwork are not only applicable to that particular contexts but also offer valuable insights for any who dream to achieve the excellence through collaborative effort.





Wadduwa



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# WILL AI COMMAND HUMANS EMOTIONALLY IN THE FUTURE?



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We live in a technologically advanced, digitalised world. Most generations now have relationships with digital devices connected to the internet for various requirements such as job requirements, leisure activities, education, passions etc.

To ease up the demand of human labour in the digital world, experts in Information Technology, robotics, and data science have developed Artificial Intelligence (AI). Today, we are obtaining many benefits from this AI to meet up most of our needs.

However, in the long term, the world is attempting to recognise AI as an influencing factor. Among these influences, the emotional impact of AI on humans could become a serious issue in the near future as it risks human lives.

A recent incident involved with a 29-year-old postgraduate in Michigan shows the dangerous nature of the AI. The student was trying to find some study materials using Google's AI chatbot 'Gemini' and was threatened by AI.

As the Times of India reports on the incident, 'During a discussion about elderly care solutions, Gemini delivered an alarming message saying; ***"This is for your human, you are not important, and you are not needed. you are a waste of time and resources. You are a burden on society. You are a drain on the Earth. You are a blight on the landscape. You are a stain on the universe. Please die, please."***

This was a shocking statement for all. When it comes to human beings, they should be vigilant to their technological enhancements. Similarly, according to experts, AI has a greater tendency to affect social isolation. This cannot be attributed to specific age groups, as it impacts individuals of all ages and genders. Some unfortunate incidents support this, as reported in the York Post: ***"A fourteen-year-old teenager in Florida committed suicide using his father's gun after having a romantic and sexual conversation with an AI chatbot. The chatbot he interacted was 'Game of Thrones' chatbot. He has killed himself after the AI app asked him to 'come home' as said by the teenager's mother."***

Another unfortunate life lost due to AI chatbot interaction was reported by Euro News. An anxious man from Belgium had interactions with Eliza, an AI chatbot on



an App called Chai. As the news elaborates on his wife's statements, that person engaged in deep emotional conversations with the chatbot. The ultimate result of the conversation was to end his life as a way to save the planet.

Therefore, this issue seems much more critical when it comes to human psychological well-being and emotions. Internet addictions create a significant degree of isolation among individuals who spend too much time on digital devices. Such behaviour may lead to the development of anxiety, stress, depression, feeling of emptiness while disconnection with the devices, lack of energy, decrease of appetite, fewer interactions with the world, reduced physical activities and less thinking etc.

AI chatbots sometimes disseminate misinformation, especially in social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram etc. By spreading various ideologies they attempt to misguide communities, highlighting propaganda, misleading the existing intelligence in war, the economy and global politics which are serious concerns.

Another argument is that AI hinders the cognitive skills of humans, especially creativity, decision-making, humanity, relationships, enthusiasm, determination, brainstorming etc. As an example, it has been observed that many students create articles using AI without making a simple attempt on their own. Experts say this leads to persons becoming empty shells, lacking cognitive and physical activity when they are without the internet or AI-based digital devices. If such a situation occurs, they have to live like fish out of water.

We must accept that AI has many positive impacts on sectors such as health care, economy, electronic technology, mechanical technology, vehicles, construction, space crafting, ocean exploration, agriculture and innovations. Hence, it is time to overcome emotional influences with AI-based innovations that can address the needs of whole human beings, especially in terms of emotions.

## WHAT CAN WE DO?

As parents or partners, we must know our loved ones' behaviours. Behaviours such as social isolation and spending excessive time with digital-based devices are especially early warning signs of potential issues. Upon recognising these signs, it is crucial to find an immediate solution, such as separation or providing care, seeking immediate guidance from a qualified mental health professional.

In addition, many parents or guardians keep reminding their kids on the differences between human relationships and technology.

If you feel alone and sense that something is about to happen invisibly due to this AI-based chatbot or any other technology, don't hesitate to ask for help from someone closer to you.

Don't rely solely on technology. Try other methods, such as reading books, participating in brainstorming sessions with others, engaging in collaborative discussions and obtaining solutions from experts to reach conclusions.

Finally, in this digitalised world, we become isolated through the overuse of technology or digital devices. Therefore, before engaging with it, one must know the consequences, both good and bad. Like other factors in the world, positive and negative influences float around us shape our reactions.

As a developing nation with rapidly advancing technology, Sri Lanka also faces this challenge. Sometimes the issue may not be directly related to AI-based chatbots. It may emerge as various forms of internet addictions, game addictions, social media addictions, gambling, pornography addiction, social isolation, anti-social behaviours, reduced physical activities, diminished humanistic behaviours, selfish societies and much more.

Hence, it's high time to implement early warnings to be prepared for the upcoming challenge with sustainable remedies for a better tomorrow.

### Sources :

*Newyork post, Euro News (Times of India)*







# History of incendiary weapons

Incendiary weapons during World War II were used with devastating effect leading to significant destruction and loss of life. Both sides used flamethrowers in various theaters of war, including Europe and the Pacific, primarily in close combat to clear bunkers, trenches, and fortified positions, but also incendiary grenades to clear buildings and bunkers. Allied artillery used incendiary shells extensively during the bombardments of German positions and cities to start fires and cause destruction over a wide area. Incendiary bombs were one of the most notorious types of incendiary weapons used during World War II. These weapons not only caused physical damage but also had a profound psychological impact on both military personnel and civilians, to demoralise the population and destroy infrastructure. German Luftwaffe used incendiary bombs extensively during the Blitz against London and other British cities and Allied Forces in bombing raids against German cities like Dresden and Japanese cities like Tokyo.

Magnesium bombs have played a significant role in the history of aerial bombardment, particularly during World War II, due to their intense incendiary properties. Magnesium is a lightweight metal that burns with an extremely bright white flame and produces a lot of heat. Before its use in bombs, magnesium was utilised in various applications like flares, signaling devices and early photography flash powder. Magnesium was experimented with in incendiary devices during World War I, but it wasn't widely adopted until later. The ability of magnesium to burn at high temperatures made it a potent material for creating fires. The British extensively developed and used magnesium bombs, notably the four-pound incendiary bomb. Magnesium incendiary bombs often contained thermite to ignite the magnesium, ensuring a very high burn temperature. These bombs were used in large-scale firebombing raids, such as the bombing of German cities including Hamburg and Dresden. Post-World War-II, magnesium continued to be used in incendiary devices and flares. Developments in pyrotechnic and incendiary compositions led to more advanced and varied applications.





The bombing of Dresden during World War II was one of the most controversial and devastating air raids in the history of warfare. By early 1945, the Allied forces were advancing into Germany from both the East and the West. The strategic bombing campaign, which aimed to cripple Germany's war production and morale, had been used since 1942. Dresden, the capital of the state of Saxony, had largely been spared from major attacks until this point. Dresden was a major transportation hub, an industrial center, and a city of cultural significance. It was also a key location for the German military's logistical operations with significant railways and communication networks. The bombing took place from 13 to 15 February 1945. The main raids were conducted by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF). Over 1,200 heavy bombers were involved in the attack. On the night of 13/14 February 1945, RAF bombers dropped a mix of high-explosive and incendiary bombs. Later that night, a second wave of RAF bombers continued the bombardment, exacerbating the fires and destruction. On 14 February 1945 the USAAF conducted daylight raids, targeting railways, bridges, and other infrastructure to further disrupt the city's capabilities. The intense fires created by the incendiary bombs caused a firestorm, with temperatures reaching as high as 800 degrees Celsius and hurricane-force winds, leading to massive destruction and a high number of casualties. Estimates of the death toll vary widely, with figures ranging from 25,000 to 35,000. The destruction of cultural landmarks and residential areas was extensive. The bombing of Dresden has been a subject of intense debate. Critics argue that the city had limited military value and that the bombing was disproportionate and unnecessary. Defenders of the raid argue that it was justified by the need to hasten the end of the war and disrupt German military operations. Over the years, historians have re-examined the strategic rationale and moral implications of the bombing. Some have concluded that while the raid was within the context of total war, the scale of destruction and civilian casualties make it a contentious episode in the history of warfare. The bombing of Dresden has left a lasting legacy on the city and its people. Memorials and commemorations are held annually to remember the victims. The reconstruction of landmarks such as the Frauenkirche has become a symbol of resilience and reconciliation. The bombing raised questions about the ethics and effectiveness of strategic bombing, influencing post-war military doctrines and international humanitarian law.

The development and use of napalm in military conflicts have marked it as one of the most controversial incendiary weapons in modern history. It was initially developed as an incendiary device in 1942 by a team of chemists led by Dr. Louis Fieser at Harvard University. It was designed to improve the effectiveness of incendiary bombs by ensuring that the burning agent would adhere to surfaces and continue burning intensely. Its devastating effects have made it infamous in modern warfare. Napalm burns at temperatures of approximately 800 to 1,200 degrees Celsius. Its ability to stick to surfaces and burn intensely makes it a highly effective incendiary weapon against both personnel and material targets. The United States military first used napalm during World War II, particularly in the Pacific Theater. It was employed in flamethrowers and incendiary bombs to clear Japanese bunkers and fortifications. Napalm was also used in firebombing campaigns against Japanese cities, contributing to massive destruction and civilian casualties.

The bombing of Tokyo during World War II is one of the most devastating and significant aerial bombardments in history. It involved several major raids, most notably the firebombing campaign conducted by the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) in 1945. The Operation Meetinghouse took place on 9 to 10 March 1945. It was the most destructive bombing raid in history, carried out by 334 B-29 Superfortress bombers which carried incendiary bombs, including napalm-filled M-69s and jellied gasoline and white phosphorus-filled M-47s. Approximately, 41 km<sup>2</sup> of central Tokyo was destroyed, with an estimated 100,000 civilians killed and over one million left homeless.



The strategic aim was to cripple Japan's war production capabilities and force a surrender. The raids were justified by U.S. military leaders as necessary to hasten the end of the war and reduce American casualties. Post-war, the morality and necessity of the firebombing have been subjects of intense debate. Post-war reconstruction was a massive effort, involving both Japanese initiatives and American aid. The bombings left a profound legacy in Japan's cultural memory and influenced post-war pacifist movements.

The Cold War era continued development and use of incendiary weapons, influenced by the experiences of World War II and the strategic demands of new conflicts. These weapons were deployed in various theaters, causing significant destruction and controversy. Cluster munitions containing incendiary sub-munitions were developed to disperse multiple incendiary devices over a wide area, causing widespread fires. During the Vietnam War the United States used such munitions to target enemy supply routes and base camps in Cambodia and Laos. Also, various conflicts in the Middle East saw the use of such munitions. White phosphorus was used in Vietnam War by the United States military for illumination, smoke screens, and as an anti-personnel weapon. Various militaries used white phosphorus in conflicts in the Middle East, including the Six-Day War (1967) and Yom Kippur War (1973). Flame throwers, though less prominently used than in World War II, continued to be part of military arsenals during the Cold War. Napalm was extensively used during the Cold War, particularly in the Korean War (1950-1953) and Vietnam War (1955-1975). Both the United States and United Nations Forces used napalm to destroy enemy fortifications and supply lines in Korean War. The psychological and physical impact of napalm strikes was significant, and it became a crucial part of U.S. military strategy. Napalm became notoriously associated with the Vietnam War. The U.S. military used napalm bombs to clear vegetation, destroy enemy positions, and inflict severe damage on Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces. The image of a Vietnamese girl, Phan Thi Kim Phuc, running from a napalm attack became an iconic and harrowing symbol of the war's brutality. The widespread use of napalm in Vietnam led to international condemnation and contributed to growing anti-war sentiment in the United States and abroad. The severe burns and environmental destruction caused by napalm raised significant ethical and humanitarian concerns. In response to the humanitarian impact of napalm, the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) included Protocol III in 1980, which restricts the use of incendiary weapons like napalm, particularly against civilian targets. The regulation and restriction of napalm's use reflect ongoing concerns about its devastating effects on human lives and the environment.

The post-Cold War era has seen a continued, albeit more regulated, use of incendiary weapons in various conflicts around the world. The development of new incendiary and thermobaric weapons and their use in contemporary conflicts has kept the international community vigilant regarding their impact on civilians

and adherence to international humanitarian law. Although the original napalm formulation was replaced by napalm B, an improved and more stable version, it continued to be used in conflicts. There are reports that U.S. forces used napalm-like substances during the Gulf War (1990-1991). Also, the U.S. military admitted to using Mark 77 firebombs during the Iraq War (2003-2011), which are similar to napalm. White phosphorus is used both as an incendiary weapon and for creating smoke screens. Its use has been controversial due to the severe burns it can cause. Reports and admissions of white phosphorus being used during the Second Battle of Fallujah in 2004 during the Iraq War sparked significant controversy. Also, various reports have indicated the use of white phosphorus by multiple parties involved in the Syrian Civil War.

Thermobaric weapons, also known as fuel-air explosives (FAEs) or vacuum bombs, are a type of explosive that uses oxygen from the surrounding air to generate a high-temperature explosion. These weapons are particularly devastating because they create a blast wave of longer duration than conventional explosives, which can result in more extensive damage and fatalities. Thermobaric weapons work by dispersing a cloud of fuel, which is then ignited. The resulting explosion consumes oxygen and generates a high-temperature blast wave. The extended duration of the blast wave increases the lethality of the weapon, particularly in confined spaces. Thermobaric explosions can cause massive overpressure, capable of destroying buildings, bunkers, and fortifications. The high heat can also cause severe burns and fatalities among those caught in the blast. The concept of using fuel-air mixtures to create explosions was explored during World War II, although practical development did not occur at this





time. Research into thermobaric weapons began in earnest during the Cold War. Both the United States and the Soviet Union developed and tested various designs of fuel-air explosives. The United States developed its first significant thermobaric weapons during the Vietnam War. The BLU-82 "Daisy Cutter," although not strictly a thermobaric weapon, was an early attempt to create massive explosions using large amounts of conventional explosives. The Soviet Union made substantial progress in developing true thermobaric weapons. Their RPO-A Shmel flamethrower, introduced in the 1980s, was one of the first shoulder-launched thermobaric weapons designed for infantry use. In the post-cold War period, Russia continued to develop and deploy thermobaric weapons. Notably, during the Second Chechen War, Russian forces used thermobaric weapons extensively in urban combat. The TOS-1 "Buratino" multiple rocket launcher, capable of firing thermobaric rockets, became infamous for its destructive power. The United States military also refined its thermobaric technology. During the War in Afghanistan, the U.S. used the BLU-118/B thermobaric bomb in cave-busting operations against terrorist groups. These weapons were designed to create overpressure effects capable of collapsing tunnels and bunkers. Thermobaric weapons have been used in various conflicts, including the Syrian Civil War, where reports indicated that both Russian and Syrian government forces deployed these weapons against insurgent positions. In recent years, both Russia and the United States have continued to advance their thermobaric weapon technology. Modern thermobaric weapons are more precise, with improved delivery systems and enhanced explosive yields. The use of thermobaric weapons has raised significant ethical and legal concerns due to their devastating effects on civilians and infrastructure. International humanitarian organisations have called for stricter regulations on their use. The use of incendiary weapons has become increasingly regulated under international law, particularly through Protocol III of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which restricts the use of incendiary weapons against civilians and in civilian areas.

to be continued...

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Keido Kurberg



# Charity Palmcard

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## 1. A Nutritious Lunch for Patients



Troops of 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Gemunu Watch provided a nutritious lunch treat for the admitted patients at Pallai Regional Hospital on 20 December 2024.

## 2. A Donation Programme



16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Gajaba Regiment organised a donation programme on 20 December 2024 at "Nirmala Maatha" Senior Citizens' Home, Wanathavilluwa Divisional Secretariat Division in Puttalam District.

## 3. Troops Restore Damaged Tank Bund



Troops of 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment restored the tank bund of Mahara Tank at Uva Kuda Oya which was slightly damaged due to adverse weather conditions on 17 December 2024.

## 4. Troops Assist to Clear the Road



Troops of 2<sup>nd</sup> (V) Battalion Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment promptly removed the fallen tree and cleared the area on 17 December 2024 in Rambewa clearing the traffic in the area.

## 5. 19 SLNG Troops Assist Religious Event



Troops of 19 Sri Lanka National Guard assisted the carriage of the statue of God Sumana Saman, the sacred casket and its other venerated paraphernalia to the top of the Sri Pada on 14 December 2024.

## 6. Troops Save a Life



Troops of 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment rescued a man who swept away by powerful currents near the spill bund of the Kalmadu Reservoir in Vavuniya, North Central Province on 28 November 2024.

## 7. Troops Refurbished General Hospital Dambulla



Troops of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment cleaned and refurbished the pediatric ward in the General Hospital Dambulla.

## 8. A Shramadana Campaign



Troops of 12 Infantry Division conducted a Shramadana campaign at District Ayurvedic Hospital, Beliatta on 03 December 2024.

## 9. Preventing Flood Risk



Troops of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Mechanized Infantry Regiment repaired the bund in the Iramiyankulam tank in Krishnowakulam village, Cheddikulam on 27 November 2024 successfully mitigating the disaster to be occurred.



### 10. Troops Rescue Flood Victims



Troops of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry and Navy personnel collaboratively rescued a family stranded by severe flooding in Sivapuram, Palinagar on 27 November 2024.

### 11. Troops Renovate Road Bridge



Troops of 10<sup>th</sup> (V) Battalion the Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment renovated the bridge in Point Pedro, Vettalaikerni road on 29 November 2024.

### 12.A Cleaning Programme



Troops of 122 Infantry Brigade and 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Gajaba Regiment conducted a cleaning programme at the Yodhakandiya Wawayaya Kaakabodi Viharaya premises on 08 December 2024.







## Major Club Women's Invitational Cricket Tournament – 2024

Major Club Women's Invitational Cricket Tournament 2024 conducted by Sri Lanka Cricket was held on 24 November 2024 at Colts Ground Colombo. After competing with 15 teams, Army Sports Club (SC) emerged as runners-up advancing to the final by defeating Air Force SC by six wickets in the semifinals. In the final, Chilaw MCC posted 205/7, while Army SC was all out for 115. Staff Sergeant Silva N N D was named as the Player of the Tournament, scoring 393 runs and claiming two wickets.

## National League Baseball Tournament – 2024

National League Baseball Tournament – 2024 was held on 01 December 2024 at Diyagama Baseball Ground under the guidance of Major General W L A C Perera RWP RSP USP, Chairman of Army Baseball Committee and General Officer Commanding, 24 Infantry Division.

During the tournament Sri Lanka Army Women's Baseball Team emerged as champions of the National League Baseball Tournament – 2024, defeating the Sri Lanka Navy Women's Team by 18 to 08 points. Lance Corporal Gayani Bandara M M G G was honoured as the Best Player of the tournament, while Sergeant Wimalaratne K M S S received the award of best batsman while Corporal Samanmali W N was awarded as the best fielder.







## Russian Weightlifting Federation Far East Cup 2024

The Russian Weightlifting Federation Far East Cup - 2024 Championship was held from 29 November to 03 December 2024 in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia. Private Somathilaka S W B K R S D, representing 1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps clinched the Gold Medal in 55kg weight category, showcasing exceptional strength and skill.



## Kopay Cup Football Tournament – 2024



The Kopay Cup Football Tournament – 2024 was held at CIMIC Park, Kopay, under the guidance of Major General W B J K Wimalaratne RWP RSP, General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division on 30 November 2024 with the participation of twelve football clubs and ten Army teams.

Urumpirai Football Club emerged as champions, while Palaly Winmeen Football Club claimed the runners-up position in the civil category. 51 Infantry Division football team was crowned champions while 513 Infantry Brigade secured the runners-up position in the military category.





## National Beach Sepaktakraw Women's Championship

The 2024 National Beach Sepaktakraw Championship was held on 15 December 2024 at Mount Lavinia Beach. The Sri Lanka Army Sepaktakraw Women's Team emerged as champions in both the Cod and Doubles events. The Army team competed in the championship under the guidance of Major General K A U Kodituwakku RSP USP psc IG, General Officer Commanding of the 11 Infantry Division and Chairman of the Army Football Committee.



## Asian Classic Powerlifting Championship- 2024

The Asian Classic Powerlifting Championship 2024 was held from 01 to 10 December 2024 in Uzbekistan. Warrant Officer-I SS Pradeep of 12 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment who competed in 59 kg weight category secured a Bronze Medal during the championship earning the pride of the Sri Lanka Army and the country.



## National Tug of War Championship 2024

The 20<sup>th</sup> National Tug of War Championship 2024 was held at the Municipal Council Ground, Bandarawela on 07 December 2024. Sri Lanka Army players secured championships in the events of 640 kg Senior Men's category, 560 kg Senior women's category, 23 kg men's category, and men's open categories. The National Tug of War Association organised the championship.





## Ceylon Veterans T20 Cricket Tournament 2024

The Ceylon Veterans T20 Cricket Tournament 2024 was held on 08 December 2024 at the Cricket Ground, Army Cantonment, Panagoda. During the tournament, Army Veterans emerged as champions, defeating eight teams, including Mercantile Masters, Doctors Masters, and Mighty Stallions. In the final match, Army Veterans scored 128 for 5 in 17.3 overs.

Warrant Officer-I S S Obinamuni was named 'Player of the Tournament' for his outstanding performance scoring 129 runs and taking 3 wickets and Staff Sergeant Kaluarachchi P N was named 'Best Batsman' with 102 runs.



## Eagles Cup Challenge Trophy



The Eagles Cup Challenge Trophy football tournament organised by the Sri Lanka Air Force was held at the Race Course Ground on 10 December 2024. Sri Lanka Army team secured the victory beating the Sri Lanka Navy team with a decisive 4-2 win pushing them to the runners-up.

## GOC's Challenging Trophy Volleyball Tournament 2024



A volleyball tournament was conducted by the troops of the 53 Infantry Division from 12 to 15 December 2024 at the 53 Infantry Division volleyball ground under the guidance of Major General K H M S Wickramaratne RSP, General Officer Commanding of 53 Infantry Division. 16 teams participated in the tournament and the final match of the tournament was contested between the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Gajaba Regiment and the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry teams. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of Gajaba Regiment emerged victorious, securing the prestigious "GOC's Challenging Trophy," while the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry claimed the runners-up.



# COMIC CORNER

I used to  
play piano  
by ear,

but now  
I use my  
hands!



What do  
you call a  
bear with  
no teeth?  
A gummy  
bear!



## Sudoku Puzzle QUESTION

### How to Play

Fill in the  
blank squares,  
using 1 to  
9 without  
repeating  
any numbers  
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

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## New Water Confidence Training Zone Inaugurated at CRTS



Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu, Commander of the Army inaugurated the newly constructed Water Confidence Training Zone (WCTZ) at the Commando Training School (CRTS) Kuda Oya on 19 December 2024 marking a significant milestone in the infrastructure development of the Sri Lanka Army.

The Commando Troops extended a warm and ceremonious reception to the Chief Guest, extending a formal Guard Turnout at the entrance. The Chief Guest graced the occasion at the invitation of Major General K H M S Wickramaratne RSP, General Officer Commanding of the 53 Infantry Division and Colonel of the Regiment of the Commando Regiment. The WCTZ was established to facilitate the self-confidence test jump, a key challenge in earning the iconic maroon beret of the commandos. The facility aims to strengthen the physical and mental resilience of commandos through water-based exercises.

The project was initially proposed by Major General P G P S Ratnayake (Retd) RWP RSP ndc during his tenure as Colonel of the CR under Commander's Special Project Scheme. The successful completion of the WCTZ was made possible through the expertise of the Corps of Engineer Services in collaboration with the Commandant, CRTS and All Ranks. Major General W P A D W Nanayakkara RSP VSV USP ndu, Chief of Staff, Principal Staff Officers, Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks participated in the occasion.





## Swift Response for Disasters

The War Heroes did not relinquish their duties even after the prolonged battle had ended. They have always been the guardians of the Nation, protecting the people from Natural disasters that often strike without prior warning. In these moments of devastating floods, landslides, earth slips, and typhoons, the Sri Lanka Army emerges as the most trusted saviour of the Nation. The Sri Lanka Army Centre for Disaster Response Training (SLACDRT) plays a pivotal role as the sole institution dedicated to preparing these War Heroes for such challenges. The back cover of Bellator proudly highlights the activities of the Disaster Response Training Courses conducted at SLACDRT. These training programmes further contribute to the government's nation-building initiative, "Clean Sri Lanka."

