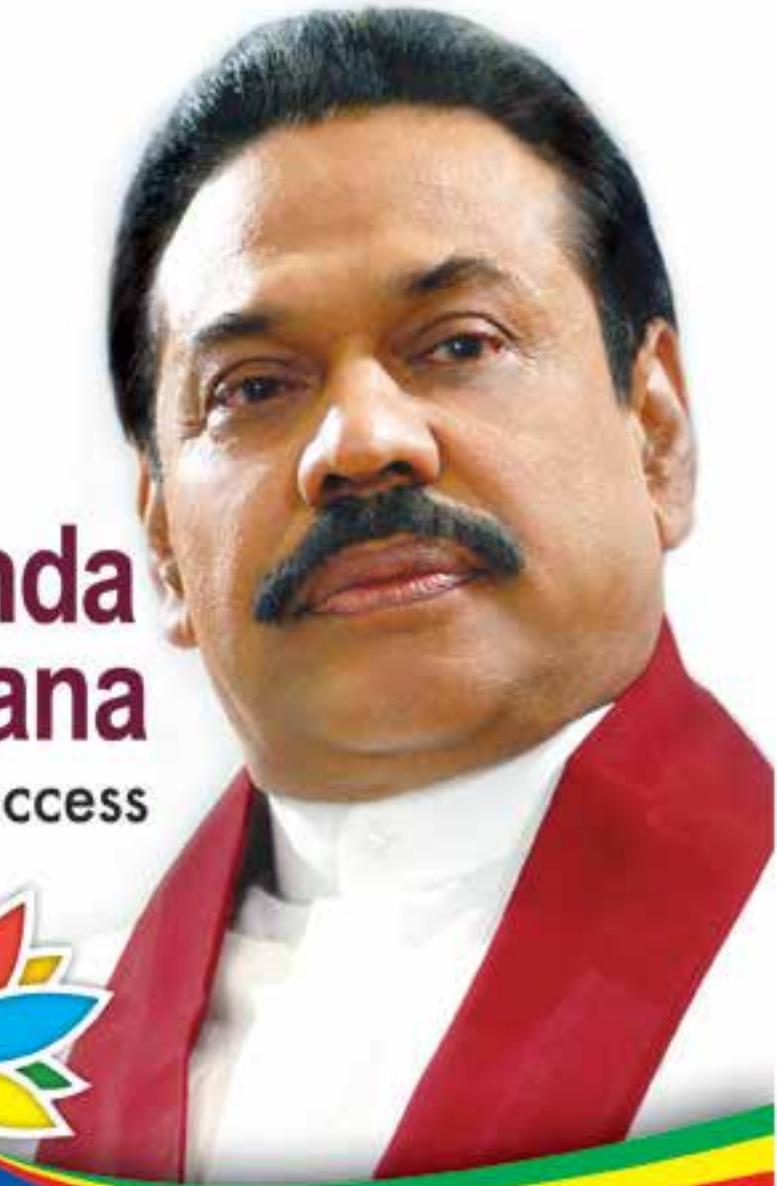


In 2005, the challenge before me was to usher peace into our country. In 2010, the challenge was to steer the country along a mega development path. The challenge now is to ensure that the benefits of development are enjoyed by all people of our country in an increasing manner, so that the disparity between rich and poor would be on a declining trend. This new journey to enhance the prosperity of our people would not be to accumulate wealth or make profits at whatever cost or through whatever means, but to improve the levels of prosperity through ethical, honest and humane efforts.

In the past, those who were rich used to look at those who had less, with disdain, while those who were in want used to look at those who had plenty, with envy. It is time to break with this past. By reducing these disparities, I believe the prevailing social inequities could be suitably addressed, and as a consequence the country placed to a more sustainable level. Therefore, the society that I wish to create would consist of persons who are enjoying varying levels of prosperity, rather than a society where there is a clear divide between the rich and poor. In this regard, I would strive to mould a modern Sri Lankan who would not only work towards his or her own goals, but also act with a deep commitment towards our society and country.

Mahinda Chintana

Path to success



මහින්ද රාජපක්ෂ
மஹிந்த ராஜபக்ஷ
Mahinda Rajapaksa



X

A SECURE NATION

A Brighter Future

Mahinda Chintana

Path to success

A secure nation
A Brighter Future



My Vision

A successful Motherland

Our Mission

**Charting
a successful path
towards
a harmonious and
prosperous
country**

We are a friendly and
a peaceful nation.
Our country is safe and secure.
We have developed
the foundation to live
as a dignified nation.
We now need to safeguard that
dignity and security
with our very lives.
The "Mahinda Chintana-Path to Success"
contains
My Vision and Our Mission.
It also sets out the needs
of all our countrymen
and the environment
which will protect their values,
and I present these thoughts
with deep respect and love to the
Most Respected Sangha
and
Other members of the Clergy,
Loving mothers, fathers,
sisters, brothers,
sons, daughters, and friends
of our beloved Motherland.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. M. G. P.', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

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The story so far.....

For several decades, I watched how our people were helplessly waiting for the day that our beloved country would be freed, with anxiety and apprehension. I shared that anxiety with you with impatience. All that time, we watched with despair the lives of our beloved ones being snuffed out, and our properties being destroyed. None of us knew as to when we would be able to experience freedom. Therefore, I knew that I had to eradicate the menace of terrorism when you confidently entrusted that onerous responsibility to me in 2005.

At the time I took my oaths as President, the grieving mothers and fathers of our country implored me to somehow rid our country of the scourge of terrorism. Their tears and grief signified the deep need in their hearts that they dearly wished that I succeed. That is why when the terrorists closed the Mavilaru anicut, thus depriving life-giving water to thousands of our people and thereby pushing them towards an untimely death, I realized it was the appropriate moment to commission a humanitarian operation to rid our country of this scourge.

The country that you entrusted me in 2005 was not only engulfed in terrorism. The economy was also in a pathetic state. Unemployment and inflation were high. Infrastructure was at an unacceptable level. The gross domestic product was hovering at low levels and growth was sluggish. Poverty was at a dangerously high level. Although vacancies existed in the education and health sectors in the state services, those vacancies could not be filled because recruitment to the state sector had been discontinued due to the lack of resources. Not only was it impossible for the state services to





fulfil our citizens' aspirations, it could not even meet the routine day-to-day activities because of the lack of finances. The average public debt around that period was nearly 102%. In this background, I had to tackle the twin responsibilities of safeguarding lives as well as strengthening our economy and society.

In 2009, we were successful in liberating our beloved mother-land and we were able to usher peace once again. When that happened, I watched your joy and elation at this incredible outcome with intense happiness. At the same time, during the effort to free our nation, you cooperated closely and stood by me. You provided your close support towards the success of our collective mission.

In 2010, you decided that it was time to develop our country at a rapid pace, and once again, as you did in 2005, you provided me with a mandate to lead our country towards prosperity and development. In response, I have been successful in reducing poverty to around 7%, while we are also well on our way to register a per capita income of US dollars 4,000 even before our projected time frame of 2016, as a result of being able to record over 7% continuous average economic growth.

I was able to connect our villages and our cities with a road network of internationally acceptable standards, with flagship projects such as the Southern expressway and the Katunayake expressway. The roads that were in a state of ruin since colonial times and those that had been destroyed by terrorists were rehabilitated. Almost all rural roads were also rehabilitated. The entire bridges network was reconstructed. New Ports in Magampura, South Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee, Oluwil were at the centre of the Port development activities. The Katunayaka International Airport was overhauled, while the new Mattala International Airport was built. In addition, a large number of domestic airports were also established.





Electricity was provided for all by using the electricity generated through the Kerawalapitiya, Norochcholai and Upper Kotmale power plants. Pipe-borne water was provided to Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee and Galle as well as the newly emerging areas of Colombo, and as a result, the water rights to all those people were secured. In the meantime, many other programmes were started to provide water in other districts as well, in keeping with the goal to provide water for all under the new programme that had already commenced. In order to do so, the Moragahakanda, Uma Oya, Deduru Oya, and Yan Oya irrigation schemes which have provided water for agricultural purposes, were of great significance.

Through the development of Modern Languages, Mathematics, and Science Laboratories which were introduced through the Mahindodaya 1000 school programme, the standard of our rural schools were enhanced to the levels of the top most schools in Colombo. Further, based on the concept of child friendly schools, the main facilities to 5,000 schools were provided particularly in respect of water, electricity and other sanitary conditions. All hospitals, from the General Hospital Colombo to the rural hospitals in our villages, were developed. Many are still pleasantly surprised that so much has been done so soon, but I am truly happy that I was able to implement such a broad development programme for our country, although there is still more to be done as per our plans.

The benefits of development has now spread amongst our entire country. The tear stricken people of 2005 have been converted to a smiling population today. At the same time, we have now been able to develop a society that can enjoy their liberty freely, travel day or night, and openly express and write about any aspect of life in the country including governance and corruption! The topics of discussion that could not surface since 1977 due to the fear that was instilled in the minds of people through terrorism have now opened out for discussion. As a result, I was able to provide you with





the opportunity to establish the Northern Provincial Council. I also facilitated the elections for the local governments in those areas. Further, I rehabilitated the ex-LTTEers and enabled them to integrate into society. Those who were internally displaced were resettled. I discontinued the emergency laws with which Sri Lanka was ruled almost every day of the year, for as long as we could remember. I established a Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and implemented its recommendations. I set up a Parliamentary Select Committee to consider constitutional reforms and invited all parties to work out a new model for our country. I expanded the public service which consisted of less than 700,000 persons up to 1,400,000 persons. Under my watch, free and fair elections were conducted. Even Ministers cannot cast their votes unless they are able to establish their identity with an acceptable identification. I eradicated the era where children were kidnapped and converted into child soldiers. Emergency Laws that prevented meetings as well as those that discouraged freedom of speech were discontinued. The roads that were closed for the security of VIPs were re-opened. The barriers that were constructed by the Police and Armed forces were removed. I also removed those high security zones which, as a result of the change in the security conditions, did not pose future security concerns. I believe these few achievements would indicate to you the massive transformation that has taken place in our country, although a complete list of our achievements would be much longer.

It is in this background that I am seeking a mandate from you to serve you and our country as its President for the third time so that I would be able to complete a large number of development activities as well as improve the democratic and governance structures of our beloved nation.





1. A LESSON TO THE WORLD ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Some quarters try to suggest that terrorism is now relegated to past history, and that there is no threat to the present or future. Such a contention is however far from the reality and truth. We all know that the LTTE movement is supported by persons in certain European and western countries. We also know that they are still continuing their ruthless and relentless campaign to divide our country. They are only unable to challenge us in an armed conflict, but even now, they are continuously searching for opportunities to cause instability in our country.

In this background, we must continue to pay maximum attention to the national security of our country, because the nation's forward journey can be otherwise jeopardized if an armed conflict were to erupt again. Therefore, I am strongly of the view that a well established and strengthened national security in our motherland is a vitally important pre-condition for the economic and social development of our country. Accordingly, I pledge to further strengthen and continue to pay the highest attention to the maintenance of national security.

We have been successful in once again creating a country in which Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Malays and Burghers could live freely. Although all of you are now relieved, and are able to sleep peacefully, I need to stay vigilant at all times to guarantee the nation's security for the common good and to ensure the unitary status of our country. In that context, I will not discriminate against any Sri Lankan citizen on the grounds of ethnicity, religion, language or any other criteria. At the same time, I will also not tolerate any demand or influence that threatens this fundamental policy.





- I will not discriminate against any Sri Lankan on the basis of ethnicity, religion, language or other criteria.
- I will not allow any separatists or others to destabilize our country. We must all remember that we have paid an enormous price to protect the unitary state.
- I will not allow any Sri Lankan, including our war heroes who were engaged in the humanitarian mission, to answer to any international judiciary or tribunal or be subject to any international investigation. I pledge to protect them throughout my life.
- During the humanitarian effort if any citizen's human rights had been violated, I will arrange for such persons to obtain redress in accordance with a system that would be put in place within the existing legal framework in the country.
- I will establish a transparent local mechanism through the existing legal framework to ensure that fairness and justice is meted out in the event the human rights of any citizen have been violated during the humanitarian mission.

Steadfast Foreign Policy

- I will carry forward our non-aligned foreign policy in a steadfast manner. Even when the world was divided between two powerful global powers, and when international conditions were unstable due to the collapse of one super power, we maintained our non-aligned foreign policy.





- I will adopt a friendly foreign policy towards all countries including those who supported our cause during the war against terrorism, as well as those countries who seem to consider the defeat of terrorism as an offence and are attempting to punish us for that outcome.
- I will further strengthen our relationships with India, Pakistan and other countries of the SAARC region.
- I will strengthen the political, economic and technical relationships with India, China, Russia and Japan who are among our key regional friends.
- I will further expand foreign relations with the Middle Eastern countries and also with African and Latin American countries.
- I will the Sri Lanka's ranking as the country with the highest level of law and order in South Asia, and position our country to be a peace missionary in regional and world conflicts.

Pride of place for Food Security

Food security in a country is as significant as its national security. If a country is not in a position to maintain its food stock in a qualitative and quantitative manner, or if such a policy is deliberately or accidentally overlooked, it can leave room for others to interfere with the political stability and/or the national security of that country. Therefore, I will not leave room for our citizens to go on their knees again, as done in the past, where we had to depend on others for our basic food requirement.

- I will present a Food Security Act to the Parliament in order to formulate a legal framework that would facilitate adequate food





production, marketing and the maintenance of food stocks according to the country's requirements.

- I will continue to maintain the country's rice production at a high level, while accelerating the production of our indigenous food items such as different types of grains, jak, breadfruit, potatoes and sweet potatoes.
- I will implement a program to grow indigenous food bearing trees such as jak and breadfruit in and around renovated tanks and irrigated lands.
- I will make arrangements for the Government to increase the purchase of paddy up to 10 percent of the national production and issue such paddy stocks to small and medium scale mills, at the guaranteed price stipulated for paddy.





2. A WIDE POLITICAL REFORM – A NEW POLITICAL CULTURE

We have been battered for 36 years by the 1978 Constitution which was thrust upon our people and country, without an appropriate debate or discussion. We must also collectively acknowledge that our Constitution is now further distorted due to the various amendments over the years, some of which are not consistent with others. Therefore, instead of amending the Constitution further with piece-meal changes, I will take action to formulate a new Constitution that reflects the peoples' ideas, aspirations and wishes, within a period of one year.

- The entire Parliament will be formed as a Constitutional Council consisting of peoples' representatives belonging to all political parties, which will identify the peoples' expectations and aspirations in order to formulate a new Constitution.
- I will appoint a Citizens' Advisory Council consisting of representatives of political parties who are not members of the Parliament, representatives of the youth parliament, Constitutional experts, intellectuals and professionals, in order to seek citizens' views and recommendations for the new Constitution.
- I will first submit the Draft Constitution which will consist of the proposals of these groups, for the Parliament's approval in accordance with the Constitution. Thereafter, I will present the Draft Constitution to a referendum seeking the approval of the people.





- I will also ensure that the discussion on the new Constitution covers all sections, including the present executive presidency, the present election system, the rule of law, the powers of the judiciary, and the governance structures.
- I have patiently listened to the merits and de-merits of the debate on the executive presidency. Accordingly, by eliminating the weaknesses of the Parliamentary system while retaining its satisfactory elements, I will amend the present executive presidency system, according to the decisions of the Constitutional Council.
- I will introduce a new election system that is a combination of the proportional representation system and the electoral system thereby eliminating the harmful elements of the preferential vote system. The purpose of such amendments would be to establish a stable government, a strong opposition and to enable the representation of minority groups and other social entities in Parliament.
- I believe that peoples' representatives should engage in a continuous discussion with the people on a continuous basis. Democracy becomes more effective when peoples' ideas can be included directly into the process of enactment of laws. On that basis, I propose to establish a Citizens' Council comprising of the Maha Sangha, other clergy, professionals, intellectuals, representatives of the youth parliament, representatives of trade unions, as well as national leaders of civil organizations.
- I propose to include the necessary constitutional procedures in the new Constitution to increase the representation of women at public organizations and institutions.





- We have to review good governance from a new angle, in keeping with the expansion of the development process. Therefore, I believe that it is the opportune time to review the functions of institutions in order to ascertain whether such institutions need any changes in their governance structures in order to improve their performances and to reach the new goals that may be set. Accordingly, I will establish a National Audit Commission which has technological and managerial expertise and financial audit capabilities, and provide the necessary powers, finances and human resources to this Commission, thereby empowering it to conduct independent investigations.
- Given the debate on the conduct of politicians, I will also prepare processes and procedures for a peoples' representative to take an oath to conduct himself/herself according to certain norms before he/she commences duties. I will empower the National Audit Commission to supervise and monitor as to whether such pledge has been adhered to, during the politician's term of office.
- I will make the collective responsibility and confidentiality of the Cabinet, a constitutional responsibility.
- In order to safeguard the rights of the youth with respect to their views and ideas on matters of national significance, I will submit such matters to the youth parliament in order to obtain their views and recommendations before such matters are presented in Parliament.
- I will provide an opportunity for the representatives of the youth parliament who have expectations of entering the political stream in the country, to appoint their representatives to Parliamentary Advisory Committees.





Good governance programme in accordance with the Indo-Sri Lankan philosophical heritage

Good governance is not an abstract precept of neo liberal imperialism. I believe that the fundamentals of good governance are based on the Indo-Lanka philosophical heritage that is seamlessly blended with all natural elements. Therefore, the good governance principles by which we are guided, are based on the Indo-Sri Lanka noble governance concepts. Such principles are wrapped by the “cause and effect” based historical heritage, which consists of social prosperity and values, nature, and civilized human behavior. I believe that our 5,000 year old historical heritage has provided an unbroken integral universal reality that guides us even today. As a result, we Sri Lankans are the real heirs of the fundamental principles of good governance which is now raised beyond individually centered laws to a level governed by religious convictions as well. You and I are the proud owners and followers of that rich heritage. Based on that heritage, I firmly assure you that I will establish a truly effective and ethical governance system for our motherland.

Collective democracy and civil administration

You and I are a part of a society. For thousands of years, our forefathers have lived in harmony. We were able to live in that manner because we had deep-rooted protection, security, sustenance, happiness and spiritual existence. Therefore, even today, the family, society, village, area and city are all linked, chain-like, in our nation. For a long time, we have been dreaming of a “village in a city”, and a “city in a village”. Today, that dream has become a reality. The grass-root level peoples’ organizations in our country have contributed immensely to the active social and political lives of our people. As the person who paved the way for such civil society activities by





eradicating terrorism, I could modestly claim that the civil society in our country is better organized than that of any other country in the world. In that background, I will work towards harnessing and empowering the collective democracy in the village and the city, through a combined programme involving religious organizations, civil society organizations and peoples' organizations. I will also prepare the ground work for the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative processes required for a village council system represented at the village council area level. The village council system will be formed jointly and implemented by the religious, civil, village, non-governmental, civil society, and other public organizations. Already, the necessary preliminary research has been conducted in this regard, and reports have been prepared. Based on this research and knowledge, I will empower people to take decisions relating to the furtherance of collective democracy, village level development work, as well as social and cultural affairs.

Going beyond parliamentary, provincial council and divisional secretariat level representative democracy, I will promote the adoption of direct democratic and participatory democracy to facilitate civil and village level decision making. Through such a process, I will implement the processes and procedures to raise the macro as well as micro political culture in our country to a higher level. That would enable our people to become shareholders of a democratic good governance process. By combining civil society organizations and peoples' sources, I will institutionalize a national forum by combining the civil society and ancillary civil networks into a advisory structure that will provide advice in the policy formulation of the country, as well.





Freedom of Expression and the assurance of Media Freedom

We live in a society which considers freedom of expression as a fundamental right. Therefore, we staunchly support and protect media freedom. I have always protected the freedom of expression of all members of society, and stood firmly for media freedom. Therefore, I am deeply committed to further protect the existence of an independent media, as well as safeguard press freedom. I believe that the main function of the media should not only be to establish communication links, but also be a facilitator for national development. As you are aware, the digital era in which we live today, has made print media, radio channels, television and web media essential elements for development and the existence of democracy.

- I will introduce a new scheme to provide technical training for the traditional print, radio and television media.
- I will implement a scheme to enhance training for every media person to become a professional.
- I will set up a Communication University to enhance the knowledge levels of all journalists and media personnel and empower them with professional training.
- I will build a housing complex in close proximity to Colombo for all journalists and media personnel.
- I will work towards building a media culture, since media is not just a market activity, but a national aspiration-centered operation, which should operate with a national responsibility.





3. AN ETHICAL SOCIETY

I strongly believe that the sustenance of the physical development of a country can be secured over the long term only if it is linked with the building up of an ethical society. Our nation is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. The entire nation, Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim and Burgher should be proud of that heritage. Therefore, we should further build on the strength of our unparalleled civilization, and enjoy the victories we have secured as a nation. I know that the continuous development of our nation, as well as our national unity and integrity would depend on the extent to which we are capable of rejuvenating and resuscitating our cultural heritage. On that basis, we need to sustain an ethical society, which we inherited from our ancestors over our long and eventful history.

Religious Development

- I will provide full government support to promote the Buddha Sasana primarily, while also supporting all other religions.
- I will prepare a legal framework to promote and develop historical traditions and conventions of all religious organizations, with the advice of religious leaders and clergy.
- I will prepare all necessary legislation after having early discussions on the debated Vihara and Devalagam Act, for the development of the Buddha Sasana.
- I will establish a National Buddhist Library in Anuradhapura which will protect and preserve all Buddhist books, journals, documents which have been a major element in Sri Lanka's 2300 year old Buddhist culture. Such a library will also enable





foreigners and others to learn Buddhism and about the Buddha Sasana, while making documentary evidence available as reference for future generations.

- I will commence a national movement to develop the ethical values in school children. I strongly believe that such a movement will quantitatively and qualitatively develop only when it emerges from among students and children belonging to different faiths in each school.

A stop to abuse of children and women

- I will enact tough new laws and rules to our Criminal Law in order to safeguard and protect children from abuse and cruelty.
- I will introduce a new Protection of Women Act to prevent all types of abuse and cruelty towards women.
- I will establish a “Mobile Police Force” to act instantaneously on complaints of abuse and ill-treatment on children and women as soon as they are reported.
- I will establish a “Children and Women Protection Committee” in each village.
- I will introduce a new mechanism for mothers to hand over their unwanted children to District Provincial Centres, thereby preventing the abortions of unwanted pregnancies.
- I will establish “Lama Surakum Pavura” (Child Protection Programme) with parents, teachers and students as constituent members, in order to prevent cruelty and abuse to children either at home or in schools.





- I propose the recruitment of psychological advisors, and/or mentors to be attached to all state organizations and divisional secretariats.
- I will enact the necessary laws and strengthen the legal provisions to prosecute drug peddlers and their associates who sell harmful drugs to children. I will also firmly deal with those who engage in anti-social activities by enticing children for such activities.

A permanent stop to the underworld and drug menace

I have already suppressed the underworld drug empire to a great extent. I have never appointed underworld leaders to the positions of Justice of Peace or to the working committees of political parties as done by earlier regimes. I will now put a complete stop to all criminal gangs, including underworld drug peddlers and extortionists, and write the final page of the book on that type of criminal and murderous culture.

- I will set up a special security force to prevent the drugs trade and large scale criminal activities with the assistance of the Army. At the same time, I will set up a special criminal court to investigate such offences and punish wrong doers within a short time.
- I will establish a naval force to curb and destroy all activities relating to the drug menace at sea, in the same way the drug menace is curbed on land.
- I will provide necessary facilities and resources to the officials of the Police Narcotics Bureau, Customs Department and other related institutions to prevent the importation of harmful drugs into our country, and the peddling and/or marketing of such drugs.





Compassion towards animals

We are a compassionate nation, where we even save a little ant when it falls into a glass of water and is in danger of drowning. Compassion is a national trait. Given the fact that we do not harm even a stray dog, I know our affection and love for animals is immense. Therefore, I will implement an animal protection programme which will give effect to our natural love and affection towards all animals.

- I will invite animal welfare organizations to set up centres to take care of stray dogs and their pups left on the high streets. I will provide government assistance to set up such centres.
- I will implement a programme that rewards individuals who continuously show love and kindness to animals.





4. A LOYAL PUBLIC SERVICE SERVING THE COUNTRY

I believe that you remember the history of the summary dismissal of the workers who resorted to trade union action seeking a salary increase of ten rupees, and the several attempts to slash the public service and remove pension rights. That insensitive regime destroyed the strategic enterprises of the state and sold important public enterprises for a pittance. They obtained power to do all this by promising large scale pay hikes, which were limited to words. I need not tell you that those who used undefined terms such as “peoplisation” for privatization, are today speaking of “Temasekarising” the public service, with the hidden agenda of diluting the public service completely. I urge you not to be misled by such bogus promises, and be assured that my programme to strengthen the public service while providing generous annual salary increments will not be changed under any circumstances. I am firmly committed to strengthen the pension rights, provident fund rights and all other rights of the public servant and make the public servant an honourable citizen.

- I will introduce a new code of service ethics for the public service to work independently, without unnecessary interventions and limitations.
- I will prepare a service constitution for graduates and development officers to gain entrance to staff grades and appropriate salary scales.
- I will prepare a system for non-graduate officers in the management assistant grades and parallel services to obtain degrees with the assistance of Sri Lanka Institute for Development Administration.





- I will implement a system that appreciates the service of officers in the technical and scientific services, in order to further develop these services.
- I will implement a new housing scheme to ensure that government servants have a house of their own.
- I am aware that the house rents have increased, particularly because of the increased demand for houses on rent from those employed in urban areas, who do not seek permanent housing. Therefore, I will implement a scheme for rented apartments in suburban areas with the involvement of the government and the private sector.
- I will permit private corporates and entrepreneurs who are desirous in supporting accommodation needs of their employees to reserve the required amount of housing by providing investment contributions to this programme.
- I will appoint an Administration Ombudsman in each divisional secretariat division to mediate in the event of administrative oversights to take corrective action, as well as to improve productivity.
- I will ensure that the rights of Attorneys-at-Law and Notaries are preserved in respect of the execution of title deeds in respect of land transactions.

A proud Military and an honourable Police

I will never forget that if not for our heroic tri-forces, courageous police and an alert civil defence force, you and I will not have a country today. Therefore, I will pledge that I will not discriminate against the armed forces, police or civil defence forces.





- As seen in recent criminal investigations, our police has proved that it is not second to any other police force in the world in terms of efficiency and crime detecting ability. I honour them for that service, and will provide them with modern equipment, technical facilities, training and expert human resources to facilitate more scientific criminal investigations.
- In many countries, immediately after a war is over, the armed forces personnel are discharged. In some instances, their ranks are reduced. However, over the past 9 years, I did not do so. Even in the future, our courageous armed force personnel, reservists, volunteers and civil defence forces will be retained without exception.
- I will not discharge a single officer or a soldier from his/her service.
- I will look after all injured and disabled armed forces personnel during their entire lifetime, while also ensuring that all benefits and entitlements are provided to them.
- I will arrange for retired armed forces personnel to be gainfully employed as well as ensure that medical and recreation facilities are continued to be provided to them.
- I will take measures to provide the police with sufficient facilities, such as accommodation and vehicles, which are required for them to work as an independent police force.
- I will implement a new counselling system to even deal with personal issues, and assist them in order to facilitate the provision of a honest and pleasant service by all public servants, including the armed forces, police and civil defence force.





Semi government institutions, banks and the private sector

I do not in any way, underestimate the contribution of these sectors in our country's economic development.

- The Employee's Provident Fund will be secured and I will not dilute or remove their right to the fund for any reason.
- I will take steps to introduce a strong health insurance scheme for the private sector.
- I will restore the pension rights of those bank employees who have not yet received the re-implemented pension rights, commencing January 2015.
- I will propose an attractive pension scheme to which the private sector employees can join voluntarily, in addition to the provident fund.

Workers abroad

- I will provide a vehicle permit with concessionary tax for those returning to Sri Lanka after a long term employment abroad.
- I will take measures to provide a monthly allowance through the Foreign Employment Bureau for those returning to Sri Lanka after becoming permanently disabled during employment abroad.
- I will strengthen the project implemented through the Rataviruvo programme of those migrating for employment to realize their dream of a house of their own.





- I will provide those who are employed abroad the right to vote at domestic elections.
- I will introduce early next year, a pension plan for those who are registered with the Foreign Employment Bureau and returning to Sri Lanka after working for more than six years abroad.
- I will implement a formal counselling service at the divisional secretariat level for the welfare of the families of housemaids employed abroad.





5. A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY

Our country, which was prosperous prior to foreign invasions, suffered a terrible decline during the centuries of foreign rule and domination. As a consequence, our self-sufficient economy, our governance systems, our knowledge-base, and our high social values were almost completely destroyed by the time we regained our independence in 1948.

Even after independence, our own governments followed governance patterns similar to the colonial powers, and even reluctantly, we have to admit that our country was not able to realize its true potential.

Our economy was liberalized in 1977. The policies that followed widened the gap between the rich and the poor to an unbelievable extent, thereby causing a huge disparity among the people of our country. The insurrections that followed were symptoms of the ingrained social inequalities that prevailed in our society.

In 2005, the challenge before me was to usher peace to our Motherland. In 2010, the challenge was to move the country towards rapid development. The challenge before us today, is to ensure that the benefits of development are enjoyed by the people of our country in an increasing manner, so that the distinction between the rich and poor would be on a declining trend. The guiding philosophy in that context, would be to enhance the prosperity of our people, not merely by the accumulation of profits at whatever cost or through whatever means, but by doing so, through ethical, honest and humane means.

In the past, the rich used to look at those who had less, with disdain, while those who had less, used to look at those who had plenty, with envy. I believe that by reducing disparities, those social tensions and inequalities could be





addressed, and thereby the country raised to a more sustainable level. The society that I have in mind, would therefore consist of Sri Lankans enjoying varying degrees of prosperity, rather than a society that is clearly divided as the rich and poor. In this regard, I would strive to develop a modern Sri Lankan who would not only work towards his or her own goals, but also work with a deep commitment towards our society and our beloved country.

In 2010, I pledged to usher a country with a per capita income of US\$ 4,000 by the year 2016. I am happy to now confirm that Sri Lanka would be in a position to realize that goal one year ahead, by 2015. I am truly proud of that national achievement. At the same time, I now wish to pledge that we would raise our country's per capita income to US\$ 7,500, or about Rs.1,000,000 by the year 2020, by maintaining an economic growth in excess of 7% over the next several years. By doing so, we would reach an upper middle income nation status where over 20 million people living in our country, would be people of reasonable means and prosperity.

An environmental-friendly and technologically-empowered agricultural focus

My father was a farmer. So was my grand-father. I enjoyed working in the fields with them. The entire farm environment is familiar to me, and I derive my greatest pleasures in that serene environment.

I firmly believe that agriculture would continue to play a highly important role in our society and economy in the future, as it did in the past.

- In a previous era, the farmers in Polonnaruwa used to commit suicide because their harvest could not be taken to the market place and a reasonable price obtained, because of the autocratic actions of certain persons in that area. I pledge to eradicate those





autocratic practices and ensure that such corrupt and high-handed practices are eradicated.

- I will usher an environment-friendly agricultural sector by ensuring that our earth is not contaminated by obnoxious pesticides which cause long term damage to our soil. In this connection, I am aware that every farmer is keen to possess land for cultivation and have water at the right time, fertilizer for his plants, and a fair price for his harvest. Therefore, I pledge to work towards such outcomes.

Land for Cultivation

- I will take steps to allocate lands that are not used for the production of food to be made available to people in keeping with the direction of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Lands.
- For this purpose, I will establish a Land Bank which would earmark lands that could be entrusted on a lease basis to small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

Water for plants and animals

Water is a great and sacred asset of our country. The water that flows along the Mahaweli, Kalu, Kelani and Walawe rivers portray the sanctity of this living resource. As was promulgated by King Parakramabahu, we must strive to ensure that not a single drop of water is wasted. Not only should such policy benefit the plant life in our country, it would also serve to maintain and support the people as well as animals, who too have the right to enjoy the water in our land.





A river for Jaffna, and a tank for Elephant Pass

In an earlier era, the farmers of the South obtained guidance from their counterparts in the North as to how to cultivate chillies and onions. I believe it is my responsibility to ensure the availability of water to those Northern farmers, as I am also aware that in 1920 a plan was mooted to accumulate the water flowing along Kanakarayan Aru Oya at the Elephant Pass lagoon, and thereby create a new fresh water tank in the area.

- The terrain in that area could be used to develop such a tank and I intend to commission a consultancy consisting of experts to assess the feasibility of such a project.
- By harvesting the rain waters in Vavuniya, as well by utilizing the massive water resources that flow along Kanakarayan Aru Oya, the base for a Jaffna river could be formulated according to experts. It is therefore my intention to pursue this project so that we could provide a continuous supply of water for the people in the North.

Water for All

- By completing the Moragahakanda-Kalu Ganga reservoir scheme in 2015, I would provide a massive water resource to the North Central Province.
- By diverting the Lower Malwathu Oya, I would provide water to the Mannar District.
- For the first time in our country, a project was launched to re-circulate the water that was flowing to the ocean in Trincomalee, to Kalinganuwara, Angamedilla and Minneriya. Through such





projects, I would ensure that the water requirements of the North Central Province is assured.

- I believe that the Deduru Oya project which was completed in 2014 would ensure that the water requirements of the people in Wayamba would be met.
- By implementing the Uma Oya project, I would ensure that the people in the Hambantota and Moneragala Districts would not suffer from any water shortages.
- I will ensure that the water problems in the Southern Province are addressed through the Gin Ganga project.
- I will commence a project to assess the ground water resources in our country in order to ascertain the potential and to map this resource. By doing so, I will be able to ensure that all water related projects are implemented without disturbing the ground water resources of our country.
- I will commence a project to ensure that river banks of the main rivers in our country are maintained in a clean and orderly manner.
- We have already rehabilitated 678 small irrigation projects as well as completed the Weheragala, Rambakken Oya and Gurugal Oya reservoirs.
- I will entrust the safeguarding of the various tanks and irrigation canals to the farm organizations of the respective areas instead of officials, because the farmers deeply appreciate the value of the water resource. In order to maintain such tanks and canals, I will commence a National Tank Fund which would provide the finances for this purpose.





- I will ensure that the all village level tanks, numbering over 30,000, would be rehabilitated under the auspices of the Divi Neguma project, and thereby ensuring that the water problems that have been faced by our farmers in the past are completely addressed.
- As a consequence, the ground water levels in the dry zone are also expected to rise, and as a result, not only people but animals as well as plants would benefit immensely through these initiatives.

Seeds and fertilizer for cultivation

- The ready availability of seeds will be considered a responsibility of the State, and therefore a legal framework as well as a national programme will be implemented for this purpose.
- In order to ensure that the seed production is maintained at the highest levels, I will ensure that Seed Research Centres are established with modern technology.
- In order to reduce the use of chemicals, I will encourage natural cultivation techniques using local seeds.
- I will ensure that a 50 Kg fertilizer bag would continue to be provided at Rs 350/-. At the same time, in order to encourage the use of organic fertilizer, I will introduce a new programme as well.

Capital for the Farmer

- In order to provide relief to our farmers, the farmers' loan scheme would be revitalized. The Department of Agricultural Services would be used to provide loans expeditiously through the banking system which will also be re-oriented towards such a goal.





Cultivation and Markets

- Our agriculture has now reached hi-tech mechanized levels. I will provide a five year tax relief to those entrepreneurs who import equipment for mechanized planting, farming, weeding and harvesting.
- The young entrepreneurs who wish to engage in mechanized agriculture will be provided with loans upto Rs 2,500,000, at minimum interest rates.
- I will introduce a national scheme to promote small and medium scale mills instead of large scale monopolistic rice mills.
- I will make available loans at concessionary interest rates to those who wish to modernize the production of high quality rice flour.
- I will establish a step-by-step increase in the guaranteed price for paddy for those who use organic fertilizer while minimizing the use of chemical fertilizer.
- I will set up a separate unit at the Ministry of Agriculture to promote producers of non-poisonous food crops.
- As we have reached self-sufficiency in rice and maize, we will take measures to be self-sufficient in Green Gram, Cowpea, Soya Beans, Kurakkan, Chillies, Undu and other food crops.

Non-seasonal fruits and vegetables

- I will prepare a harvest calendar which categorizes the country into 46 agri-environmental regions, and identify the production capacities of each region.





- According to the harvest calendar, in order to harvest crops throughout the year, farmers will be guided and technology will be provided with a view to producing vegetables and fruits for foreign markets through a cultivation program.
- I will provide all facilities to contractual farmers, who produce necessary seed types and maintain nurseries, for this purpose.
- I will construct refrigeration plants for the benefit of vegetable farmers to preserve their vegetables: a facility that was long delayed due to various reasons.
- I will implement a subsidized program to promote low cost, medium size entrepreneurs in the transport of vegetables.

Livestock Development Program

- Under the technical guidance and support of the Livestock Development Board, I will set up an island-wide breeding farm network. For this purpose, by promoting young farmers through a special concessionary package, we will develop local breeds of milking cows.
- To enhance the number of professionals in this field, I will increase the intake of students for the veterinary degrees in Universities. Through this plan, we will take action to increase the productivity of the livestock and minimize frequent illnesses of milking cows.
- I will establish a national level institution to enhance educational training programs for diary farmers and through it, to generate young professional diary entrepreneurs.





- By limiting the import of raw materials for cattle food such as Punnakku and Niwudu Thiringu, the government will promote a local competitive price together with necessary concessions.
- Today, Sri Lanka is self-sufficient in poultry production and the ability to export such products is a great opportunity for our agri farmers. As there is a ready market for our milk products, especially in India, South Africa and the Middle East, I will support the securing of such markets by providing the necessary facilities.
- With a view to improving the traditional livestock industry of the people in the North and the East, I will initiate a program to provide goat calves to each family under the Divi Neguma Department.

Technology based Plantation Sector

Tea Plantation

Tea has been one of the main products that has spread Sri Lanka's brand name worldwide. I will therefore provide government assistance to promote entrepreneurs and companies which are engaged in large scale tea plantations.

- In order to provide the scientific inputs and technological innovations, I will arrange state interventions that would provide encouragement and support to the large scale tea producers.
- I will implement a loan scheme at concessionary interest rates to promote the production of high quality tea plants at a reasonable price.





- In order to increase the harvest as well as improve the quality, I will implement the necessary programmes to improve nurseries and enhance research in this sector.
- To strengthen the Association of Tea Small Holders, I will facilitate the establishment of a Leaves Collection Center in the relevant administrative areas.

Rubber Plantation

- I will continue the minimum guaranteed price scheme for rubber.
- In order to promote rubber cultivation in non-traditional areas such as Moneragala, Ampara, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Hambantota, I will establish state owned nurseries and introduce a new mix of fertilizer that would support the rubber industry.
- I will provide concessionary funds to land owners who grow additional/subsidiary crops to increase their income from rubber and coconut plantations.
- I will implement a special scheme in order to introduce the use of advanced technology in rubber production.
- I will strengthen rubber plantation associations and also ensure that those who tap rubber as well other service providers in the industry are trained through a new training institute that would be established.

Coconut Cultivation

- I will empower Coconut Research Institutions to search for ways to increase the crop per tree by using hybrid coconut plants.





- I will provide adequate knowledge to those entrepreneurs who are keen to promote productivity concepts within the coconut cultivation lands.
- I will amend all laws pertaining to tea, rubber and coconut cultivation to be consistent with modern developments.
- I will introduce modern technology for the tapping of rubber and plucking of tea leaves and coconuts.
- I will set out the tea, rubber and coconut plantation lands on a geographical map for easy reference.
- I will improve the work of all research institutions pertaining to tea, rubber and coconut in keeping with modern technology, using assistance from countries who have developed research in these fields.

Cultivation of Export Crops

- At present, Sri Lanka is the foremost cinnamon supplier to the world. Therefore, I will make available the maximum government contribution to cinnamon entrepreneurs to further improve production.
- I will promote and facilitate the further expansion of nutmeg cultivation and enhancement of production in the districts of Kandy and Matale because nutmeg production is one of the income sources of the rural people in such districts.
- I will make the necessary capital funds available to growers under a loan scheme at concessionary rates, to enhance production of cardamom, cocoa and arecanut.





- I will provide concessionary loans for the cultivation of export crops such as Katu wel, Wel ala and Kiri ala, in addition to the benefits provided in the budget.

Realizing the Potential of the Ocean Economy

The major resource for any island is the ocean surrounding it. However, I believe that the Pearl of the Indian Ocean has not yet exploited and benefited from the ocean resources. I strongly pledge to transform the Sri Lankan economy to an ocean economy by 2020.

- I believe that the ability to complete the demarcation of the continental shelf/sea limit of Sri Lanka in 2007 was an exceptional victory we secured before the finalization of the land war.
- In that context, I am very proud of the acceptance of my proposal in 2007 by the United Nations, which enabled Sri Lanka to extend its ocean zone from the norm of 200 to 800 nautical miles. Accordingly, Sri Lanka's ocean zone will be 23 times bigger than the land mass of the country.
- This was another major victory for Sri Lanka, since the ocean zone which we can now claim, will contain ocean resources such as petroleum, gas and mineral sands of which the economic value could well exceed US Dollars 1 trillion.
- As the Petroleum Resource Development Secretariat has already started the exploration of petroleum and gas in the Mannar basin, I will ensure that the people will benefit from such operations, before long.





- I will give priority to the production of sea related medicine, fisheries, sea plants and to enhance the value addition from port services and sea wave energy technology.
- I will encourage the canned fish industry as a strategic industry, and for this purpose, establish 5 canning factories in 5 selected areas.

The Realized Silk Road Dream

- I will build two port related cities in Hambantota and Colombo with comprehensive maritime facilities. Through such effort, I intend to create an environment within which in-country trade and maritime related mega entrepreneurial offices will be established. These offices will provide front and back office support operations.
- I will build two regional trade hubs around the two port cities consisting of tourist hotels, shopping complexes, entertainment centers, and exhibition and conference facilities.
- I will further develop Trincomalee port and make it a free port in the same manner we made Colombo and Hambantota free ports, thereby making the concept of free ports a reality. I will also prepare a special program to promote both local and foreign investments, in order that the enhanced production of goods, packaging and value addition would make Sri Lanka a regional hub.
- I will prepare a special program to promote small and medium scale domestic entrepreneurs, who provide ancillary services to large scale maritime and port industries.





- There is a high demand for indigenous food items such as breadfruit, jackfruit, potatoes and sweet potatoes from the maritime vessels that call in Sri Lanka. In this context, I have already prepared a scheme to enable Sri Lanka's farming community to increase their incomes by facilitating the collection, storage, preservation of food items and by adding value through supplies to the ships and vessels. Accordingly, I will introduce measures to set up 10 processed food collection centers around the country to support this endeavour.
- I will make the city of Galle a very high tourist attraction center by completing the already planned Galle port development project. That will help raise the living standards of the people in the Southern province, who make a living out of tourism.
- Using the newly built Oluwil port along with Kankasanthurai and Trincomalee ports that are being modernized, the people in the North and the East would be able to produce at low cost and source local and foreign markets for their products. To facilitate this process, I will establish a coastal navigation service.
- Associated with port related development, I will create 300,000 of high salary direct jobs, and 200,000 indirect jobs in the next six years.
- Through all these development projects, I will initiate action to ensure that there will be additional new foreign investments exceeding USD 10 billion in the next six years.
- To enhance the scientific knowledge of our young men and women, and to disseminate such knowledge among them in the fields of port, naval and maritime operations, I will strengthen the Ocean University.





- The Colombo Port has already become one of the busiest ports in recent times. I will immediately initiate an efficient process to reduce the delay in clearing containers out of the Colombo port, and thereby reduce the time wasted by drivers and other employees while also reducing their mental stress.
- By enhancing the physical resources, the adherence to international standards and by constantly improving the modernization of the Colombo and Hambantota international ports, I will make Sri Lanka one of the mega hubs in the global maritime industry.

New life for Fisher folk

I have been the Minister of Fisheries at one time. Therefore, I know the problems and issues of our fisher communities, whose life is the sea, often with limited resources and facilities. I treat them as my closest friends, and I will assist them to improve their lives and economic conditions. By empowering the future generations involved in fisheries, I will open all doors of the new Sri Lanka to them.

- The moment their husbands go to sea, the fisherwomen continue to live in fear each time there are heavy rains, or strong winds. The reason for this fear is the use of unprotected boats by our fishermen and the lack of communication links with the land. Therefore, I plan to grant them small multi-day boats, adequate for at least three days for their safety and convenience. These boats will be built jointly via public/private partnerships, and such boats will be made available on concessionary payment terms without an initial down-payment.





- I will introduce new processes for fishing according to international standards and will initiate action to provide the youth with free short-term training through the fast developing Ocean University.
- I will introduce a concessionary loan scheme under the Divineguma Bank to generate an entrepreneurial class for the production of dry fish and Jadi. I will provide opportunities for young fisher communities to enter into businesses which would take these products to the international markets, thereby generating new value additions.
- By conducting a study on sea lanes and the areas of fish concentrations I will provide ocean maps for the convenience of our fishing communities.
- I will implement an international trade development program in order to locate new markets in facing the challenges from international competitors.
- I will implement a scheme to develop water bodies using internal water pools, by considering the use of abandoned fields to develop fresh water fisheries products.





6. A ROBUST NATIONAL INDUSTRY AGENDA

My primary aim is to take the country forward in the next six years in agriculture, service as well as industry. In that regard, as a strategy for economic development of the country, I will prepare a national agenda for identifying the important industries and encouraging such industrialists by resolving the numerous impediments faced by them, thereby generating 600,000 direct jobs and 1,000,000 livelihood opportunities. I will introduce a new legal framework to facilitate this outcome, and towards that end, I will introduce an Industrial Development Act with comprehensive powers.

- The new Act will cover areas such as the further simplification of the tax system, the provision of all approvals at one location, establishing of time lines for approvals, facilitation of the supply of raw materials, human resource management, environmental protection, the use of new knowledge and technology and easier access to export markets.
- I believe that the result of any economic policy that we implement can only be obtained if there is a satisfactory institutional framework to strengthen that process. Therefore, I will align the entire state mechanism with this objective. Further, the first principle of auditing government institutions must be to assess as to what extent that institution has performed its service or capital provision efficiently and productively. Based on this premise, the plans of all institutions will be prepared and reviewed.
- I will implement an banking system to issue securities, indemnities and bonds enabling strategic industries and large and





medium scale industries to obtain capital investment from banks in Sri Lanka or abroad.

- I will make the necessary changes in the laws and regulations in order to align industrialisation with the development objectives.
- The complaint from many industrialists is that whatever concession is provided by the government, there are delays when obtaining those services. Therefore, I will implement a programme to provide the institutional support to obtain all approvals under one roof and to simplify procedures, without delay.

Support for Large Scale Industrialisation

Tourism industry

Although our country is blessed with the most attractive scenic environment, there were hardly any tourist arrivals at one time. However, based on the present conditions, I plan to increase the number of tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka to 5 million by 2020.

- In addition to the billions of dollars earned from the expanding tourism industry, the construction of 80,000 hotel rooms and resulting support services, will generate 100,000 new livelihood opportunities.
- I will develop Kalpitiya, Kuchchiveli, Yala and Passikuda areas for sea sports and beach tourism with the necessary and appropriate facilities.
- I will encourage young entrepreneurs and professionals to invest in selected regions to attract tourists who are fascinated with agriculture, environment and forest-based tourism.





- I will encourage private entrepreneurs to promote sports aimed at thrills and entertainment, linked to the tourism industry.
- I will implement a process which will spread Sri Lanka's brand name and goodwill by providing indigenous hospitality to tourists.
- I will encourage small entrepreneurs who supply organic as well as domestic food and beverages to tourists, by making loans of Rs. 500,000 available at concessionary rates.
- I will provide training to informal service providers to ensure a formal service to tourists.
- I will prepare a mechanism for concessions and regulation of developing a tourist industry based on the provision of indigenous medical services throughout the country by encouraging indigenous medical practitioners to do so.

Construction Industry

- I will create a national construction policy to secure the fullest contribution from builders, technicians, professionals and employees of the construction industry in order to sustain, and develop the construction sector.
- I will promulgate a domestic construction industry policy to meet the challenges and rapidly move ahead, surpassing other countries in the region.
- I will introduce the *Mahabhimani* National Programme in order to provide orderly training to nearly 600,000 technicians, while also enabling them to acquire an appropriate social recognition.





- I will implement a programme to provide foreign employment opportunities for construction workers.
- I will introduce the necessary standards to produce high quality raw materials for the construction industry.
- I will create a national construction information network.

Apparel Industry

- I will provide my fullest support to apparel industry owners enabling them to produce high quality garments and apparels for high networth customers and to explore international markets.
- I will introduce the production of soft textiles (medical textiles) which are needed for the health sector, and special textiles (geo-textiles) used for miscellaneous purposes, into Sri Lanka's garment and apparel industry. I assure that all facilities needed to develop this industry will be provided by our Government.
- I will provide the young entrepreneurs in the Batticaloa District with the new technology needed as well as capital in order that they could improve the domestic textile production.

A network of strategic industries

- I will establish a system of industries on products which are still imported, but can be produced locally, using local supplies. On that basis, I will build such industries with government support and the contribution of the country's leading entrepreneurs.
- I will invite entrepreneurs including all top ranking 200 corporates in the stock market to open 325 factories, one in each





Divisional Secretariat, in order to add value and use local raw materials for production. I will also provide concessions and incentives to these enterprises.

- I will generate 100,000 jobs employing the people who live in their own areas, through this programme.
- I will set up a network of scientific research laboratories attached to the universities throughout the country, which will promote new knowledge and domestic innovations and inventions within the national industrial system.
- I will set up a national research and development fund to encourage numerous scientists and researchers to engage in research and development, and take necessary steps to enable this fund to provide financial support to industrialists and researchers.

Sugar Industry

I will develop the sugar industry as a public private investment partnership under the new Strategic Management Act. The blueprint to ensure the production of sugar locally to meet the domestic requirement by 2020 has already been prepared.

- I will increase domestic sugar production by 40% by cultivating sugarcane in the entire area under the control of the Sugar companies.
- I will modernize the Pelawatte, Sevenagala and Hingurana sugar factories. I will also promote the use of high yielding seeds and modern plantation methods to raise the harvest to 100 metric tonnes per hectare.





- I will add a further 120,000 hectares of land in Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Mannar and Bibile, towards sugarcane cultivation. Ultra modern factories will be built in these areas.
- I will generate 25,000 new direct employment opportunities through these factories. In addition, I will create a new breed of sugarcane growers by facilitating farmers who do not benefit from existing agriculture, so as to provide livelihood opportunities to at least 100,000 farmer families in these areas.
- I will prepare a strategy to use ethanol, which is a byproduct of sugar production to be used as a fuel mix, and not to produce liquor.
- I will build several by-product industries such as cardboard, paper and plastic through this industry.
- I will add a substantial quantum of renewable energy through the sugar factories, to the national grid.

The Milk Industry – A White revolution

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction for us to note the increase in domestic milk production from 13% to 40% by revolutionizing the domestic milk industry, which had collapsed due to step-motherly treatment over a long period of time. Strengthened by this success, I aim to make Sri Lanka self-sufficient in milk production by 2020.

- Although it is reported that there are 1,200,000 milk cows in Sri Lanka, I do not see dairy production relative to that level. One of the key reasons for that situation is the non-availability of a





country-wide liquid milk collection and distribution system. Accordingly, I will establish a network of milk collection and storage throughout the country.

- I will establish 9 milk related industries in each of the provinces.
- I will introduce a system of marketing the products of these industries using the name of the province as a brand which is expected to promote sales.
- I will establish 4 main milk powder factories thereby enabling the domestic milk powder industry to compete with imported milk.

A system of Mineral based industries

Many people think that the most valuable mineral resources in the world are gold, diamonds and petroleum. In Sri Lanka too, I believe a majority hold this view. I am also aware that we have not yet reaped the full benefit of our mineral resources including gems, ilmenite, graphite, silica and limestone. Therefore, I will commence a National Mineral Industry Development Programme while carefully protecting the environment.

Gem Industry

- Considering the fame of Sri Lankan blue sapphires in international markets, I will transform Sri Lanka to be a foremost trade centres for blue sapphires.
- I will expedite the ongoing programme to attract leading gem and jewellery traders of the world, thereby placing Sri Lanka at the forefront of the gem industry.





- I will open new business opportunities for entrepreneurs engaged in the gem industry by introducing modern electronic heat treatment technology to increase the value addition of *Geuda* and *Kuruwinda* gems.
- I will introduce the precision cutting technology that is still not widely used in Sri Lanka in order to increase the value addition to low value stones.
- I will increase the income levels of small entrepreneurs in the gem industry by opening global markets for raw gem products.

Latent Resources

I will introduce a national sustainable mineral resource industry policy to reap the benefits of resources such as graphite, phosphate, iron, ironore, petroleum, natural gas, mineral sands and to develop value added industries.

- I will take measures to develop resources such as Eppawala Phosphate Mine into industries with modern technology catering to the requirements of domestic agriculture and plantations, providing products such as Rock Phosphate, Single Super Phosphate and Triple Super Phosphate.
- I will increase the production capacity of these industries by utilizing biotechnology, nanotechnology, robotics, information and cyber technology.
- I will develop the small and medium scale entrepreneurs who collect dispersed mineral resources from stretches of beaches in Sri Lanka.





- I will introduce a special programme to protect miners who put their lives at risk and also introduce a life insurance scheme for them.

Small enterprise development programme

- I will implement the “Jayabima Lanka” programme to direct products of cottage, small and medium scale industries to the global market.
- I will implement a programme to ease access to training, technology and market information to such entrepreneurs, by strengthening the Industrial Development Board further.
- I will restructure the Export Development Board and transform it to be the premier institution which could properly guide the small and medium scale industries and producers to venture into the international market.
- I will implement a special development credit scheme through all state banks at a concessionary rate with no instalment recovery in the first two years.
- I will establish a National Council to fulfil the requirements of small entrepreneurs with the participation of all relevant government institutions and the representatives of such entrepreneurs.

Creating Modern Markets via our Traditional Heritage

The spread of haberdashery following the sudden advent of open economic policies rendered our traditional handi craftsmen destitute. Therefore it





would give me great pleasure to see a future where their products could once again decorate the homes of the international proponents of globalization. Accordingly, I will implement a programme to promote traditional industries, targeting the global markets.

- I will link the villages producing traditional products directly with the National Design Centre, which will be changed structurally and qualitatively.
- I will take measures through Laksala, which is a key government intermediary in the handicraft sector, to stabilize the domestic market through forward contracts.
- I will provide funding through a revolving fund for the youth willing to engage in the production of high quality traditional goods for the international market.
- I will extend a loan facility at 6% to be made available to bus importers for the importation of small lorries by 25,000 young entrepreneurs below the age of 35. I will exempt them from income tax within the first five years. The lorries will have to be used by the young entrepreneurs to collect and distribute the produce of small scale farmers engaged in rural agriculture and small scale producers.
- I will take the necessary steps to identify helpless elderly persons who were previously engaged in such industries and pay a living allowance to them.





7. TAKING THE FRUITS OF TO DEVELOPMENT THE VILLAGE VIA DIVINEGUMA

A Beautiful City and a vastly improved Village through Divineguma

From the *Gamaneguma* programme to the *Divineguma* programme, I have made efforts to convert our traditionally beautiful villages into wealthy habitats with a high standard of common amenities. Because I am also a villager, I commenced beautifying the cities only after improving the villages. Today, after the transformation of the cities, people from the villages also request for facilities and a level of cleanliness, as in the cities.

- The aim of the *Gamaneguma* programme was to provide all villages with common amenities including developed and attractive access roads, clean irrigation canals and waterways, health centers with all facilities, modernized cooperative shops, pre-schools surrounding children's parks and beautiful schools.
- The 25,000 vastly improved villages programme under *Divineguma* was aimed at providing the families living in the developed villages, to enjoy the common amenities enjoyed by the rich.
- I will ensure that all families could live in a house with permanent shelter, and that all such houses are provided with electricity, clean drinking water and proper sanitation facilities.





- I will provide healthcare facilities at improved health centres to all pregnant mothers and children, and I will make it compulsory to provide comprehensive services such as public transport and other service centers including Nenasala, to members of all families.
- I will implement a system of home delivery of government services such as the issue of the National Identity Card upon reaching 18 years of age, as well as the issue of examination certificates.
- I will beautify and fully equip children's parks in all villages for children to play.
- I will ensure that at least one member in each family has a permanent income or employment, ensuring that every family enjoys a satisfactory life style.
- I will revive the traditional industries in each village by providing the funds required to engage in such industries through the Divineguma Bank on a combination of interest free and low interest loans.
- I will give priority to women entrepreneurs and provide them with the necessary knowledge and training through the Divineguma officer, so that they could engage in domestic industries such as floriculture, horticulture, fruit and vegetable production, domestic food production, animal husbandry and other types of self employment.
- I will introduce the internet based Dana Janani programme, where the youth will be able to generate income from home.





Towards that end, I will make arrangements to register persons who are willing to provide internet based services and develop a link to provide such services to those who need them, thereby facilitating the service providers to earn monthly incomes of a minimum of Rs. 25,000 from home.

- I will establish a Comprehensive Resource Centre in each village to provide protection for children of mothers living and working abroad, children with special needs, children of broken families and children without adult care.
- I will establish a *Divasuwa Pedesa* within such centers for senior citizens in retirement, as well as for the elderly without support. I will provide daily newspapers, religious books, light sports equipment, indoor games equipment such as checkers, carrom and chess, and exercise equipment to those centers.
- I will take steps to build villages that are free of alcohol and smoking, and free of abuse of women and children, through the development of religious harmony.
- I will make clean environment, protection of land and forest reserves, use of organic fertilizer, waste management and tree planting, a way of life in our country.
- I will not allow anyone to lose these benefits based on caste or any other social status.





Comprehensive Livelihood Development Programme

A large section of the population who contribute extensively to economic development through their skills, such as masons, carpenters, mobile salesmen, coconut pluckers, and other services on daily wages do not enjoy a reasonable level of social recognition in our society, yet. Therefore, I will implement a Comprehensive Livelihood Development Programme in order to provide such persons with an equal social status.

- I will establish a Bureau for Informal Employment which will register such service providers and issue them an identity card.
- I will broaden the opportunities available for them to obtain professional training, IT literacy, technical expertise, accounting and banking knowledge as well as social awareness.
- I will make arrangements to provide them with a small lorry or a motor cycle with the required instruments and tools needed for the profession.
- I will facilitate the identification of service providers, payment agreements, and advance payments when there is a repair job in a house or an office, by providing an internet interface. On that basis, the service provider will be able to use his/her own vehicle to transport raw material, tools and workers and attend to the repair. This will save time for the service recipient while enhancing the social value of the service provider.
- I will arrange for new entrepreneurs to acquire a small lorry on concessionary terms.





Self employment protection programme

- I will establish a Self-Employment Bureau under the Divineguma Department for the protection of the self employed throughout the country.
- I will introduce a new credit system to meet the daily cash flow requirements of all self employed in rural and urban areas. Under this scheme, a person who maintains a daily investment account with daily deposits of Rs. 20 to Rs. 500 for a period of one year will be able to obtain an investment loan of three times the balance of the account, interest free, for one month.
- I will provide such persons with a free computer literacy programme through the Nenasala so that they could develop their careers through modern knowledge.
- I will provide a suitable location in each city for the urban self-employed to sell their produce, and also request local government agencies not to charge exorbitant taxes from them.
- I will co-ordinate the activities of all private transportation sectors such as three wheelers, budget taxis, schools vans, and tourist transport vehicles under the care of the Ministry of Private Transport Services.
- I will not forget the fact that during the humanitarian operation, while war heroes were protecting the country, the three wheeler drivers dedicated their service to protect the cities day and night. I am also well aware of the fact that the friend of the poor in transportation is the three wheeler. Therefore, in order to address their cash flow problems, I will introduce a new savings scheme





named “*Divi Diriya*” where unsecured loans upto Rs 50,000 at an interest rate of 6% could be disbursed through the State Mortgage and Investment Bank.

- Further, I will also provide them with 20 years housing loans upto Rs. 5,000,000 at concessionary terms of interest.
- I will address the practical problems at the time of issuing revenue licenses and insurance due to delays in repaying lease rentals.
- I will give priority to urban three wheeler owners when allocating houses in urban housing schemes.
- I will provide opportunities to three wheeler operators covering tourist areas to improve their language skills and professional abilities through free formal training in order to uplift their economic well-being.
- I will implement a health insurance scheme and a pension scheme through the Social Security Division of the Divineguma Department for the drivers of private buses, lorries, three wheelers, budget taxis, school vans and tourist transport vehicles.





8. BUILDING THE NATIONAL IDENTITY THROUGH EDUCATION

A country's honourable existence depends on its national identity, which is based on its value system. Such systems is often built upon its national languages. What is known as American, Japanese, Chinese, and Indian are the national identities that go beyond the geography of these countries and nationalities. I believe that it was this national identity that was destroyed as a result of the thirty year war. We also know that the process of globalization is progressing with no regard being given to any national identities that are already destroyed. Therefore, what we need today is the re-establishment of our great national identity. I also firmly believe that our new-born children also require an education system where they can progress internationally, backed by our historic heritage and value systems, suitably coupled with modernism.

- I will implement from this year onwards, the “New Education Act” approved by the Parliamentary Select Committee with representation from all parties.
- The purpose of this Act is to build a generation of educated persons, with knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the ambitious development agenda.

Transforming Pre-Schools

The origin of national identity development is at the pre-school level. Therefore, I am extremely mindful of the pre-school education.

- I will ensure the right of all children to pre-school education.





- I will rescutinize the “Pre Childhood National Education Policy” which has already been prepared, and implement it without delay.
- I will establish a pre-school attached to each school under the “Pre-School for Every School” concept. Resources and support services for these pre-schools will be provided by the relevant school.
- I will establish a “Pre-school Training Institute” under the Ministry of Education. This will enable us to provide modern pre-school education training to all pre-school teachers.

Equal education opportunities for All

- I will increase the total number of schools with primary classes in Sri Lanka to 10,000, by 2020.
- By 2016, I will complete the work of the 1,000 Mahindodaya secondary schools, which provides world class schools to children in villages.
- I will transform 5,000 schools into fully fledged schools under the “Mahindodaya feeder schools concept”.
- I will transform all primary schools into child friendly schools by providing all physical infrastructure facilities including water, electricity and sanitation to village schools that were previously abandoned, by 2016.
- I will establish a laboratory in each school with classes up to ordinary level, and increase the number of schools teaching the science stream to 1,000.





- I will complete the programme to establish a fully equipped Mahindodaya secondary school with science, commerce, arts and technology streams in each divisional secretariat, by 2016. Under this scheme, 100 schools have already been established. A sufficient number of Tamil medium schools will also be established under this programme.
- I will establish a premier national school in each of the 25 districts by 2020. This programme will commence from the Nuwara Eliya district in 2015.

Meeting the Mathematics challenge

Despite several strategies, about half our children are still not proficient in the subject of Mathematics. In order to avoid any disruption to the development of such children, I intend to take several initiatives.

- I will appoint a Presidential Commission chaired by the Secretary to the President to investigate extensively the syllabi, teaching methods, teachers' attitudes and knowledge of modern methods, psychological and social factors affecting children and arrive at a lasting solution to this issue.
- I will provide opportunities for students who have qualified at the Advanced Level, except for the Mathematics requirement, to follow a Technology or Arts stream.
- I will provide the students who have passed six subjects but have failed in Mathematics, an opportunity to follow Advanced Level on the condition of passing Mathematics within two years. Special classes will also be held to help them to pass Mathematics during these two years.





The historic Knowledge revolution

I firmly believe that introducing the Technology stream at the Advanced Level will be hailed some day, as an important and historic step to change our future. This is particularly so, because it provides the opportunity for those children of our nation who would have otherwise have lost the opportunity, to obtain an university education.

- I will ensure that each student following the Technology stream will receive the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) certificate, which will provide the entry ticket to employment for those who do not wish to obtain higher education.
- I will establish 25 University Colleges, one in each district. 7,500 students who pass Advanced Level in 2015 but do not gain university entrance will be enrolled to those colleges in 2016.
- I will provide scholarships worth Rs. 1,000 per month out of the Mahindodaya Technical Scholarship Fund for students following the Technology courses. I will take steps to teach Information and Communication Technology at all schools in the island by 2020.

Children with special needs are special to us

- I will establish a fully equipped Resource Centre in Colombo to ensure the right to education of children with special needs.
- A special clinical centre will be established for such children in each education zone.
- I will set up Resource Centres at 500 government schools for children with special needs, over the next six years.





- I will take steps to translate all textbooks into Braille and provide necessary audio visual equipment free of charge to all visually and hearing impaired children.
- I will increase the monthly allowance for resident students of such schools to Rs. 500.

Bringing schools closer to children

- I will provide continued school education to children receiving long term treatment at provincial hospitals, similar to those facilities provided to children at Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital, Colombo and Cancer Hospital, Maharagama.
- I will introduce a mobile bus school to provide basic education for any street children who have still not been rehabilitated. The bus school will go to these children and provide the required minimum hours of basic education including computer literacy and industrial skills.
- I will select and train young women who will be assigned the task of taking handicapped children to schools in order to minimise the pain of parents who have to do so. These young women will also be absorbed into Teaching Assistant positions, upon completion of required qualifications.

Education to protect Buddhism

- I will prepare a National Pirivena Code based on the proposals submitted to me by the reverend principals of the Pirivenas at their Congress in order to ensure the knowledge that was disseminated across the entire Asian region by Mahavihara in





ancient times will continue to be disseminated to future generations of Buddhist monks.

- I will establish a Pirivena Development Board and a Pirivena Development Fund under this proposal.
- I will establish a Pirivena education fund similar to the Mahapola Fund and provide a monthly allowance of Rs. 2,500 for the young monks acquiring higher education in pirivenas.

The Creation of a new generation to conquer the skies and the seas

Having worked at a university, I know that our university education system is broadly structured along the lines of the Western model. A key challenge for us today is the lack of availability of necessary graduates and trained professionals to match the pace of our development and the rate of expansion in various fields. To progress further and to produce the required experts locally, I intend to implement broad reforms to the university education system.

- I will expand the annual number of university entrants to 100,000 by the year 2020.
- I will establish a system of University Colleges in Sri Lanka to provide higher education opportunities for all students qualifying at the Advanced Level.
- I will ensure the right to free education, and will also eliminate ragging at Universities.
- I will provide scholarships, financial assistance and hostel facilities to all students entering university.





- I will implement a programme to upgrade seven selected universities to rank among the top 20 universities in Asia.
- I will establish a separate service constitution for the university service.
- I will ensure the right for living quarters to all lecturers within close proximity to the university.
- I will provide the due value of research to lecturers in order to ensure their active contribution to national development.
- I will establish a national postgraduate university and provide lecturers who are just joining the university system, the opportunity to obtain postgraduate degrees from internationally reputed universities.

Specially for our respected Teachers

- I will implement the Sri Lanka Teacher Service Constitution in 2015, which will solve the pending issues of teachers, including promotions and increments.
- I will provide training for 2,000 teachers in the Technology stream, by establishing a national education faculty without delay.
- I will take steps to provide lap-tops for all teachers at concessionary prices.
- I will take measures to obtain teacher handbooks easily through the use of communication technology.
- I will provide scholarships based on proficiency for training in countries such as Japan, Malaysia and Korea, annually.





9. HEALTH IS THE GREATEST ASSET OF ALL

The foundation for prosperity in a nation is its healthy population. Massive government investments in the field of health services since 2006 have resulted in major improvements in health conditions even in rural areas, and I pledge to provide a health service similar to those seen in developed economies within the next six years.

- I will provide facilities to increase the life expectancy at birth to 80 years by 2020, by creating a population who exit, rather than enter, hospitals.
- I will, with pride, build a country where there will be no infant mortality or maternal mortality by 2020.
- I will extend the nutrition support programme for the pregnant mothers until the new-born reaches one year. The value of the Nutrition basket that we already provide a pregnant mother under the Divineguma programme is about Rs 40,000. Although it may be less costly to the government to provide 50% of such allocation as a cash grant, I value the safety and well-being of the mothers and unborn children of our country, more.
- I will implement a three year programme to provide foreign training to doctors in relevant fields to ensure that pregnant women get excellent care and treatment, equal to those experienced in more developed economies.
- I will arrange for the procurement of the required instruments and facilities that would be needed for this purpose, even at our rural hospitals.





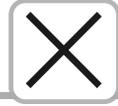
- I will broaden and strengthen the family health service, so as to be able to provide women the necessary knowledge, even before marriage, to the time of delivery of the baby by enhancing graduate opportunities and necessary resources for this noble service.
- I will build a children's hospital in each province. Under this scheme, I will provide the necessary resources and equipment to implement the research findings of the Karapitiya Hospital and identify 30 probable conditions such as mental illnesses and deafness which could affect an infant in future, within 3 months of birth.
- I will convert the teaching hospital in the main city in each province into a hospital complex, specializing in conditions such as cancer, kidney diseases, and dengue.
- I will permanently eliminate the seven diseases of malaria, rabies, mumps, rubella, leprosy, tuberculosis and filaria, from our land.
- I will take steps to eradicate dengue from our land on a permanent basis.
- The Health Services Act, which a previous Minister of Health could not protect even in his own computer, will be strengthened and submitted to the Parliament, to provide broad coverage to areas such as pricing of drugs, protection of patients and national health insurance.
- I will build a "*Sahana Sevana*" to accommodate relatives of patients being treated at the Kidney unit of the Anuradhapura Hospital.





- I will pay a monthly allowance of Rs. 3,000 to each kidney patient.
- I will complete the cancer units of Kandy, Jaffna, Badulla, Ampara, Karapitiya, Ratnapura and Kurunegala Hospitals with all modern facilities.
- I will establish a full-fledged “*Sahana Sevana*” in close proximity to the cancer hospitals in Maharagama and others for the benefit of relatives of cancer patients, because I am sensitive to the pain, and anguish of the relatives of patients as well.
- I will establish a Paralysis Treatment Centre complete with modern medical facilities in each Province. I will encourage research and pilot projects to combine western and indigenous medicinal methods to improve the treatment for paralysis.
- I will build a Community Health Centre in each of the Grama Niladhari divisions, centered around the place of worship in the village.
- I will take steps to address the dearth of opportunities for post-graduate specialized training for graduates in medicine, by introducing a new specialist training programmes at Peradeniya, Jaffna and Ruhuna Universities.
- I will introduce a system to expedite promotions and provide special allowances for doctors in difficult areas.
- I will expand the graduate training opportunities for nurses and other health workers, and also take steps to provide post-graduate opportunities.





Revival of our renowned Indigenous Medical Practitioners

Our indigenous medical practitioners continue to amaze the world through their healing powers and techniques. I believe therefore, that the wonderful successes of our indigenous medicine must be made known, and our national talents displayed worldwide.

- I will absorb all indigenous medical practitioners who have completed internships into the indigenous medical service.
- I will upgrade the national research centre to promote indigenous treatment methods and broaden the research work on medicine.
- I will appoint three indigenous medical practitioners to each divisional secretariat division thereby improving the existing indigenous medicine community health service qualitatively and quantitatively, as well as provide leadership for the ground level research on indigenous medical knowledge. I will direct the recruitment of upto 1,000 graduates gradually in indigenous medicine for this purpose.
- I will take steps to promote large and medium scale production of export quality, easy to use, indigenous drugs by providing loans of upto Rs.5,000,000 to such entrepreneurs.
- I will provide tax concessions similar to those available for private western medical institutions, to local entrepreneurs who establish modern private hospitals to cater to locals and foreigners who seek indigenous medical treatment.
- I will ensure a secure retirement for traditional medical





practitioners through the provision of a permanent pension.

- I will encourage indigenous medical practitioners in rural areas to obtain further education as well as provide them with a convenient registration scheme.
- I will take steps to reduce the disparity in privileges available for western and indigenous medical practitioners in the public service.
- I will establish an Ayurvedic Hospital in each district in the plantation areas, as well as in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

A Healthy Estate Sector

- I will take steps to recruit 500 Tamil speaking Public Health Inspectors and Family Health Officers to address specific issues in the estate sector, since I am aware that teenage marriages and pregnancy, malnutrition and anemia are basic health issues in the estate sector.
- I will take measures to provide specialized training for the community health officers working in such areas to identify region-specific health issues and improve service provision.
- I will ensure adequate and continued supply of ambulances, modern medical equipment and medicine to estate hospitals.





10. SPORTS FOR A HEALTHY AND LONG LIFE

I believe that the best investment towards creating a healthy future generation is to popularize sports amongst all citizens, by changing the mindset that sports are only for the young generations.

- I will implement a National Sports Policy with the aim of transporting Sri Lanka to be a premier country in Asia in terms of sports. Accordingly, six events with potential to win medals under 46 sectors will be developed through a short, medium, and a long term programme.
- I will make sports a compulsory and attractive subject for all children, and all schools without a sports ground will be provided with a good quality sports ground.
- I will take steps to establish a sports training school of international standard. The programme that commenced in 2005 at the Kelaniya University to establish sports as a subject will be expanded into a separate faculty.
- I will provide a monthly allowance of Rs. 25,000 to all sportsmen and women who establish national level records and have reached the international arena.
- I will take steps to provide motor cycles at concessionary rates to sports officers attached to divisional secretariats in order to obtain their services more effectively.
- I will establish a fully equipped sports complex complete with an indoor stadium and a swimming pool in each district, while modernizing all existing sports complexes with fewer facilities.





- I will take steps to obtain the services of foreign trainers and foreign training institutions to provide enhanced knowledge to local trainers on sports medicine, sports technology and sports management, while providing higher education opportunities in the relevant sport to such trainers.
- I will introduce a code of ethics aimed at sports.
- I will provide government support for local and foreign investors and encourage them to establish industries producing sports equipment and sportswear.
- I will take steps to establish 331 Wellness centres in divisional secretariat divisions, and also establish Wellness centres for government servants in urban and semi-urban areas.
- I will provide facilities under the urban development project for badminton, tennis, volleyball and football.





11. A RICH FUTURE FOR OUR WOMEN, THE WORTHY DESCENDANTS OF YASODARA

I believe that our civilization has been historically dependent on the precious generations of women who have taken Yasodara as their inspiration. Our motherland's humanity and civilization were preserved and protected because of our precious Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Malay and Burgher mothers who cared for their children with sleepless nights, protecting them from dangers and illnesses, and toiling in paddy fields, chenas and plantations, fisheries, garment factories and in the Middle East. If not for these courageous and selfless mothers, who are worthy descendants of Yasodara, we also would not have had the brave soldiers to protect our motherland.

- I will implement a grass root level economic programme to divert the time spent previously on collecting firewood, water, and cooking, towards income generating activities, with the considerable amounts of time saved resulting from the many conveniences arising out of development.
- I will provide loans to 50,000 women annually to commence their own businesses through the regional bank dedicated for women entrepreneurship development.
- I will provide the necessary investments, appropriate training and knowledge required to establish a day care centre in each divisional secretariat division in order to encourage young mothers to be gainfully employed.





- I will establish a Women Protection Centre at all Investment Zones to provide guidance, direction and protection for women employed in these zones.
- I will stop unskilled women workers from going abroad for foreign jobs, while permitting skilled male workers to work abroad, thereby minimising family issues arising from women worker migration.





12. A PROMISING FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH

There was a time when our youth were completely abandoned, resulting in them engaging in extreme politics leading to hundreds of thousands of untimely deaths. I am sorrowfully aware as to how the parents of those children are still grieving for their loved ones. I know that it is precisely because our youth do not wish to re-live such experiences, that more than 2,000,000 of our youth are working alongside the Nil Pavura, which is the youth organization of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party. It is our duty therefore to create a country where this generation of youth can stand with confidence, and contribute to our economy with justifiable national pride.

Skills and Employment

- Approximately 340,000 children are enrolled in schools each year, but only 25,000 of those students qualify to enter the Universities. Therefore, like a father, I take the responsibility of the future of more than 300,000 of the remaining children. I will create a educational structure for them to graduate through a suitable vocational and industrial education.
- Accordingly, I will stimulate the National Programme on providing Vocational Education for 250,000 children annually, with the help of the private sector.
- I will strengthen the Skills Development Fund to establish a Youth Development Fund dedicated to the children who are struggling with education due to economic difficulties.





- I will establish 20 special education centers with the collaboration of the Skills Development Ministry and the Foreign Employment Bureau, in order to expand the foreign employment opportunities now concentrated in the Middle East, to Europe, North America and Australian continents as well.
- I will closely support the vocational education effort, by adding industrial value to the prevailing informal sectors such as self-employed carpentry, masonry, beauty industries, etc through the establishment of Pre Required Learning (PRL) Test and a Sri Lanka Qualification Framework (SLQF).
- I will expand South Asia's first ecological university - NSBM and affiliate it with respectable universities in the world so as to enable the award of international degrees within the country for Sri Lankan students who would then avoid spending millions of Rupees for education abroad.
- When I was entrusted with office in 2005, the computer literacy ratio in our country was only 5%. At present, the computer literacy ratio has increased up to 42% with IT laboratories being accessible to even the indigenous people in Rathugala village. I intend to take steps to increase the computer literacy ratio up to 90% by 2020. That will not be limited to the urban sectors only, but encompass all citizens including the young generations who will benefit through advanced technology.
- I intend to facilitate the access to the internet via Wi Fi similar to the "Hot-spots" in Korea, without physical connections.
- I will make arrangements to upgrade the youth parliament in Sri Lanka as a reputed and honorable institution in the political structures of our country.





Five Hundred Thousand Jobs for our Youth

- I will create 500,000 new job opportunities for our youth over the next five years, mainly by expanding the public service, state centric industries, tourism sector and the information technology sector.
- I will establish a Divisional Job Bank at each divisional secretariat to collect information on local job vacancies, and match such opportunities with prospective young job seekers.
- I will recruit 15,000 “Community Health Assistants” from 50,000 youth who have been provided with professional training on counselling, first aid, health promotion and disease prevention.

Support for young entrepreneurs

- I will establish a “Youth Entrepreneurship Development Board” in order to promote youth entrepreneurship.
- I will establish a “Youth Bank Scheme” exclusively for youth between 18 and 35 years of age, and provide low interest loans up to Rs.1,000,000 to encourage entrepreneurship, education and vocational training.
- I will implement a programme to create 15,000 medium scale entrepreneurs by providing land through long term leases for the youth willing to engage in the plantation of export crops and animal husbandry.
- I will provide a low interest loans up to Rs.2,500,000 with no instalments deducted for three years, for this purpose. The required knowledge, training and coordination for this scheme will be provided by the government.





- I will provide through the Youth Bank Scheme, a low interest loan to purchase a lorry to collect, transport and distribute rural produce on the basis of one young entrepreneur in each village. A system will be put in place for such produce to be sold to government institutions such as military establishments and hospitals in the area.
- I will provide assistance to young entrepreneurs to engage in milk production with the use of appropriate technology.
- I will provide government support for youth entrepreneurs to establish industries, together with a system so designed for government institutions to purchase these products. A list of such entrepreneurs will be maintained by the Ministry of Youth Affairs.
- I will provide the required modern techniques, technology and other facilities for young entrepreneurs to engage in cottage industries such as pottery, bronze works, and jewellery in order to meet the demand of the modern age with more value addition.
- I will create new opportunities in the tourism industry for young entrepreneurs through novel and creative tourist promotion programmes. In particular, I will encourage the youth to invest in small and medium scale industries in the agriculture tourism industry.
- I will provide credit facilities up to Rs. 1,000,000 through the Youth Bank Scheme to promote new creations by young musicians, filmmakers and dramatists. They will also be provided with an opportunity to hire theaters owned by local government agencies and government institutions at concessionary rates.





- I will establish a new film board to provide opportunities for young film-makers.
- I will take steps to enhance the IT knowledge of the Northern youth by establishing an IT City in Mullaitivu. I will establish IT cities in other regions as well, upon requests of the respective youth associations.
- I will take measures to implement a domestic food policy, thereby creating a new food market, while encouraging youth to engage in such opportunities. I will introduce administrative procedures and systems for small scale local food producers to obtain contracts of food supplies to schools and government institutions.
- I will rehabilitate the youth who ultimately ended up as alcoholics and drug addicts as a result of the unregulated open economy of past eras that destroyed many youngsters.
- I will establish rehabilitation centers to ensure that juvenile delinquents are properly rehabilitated so that they do not re-enter the society with animosity.





13. COMFORTABLE AND CONVENIENT TRAVEL FACILITIES FOR ALL

Public transport must be viewed always from the eyes of the commuter. After a lapse of 30 years following the bombings and the robbing of railway tracks by the terrorists, the Yaal Devi proudly arrived in Jaffna in her second coming in November 2014. The smiles on the faces of hundreds of thousands of our Northern people reflected the joy in their hearts when I reached Jaffna via their beloved Yaal Devi. The need now is to establish a transportation system where the average commuter can travel in a similar manner as those who travel by luxury cars, and I intend to do so.

- I will set up the first air-conditioned electric train in Sri Lanka between Colombo and Kataragama in 2018.
- I will extend the railroad from Kataragama to Trincomalee, thus enabling the convenient worship of the four devalas in four areas, Nallur Kandasamy Kovil, Trincomalee Koneshwaran Kovil, Chilaw Munneshwaram Kovil, and the Devundara Upulwan Devalaya. I will also construct a railway cross road from Kurunegala to Chilaw.
- I will construct a railway line from Kurunegala to Chilaw.
- I will take steps to extend the railway line from Batticaloa to Potuvil.
- I will establish a 24-hour modern railway service between Colombo and the Katunayake Airport premises, as well as between Matara and the Mattala Airport premises.





- I will establish a school railway service titled “Sip Seriya” for the benefit of school children. Depending on the requirement, I will dedicate a compartment or two on all trains for school services.
- I will take the necessary steps to provide land, tax incentives and financial investments for those entrepreneurs who are willing to produce buses to meet the requirements of our transport sector.
- I will implement a special city transport programme, since I believe that increased stress due to traffic congestion in key cities psychologically hinders the provision of a friendly service by those commuters.
- I will implement a mono-rail service between Malabe and Kelaniya via Kotahena and Mattakkuliya, within three years.
- I will allocate two separate lanes for bus transport between Moratuwa and Colombo.
- I will build the first tunnel route extending 6.6 km by 2018 between Gohagoda, which is the Kandy entrance of the Colombo-Kandy Expressway, and Tennekumbura, where traffic can then avoid the hustle and bustle of the main city.
- I will take steps to popularize electric motor cars to minimise pollution and establish electric charging centers around the country.
- I will establish a modern Transport Centre System in fifty cities including Colombo Fort, Kottawa Expressway Interchange, Kandy, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura. The purpose of this system would be to locate the bus stop, public and private bus





stand, three wheeler stand, taxi stand, and a private car park at the same premises, as that would minimise undue delays and also help to provide an easy and efficient service to the people.

- I will establish 50 “Smart Arcades” close to these Transport Centers, comprising modern shopping complexes, restaurants, service outlets, film halls, swimming pools and a children’s play centres.

Preventing accidents is better than treating accident victims

- I will take steps to convert accidents into rare incidents by 2020, because I know the terrible difficulties faced by family members when a person dies before his/her time.
- I will establish a “National Transport Training Centre” to ensure that drivers of all public transport services including buses, lorries, school vans, taxis, tourist transport and three wheelers, are disciplined, and that they obey all road rules.
- I will also request this Training Centre to change the mindset that driving is a job of low social status, and thereby add a new social value to this profession.
- I will commence a professional heavy vehicle driver training programme to direct youngsters to meet the high demand for heavy vehicle drivers with the accelerated development process.
- I will make it compulsory for drivers to face a proficiency test at the National Transport Authority at the time of recruitment for government or private sector jobs.





- I will subject new “drivers” to a one year period of probation in line with international standards.
- I will order all state banks to completely write off the penal interest rate and to reschedule an outstanding housing loan obtained by a chief of household who has died as a result of a traffic accident. The bank will also be directed to treat the loan as a new facility in the name of another member of the family without charging any additional fee.
- I will provide a monthly allowance of Rs. 3,000 for persons who have become permanently disabled as a result of such accidents.
- I will advise the Ministry of Education to provide a bursary to the school going children of such families.

Saving precious time

- I will make necessary legal provisions to enable the payment of traffic fines via SMS using a mobile phone, and thereby make it unnecessary for an offender of a simple traffic offence to devote a substantial amount of time, for the payment of the fine, which time can be utilised for more productive work.
- I will establish a Community Court system where non-fatal motor accidents can be resolved for insurance purposes, and thereby save the time of the litigants. However, the system will also provide for access to a higher court of law if one party does not agree with the decision of the Community Court.
- I will also direct that the service of the registration of motor vehicles and the obtaining of driving licenses be handled by





District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats, so that the precious time saved can be used for the development of the country.

- I will make arrangements to computerize all payment requirements at the Ministry of Transport, thus enabling the payments including license fees to be payable to provincial councils, through the internet.
- I will introduce a “Smart Card” system in place of train and bus season tickets issued by students and public sector employees so as to save time, and enable such payments to be made through SMS re-loads as well.





14. SAFEGUARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT LIKE OUR OWN LIVES

The price of the human efforts to defeat the environment by one generation, is usually paid by a future generation. That is because our environment is borrowed from our future! In order to safeguard the most important bond and relationship between man and environment, I will continue to consider myself as the protector and trustee of the environment, as promised in the 2005 Mahinda Chintana.

The forests that protect us

- I will appoint a Commission to survey and demarcate all forests in Sri Lanka.
- I will establish new forests utilising 350,000 hectares of government and private land and reinstate the natural reserves which are facing the threat of extinction.
- I will take steps to amend legislation to popularize the plantation of 15 types of trees such as Wallapatta, White Sandalwood and Velvet Tamarind as horticulture products. I will introduce legislation to reap the financial benefits of such plantations.
- I will popularize the plantation of trees for timber such as Teak and Nedun as household canopies.
- I will collaborate with small and large scale tour operators engaged in eco tourism to develop Kadolana mangroves which are considered to be 50 times more effective at carbon absorption.





- I will take steps to obtain payments from countries with high environment pollution under the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, by computing the annual increase in the carbon reserve through such forestry projects.
- I will appoint a Committee to draft Environment Legislation to make the necessary amendments to the existing legislation to conserve the environment and to prevent environmental crimes.

A Five pronged environmental conservation approach

We are all aware that life on earth may not be pleasant for man if the air we breathe is toxic, the water we drink is poisonous, or if the sounds are painful to our ears. In order to eliminate these and other types of pollution in the five aspects of the environment, namely, air, water, soil, sound and vision, a five pronged environmental conservation approach will be launched.

- I will stop the use of all types of toxic gases that are harmful to the ozone layer by 2020. To this end, I will introduce a “Star rating system” for domestically produced refrigerators, air conditioning, fans, various motors in order to prevent the use and emission of toxic gases.
- I will provide 100% tax concessions to popularize products free of harmful chemicals in the country, since chemicals such as mercury in light bulbs and lead in paint are harmful for humans.
- I will implement a streamlined programme to prevent water pollution occurring due to the entry of industrial pollutants and agro chemicals to underground and surface water resources.





- I will strengthen the Gem and Jewellery Authority to broaden the supervision of the gem mining industry and to introduce methodologies in order to minimise the impact of the industry on underground water resources.
- I will strengthen the regulations without delay to restrict poisonous metals from agrochemicals and chemical fertilizer being added to the environment.
- I will take immediate steps to prevent pesticides identified by the World Health Organisation as causing kidney diseases, being imported and used.
- I will implement within the coming year, the waste management programme as a compulsory development project, where waste is used as a resource.
- I will prevent noise pollution by limiting the noise levels of vehicle horns. I will introduce maximum noise levels for all activities in urban and populated areas to prevent noise pollution.
- I will introduce a set of guidelines to protect our vision from sceneries and colours that we are forced to look at though marketing techniques which is a major reason for the pollution of vision. I will introduce a set of guidelines to protect eye sight.
- I will provide government support to scientists researching on these five aspects of pollution.
- I will vest the responsibility of conserving the beaches in the Urban Development Authority in order to conserve Sri Lanka's beaches such as Pasikudah, Nilaweli, and Unawatuna, which are considered some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, for the future generations, as well.





Avoiding Conflicts with our Elephant Friends

- I will provide the necessary resources including material, vehicles and equipment to build elephant fences for all vulnerable villages, within 6 months.
- I will establish a “Community Forest Conservation Force” around the clock under the supervision of divisional secretaries together with the participation of the relevant government officials, rural volunteer organisations and non-government organisations, in order to prevent wild animals from entering villages. The responsibility of this Force will be to prevent damage to humans without harming wild animals.
- I will take steps to pay a monthly allowance for families who have lost the head of the family due to such attacks, and to provide a free life insurance cover to all persons living in such areas.





15. A SUSTAINED HOUSING STRATEGY TO PROVIDE HOUSES FOR ALL

One of our special achievements in the field of housing and settlement is the promulgation of a National Housing Policy on the basis that every family in Sri Lanka must own a house. I will implement this programme as a nationally coordinated project to provide houses to every family that does not own a house, and also to provide housing to our future generations.

- I will take measures to construct 60,000 housing units in the next six years under the Urban Regeneration Programme and provide ownership of a house, complete with en-suite facilities and common amenities, to city dwellers, who are presently living in unacceptable housing.
- I will build 50,000 estate houses during 2015/16 under a scheme already commenced by the Ministry of Urban Development and Defence to provide each family in the estate sector with a 7 perch land and a house of their own.
- I will implement an expedited programme to provide housing to the communities living in areas identified as being prone to natural disasters.
- I will further strengthen the programme to provide housing loan facilities under the Jana Sevana programme to rural and urban low income earners who cannot prove a source of permanent income and who do not have collateral. In addition to financial assistance, I will provide them with technical assistance for low cost housing.





Superior level apartments for the middle class

- I will implement a modern housing scheme with the investment of state banks to provide housing for the upper middle income earners employed in the public and private sectors, who are working and are wishing to live in urban areas. I will introduce a bank loan scheme up to 90% of the value, with a repayment period of 30 years.
- I will minimise the existing complex and time consuming paperwork requirements when obtaining loans from state banks and introduce a system for banks themselves to prepare the necessary documentation.





16. THE CONTINUOUS INFRASTRUCTURE REVOLUTION

Terrorism had put a stop to our country's infrastructure development, not only in the North and the East, but throughout the country. At that time, what we observed were burnt and destroyed buildings, as well as damaged roads. Villages had no facilities and the cities were dirty with dust and garbage. I revolutionalised the infrastructure development in our country, and intend to continue this revolution.

A beautiful city

The City of Colombo which was surrounded by parapet walls is now open and inviting. I am aware that you also enjoy the major urban development projects such as Colombo, Diyawanna, Bellanwila and Nugegoda beautifications immensely.

- I will make the city of Colombo the most beautiful city in South Asia by 2020, and Sri Jayawardenapura the most attractive and methodical administrative capital.
- I will make all urban areas of the country, environment friendly and livable cities with clean administrative buildings, hotels, housing projects, urban gardens, entertainment facilities, city beautification projects and mixed developments.
- I will implement a programme to develop 100 small and medium scale towns, which do not even have basic facilities, and also facilitate the integration of various rural areas by providing services required by the public in such areas.





- I will construct markets in 75 selected towns to cover the entire island under the existing urban market development project which provides all facilities to merchants and consumers,
- I will prepare development plans to declare new town areas under the Urban Development Authority Act to suit the needs of our people. Under this programme, I will develop the Gas-paha junction where Mahatma Gandhi held a public meeting in 1943, and name it the Mahatma Gandhi Square.
- I will strengthen the process of providing planning assistance through the Urban Development Authority to develop cities and urban areas in Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabha areas.

Revival of Roads

I am proud to point out that it was during my tenure as the Minister for Highways that road construction commenced according to a specific development plan for the first time in Sri Lanka. The revival that began with concreting of village roads under Gama Neguma has already expanded to the completion of two expressways that you are already using effectively.

- I have already commenced work to extend the Southern expressway to connect the Mattala Airport and the Port of Hambantota.
- I have finalized all plans to link the Southern expressway up to Pelmadulla through the construction of the Ratnapura expressway.





- I have commenced work on the Northern expressway which starts from the Outer Circular Way and reaches Jaffna through Wayamba, North Central and Eastern provinces.
- The groundwork for the speedy commencement of the Kandy expressway, which begins from the Northern expressway, has been finalized.
- The Kaduwela-Kadawatha sector of the Colombo outer circular way, which connects all expressways, will be opened in 2015.
- By 2020, I will complete the revolution of travel by connecting Mattala Airport to Jaffna completely by expressways.
- By completing all highways and roads maintained by provincial councils, pradeshiya sabhas and rural roads, I will unfold the roadmap where, irrespective of where you live, you will be able to reach any destination in Sri Lanka from your home within 6 hours.
- I will aim to improve the quality of our roads to meet 100% under the International Roughness Index by 2020.

Water for all

Everyone has an equal and a sacred right to water. I will ensure that such right to clean drinking water as well as water for irrigation, is fulfilled by 2020.

- I will take measures to provide all urban houses with pipe borne water as they are dependent on such water supplies, although pipe borne water is not vitally necessary for the entire nation, as Sri Lanka is rich in water resources.





- I will take steps to increase the drinking water capacity for the city of Colombo and suburbs.
- I will provide 400,000 new water connections in areas where service extensions are possible, under this programme, by 2015.
- I will provide 100% pipe borne water supply coverage to the Anuradhapura district to address the issue of kidney diseases, similar to the way the drinking water requirement was completed in the Polonnaruwa district.

Energy

I am aware that the force behind the future industrialised economic development is energy. Therefore, I will strengthen the energy sector further to suit these needs.

Petroleum industry

- My ability to provide concessions to the general public has increased by the transformation of the continued loss making Ceylon Petroleum Corporation into a profitable institution through the scientific changes made to its management practices.
- I will take steps to maintain low kerosene prices.
- I will ensure fuel security by doubling the refinery capacity to meet the petroleum requirements, while using modern technology.
- I will establish regional storage facilities to ensure islandwide distribution of fuel without a shortage.





Electricity

I promised in *Mahinda Chintana: A Vision for the Future*, that I will provide electricity to all by 2016. It is a promise that I have been able to deliver earlier, as that would be done by the end of this year. My intention is to share with the general public, the benefit of completing the plans introduced in 2010 towards national energy production by 2020.

- I will provide new electricity connections to low income families through a low interest loan scheme where the capital will be recovered from the electricity bill within a period of 6 years.
- I will take measures to introduce special tariffs for small and medium scale industries, based on the international industrial classification. The resultant reduction in electricity tariffs will bring about substantial benefits to these industrialists.
- I will promote the import and the production of items with high energy efficiency, and introduce a system of Energy Efficiency Labelling, thereby encouraging consumers to conserve electricity by using high energy efficient products, by 2020.
- I will take steps to generate 25% of the total energy requirement through non-traditional renewable power sources, by 2020.
- I expect to join the proposed SAARC regional electricity network and energy trade between Sri Lanka and India.

Communication and Information Technology

The next step in our economic growth is Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as Sri Lanka has already put in place a sound foundation in information technology.





- I expect to provide more friendly and efficient services to the general public through ICT.
- I will establish a Communication and Information Technology centre in each district, and build 100 BPO centres and 400 Mahindodaya and Missaka e-learning laboratories.
- I will thereby create 10,000 new employment opportunities and I will raise the country's Communication and Information Technology literacy to 100% by 2020.
- I will establish a professional institute for communication and information technology professionals.
- I will convert 300 government services into internet based services, and I will take measures to add the land registry information to the internet.

Expanding horizons in the field of Space technology

I am aware that space technology is at the forefront of the knowledge economy which is strengthening our national economy through innovation. Our policy direction in this field is to maintain an appropriate level of technological collaboration with countries which have gained supremacy in such areas.

- I will establish a national centre to receive and distribute remote data from high tech satellite centres in the world, and global observation satellites.
- I will take steps to send to orbit, the first Sri Lankan observation and remote communication satellite created by Sri Lankan engineers and scientists.





- I will implement a national programme to utilise space technology to improve efficiency and productivity in areas such as agriculture, natural resource management, urban development, environment, weather, climate change research, oceanic environment, transport, and ports and aviation.





17. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

We have reached the moment of moving towards rapid economic development. In that context, we must also lead in the area of science and technology if we are to be a leading country in emerging Asia.

- I will establish a National Science Centre to provide leadership to scientific literacy and for the creation of the knowledge society.
- I will establish a Sri Lanka Innovation Fund to support capital required for knowledge based industries.
- I will implement a programme to convert scientific knowledge into cash by turning Sri Lanka into an Asian Centre for research and development.
- I will implement the plan to increase high tech exports to 15%, by 2020.
- I propose to enhance the domestic production of technology goods in place of imports, and I will provide tax concessions of capital investment in this regard.
- I will set up a Science and Technology Innovation Task Force to encourage our scientists to contribute to the knowledge economy through national nanotechnology initiatives that commenced in 2006.
- I will create a National Research Force that would be able to receive performance based incentives payments. I will invite Sri





Lankan scientists based in Sri Lanka as well as abroad to join this Force, thereby turning previous brain drains into brain gains.

- I will ensure that our rich biodiversity of the country is protected when using biological resources for the country's social and economic development.
- I will commence a process whereby exports will be promoted through the development of value added industries by producing high tech goods, while establishing industrial parks.





18. HARVESTING FESTIVAL IN THE FIELD OF ART

During the recent dark age when suffering took prime place instead of enjoyment, cinemas, theatres, and performance halls were almost always empty. The only drama performed was the fear of death. I established national security and today, thousand flowers of art bloom at Nelum Pokuna. Films and tele dramas are created competitively. Writers as well as readers are plenty. This is the harvesting period in the field of art.

Literature

- I will make budgetary allocations to the Ministries of Education and Higher Education for the establishment of a special government scheme to promote child and youth literature.
- I will introduce a special bank loan scheme at concessionary interest rates for artists to engage in literary and other creative activity. I will prepare a national list of experts and renowned artistes in various fields to simplify the necessary approvals for them to obtain such loans.
- I will provide specific tax concessions for entrepreneurs involved in the print industry to produce such books, to stimulate as the demand for short stories and poetry.
- I will introduce a system of providing financial assistance for authors who publish books by themselves.
- I will take measures to translate books which receive awards at State Literary Festivals into Sinhala, Tamil and English at the





expense of the government, in order to share views and attitudes among different ethnicities.

- I will register under this scheme, the authors who have already been engaged in translation and have providing a silent service for a long period of time, and give priority to them in translation.

Theatre

- I will establish an International Stage Drama Centre associated with the Tower Hall Theatre Foundation for the development of the Sri Lankan stage drama.
- I will take measures to implement a complete performance arts theatre similar to Nelum Pokuna in each province. Plans are already in place to establish performance arts theatres in Anuradhapura and Kandy. With these theatres equipped with modern technology and amenities, patrons will be able to enjoy the performances better. I will also establish performance arts schools, training areas, and hostels for artistes at these theatres.
- I will commence a special programme under the Cultural Ministry to develop talents of future artistes through school theatre development.

Cinema

- I am aware that although both commercial cinema and classical cinema are necessary for the progress of the cinema industry, producers who invest in the latter are scarce. Therefore, I will create a capital investment fund under the Film Corporation, and provide 60% of the actual cost of production of classical cinema.





- I will introduce a new Film Board to provide opportunities for young filmmakers.
- I will amend the relevant laws and regulations to enable the setting up of small high quality cinemas at city hotels, housing complexes, large shopping complexes, etc.
- I will protect the rights of patrons by registering all theatres and cinemas under all local government bodies, and by establishing minimum standards.
- I will provide government backing for filmmakers who will dedicate themselves to building a Sri Lankan Tamil cinema.
- I will provide credit facilities up to Rs. 1 million through the Youth Bank Scheme to promote new creations by young musicians, filmmakers and dramatists.

Elderly Artistes

- I will commence a *Kalakaruru Krutaguna* housing scheme to enable the artistes who have dedicated their entire life to arts, to spend their retirement peacefully.
- I consider that it is my duty to enroll creative artistes in a compulsory pension scheme, so that they will have a suitable income stream to live independently when they age.
- I will implement a formal system of protecting the rights of singers and songwriters and for the payment of royalty.





19. SOCIAL SECURITY

Elderly parents are looked after by their grown children. This is the main social security system of our country. But I am aware that a segment of the population is now being affected due to certain emerging social changes. I am aware of the complex psychological effects resulting from loneliness in old age. Therefore, I will implement a social security programme to help the destitute as well as senior citizens and artistes.

- Favourable outcomes of economic development and good health are increasing life expectancies and the enhanced ability to work at retirement ages. Therefore, I will create a “Development Force” to facilitate retirees from the public and private sectors to re-engage in work. Their task will be to guide, advice and share knowledge and experience required in the process of the country’s development.
- I will appoint a committee to make recommendations to the issues in relation to pensions and other social security systems in place at present.
- I will expand the existing social security board into a regulatory authority with wide powers.
- I will implement the Divi Diriya programme to provide employable skills and education to all members of the public disabled at birth or as a result of an accident in order to ensure their social safety.
- I will establish *Detupura Abimansela* centres in each of divisional secretariat divisions, complete with fitness and recreation facilities for senior citizens to spend the day without feeling lonely.





- I have received information that those who have been politically victimized and suffered political violence after the elections of 1977 and 2001 under the previous governments have not yet received compensation due to various reasons. I will ensure that these payments are made immediately, irrespective of the reason for non payment.
- I will provide assistance to those who have engaged in astrology, bali thovil and traditional indigenous medical practices for more than 20 years.

Disaster Management

- I will provide the required modern technical equipment to the relevant ministry to identify recurring natural disasters on time. I will establish a task force to direct people to safe places before a crisis occurs.
- I will prepare a programme to rehabilitate people facing disasters and prevent disruption to their livelihoods.

Those affected by drugs

- It is the responsibility of the nation to rescue the children from drug addiction. I will establish a task force to create a long term and a short term methodology to address this issue.
- I will establish rehabilitation centres based on places of worship to rehabilitate youngsters addicted to drugs.
- I am aware that even the families of those addicted to drugs are suffering immensely. Therefore, I will commence counselling services at those centres for the family members, and establish a programme through Divineguma to rebuild their livelihoods.





20. TRANSMITTING THE BENEFITS OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION TO OUR PEOPLE

- I will appoint a Committee with extensive powers, chaired by a retired judge to look into the cases of all youth from the North who are held on suspected terrorist activity, but not yet charged.
- For the first time in history, and as never before done in any other part of the world, I will complete the task of returning the assets including vehicles and jewellery of people who abandoned them during the humanitarian operation, upon proper establishment of ownership.
- I have completed to a great extent, the return of third party land and buildings used by the security forces following the conclusion of the humanitarian operation. I will complete this task in a specific time-frame subject to national security needs.
- I will implement a medium term framework to expedite the social integration and reconciliation process to absorb the youth in the North and the East, who were detached from the main development stream due to terrorism for a long period, as equal partners in the process of national economic development.
- I will take steps to organize the *Deyata Kirula* in the North and the East within the next few years.
- I will take measures to pay the stipulated compensation for those who have been displaced in any part of the country due to





terrorism and not yet received compensation, irrespective of their ethnic group.

- I will expedite the process of resettling all displaced people in the North and the East and those living in camps, belonging to Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim ethnic groups, and establish their right to live in a house of their own without delay.
- I will take steps to put an end to social tensions unfortunately created by a small minority of racial and religious extremists. I will establish the safety and the right to observe all religions of all ethnicities including Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities who have been affected by such tensions.
- I am aware that people living in estates face various difficulties in administrative matters due to the large size of grama niladari divisions of such areas. Therefore, I will take steps to restructure these divisions.
- I will take the necessary steps to bring the education and health facilities, infrastructure facilities and common amenities of all provinces, to the same level.

The Mahinda Chintana lesson for the world

The international organisations which held the view that no country in the world can emerge on their own when Mahinda Chintana was first unveiled in 2005, have today learnt from us, and established advisory units promoting management changes instead of “privatization”. Therefore, I believe it is now time for us to establish a Mahinda Chintana Secretariat so that such secretariat could guide others on the principles and implementation





strategies of Mahinda Chintana, which would benefit others who are desirous of achieving rapid development, as well.

I now look forward to receiving your consent, support, strength and mandate to make all these plans a reality.

**Let us make our beloved motherland
the Wonder of Asia,
and a shining example to the world.**

**I wish you a
Brighter Future
in a
Secure Nation.**

