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# PATRICK BROWN ENTERS CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP RACE

Patrick Brown, 43 and the current Mayor of Brampton has officially joined the race to lead the federal Conservatives on March 13 th , 2022, with a promise to heal the fractures that have erupted in the party over recent years. Browns speech pitched a campaign that offers a greater voice for caucus members and a bigger Conservative roof. I want people who have never voted Conservative, and voted for other parties to feel welcome in our family. Brown told the crowd. Brown is the fifth candidate to enter the Conservative leadership race, where former federal Progressive Conservative leader Jean Charest and Ottawa-area MP Pierre Poilievre have already declared their candidacy. Ontario rookie MP Leslyn Lewis and Independent Ontario MPP Roman Baber are also running.

Brown also said that he wants to rebuild trust with Canadas "cultural communities," a voter base who call the countrys largest cities and suburbs home and whose support Conservatives must win over if they hope to win the next election.

Born in Toronto, he was a young Tory who in 2000 was elected as a city councillor in Barrie, Ont. From there, he became an MP in former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harpers government. Brown won the leadership of Ontarios Progressive Conservative party in 2015, where he served as the provinces Opposition leader until 2018. Brown has not signalled any intent to resign as mayor of Brampton while seeking the federal party leadership. He has said he would donate his salary to various causes.

including the William Osler Health System Foundation in Brampton for the duration of the race.

Candidates have until June 3 to sign up new members and April 19 to declare they are running. Conservatives have to wait until September 10, 2022 to find out who will lead them to the next election.

Some observers made much of a recent poll that showed Poilievre with a commanding lead among existing Conservative voters. What they fail to realize is that the whole idea of the race is to attract new members. In the wide-ranging speech Sunday, Brown made one point repeatedly, which is that he is the one candidate who could actually defeat Justin Trudeau to be elected Prime Minister of Canada.

The party deserves more, he said, than a leader who is an attack dog in opposition. "Conservatives need a leader that can win," Brown stated. "Candidates can make all the promises they like, but have to have the ability to be elected prime minister." Speaking in English and French, Brown addressed a wide variety of current issues, including inflation, gas prices, the situation in Ukraine, religious freedom, illegal guns, pandemic lockdowns, carbon tax increases and climate change. Brown finished his speech Sunday by saying, "We need someone who can win, and that someone is me."

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# SRI LANKA'S EXERCISE IN FUTILITY AT HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL TO WHITEWASH ITS DECADES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.



By. Thambu Kanagasabai - LLM (London) Former Lecturer in Law, University of Colombo.

Foreign Minister G.L. Pieris's speech at the 49th Session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva is impeccably laced with web of lies and littered with hollow and empty promises and empty undertakings having been cleverly woven to cover up the truths and mislead the United Nations, UNHRC and International Community. Undoubtedly there will be few buyers of his labored delivery as the UNHRC, United Nations and International Community are fully aware of the facts and have fully experienced the cavalier treatment of Human Rights, Accountability and justice by the Sri Lankan Government particularly since 2006 during the war with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and after the war inclusive of the Human Rights Resolutions passed since 2012.

G.L. Pieris's statement that "Sri Lanka is an active participant in the multilateral framework to realize the promotion and protection of human rights" is simply hollow and without substance in the face of UNHRC Resolutions passed against it [Sri Lanka] since 2012 which were focusing mainly with human rights violations committed by Sri Lanka, particularly during the last 15 years. Their was neither promotion nor protection of human rights but only promotion of Security Officials and protection for them from prosecution and preservation of impunity.

G.L. Peiris's Statement of boasting of an independent judiciary also flies in the face of ground realities viewing the 20th Amendment to the Constitution which has bestowed the President with the exclusive powers to control the judiciary including absolute authority to make the Judicial appointments thereby creating a politicized Judiciary administered by an Executive President.

G.L. Pieris's statement that Sri Lanka has put in place domestic investigations for accountability, justice and reconciliations is just another concoction. On the contrary, those who were in jail convicted for war crimes have been released after pardoned by the President. This is how the domestic institutions are functioning to uphold accountability, justice and promote reconciliation.

This statement of "continuing to ensure human rights and social justice for all citizens irrespective of ethnic and religious identity and political affiliations" is yet another blown up lie when the convicted and jailed Handana Hettiarachichi has been pardoned and released before serving the full term while a Muslim Lawyer Hijabullah and a Muslim poet Ahnab Jazeem who were arrested on flimsy grounds under the draconian PTA were later released pending trials.

G.L. Pieris seems to have conveniently forgotten the basics of accountability which involves gathering of evidences to substantiate and as proofs to be submitted in Courts. His statement that evidence collecting will create disharmony among citizens is simply ludicrous and shallow.

He has also ignored or pretends not to know accountability for crimes committed is the basics of a judicial system for dispensing justice and when this is discarded it will only fester the already simmering wounds causing more pains and anguish. If his statement is endorsed there is no need for any criminal laws or judiciary to punish the offenders. On the contrary, if the victimized Tamils are left in the lurch without remedies this will only accelerate the already polarized Sri Lanka and lay a groundwork for revengeful acts by the victims against the offenders.

To say that "Our people are living safer, longer and more dignified lives" is just a distortion and fabrication of truth viewing the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act [PTA] which is causing fear and insecurity among all citizens particularly for Tamils and Muslims. It is to be noted that already there are about 200 suspects in jail arrested under the PTA. Democratic freedoms of these people are almost sealed and shut down for more than 12 years depending on the discretion of the Attorney General and Magistrate as to the grant of bail.



The Minister need not worry about the financial functions of the UNHRC or United Nations which are not his matters, but matters which UNHRC and UN can effectively handle and solve.

Sri Lanka government can legally ban anyone visiting Sri Lanka to collect evidences of war crimes but government should know the evidences of war victims and their relatives living abroad can be collected by UN Special Rapporteurs including Human Rights Commissioners most of which are available as stated by the HR Commissioner.

Furthermore, the proposed counter-terrorism legislation is plainly farcical without any substantive changes to the original PTA of year 1979 and also without meeting the expected international standards.

Since Sri Lanka has rejected international mechanism and with any domestic mechanism which will neither be independent nor impartial, expecting Accountability and Justice from an internal mechanism is only a pipe dream for the victims of war. The dismal failure of government to fulfil its numerous promises, commitments and undertakings including its rejection of Human Rights Council's Resolutions and Commissioner's Recommendations have conclusively and permanently closed the doors of Justice forever and only the UN, UNHRC or International Community can deliver the delayed Justice and right the wrongs including imposing comprehensive and appropriate sanctions against Sri Lanka to ensure its compliance with fundamental human rights, other obligations and commitments prescribed under the UN, HRC Charters and International Conventions acceded and accepted by Sri Lanka.

The recent statement of Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister G. L. Peiris ruling out any Human Right Council's or UN's involvement in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka is simply amateurish and devoid of any merits as Sri Lanka remains as a full-fledged member of UNHRC and UN as such Sri Lanka is bound to observe the provisions of those charters. The only alternative for Sri Lanka to free from UN, HRC etc. and their obligations is to resign the memberships in the UNHRC, UN and other UN Organizations.

The recent moves of Sri Lanka demonstrate its intention and policy to instill fear and insecurity among its citizens by proposing "To recruit youths as volunteers approximately 28,000 to work in 14,022 Grama Niladhari divisions in Sri Lanka. The youths will be entrusted to monitor political activities and report them to the Police and Ministry of Public Security which works in collaboration with Sri Lanka Police service. This "will be like a secret police service like Hitler's Gestapo". The volunteers will engage in "secret gatherings, spying and passing false information possibly to inflict personal revenge as well". The Police service will thus become politicized which is "Un-Constitutional and a violation of Fundamental Rights" mostly targeting Tamils and Muslims who have become convenient scapegoats and sacrificial lambs. Besides, intimidation by security forces also have become a common method and practice. The recent incidents on March 01, 2022 in Kodikamam and Jaffna in the North and in Amparai in the East where soldiers were seen videoing locals who were signing the petition to repeal PTA are examples of open intimidation by security forces who acted without any fear of law or higher authorities.

The proposed amendments to the PTA have been aptly described by Amnesty International when it called it as "An attempt by Sri Lankan government to pacify both local and international calls for the repeal of draconian PTA".

Human Right Commissioner's oral statement on February 28, 2022, sums up the current situation in Sri Lanka when she called on the Member States "to pursue alternative strategies to advance accountability at the international level as successive Sri Lankan governments have demonstrated their unwillingness to pursue accountability".

Therefore the UN, HRC and International Community are duty bound to rise to the occasion and initiate steps to remedy and redress the grievances of victims, to dispense appropriate punitive measures like economic, political and diplomatic sanctions against Sri Lanka purely to uphold the rule of law, accountability and justice and not to further delay this process which will only enable Sri Lanka to pursue its entrenched policy of impunity.

It has to be stated that in the current war going on between Russia and Ukraine, Russia has bombed hospitals killing patients and civilians which have been condemned by the International Community, UN and UNHRC as war crimes. Similarly the UN, UNHRC and the International Community including Security Council owe a duty to call the bombings of about seven hospitals in Mullitivu District in the North of Sri Lanka in May 2009 by the Sri Lankan Air Force during the war with LTTE as a war crime and refer Sri Lanka to International Criminal Court for investigation and imposing proper punitive measures like sanctions [Source OHCHR Investigation and Report 2012, OISL Report .2009, Tamil Guardian March 09, 2022].



# PROTECTORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR SILENT WATCHERS OF WAR CRIMES



The United Nations is a global organization that brings together its member states to confront common challenges, manage shared responsibilities and exercise collective action in an enduring "quest for a peaceful world." One of the main purposes of the United Nations is to maintain world peace and security. At present there are 193 member states in the UN. Of the all main organs of the United Nations, Security Council is the primary organ consisting of five permanent members [USA, United Kingdom, China, France and Russia] and ten rotating members chosen as representatives of various regions of the world.

The Security Council has the primary responsibility under the United Nations Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security. Resolutions of the Security Council legally bind the member states for compliance, while the UN resolutions do not have any legally binding effect, with consequences for non-compliance unless authorized by the Security Council.

The United Nations can however make suggestions and recommendations to the Security Council for its consideration and adoption.

One of the United Nations' primary purposes is promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to age, sex, language or religion and member states pledge to undertake "joint and separate action" to protect these rights "with member states duty bound to carry out UN Resolutions.

However, in practice United Nations General Assembly on its own cannot take sufficient action against human rights abuses without a Security Council Resolution. The Security Council since its inception in 1948 has so far passed more than 2,400 resolutions. The Security Council through its resolutions has the power to impose economic, political and/or diplomatic sanctions against any state which is in breach of any Articles of United Nations Conventions resulting in threats of peace, breaches of peace or acts of aggression. Besides, the Security Council can also authorize peacekeeping operations including military action as happened in 1991 against Iraq which invaded and occupied Kuwait in August 1990.

The UN Security Council also authorizes referrals to the International Criminal Court to try leaders of countries and/or military officials who are alleged to have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, etc. This referral brings countries who have not signed the Rome Statute of 2002, to face prosecution for war crimes, etc, as happened in Rwanda, Darfur genocide in 2005 and the genocide by rulers of Sudan in 2011 against South Sudan rebels. The Security Council, by a Resolution No 1706 in 2005 called R2P [Responsibility to Protect], is also empowered to take preventive action to protect civilians in armed conflict, including initiating action against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.



All in all, the duties of maintenance of world peace, prevention of human rights violations and punishment of perpetrators lie only on the Security Council's fifteen members, particularly on five permanent members who also enjoy the veto power to nullify a resolution even if backed by the other fourteen members.

The power of vetoing a Resolution by a permanent member, even if backed by the rest of the 14 Security Council members, is nothing but a humiliation and disrespect to other members, which action has often been described as an 'abuse of power' by one member. "Veto power was alleged to be forced by the Super Powers through threat that without the veto there will be no United Nations".

The net effect is that the UN Security Council is owned by the five Super Powers who can make or unmake a resolution and situation. The recent veto exercised by the US in the Security Council to rescind its decision to recognize Jerusalem as capital of Israel is one example when world opinion was treated with nil importance and scant respect. The US, being the major contributor of funds for the United Nations (about 22%), also holds a dominant influence over the functions of the United Nations.

If one traces the record of the United Nations and Security Council during the past 50 years, its dismal performances and failures stand exposed and glaring to any one observer. Some of the inexcusable failures are as follows, which could have been prevented at the outset, but were allowed to reach their ends with horrifying results:

The genocide of Bangladeshis in 1971 during the war with Pakistan;

The genocide in Cambodia by Pol Pot;

The genocide in Rwanda in 1994 when Tutsis in their thousands were killed by Hutus;

Massacres in Srebrenica in 1995 where Muslims were massacred by Serbs;

Civil war in Somalia and Sudan which resulted in the killings of thousands of rebels by government forces and militants with the blessings of their rulers.

The gross failure of the United Nations and Security Council during the genocidal war in Sri Lanka from 2006 to May 18, 2009 is one recent ignominious performance of the world bodies, United Nations and Security Council.

The Toronto Star [Canada] on November 20, 2012 commented this failure as follows: "When as many as 40,000 Tamils were killed during the final months of Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009, the United Nations did not hold a single formal meeting. Not at the Security Council, not at the General Assembly. Not at the Human Rights Council." "In Sri Lanka, United Nations retreated into craven silence and looked the other way that emboldened war criminals to ply their vicious trade."

"This systematic failure is appalling coming long after the United Nations was thought to have absorbed the 'NEVER AGAIN' lessons from the Rwanda genocide and Srebrenica in 1995."

Rosie Dimanno, the Star columnist commented as follows: "On Sri Lanka the United Nations was notoriously deaf, dumb and blind." "The United Nations had a pretty clear idea of what was happening in the killing fields of Sri Lanka during the bloody climax of civil war, yet it suppressed or diluted that information, utterly failing in its core mission of protecting civilians." "Instead the Security Council and United Nations Secretariat were cowed by the Sri Lankan authorities, who enjoyed "the effective acquiescence of post 9/11 world order" to defeat an enemy." Genocide Prevention Project [NY] Index 2008 "identified Sri Lanka as one of the eight alert countries where genocide and other mass atrocities were under way."

Former Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon, who remained passive and actionless during the war, visited Sri Lanka in September 2016 and lamented as follows, conceding the grave failure of his office; "Something more terrible seems happened in the past in 1994, in Rwanda, there was a massacre, more than one million people were massacred, United Nations felt responsible for that. We said repeatedly "never again, never again" it happened just one year after Srebrenica, We did again in Sri Lanka."

Adding insult to injury was the UNHRC's Resolution in May 2009 which praised Sri Lanka for ending the civil war by eliminating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. However, this resolution was condemned later "as a slap on human rights and endorsement of genocide, but later realised its folly and ignorance of facts and figures and falling to the game of duplicity by Sri Lanka."

Some legal commentators have even hinted the United Nations' failures as a crime of complicity committed during the war providing the encouragement and allowing its continuation. However, the failure of the United Nations and Security Council is continuing in the current situation involving the ethnic Rohingya Muslims who have been living in Myanmar [Burma] for generations. They have been stripped of their citizenship and denied almost all rights and also labelled as stateless. Rohingyas are people with their own language, religion and culture. They are a distinct ethnic group qualified for protection by the United Nations and necessary action against Myanmar [Burmese] authorities and security forces that are forcefully expelling them from their Rakhine State to flee and take shelter in the neighbouring poor country Bangladesh.

The current situation as commented by a former United Nations General Romeo Dallaire is "You are in the midst of a very slow moving deliberate genocide." Various genocidal crimes are being committed by the Myanmar [Burmese] Government and security forces including forcible expulsion by the Myanmar army which is continuing to commit the crimes of murder, rape, burning of their houses and villages in addition to mass atrocities. It is estimated that between August and September 2017, 6,700 Rohingyas were killed while 670,000 have fled the Buddhist-majority Myanmar into Bangladesh to escape the 'ethnic cleansing' as called by the United Nations, now described as genocide.

Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng summed up the situation in Myanmar correctly as follows:

"It is our inaction and effectiveness in addressing the warning signals that allows it to become a reality. Genocide does not happen by accident. It is deliberate with warning signs and precursors."

It can be stated that a thread of duplicity appears to be running through the web of the United Nations' actions which seems to confirm the application of different scales of values to people affected depending on the continents they live. Certainly, Africa and Asia fall within this web of duplicity.

There is no denying the fact that the Security Council is being monopolized to protect and promote the interests of the Superpowers, rather than to go to the rescue of the marginalized victims of state aggression, particularly happening in third world countries. Even manipulation and intimidating tactics are employed to achieve the goals of some powerful countries. Furthermore, the United Nations also failed to enforce the R2P [Responsibility to protect] rule introduced by Canada, making its existence questionable and irrelevant. British historian Paul Kennedy's statement on the Security Council confirms; "Glorious failures had not only accompanied the United Nations' many achievements, but they overshadowed them, for instance the lack of will to prevent ethnic massacres in Bosnia and Rwanda."

The discriminatory enforcement or lack of enforcement of Security Council Resolutions also casts doubt on the integrity of UN Resolutions concerning Muslims who are apparently treated unfavourably like the Resolutions demanding the withdrawal of Israel from occupied areas while Israel is allowed to flout it by building new settlements. It is to be noted that the affected Rohingyas are also Muslims living in poverty and neglected. The present United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, His Excellency Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini, recently expressed his frustration over the current plight and state of human rights by saying that "This is an age when United States and other world powers are retreating from their historical commitments to human rights." His decision not to request an extension to his position due to this sorry state of human rights has only worsened the plight of the victims of human rights who as an alternative could be forced to resort to obtain redress and relief employing violent methods. Besides addressing issues such as lack of will and a collective agreement to prevent genocide, the United Nations must also concentrate on evolving new swift judicial mechanisms without delay to ensure accountability for the perpetrators of war crimes, etc.

The United Nations should watch and act fast to prevent and end the human tragedies rather than silently watching to know the end result of the atrocities. [As happened to the Tamils in Sri Lanka and now what is happening to the Muslims in Myanmar where the majority community are also Buddhists].

Will the United Nations live up to its commitments or continue to function letting down the victims of Human Rights?

The current brutal aggression of Russia by invading Ukraine under the shield of a Super Power is an illustration of an example of how might is always right to maim and mutilate a small democratic country on flimsy grounds and unsubstantiated fears of security threat and aggression from Ukraine. It is all the more distressing to note the deadly silence of other democratic Super Powers and countries including the United Nations which was founded to maintain peace and security among its members are watching the undeserved destruction of Ukraine by Russian forces by attacks from air, land and sea.

It is simply true and correct to say that the United Nations, Security Council and other International Organizations have chosen to prefer the role of silent and passive watchers rather than protectors of innocents in order not to provoke Russia to harm their security and interests.



By. Thambu Kanagasabai -  
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## FEBRUARY SALES DOWN BY 16.8 % BUT THE PRICE WAS UP BY 27.7 %

February home sales were down compared to the all-time record in 2021, but represented the second-best result for the month of February in history. New listings dropped, but by a marginally lesser annual rate than sales, pointing to a modest move to a slightly more balanced market. Competition between buyers, however, remained tight enough to support double-digit price growth year-over-year.

Greater Toronto Area (GTA) REALTORS® reported 9,097 sales through the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's (TRREB) MLS® System in February 2022, representing a 16.8 per cent decrease in the number of sales compared to February 2021. The supply of listings for low-rise home types (detached, semi-detached and townhouses) was also down year-over-year, but not by as much as sales. In the condominium apartment segment, particularly in Toronto, new listings were up in comparison to February 2021.

"Demand for ownership housing remains strong throughout the GTA, and while we are marginally off the record pace seen last year, any buyer looking in this market is not likely to feel it with competition remaining the norm. Many households sped up their home purchase and entered into a transaction in 2021, which is one reason the number of sales were forecasted to be lower this year and a trending towards higher borrowing cost will have a moderating effect on home sales. Substantial immigration levels and a continued lack of supply, however, will have a countering effect to increasing mortgage costs," said TRREB President Kevin Crigger.

The MLS® Home Price Index Composite Benchmark was up by 35.9 per cent year-over-year in February. The average selling price for all home types combined was up by 27.7 per cent to \$1,334,544. The pace of price growth varied by home type and region, but there was relative parity between low-rise and condominium apartment growth rates. "We have seen a slight balancing in the market so far this year, with sales dipping more than new listings. However, because inventory remains exceptionally low, it will take some time for the pace of price growth to slow. Look for a more moderate pace of price growth in the second half of 2022 as higher borrowing costs result in some households putting their home purchase on hold temporarily as they resituate themselves in the market," said TRREB Chief Market Analyst Jason Mercer.



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## 3 easy tests that can help sell your home

(NC) Planning to put your home up on the market? While the housing market is hot across much of the country, there remain a few steps you can take to make your property really stand out for buyers and smooth out the process for everyone along the way. Here are some evaluations to consider before listing your home:

**1. Indoor air** Even before the pandemic, we spent about 90 per cent of our time indoors. And with COVID-19 making us more aware of ventilation and what we breathe, top indoor air quality can be a great selling point in a home.

Fortunately, testing for everything from allergens and mould to dust and formaldehyde can be done with simple DIY test kits available at your local hardware store. If you have the dollars or want a more thorough evaluation, you can also call in a professional.

**2. Water quality**  
Canadian private and public drinking water supplies are generally of excellent quality. But contaminants can sneak into your water supply via plumbing — including pipes and fittings that connect homes to water mains and well casings. Potential buyers will want to know your water is safe, especially if your home is in a rural area or you're selling a property with lake access.

That means testing the quality of your water can be a smart idea. For an easy and affordable option, consider My Water Quality, which uses an accredited and licensed laboratory to bring water supply sampling and reporting to homeowners across Canada. You'll receive a DIY test kit, including return shipping label and sampling instructions. A report card will arrive within five to 20 days and provide you with easy-to-read results, which have been reviewed by professional hydrogeologist.

**3. Asbestos**  
Older homes, cabins, cottages and other buildings across the country still have asbestos in them, which can cause cancer and other health issues if inhaled. While it's not dangerous to have asbestos that's undisturbed, if you or the new owner plan to undertake a remodel or renovations, it can become a serious problem. To give potential buyers peace of mind, have a professional come in to test for asbestos — it's mostly found in attics, vinyl asbestos flooring tiles, soundproofing ceiling tiles, roof shingles and insulation. If the test reveals asbestos, never try to remove it yourself. This can be dangerous, so hire a pro.

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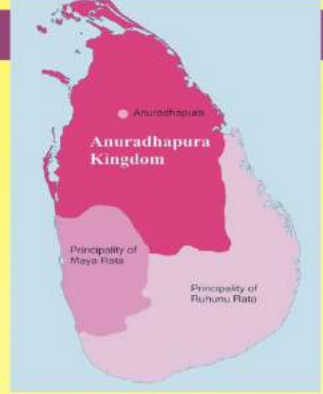




# Dutugemunu

## CHAPTER 1

### The Three Kingdoms



The beautiful Pearl shaped island of Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, lying in the Indian Ocean is separated from peninsular India by the Palk Strait. The island has a maximum length of 432 km and a maximum width of 224 km and about 22 million people live in the year 2022.

Geologically, Sri Lanka is an extension of peninsular India that separated from the mainland perhaps as recently as the Miocene Epoch (roughly 25 to 5 million years ago). Archaeological excavations undertaken since the late 20th century have indicated that the island already supported human inhabitants some 75,000 to 125,000 years ago. The earliest occupants of the region were like other Paleolithic peoples, hunters and gatherers who made and used. There was an invasion from a Java king as well.

As per historians the origin of the Jaffna kingdom is obscure and still the subject of controversy. Among mainstream historians, the widely accepted view is that the Kingdom of the Aryacakravarti dynasty in Jaffna began in 1215 with the invasion of a previously unknown chieftain called Magha, who claimed to be from Kalinga in modern India. He disposed the ruling Parakrama Paandian II, a foreigner from the Paandian Dynasty who was ruling the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa at the time with the help of his soldiers and mercenaries from the Kalinga, modern Kerala and Damila (Tamil Nadu) regions in India. Subsequently Senappa Perumal from Kotte and later Portuguese, Dutch and British ruled the Kingdom until 1948.

The Kingdom of Kandy This Kingdom was a monarchy on the island of Sri Lanka, located in the central and eastern portion of the island. It was founded in the late 15th century and endured until the early 19th century. It remained as an independent kingdom under Portuguese and Dutch Rule.

British captured it in 1805 and ruled the entire island. The last four kings of Kandy were from South Indian Tamil Nayaka dynasty.

During the rule of Vijayabahu VII (1521) The three sons of the king divided the Kotte in to 3 kingdoms and Buwanakabahu took Kotte Kingdom, Pararajasinghe took Raigama Kingdom and Mayadunne the Sitawake Kingdom.

Sitawake Kingdom All three kingdoms were onetime Kotte Kingdom, the Kelani Kingdom, rough stone tools. Finer tools made of quartz and occasionally of chert become visible in the archaeological record about 28,000 years ago.

Ancient Greek geographers called the island Taprobane. Arabs referred to it as Serendib. The Old name was Tambapanni. Later, European mapmakers called it Ceylon, a name still used occasionally for trade purposes. It officially became Sri Lanka in 1972.

Sri Lanka underwent many changes over the last 2800 years. The legend says that history of the island starts with the arrival of a prince from Kalinga (Orissa) state in India in 6th Century BC, with his about seven hundred friends. There is no archeological evidence to confirm this.

There were inhabitants in the island before that century. There is a concept that the Continent of Kurnakandam alias Lumeriya that existed many thousand years ago where Sri Lanka and India was one land mass.

There are much evidences to substantiate the concept as many animals such as Elephants, Leopards, species of birds and Vegetation such as Palmyra, Banana and Coconut trees found in the island are available in South India too.

Many islands between Jaffna peninsula and South India were formed by Tidal waves that occurred in the past. Sitapathikaram and Mahavamsa mentions about these Tsunamis. The island was susceptible to frequent Tsunamis due to its location in the Indian ocean.

Hence there is much evidence to prove this theory. Recent archeological discoveries in a village called Keezhadi located 12 km southeast of Madurai in Tamil Nadu along the banks of river Vaikai proves a civilization that existed about 1000 BC and has links with Indus Valley civilization that existed 2000 BC, as well as Poonankari archeological discoveries in the Northern Sri Lanka.

The discovery of skeletons in a Balangoda, a village near Rathnapura proves that people existed 35,000 BC in the island. If the island is isolated, where did these humans come from? There were no ships, no air crafts, other than by walking or by chariot or with the help of animals. There were elephants and other species of animals lived in this island similar to the ones in India. A question is raised that if the island of Sri Lanka was not part of the Kurnakandam, how did these species of animals live in this island? The Mahavamsa is a meticulously kept historical chronicle of Sri Lanka written in the style of an epic poem written in the Pali language during 5th century AD. It relates the history of Sri Lanka from its legendary beginnings covering the period between the arrival of Prince Vijaya from India in 543 BCE to up to the reign of Mahavamsa of Anuradhapura (A.D. 302). It is evident that Mahavamsa was written nearly 10 centuries after the arrival of Vijayan. There were no There was an invasion from a Java king as well. As per historians the origin of the Jaffna kingdom is obscure and still the subject of controversy.

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written records in Olas or stone inscription or copper plates. Like the epic Ramayana written by Rishi Valmiki the Mahavamsa narrates events ten centuries before. How was this possible? The only way is that through meditation the writers were able to travel in a Time Machine in their mind.

After the establishment of Vijaya dynasty, four kingdoms existed namely, Anuradhapura Kingdom, Kotte or Kelani Kingdom or Maya Kingdom, and Ruhuna Kingdom down south of the island. As time went on, new Kingdoms such as Jaffna, Kandy and Sitawake were formed. During the time of Dutugemunu – Ellalan war, the three Rajarata, Kelani kingdom as Mayaratta and Ruhuna Kingdoms existed.

#### Anuradhapura kingdom

It is the oldest kingdom in Sri Lanka. A Kingdom surrounded by paddy fields, Tanks and rivers and has rich heritage dating back to the arrival of Vijaya in the 6th century BC. In the fourth century BC King Pandukabhaya made it his capital and developed it into a prosperous city. According to many historians and philosophers, he is the first truly Sri Lankan king since the Vijayan's migration, and also the king who ended the conflict between the Sinhalese and the local chieftains, reorganizing the population. Anuradhapura (Anuradhapura) was named after the minister who first established the village around Malvaha Oya. Asela was an early monarch of Sri Lanka of the Kingdom of Anuradhapura, based at the ancient capital of Anuradhapura from 215 BC to 205 BC. Asela was the youngest of the many sons of MutaSiva and brother of previous monarch Devanampiya Tissa. Utiya and Mahavaha. Asela fought Sena and Gutika the two horse traders who came from Paandiyai Kingdom in a battle to re-establish Vijaya's rule in 215 BC, but in 205 BC the kingdom of Anuradhapura was again invaded by a Tamil, a Prince of the Chola dynasty named Ellalan killing Asela. One of the sons of the Mutasiva, Mahnaga escaped from being poisoned. He decided to move to Ruhuna and established the Ruhuna Kingdom. When Cholas invaded Anuradhapura, they arrived at Maantthorai port and travelled to Anuradhapura along Malvaha Oya.

Later when Raja Rajs Cheluvan from south India invaded Anuradhapura, during 11th Century AD, he shifted the capital from Anuradhapura to Polonnaruwa for the reason it is closer to a natural harbor in Trincomalee and the Koneswaram Shiva Temple. In addition, Mahaweli Ganga river, the longest river meets the Bay of Bengal near Muthoor, Trincomalee. In addition, Polonnaruwa is surrounded by Tanks and paddy fields. There was an invasion from a Java king as well. As per historians the origin of the Jaffna Kingdom is obscure and still the subject of controversy. Among mainstream historians, the widely accepted view is that the Kingdom of the Aryacakravarti dynasty in Jaffna began in 1215 with the invasion of a previously unknown chieftain called Magha, who claimed to be from Kalinga in modern India. He disposed the ruling Parakrama Paandian II, a foreigner from the Paandian Dynasty who was ruling the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa at the time with the help of his soldiers and mercenaries from the Kalinga, modern Kerala and Damila (Tamil Nadu) regions in India. Subsequently Senappa Perumal from Kotte and later Portuguese, Dutch and British ruled the Kingdom until 1948.

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Without the presence of its three artificial lakes Tissa Wewa, Nuwara Wewa and Basawakalayan near its city center, Anuradhapura would never have flourished. The lakes helped the people to do farming and have rice and fresh water, even during the long months between monsoons. At the time of their construction, over two millennia ago, they were among the world's greatest feats of engineering, and continue to amaze today.

The Kingdom of Anuradhapura was one of the most technologically advanced civilizations of its day, and the creation of three enormous tanks was a singular accomplishment. The reservoirs were designed to capture the rains of the monsoon and then slowly distribute the water among the kingdom's farms, using a complicated and highly advanced irrigation system. By looking at the design of buildings and the statues carved in stone and the moon stones one may ask the question from where did the architects come from? The answer is obviously from India as the Kings who ruled Anuradhapura after 6th century BC had close links with Paandyan kingdom which was not too far from the Anuradhapura Kingdom.

Kelaniya Kingdom (Mayaratta) Kelaniya Kingdom was once called Mayaratta and borders Deduru Oya in the North. Yatalattissa and Kelattissa ruled this kingdom between 200 BC to 161 BC.

It was established at the meeting point of river Kalyani with Indian ocean, this river later called Kelani River located few miles north of Colombo the present Capital. This Kingdom was the trading point for Romans, Arabs, Indians and Chinese. Portuguese arrived in this Kingdom in 1505 as traders later turned invaders. It was then called the Kotte Kingdom. Kelaniya (Kalyani) is mentioned in Ramayana and in the Buddhist chronicle, the Mahavamsa which states that the Gautama Buddha (5th century BC) visited the place, after which the dagaba of the temple was built.

The suburb of Kelani is also of historical importance as the capital of a provincial king Kelattissa (1st century BC) whose daughter, Viharamahadevi was the mother of King Dutugemunu the great, regarded as the most illustrious of the 186 kings of Sri Lanka between the 5th century BC and 1815.

According to Ramayana, after King Ravana's death, Vibeeshana was crowned as the King of Lanka by Lakshmana at Kelaniya. There are murals enshrined outside the Buddhist temple depicting the crowning of Vibeeshana. The Kelani River is mentioned in the Valmiki Ramayana and Vibeeshana palace was said to be on the banks of this river. The reason Lakshmana crowned Vibeeshana, was because Rama had to return to India as he had to continue his self-exile of fourteen years to honor the commitment to his father, King Dasaratha of Ayodhya.

#### Ruhuna Kingdom

The Kingdom of Ruhuna, was a region of present-day Southern and Eastern Sri Lanka. It was the center of a flourishing civilization and the cultural and economic centers of ancient Sri Lanka. There is Brahmi stone inscriptions in Tissamaharama to substitute it, Magama, Tissamaharama and Mahanagakula (now called as Ambalantota) were established here. Major part of the island was covered with forest. The southern part has the Indian Ocean. Vedda community lives in the forest area. There are several tanks in this Kingdom facilitating farming. Kaliragama a Murugan temple is in Yala forest and about 11 miles east of Tissamaharama. This Kingdom was the hiding place of King Mahinda when he was defeated in a battle in Anuradhapura by Chola king Raja Raja Cholan. Later his son Rajendra Cholan invaded this kingdom and defeated MahindaV and deported him to south India where he died. The hero of the novel Dutugemunu was born to Kaavantsina and Viharamahadevi in the Ruhuna kingdom during 2nd Century BC. His ancestry is linked with Devanampiyatissa, the second son of Mutasiva.

a Hindu, as his great grandfather's father, the first king of Ruhuna was the brother of Devanampiyatissa a converted Buddhist from Hindunism. This king was from Vijaya dynasty as such had links with India and Paandyan kingdom in the South India. Vijaya married second time a princess from Paandyan Kingdom. He had no children through his second wife hence Vijaya's relations who were Hindus started ruling the island.

#### Jaffna Kingdom

The name Jaffna is a Portuguese adaptation of a Tamil word meaning 'port of the lily'. The Jaffna Kingdom was once a part of Anuradhapura Kingdom but as time went on due to war between Sinhala kings and Paandyan Kingdom, the Northern part got separated and was formed as Jaffna kingdom.

This part of the kingdom consists of many islands located very close to south India as such invasion from South India was frequent. Each of these major seven islands were given Dutch names such as Deift, Leyden, Kayts etc. Mandatheevu was named Deift is located very close to South India as such there was migration from South India to these islands. There are few important historical points such as Corakanthurai, Jambukola, Karkesanthurai, Myliddy, Naarvanthurai and Colombo thurai. Jaffna Peninsula is connected with the forest area Vanni through Elephant Pass, where elephant trade took place. Jaffna peninsula was once called Sand island and these dunes be seen in the eastern coast of Vadamattaluchi one of the four divisions of the Peninsula.

The Jaffna kingdom was subjected to several invasions including Portuguese, Dutch and British. A warrior named Sappurmal Kunaraya from Kotte kingdom invaded Jaffna. There was an invasion from a Java king as well. As per historians the origin of the Jaffna kingdom is obscure and still the subject of controversy. Among mainstream historians, the widely accepted view is that the Kingdom of the Aryacakravarti dynasty in Jaffna began in 1215 with the invasion of a previously unknown chieftain called Magha, who claimed to be from Kalinga in modern India. He disposed the ruling Parakrama Paandian II, a foreigner from the Paandian Dynasty who was ruling the Kingdom of Polonnaruwa at the time with the help of his soldiers and mercenaries from the Kalinga, modern Kerala and Damila (Tamil Nadu) regions in India. Subsequently Senappa Perumal from Kotte and later Portuguese, Dutch and British ruled the Kingdom until 1948.

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By Pon Kulendiren

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- \* 5 th consecutive year on the top 21 Brokerages in the world list;
- \* 9 th consecutive year on the coveted Chairman circle of companies;
- \* 7 consecutive years as Centurian office.

That's an awesome accomplishment within 12 years of operation. They have so far raffled away 12 cars and awarded 19 innovative scholarship to assist the members children's post secondary education. I wish Sameem and all the winners the very best in 2022 as well

Charles Devasagayam.



Photos: Charles Devasagayam



# SUGUMAR FAMILY

## DONATES RS. 5 MILLION TO JAFFNA HOSPITAL

Ganesan Sugumar's family has donated Rs. 5 million to the Jaffna Hospital, Sri Lanka. Sugumar is the Chief Executive Officer of Saravanabhavan Canada and Sugshe Group of Companies.

He is also a Philanthropist who has donated over \$ 500,000 to various organisations, mainly to Scarborough Health Network.

Sugumar's wife, Sheila had her last will before she passed away in January 2022 and part of her will is to donate funds to Scarborough Health Network and to Jaffna Teaching Hospital in Sri Lanka.

As per the will Sugumar asked Kula Sellathurai to help to coordinate this donation while he was in Sri Lanka.

Few of Sugumar's Canadian friends including Doctors Mr & Mrs Pon Sivaji, Mr & Mrs Vijayakumara Kurukkal of Sri Varasithi Hindu Temple of Toronto and Mr. Elanko Ratnasabapathy who is the coordinating officer of CSBC also joined Kula in Jaffna to present the cheque to the Director of Jaffna Hospital, Dr. Nanthakmar.

The Sugumar family donated Five Million Rupees to the 'Cardiac Division' to buy the needed equipments to better serve the people of Jaffna.

Kula also urged other Canadian Tamils to come forward to help many needy organizations such as hospitals whenever they can and make it part of their life goal. Hospital in Sri Lanka.

Charles Devasagayam





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**History**

The city was founded by Samuel Baker, the explorer of Lake Albert and the upper Nile in 1846. Nuwara Eliya's climate lent itself to becoming the prime sanctuary of the British civil servants and planters in Ceylon. Nuwara Eliya, called Little England, was a hill country retreat where the British colonialists could immerse in their pastimes such as fox hunting, deer hunting, elephant hunting, polo, golf and cricket.

Many of the buildings retain features from the colonial period such as the Queen's Cottage, General's House, Grand Hotel, Hill Club, St Andrew's Hotel and Town Post Office. New hotels are often built and furnished in the colonial style. Visitors to the city can wallow in its nostalgia of bygone days by visiting the landmark buildings. Many private homes maintain their old English-style lawns and gardens.

**Language**

Sinhala and Tamil are the two major languages spoken in Nuwara Eliya. English is also widely used by the locals.

**Festivals**

The town really comes alive in April for the Sinhalese and Tamil New Year. It is difficult to find accommodation as Sri Lankans holiday in the region during this period. The festive season starts on April 1 annually in a ceremonial manner. The ceremony consists mainly of a band show in which all the local school bands participate.

Main attractions during April include motor and horse racing events. Motor racing comes alive with the Mahagastotte and Radella Hill Climbs, the former being run since 1934. The Nuwara Eliya Road Race and the 4X4 Lake Cross on edge of Lake Gregory attract a fair share of enthusiasts. Parties are held nightly in the hotels, and the season culminates in the nine-furlong (1811 m) Governor's Cup at the Nuwara Eliya Racecourse, Golf Tournaments at the Nuwara Eliya Golf Club, and the flower show at the end of the month

**Attractions**

The town's attractions include the golf course, trout streams, Victoria Park, and boating or fishing on Lake Gregory. Victoria Park is an attractive and well-used oasis. It is popular with birdwatchers at quieter times because of the good opportunities for seeing species, particularly the Indian blue robin, pied thrush or scaly thrush lurking in the denser undergrowth. The Kashmir flycatcher is another attractive bird species in the park.

Galway's Land Bird Sanctuary, close to Lake Gregory, is an area of montane forest a few kilometers east of the town. Covering an area of 0.6 km2 it is home to many bird and mammal species endemic to Sri Lanka, including wild boar and barking deer.

The city is a base for visits to Horton Plains National Park. This is a key wildlife area of an open grassy woodland. Species found here include the leopard, sambar, and the endemic purple-faced langur. Endemic highland birds include the dull-blue flycatcher, Sri Lanka white-eye, and yellow-eared bulbul. The plains have a well-visited tourist attraction at World's End — a sheer precipice with a 1050 m drop. The return walk passes the scenic Baker's Falls. Early morning visits are best, both to see the wildlife and to view World's End before mists close in during the later part of the morning.

One of the distinctive features of Nuwara Eliya's countryside is the widespread growing of vegetables, fruit and flowers usually associated with temperate Europe. This "Little England" is covered with terraces growing potatoes, carrots, leeks, and roses interspersed with tea bushes on the steeper slopes.

The slow-growing tea bushes of this highland region produce some of the world's finest orange pekoe tea. Several tea factories around Nuwara Eliya offer guided tours and the opportunity to sample or purchase their products.

'Lovers Leap' is a spectacular waterfall set among tea plantations a short walk from the town of Nuwara Eliya. It falls a height of 30m in a long cascading sheet of water. It is said that it is named after a young couple who decided to be bound together forever by jumping off the cliff to their demise.[6]

**Other places**

A temple to Hanuman near Nuwara Eliya A gravestone of Major Thomas William Rogers, (the Government Agent for Badulla District) is in the corner of the golf grounds. He is infamous for having shot, at the very lowest estimate 1,400 wild elephants.[7] Folklore in Nuwara Eliya says that every year his gravestone is struck by lightning for his great sin. This place is not open for visitors.

Another place related to folklore is the Hindu temple called Seetha Kovil (Hanuman Kovil). It is found on the way to Badulla from Nuwara Eliya before reaching the Hakgala Botanical Garden. The temple is in the village called Seetha Eliya. The area is related to the Ramayana story in Hinduism. Folklore says that the mighty king Ravana kidnapped princess Seeta who was the queen of Rama and hid her where the temple now is.

There is a church called the Holy Trinity Church on Church Road, which accommodates an old graveyard. Most of the gravestones have British names on them.



# SRI LANKA Nuwara Eliya





# Tamil Mirror

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