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FORD GOVERNMENT TO SPEND BILLIONS TO FIGHT THE PANDEMIC

By Charles Devasagayam



Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board Peter Bethlenfalvy released Ontario's 2021 Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy on March 24th, 2021. The 2021 Budget is the next phase of Ontario's response to COVID-19 and is the second Budget the

government has delivered during the pandemic. The 2021 Budget builds on the government's record investments in response to the global pandemic, bringing total investments to \$16.3 billion to protect people's health and \$23.3 billion to protect our economy. Ontario's COVID-19 action plan support now totals \$51 billion.

Protecting People's Health is the first pillar of the 2021 Budget. It includes measures for defeating COVID-19, fixing long-term care and caring for people. \$1.8 Billion more has been allocated for hospitals and the budget includes \$650 million for the long term care. The money will go toward staffing and Covid 19 prevention. There are money for Businesses and Parents as well. \$1.7 Billion has been dedicated to helping eligible Businesses. \$980 million in spending to

help support parents. Expansion is also coming to Peel Memorial Hospital. Brampton's Mayor says Emergency room and 24/7 care are in the plan. Ford government says the \$33.1 Billion deficit will take until 2029 to eliminate. Budget contains \$6.7 Billion for pandemic measures, \$1 Billion for the vaccine effort and \$2.3 Billion for testing. Province promises second round of grants to small Businesses and new job training tax credit. Government promise to offer 3rd round of payments to families, doubling the Covid-19 Child Benefit to \$400 per child. Ontario to spend \$2.8 billion to bring broadband access to more people across the province by 2025. The Budget also offers hundreds of million of dollars to Ontario's tourism sector through various programs. A \$100 million fund will offer grants of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to eligible tourism and hospitality small businesses.

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- Mr. Andrew Cimmerman, Founder and CEO of HomeLife International

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Interest rates are down – should you break your mortgage?



(NC) The pandemic is causing many of us to re-evaluate our finances. If you are thinking of renegotiating your mortgage to take advantage of a lower interest rate, be aware that this could mean having to break your mortgage contract.

If you break your mortgage contract you may have to pay a fee, called a prepayment penalty. Before breaking your mortgage, make sure the benefits outweigh the costs. Far too many homeowners who have broken their mortgage contracts have been shocked by penalties amounting to tens of thousands of dollars, or other fees required to complete the transaction.

Know the costs

Every mortgage contract contains different terms and conditions. Federally regulated financial institutions must provide you with key information in a box at the beginning of the mortgage agreement, including information about any penalties and fees that will apply if you break your mortgage contract.

As a consumer, you have the responsibility to read your mortgage agreement and understand the penalties and fees associated with breaking your mortgage contract. Call your financial institution to speak to a knowledgeable person for detailed information on prepayment penalties or check out the prepayment penalty calculator available on their website.

Consider other options

Some mortgage lenders may allow you to extend the length of your mortgage before the end of its term to take advantage of a lower interest rate. With this option, you don't have to pay a prepayment penalty. Lenders call this option the blend-and-extend, because your old interest rate and the new term's interest rate are blended. Keep in mind that you may need to pay administrative fees.

Depending on the cost to break your mortgage, it may be best to wait until the end of its term and shop around for a new contract that provides a lower interest rate or more flexibility.

The Financial Consumer Agency of Canada provides unbiased and fact-based information on mortgages you can count on. You can learn more about the costs of breaking your mortgage at canada.ca/money.

Rooftop snow may be hazardous to your home



(NC) Snow-covered roofs may look nice in the movies, but in real life they can be somewhat problematic. This is because of a natural occurrence known as "ice damming." Ice damming can happen at any time during the winter season, and although it occurs on the exterior part of your home, it can end up causing damage to interior elements like the walls, ceilings and insulation. It can also lead to mould.

What is ice damming?

An ice dam is created by fluctuations in temperature, such as when snow melts during sunny days and then freezes up again at night, or normal winter temperatures are interrupted by a stretch of warmer days. This results in a barrier of ice around the edges of your roof or eavestroughs. As this barrier of ice gets larger, it prevents further melting snow from draining off the roof. With no way of leaving your roof, water pools there and backs up under the shingles and into your home, where it can cause damage to the wood structure, insulation, ceilings, wall finishes, furnishings and personal belongings. Outside, ice dams pose a safety risk to people, as large pieces can fall and cause serious injury. They can also cause damage to eaves and lead to the buildup of a white, powdery residue called "efflorescence" on concrete and brickwork.

What you can do?

The best thing to do is to prevent ice dams before they happen. Soon after a snowfall, use a roof rake to remove snow from the first metre of your roof. If you already have ice buildup and want it removed, consider hiring an experienced professional to do it for you.

What to avoid doing?

One thing you should steer clear of is climbing onto the roof to clear snow or ice – you can damage your home and seriously hurt yourself. Throwing salt or de-icing chemicals on roof ice is also a bad idea, as they may cause shingles to deteriorate.

Does your new home warranty cover it?

In most cases, damage associated with ice damming is not covered by Ontario's new home warranty because it is a natural occurrence that can be prevented through proper maintenance. However, you may be entitled to coverage for up to two years if the water penetration into your home is the result of a defect in workmanship or materials. Find more information in the construction performance guidelines at tarion.com.



Real Estate page compiled by Charles Devasagayam

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Sri Lanka: Landmark UN Resolution Promotes Justice

Concerns of Government Retaliation Against Rights Advocates



The United Nations Human Rights Council resolution on Sri Lanka is a victory for victims of abuses to help them obtain information, accountability, and justice, says Human Rights Watch.

The UN and member countries should emphasize to Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that any reprisals against activists who campaigned for the resolution would have serious consequences. Resolution 46/1, adopted on March 23, 2021, establishes a powerful new accountability process to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence of international crimes committed in Sri Lanka for use in future prosecutions.

The Sri Lankan government vigorously opposed the resolution, and there have been numerous reports of threats and harassment against rights activists in recent months. "The Human Rights Council's landmark resolution on Sri Lanka shows that if justice is denied, the UN will act to provide accountability for atrocities," said John Fisher, Geneva director.

"When governments fail to respect their international law obligations, as Sri Lanka has, it's crucial for the Human Rights Council to respond with substantive measures like these." Families of abuse victims have struggled for years to learn what happened to their loved ones and to see those responsible held to account. The resolution was adopted in response to a devastating report in January by the UN high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, on the failure of successive Sri Lankan governments to provide justice and accountability. It establishes a dedicated new capacity within the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human.

Rights "to collect, consolidate, analyse and preserve information and evidence" of gross violations of human rights or serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Sri Lanka, and "to advocate for victims and survivors, and to support relevant judicial and other proceedings, including in Member States, with competent jurisdiction." After many years in which there was barely any progress on accountability, this measure brings justice closer for international crimes committed in Sri Lanka, Human Rights Watch said.

The high commissioner is mandated to deliver a report to the Human Rights Council after 18 months, including "options for advancing accountability." In her January report, the high commissioner also warned of "clear early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation and a significantly heightened risk of future violations." Since coming to power in November 2019, the administration of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has targeted vulnerable minorities with discriminatory laws and subjected victims' groups, human rights defenders, and civil society groups to a renewed climate of fear and intimidation. Gotabaya Rajapaksa was defense secretary in the government of his brother, former president (now prime minister) Mahinda Rajapaksa, between 2005 and 2015.

Sri Lankan government forces and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) committed numerous war crimes and human rights abuses during the civil war that ended in 2009. The Rajapaksas and other senior members of the current government were implicated in alleged war crimes, particularly during the final months of the conflict. The government has also blocked

accountability for other serious violations, including extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. The core group of states that brought this resolution – the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Malawi, Montenegro, and North

Macedonia – have stood in support of human rights and accountability in Sri Lanka, and upheld the credibility of the Human Rights Council by advancing justice for serious violations of international law, Human Rights Watch said.

Altogether 22 Human Rights Council members voted for the resolution, while 11 voted against, and 14 abstained. More than 40 countries co-sponsored the resolution, which remains open for co-sponsorship.

Among the countries that voted in favor or co-sponsored the resolution are Sri Lanka's largest trading partners, including the United States and members of the European Union. The resolution was introduced by the United Kingdom, which is Sri Lanka's largest source of foreign direct investment.

These governments should continue to use their influence to press for the protection of human rights in Sri Lanka, including respect for minorities and religious rights and an end to threats and intimidation against victims' groups and human rights activists. UN member states should now follow through and ensure that the high commissioner's recommendations are carried out, including by imposing targeted sanctions on those allegedly responsible for grave violations and pursuing justice for international crimes in national courts under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

"The Human Rights Council resolution is an important step toward delivering justice for terrible crimes, but it's critical to remain focused on the violations being committed in Sri Lanka today and the clear risk of future abuses," Fisher said. "Victims' groups, civil society, and minority communities still need support and protection through sustained international engagement to

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வழக்கம் போல் போட்டி இரண்டு திராவிடக் கட்சிகளுக்கும் இடையேதான். அதாவது திமுக மற்றும் அதிமுக இடையேதான்.

இந்த இரண்டு சூரியன்களைச் சுற்றியே மற்றக் கட்சிகள் வலம் வருகின்றன.

1967 ஆம் ஆண்டு அண்ணா தலைமையில் திமுக மாபெரும் கூட்டணி ஒன்றை அமைத்துப் போட்டியிட்டு வெற்றி பெற்றது. அதன் பின்னர் இந்த 54 ஆண்டு காலமாக திராவிடக் கட்சிகளே தமிழ்நாட்டை மாறி மாறி ஆண்டு வந்துள்ளன. இம்முறையும் இந்த இரண்டு கட்சியில் ஒன்றுதான் ஆட்சி அமைக்கப் போகிறது.

முழு இந்தியாவிலும் 1967 முதல் ஒரு மாநிலத்தைத் தொட்டிருந்து ஒரு மாநிலக் கட்சியே ஆளும் மாநிலம் தமிழ்நாடு மட்டுமே!

1967 இல் பதவிக் குவந்த திமுக அதன் பின்னர் 1972, 1989, 1996 மற்றும் 2006 இல் நடந்த தேர்தல்களில் வெற்றி பெற்றது. 1977, 1988, 1991, 2001, 2011 மற்றும் 2016 இல் அதிமுக வெற்றிபெற்றது. பல திமுக தலைவர்கள் மீது, குறிப்பாக கருணாநிதியின் மகன் மீது 2010 இல் சமத்தப்பட்ட ஊழல் குற்றச்சாட்டுகளால் கட்சியின் புகழ் சேதமடைந்தது. 2006 ஆம் ஆண்டு திமுக தேர்தல் மாநிலத்தில் ஒவ்வொரு விட்டிற்கும் தொலைக்காட்சிப் பெட்டிகளை வழங்குவதாக வாக்குறுதி அளித்தது. 2011 சட்டமன்றத் தேர்தலின் போது ஊழல் குற்றச்சாட்டுக்கள் காரணமாக திமுக 31 இடங்களில் மட்டுமே வென்றது.

அறிஞர் அண்ணா மற்றும் கலைஞர் கருணாநிதியின் தலைமையில் இயங்கி வந்த திமுக ஐந்து முறையும் (1967, 1972, 1989, 1996 மற்றும் 2006) புரட்சித் தலைவர் எம்ஜிஆர் மற்றும் ஜெயலலிதா தலைமையில் இயங்கி வந்த அதிமுக ஆறு முறையும் தமிழ்நாட்டை ஆட்சி செய்து வந்துள்ளன.

இம்முறை கலைஞர் கருணாநிதி மற்றும் புரட்சித் தலைவி ஜெயலலிதா போன்ற ஆளுமை மிக்க தலைவர்கள் இல்லாத சூழ்நிலையில் சட்டமன்றத் தேர்தல் நடைபெறுகிறது. இன்று திமுக க்கு தளபதி மு.க. ஸ்டாலின், அதிமுக க்கு எடப்பாடி பழனிச்சாமி தலைமை தாங்குகிறார்கள்.

தேர்தல் ஆணையம் கொடுத்த தகவலின் அடிப்படையில் தமிழ்நாட்டின் வாக்காளர் தொகை 62,823,749 ஆகும். சட்ட சபைக்கு மொத்தம் 234 உறுப்பினர்கள் தெரிவு செய்யப்பட வேண்டும். சோழிங்கநல்லூர் தொகுதிதான் ஆகக் கூடுதலாக 694,845 வாக்காளர்களைக் கொண்ட தொகுதியாகும். பல தொகுதிகளில் வாக்காளர் தொகை 300,000 - 350,000 ஆகும். இதில் பாதிப் பேர் பெண் வாக்காளர்கள்.

தமிழக சட்ட சபைக்கு இப்போது நடைபெறும் தேர்தல் பதினாறாவது தேர்தல் ஆகும். 2016 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜெயலலிதா தலைமையில் தேர்தலில் வெற்றிபெற்று வந்த அதிமுக கட்சியின் ஆட்சி எதிர்வரும் மே 24, 2021 இல் முடிவுக்கு வருகிறது.

தேர்தல் ஆணையம் பின்வரும் நிகழ்ச்சி நிரலைத் தயாரித்துள்ளது.



நிகழ்வு	Date
வேட்பு மனு தாக்கல்	12 மார்ச் 2021
வேட்பு மனு தாக்கல் செய்யும் கடைசி நாள்	19 மார்ச் 2021
வேட்பு மனுக்களை சரிபார்க்கும் நாள்	20 மார்ச் 2021
வேட்பு மனுவைத் மீளப்பெறுவதற்கான கடைசி நாள்	22 மார்ச் 2021
தேர்தல் நாள் (ஒரேமுறையில்)	6 ஏப்பிரல் 2021
வாக்குகள் எண்ணப்படும் நாள்	2 மே 2021
தேர்தல் நிறைவடையும் நாள்	24 மே 2021

- இப்போது தமிழ்நாடு பற்றிய சில தரவுகளைப் பார்ப்போம்.
- மாநில தலைநகரம் - சென்னை
மாபட்டங்கள் - 38
நிலப்பரப்பு - 130,058 ச.கிமீ (இலங்கை - 65610 ச.கிமீ)
மக்கள் தொகை 2021 (மதிப்பீடு) - 78.8 மில்லியன் (7.88 கோடி)
மாநில மொழிகள் - தமிழ் & ஆங்கிலம்
- சராசரி கல்வியறிவு விகிதக்காடு: 80.09 விகிதக்காடு
மொத்த மாநில உள்நாட்டு உற்பத்தி - அமெரிக்க \$ 207.79 பில்லியன் (2016?17)
முக்கிய நகரங்கள்: சென்னை, கோயம்புத்தூர், மதுரை, திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி, சேலம் சூ திருநெல்வேலி. (மக்கள் தொகைப் படி)
தமிழ்நாடு, இந்தியாவின் மக்கள் தொகையில் (2020) 5.96 விகிதக்காடு.
- எல்லைகள் - மேற்குப் பகுதியில் கேரளா, வடக்கே ஆந்திரா மற்றும் வடமேற்கில் கர்நாடகா.
- திமுக மற்றும் அதிமுக அணியில் இடம்பெற்றுள்ள கட்சிகளுக்கான தொகுதிப் பங்கீடு பின்வருமாறு அமைந்துள்ளது.

திமுக அணி	
கட்சிகள்	தொகுதி
திமுக	176
தேசிய காங்கிரஸ்	25
சும்தூனிஸ்ட் (மாக்கிஸ்ட்)	6
சும்தூனிஸ்ட் (இந்திய)	6
விடுதலைச் சிறுத்தைகள்	6
மதிமுக	6
இந்திய முஸ்லிம் ஜி	3
தமிழ்நாடு வாழ்வுரிமைக் கட்சி	1
ஏணையோர்	5
மொத்தம்	234

அதிமுக கூட்டணி	
கட்சிகள்	தொகுதி
அதிமுக	188
பாமக	23
பாரதிய ஜனதா	20
தமிழ் மாநில காங்கிரஸ்	3
ஏணையோர்	0
மொத்தம்	234



தமிழ்நாடு பெரிய மற்றும் அண்ணா பிறந்த மண். பெரியப் பகுத்தறிவு, சாதி ஒழிப்பு, சுயமரியாதை இயக்கம் என வழங்கும் முழுதும் உழைத்தவர். இருந்தும் தரை மட்டத்தில், சாதி உணர்வுகள் இருக்கவே செய்கின்றன.

?சாதிகள் இல்லையடி பாப்பா? என்பது பாடபுத்தகத்தில் பாடபாக்களுக்கு மட்டுமாதாக ஆகிவிட்டது. குறிப்பாக தேர்தல் அரசியலில் சாதிக்கு தனித் திட்டம் உண்டு. வேட்பாளர் தேர்வு மட்டுமின்றி அமைச்சர் பெறுப்பு ஒதுக்குதலுமே சாதிக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் அளிக்கப்படுகிறது.

இதனால் தமிழ்நாட்டில் சாதி அரசியலே நடக்கிறது. சில கட்சிகள் சாதிப் பெயரிலேயே இயங்குகின்றன. எடுத்துக் காட்டாக பாட்டாளி மக்கள் கட்சி (பாமக) வன்மிய குலத்தினரது கட்சியாகும். விடுதலைச் சிறுத்தைகள் கட்சி தலித் சமூகத்தைச் சார்பு படுத்தும் கட்சியாகும். ஒரு தொகுதியில் ஒரு வேட்பாளரை நிறுத்தும் போது அந்தத் தொகுதியில் எந்தச் சாதி பெரும்பான்மையாக இருக்கிறதோ அந்தச் சாதியைச் சேர்ந்த ஒருவரே அந்நகரமாக கட்சி வேட்பாளராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்படுகின்றார்.

குடிக்கணக்கெடுப்பில் வன்னியர் 15.1 லட்சம், பறையர் 12 லட்சம், வேளாளர் 6 லட்சம், பள்ளர் 4.8 லட்சம், செங்குந்தர் கைக்கோள முதலியார் 4.0 லட்சம் காணப்படுகின்றனர். இந்த நாடார் 3.5 லட்சம் உள்ளார்கள்.

மேலும் கள்ளர் 2.5 லட்சம், மறவர் 1.0 லட்சம், அகம்படியார் 1.2 லட்சம் ஆகிய லட்சம் சமூகத்தினரும் முக்குலத்தோர் என அழைக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் முக்குலத்தோர் என்னும் பெயருக்கு திமுக அரசாங்கத்தால் இன்னும் பெருமளவு அளிக்கப்படவில்லை. முக்குலத்தோர் மற்றும் தேவர் என்ற சொற்கள் ஒத்ததாக பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டுகின்றன. மதுரை காமராசு பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் ஆர். முத்துலட்சுமிநாயகம் கூறப்படி, தேவர் என்பது 'நெய்விட இயல்புடையவர்கள்' என்றும் முக்குலத்தோர் என்றால் 'மூன்று குலங்கள் ஒன்றிணைந்தவர்' என்றும் பெருள் ஆகும்.

எம்ஜிஆர் அதிமுக கட்சியைத் தொடங்கியபோது திமுகவின் சாதி ஒழிப்பு சுயமரியாதை திருமணச் சட்டம் போன்ற சீர்திருத்த நடவடிக்கைகளில் பெரிய அளவில் ஈடுபாடிவந்த சமூகங்கள் எம்ஜிஆர் பின் அணி திரண்டன. குறிப்பாக முக்குலத்தோர் (பிராமணைகள், கள்ளர், கொண்டைய கொட்ட மறவர்) கொங்கு வேளாள கவுண்டர் போன்றவர்களின் வாக்குகள் எம்ஜிஆருக்கு சாதகமாகின.

பார்ப்பன எதிர்மில் தீவிரம் காட்டும் சமூகங்களான தஞ்சாவூர் கள்ளர், வட தமிழகத்திலுள்ள வன்னியர், முதலியார் போன்ற சமூகங்கள் திமுக ஆதரவில் நிலைத்து நின்றன. காங்கிரசு வாக்கு வங்கியாக இருந்த ஆதிதிராவிடமும் கணினியை எம்ஜிஆருக்கு ஆதரவளித்தனர். மதுரை வீரன் படத்தில் இருந்தே எம்ஜிஆர் மீது காதல் வாய்ப்பட்டிருந்த அருந்ததியர்கள் அப்படியே எம்ஜிஆர் பக்கம் சாய்ந்தனர்.

எம்ஜிஆர், ஜெயலலிதா, எடப்பாடி அமைச்சரவையில் முக்குலத்தோருக்கு அவர்களது குடித்தனத்தைக் குறைவாக முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வந்தது. 2016 சட்டசபை தேர்தலில் தேவர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 20 பேர் எஸ்எல்சுக்களாகினர். ஆனால் இவர்களில் 9 பேருக்கு அமைச்சர் பதவி கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. 19 எஸ்எல்சுக்கள் கொண்ட வன்னியர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள். இவர்களில் 5 பேர் மட்டுமே அமைச்சர்கள் ஆவர்.

மேலும் 31 எஸ்எல்சுக்களைக் கொண்ட தலித் சமூகத்தில் 3 பேருக்கும் 28 எஸ்எல்சுக்களைக் கொண்ட கவுண்டர் சமூகத்துக்கு 5 பேரும் மட்டுமே அமைச்சர்கள். அத்துடன் ஜெயலலிதாவின் முதல்வர் பதவிக்கு சிக்கல் வந்தபோதெல்லாம் தேவர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 9 என்னிச்செல்வந்தான் முதல்வராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டு வந்தார்.

இப்போதுள்ள தமிழக முதலமைச்சர் எடப்பாடி அமைச்சரவையில் தேவர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 9, கவுண்டர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 5 பேர், வன்னியர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்த 4 பேர் இடம்பெற்றுள்ளார்கள்.

என்னிக்கையில் குறைவாக இருந்தாலும் பெண், பெருள், நிலபுலம், கல்வி போன்றவற்றில் முன்னிலையில் இருக்கும் சமூகங்கள் தமிழ்நாடு அரசியலில் செல்வாக்குச் செலுத்துகின்றன என்பததான் யதார்த்தம்.

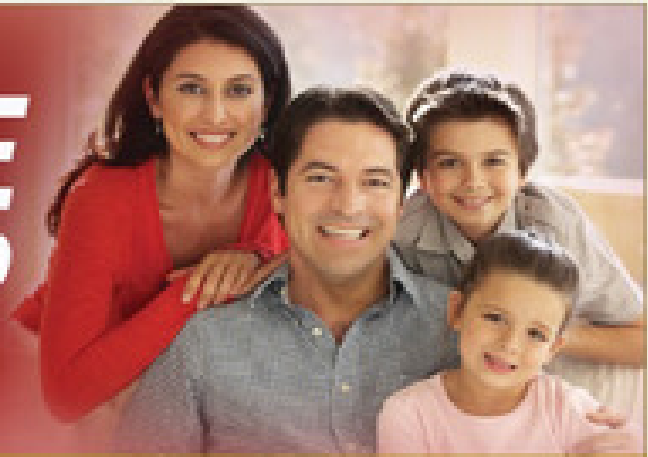
தமிழக தேர்தலில் சாதி வகிக்கும் பாத்திரத்தை உணர்த்தவே இந்தத் தரவுகள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன.

இம்முறை விஜயகாந்த் அவர்களின் தேமுதிக, அதிமுக கூட்டணியில் இருந்து வெளியேறித் தனித்துப் போட்டியிடுகிறது. இது அதிமுக க்கு ஒரு பின்னடைவாகக் கணிக்கப்படுகிறது. நடிக்க கருணாஸ் தலைமையில் இயங்கும் முக்குலத்தோர் பலியடையும் வெளியேறியுள்ளது. வெளியேறியதோடு நிற்காமல் திமுக கூட்டணிக்கு ஆதரவு தெரிவித்துள்ளது.

போட்டி கடுமையாக இருக்கும் பட்சத்தில் சின்னக் கட்சிகளின் வாக்குகள் வெற்றி தேவ்வின்னை தீர்மானிக்கும் சக்தியாக மற நிறைய வாய்ப்புண்டு.

பாரதிய ஜனதா கட்சி அதிமுக கட்சியுடன் கூட்டணி வைத்து 20 தொகுதிகளில் போட்டியிடுகிறது. ஐந்து தொகுதிகளில் இருந்து தேசிய காங்கிரஸ் கட்சியோடு 5 தொகுதிகளில் ரேஷம் போட்டி போடுகிறது. மத்திய அரசு இம்முறை எப்படித் தமிழ்நாட்டு சட்ட சபைத் தேர்தலில் காலூன்றி விட வேண்டும் என நினைக்கிறது. இந்தத் திணிப்பு, சமஸ்கிருதத் திணிப்பு போன்றவற்றை திணிக்கும் பாஜக, அதிமுகவுக்கு பலமா அல்லது பாஜகா என்பதை தேர்தல் முடிவுகள் வெளியாகும் போதுதான் தெரிய வரும்.

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HRC 46: Text of the revised Sri Lanka draft resolution



A revised version of the draft resolution on Sri Lanka has been made public.

The revised version has new wordings on the 2009 May Sri Lanka resolution, on provincial council elections, entrusting OHCHR of collection and preserving evidence on serious human rights violations and reporting timelines.

The resolution revised draft " Requests the Office of the High Commissioner to enhance its monitoring and reporting on the situation of human rights in Sri Lanka, including on progress in reconciliation and accountability, and to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session, as well as a written update at its forty-ninth session, and a comprehensive report that includes further options for advancing accountability, at its fifty-first session, both to be discussed in the context of an interactive dialogue."

The text of the revised draft:
Human Right Council 46 session:
Agenda item 2

Canada, * Germany, Malawi, Montenegro,* North Macedonia* and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

* * State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

46/... Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka The Human Rights Council, Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 19/2 of 22 March 2012, 22/1 of 21 March 2013, 25/1 of 27 March 2014, 30/1 of 1 October 2015, 34/1 of 23 March

2017 and 40/1 of 21 March 2019 on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka,

Recalling also that in Council resolution S11/1 the Council welcomed the resolve of Sri Lanka to begin a broader dialogue with all parties in order to seek a political settlement and to bring about lasting peace and development in Sri Lanka based on consensus among and respect for the rights of those from all ethnic and religious groups, and endorsed the joint communique of 26 May 2009 between the President of Sri Lanka and the United Nations Secretary-General, which inter alia, underlined the importance of a accountability process for addressing violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka,

Reaffirming also that it is the primary responsibility of each State to respect, human rights, and to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of its entire population,

Acknowledging the holding of free and transparent democratic elections in November 2019 and August 2020,

Noting the enactment of the twentieth amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka, while stressing the importance of democratic governance and independent oversight of key institutions,

Calling upon the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil its commitments on the devolution of political authority, which is integral to reconciliation and the full enjoyment of human rights by all members of its population and encouraging the Government to respect local governance, including through the holding of

elections for provincial councils, and to ensure that all provincial councils, including the Northern and Eastern Provincial Councils, are able to operate effectively, in accordance with the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka,

Reaffirming that all individuals in Sri Lanka are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights without distinction of any kind such as religion, belief or ethnic origin, and the importance of a peaceful and unified land to the enjoyment of human rights,

Acknowledging the progress made by the Government of Sri Lanka in rebuilding infrastructure, demining, land return, resettling internally displaced persons and improving livelihoods, and encouraging further efforts in these areas,

Welcoming the continued commitment of the Government of Sri Lanka to remain engaged with and to seek the assistance of the United Nations and its agencies, including human rights mandates and mechanisms, in capacity-building and technical assistance, and to achieve sustainable peace,

Reaffirming its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism including those committed in Sri Lanka in April 2019 that led to a large number of injuries and deaths, and reaffirming also that all measures taken to combat terrorism must fully comply with States' obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, and, as applicable, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to dealing with the past, incorporating judicial and non-judicial measures, to ensure accountability, to serve justice, to provide remedies to victims, to avoid the recurrence of violations of human rights and to promote healing and reconciliation,

Recognizing that mechanisms to redress past abuses and violations work best when they are independent, impartial and transparent, and use consultative and participatory methods that include the views of all relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, victims, women, youth, representatives of various religions, ethnicities and geographic locations, as well as people from marginalized groups,

Recalling the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations under human rights law and international humanitarian law, including where applicable to prosecute those responsible for gross violations of human rights law or serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights towards the promotion and protection of human rights and truth, justice, reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka.

1. Welcomes the oral update presented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its forty-third

session and the report of Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights presented to the Council at its forty-sixth session; 1

2. Also welcomes the engagement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Office of the High Commissioner, and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, urges the continuation of such engagement and dialogue, and calls upon Sri Lanka to implement the recommendations made by the Office and to give due consideration to the recommendations of the Special Procedures;

3. Acknowledges the progress made by the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations, and stresses the importance of maintaining support for these institutions, safeguarding their independent and effective functioning, providing both offices with sufficient resources and technical means to effectively fulfil their mandates, allowing them to proceed with interim relief measures for affected vulnerable families, with a gender focus, and resolving the many cases of enforced disappearances so that the families of disappeared persons can know their fate and whereabouts;

4. Stresses the importance of a comprehensive accountability process for all violations and abuses of human rights committed in Sri Lanka by all parties, including those abuses by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, as highlighted in the comprehensive report of the Office of the High Commissioner on Sri Lanka; 2

5. Notes the persistent lack of accountability of domestic mechanisms, and that the domestic commission of inquiry announced on 22 January 2021 lacks independence and that its mandate is to review reports of previous Commissions and Committees and does not include a mandate to pursue accountability for past gross violations of human rights, or for serious violations of international humanitarian law;

6. Recognizes the importance of preserving and analysing evidence relating to violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes in Sri Lanka with a view to advancing accountability, and decides to strengthen in this regard the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to collect, consolidate, analyse and preserve information and evidence and to develop possible strategies for future accountability processes for gross violations of human rights or serious violations of international humanitarian law in Sri Lanka, to advocate for victims and survivors, and to support relevant judicial and other proceedings including in Member States with competent jurisdiction;

7. Expresses serious concern at the trends emerging over the past year, which represent a clear early warning sign of a deteriorating situation of human rights in Sri Lanka, including the accelerating militarization of civilian government functions; the erosion of the independence of the judiciary and key institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights; ongoing impunity and political obstruction of accountability for crimes and human rights violations in "emblematic cases"; policies that adversely affect the right to freedom of religion or belief; increased marginalization of persons belonging to Tamil and Muslim communities surveillance and intimidation of civil society, restrictions on media freedom, and shrinking democratic space; restrictions on public memorialization of victims of war including the destruction of a memorial; arbitrary detentions; alleged torture and other cruel, inhuman degrading treatment or punishment, and sexual and gender-based violence; and that these trends threaten to reverse the limited but important gains made in recent years, and risk the recurrence of policies and practices that gave rise to the grave violations of the past;

8. Expresses further concern that the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had an impact on freedom of religion or belief and exacerbated the prevailing marginalization of and discrimination against the Muslim community, and that cremations for those deceased from COVID-19 have prevented Muslims and members of other religions from practicing their own burial religious rites, and has disproportionately affected religious minorities and exacerbated distress and tensions;

9. Calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the prompt, thorough and impartial investigation and, if warranted, prosecution of all alleged crimes relating to human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law, including for long-standing emblematic cases;

10. Also calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the effective and independent functioning of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, the Office on Missing Persons and the Office for Reparations to deliver their respective mandates as established;

11. Further calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to protect civil society actors, including human rights defenders, to investigate any attacks and to ensure a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can operate free from hindrance, surveillance, insecurity and threat of reprisals;

12. Requests the Government of Sri Lanka to review the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and to ensure that any legislation on combating terrorism complies fully with the State's international human rights and humanitarian law obligations;

13. Urges the Government of Sri Lanka to foster freedom of religion or belief and pluralism by promoting the ability of all religious communities to manifest their religion, and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

14. Encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to continue to cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including by responding formally to outstanding requests from them;

15. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant special procedure mandate holders to provide, in consultation with and with the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka, advice and technical assistance on implementing the above-mentioned steps;

16. Requests the Office of the High Commissioner to enhance its monitoring and reporting on the situation of human rights in Sri Lanka, including on progress in reconciliation and accountability, and to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session, as well as a written update at its forty-ninth session, and a comprehensive report that includes further options for advancing accountability, at its fifty-first session, both to be discussed in the context of an interactive dialogue.

** State not a member of the Human Rights Council.

1 A/HRC/46/20.

2 A/HRC/30/61.

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