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Frontline

Special Edition

Intensify Collective Struggle To Defeat Repressive Laws!

Comrade Duminda Nagamuwa, the Mass Organisation Secretary of the Front Line Socialist Party, predicts that the NPP's introduction of new repressive laws signals the next few years of its governance, and that only a collective social struggle can prevent a greater disaster and secure civil rights. As social pressure is inevitable because of the austerity measures planned ahead of the conclusion of the IMF loan application, the government is moving towards imposing repressive laws. The NPP leaders would use their 2/3 majority in parliament to pass the bills by misusing the popular vote they obtained after the public struggle demanding social changes.

Media statement by Duminda Nagamuwa, the Propaganda Secretary of the Party (FLSP), regarding the Protection of the State from Terrorism Act (PSTA): At a media briefing today (October 7) at the FSP head office in Nugegoda, FSP Mass Media Secretary Comrade Duminda Nagamuwa made this statement on the Protection of the State from Terrorism Act (PSTA), which was gazetted on September 22, 2026, and tabled in Parliament on October 6. Yesterday, the State Terrorism Act—also known as the Protection of the State from Terrorism Act (PSTA)—was tabled in Parliament. Although it is claimed that it repeals the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) No. 48 of 1979, some of its provisions are even more repressive than the original act.

Back then, the challenge to the state came from armed activities. That is why it was necessary to arrest individuals, detain them in secret locations under detention orders without producing them in court, and torture them. However, today the challenges faced by the state are not armed activities but popular uprisings, public struggles, and broad political activism. Therefore, the ruling class now seeks to label the people's political activities as "terrorism" and suppress them. Furthermore, because existing laws and state apparatuses of repression are insufficient to address rising public resistance, they seek to legalise state control.

The PSTA is being brought in for this purpose. Certain parts of the PTA have been removed because the nature of the challenge has changed, while newly added sections address this new challenge. This new state terrorism bill raises serious concerns about both its content and structure.

Fundamentally, this is similar in many ways to the anti-struggle law known as the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), which Ranil Wickremesinghe introduced in 2023 out of concern for the 2022 public uprising (Aragalaya). Back then, the National People's Power (NPP) opposed the bill and even took it to court. Now that the same measure has returned after being opposed then, the government must explain why. Remaining silent is inappropriate.

Earlier this year, the government published a draft and called for public consultations, which concluded on February 28, 2026. That process was of limited value. The same draft has been re-gazetted, with clauses rearranged. This means none of the public feedback was considered—the public consultation process was not genuine.

A committee chaired by President's Counsel Rienzi Arsecularatne was appointed to draft this bill. However, Saliya Peiris, PC, one of its members, sent a letter dated October 6 stating that someone else had altered the committee's draft. Therefore, the committee appointed to draft it was not the sole author. The format in which this bill has been brought contains elements of confusion, inconsistency, and disputed

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Reveal the Agreements Signed With India!

FLSP Demands

Pubudu Jayagoda, the Education Secretary of the Frontline Socialist Party (FLSP), said the following while addressing the media at the party's Nugegoda office, outlining the party's concerns about the recent talks.

"The government must disclose to the public the actual agreements signed, and the true consensus reached during Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to Sri Lanka. The government has officially announced agreements on cadet training, cooperation between defence universities, and free maintenance of weapons provided by India. However, this raises reasonable doubt. A defence minister of a powerful country like India would not visit Sri Lanka merely to sign such agreements, which Defence Ministry secretaries or ordinary government officials of the two countries could easily sign."

An Indian defence minister is visiting Sri Lanka for the first time in 38 years. Before that, then-Indian Defence Minister K. C. Pant visited Sri Lanka in 1988 to discuss the complex situation surrounding the

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Ministers Deceived Us in the Office Discussions

Trade Unions Hit the Streets

Trade union actions demanding that the NPP government address grievances are echoing across Colombo these days.

With the budget proposals due in a few days, professionals in several public services are organising strikes, accusing government leaders of deception and of ignoring justified demands agreed during the discussions.

Doctors and other government health service staff have taken to the streets, and agitations are being organised in front of hospitals. Several trade unions representing graduate employees are on strike, demanding a pay rise, improved service agreements, and proper employment status comparable to other state services. The former Rajapaksa regime used to recruit thousands of graduates as Development Officers(DO) weeks before elections to secure the family-member votes of the newly recruited graduates. But the Development Officers weren't given any duty lists; instead, they were assigned to serve as assistants to the school administration. ■



People's Struggle Movement held a protest campaign demanding the withdrawal of the proposed repressive laws, Protection of the State from the Terrorism(PSTA and the Organized Crime Act (OCA) at the parliament drive in Jayawardhanapura, Kotte.

POLITCAL VIEW

Information sources from all over the world report protests, trade union action and street fights between riot police and civil activists. Rejection of conventional capitalist parties and Lanka's economic crisis drove the 2022 uprising, and later elected the National People's Power (NPP) to power. However, the NPP continues neoliberal policies through IMF austerity programs and oppressive governance. While another IMF progaramme and many more austerity measure on the table, revolutionary leftists must focus political discussions on finding a way out of these challenges.



Departure from Policy and Removal from the Chair

The National People's Power (NPP) government came to power after the people rejected the traditional bourgeois two-party system during the 2022 mass struggle (Aragalaya). They did not support the NPP because of its pro-people policy or program, nor because they believed the party had a concrete plan to develop the country. Rather, they wanted to end the rule of the capitalist parties that had governed the nation for seven and a half decades since the end of British colonial rule in 1948. Accordingly, the NPP advanced the slogan of replacing elite rule with the governance of the non-elite (Nirprabhun).

The general public accepted this non-elite discourse because it expected an economic policy that would be concessionary and favourable to the lower strata of society. It also expected broader democratic reform beyond basic rights, including participation in state decision-making; a return to a non-aligned stance for Sri Lanka, which had long been a victim of imperialist power struggles in the Indian Ocean; and stronger good governance through minimising corruption deeply rooted across all sectors. These were the aspirations the people attached to this government, and they explain why the discourse gained acceptance.

What, then, is the balance sheet of the government after more than two years in office?

Economic Plunder

Following Sri Lanka's declaration of default, the country entered into an IMF program in April 2023. At the time, the foreign exchange crisis was the primary cause of the default, yet the IMF program contained no proposals to address it. None of the recommendations aimed to increase Sri Lanka’s foreign exchange earnings. As a result, the program’s core conditions are structured so that, in the long term, they can only aggravate the crisis.

For instance, one condition required liberalising international trade by removing all trade barriers previously imposed to protect Sri Lanka’s small and medium-scale domestic producers. This was intended to pave the way for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with 16 countries. By removing those protections, Sri Lanka’s import-substitution industries would collapse and import expenditure would rise. Meanwhile, the already fragile export industries would be crippled, and export income would fall. Consequently, the balance-of-payments deficit would worsen further.

With no program to generate foreign exchange, the settlement of International Sovereign Bond (ISB) debt in 2028 is now in severe jeopardy. As the current IMF program expires in March 2027, Sri Lanka will have no alternative after its conclusion but to enter into another agreement, obtain IMF sovereign guarantees, borrow again from international financial markets at higher interest rates, and use those new loans to pay off old debts and interest. Therefore, the next IMF program is set to incorporate even harsher austerity measures than the first.

Meanwhile, the IMF conditions were aimed primarily at addressing our least damaging problem: the fiscal crisis. Accordingly, numerous conditions were imposed to change fiscal policy. To do this, the instructions were to increase state revenue by imposing heavier taxes and to reduce state expenditure by slashing spending on social security services, among other areas.

What, then, has been the ultimate outcome? The total cost of the crisis has been entirely shifted onto the ordinary public, who bear no responsibility for creating it. This can be clearly seen in these indicators, which show the effects of that burden:

- Poverty Rates: According to the World Bank's 2026 Sri Lanka Development Update report, 65.4% of Sri Lanka's population lives below the $6.30 a day poverty line (the threshold for an upper-middle-income country). Even if the $2.00 a day threshold used by the Sri Lankan government is considered the poverty line, 22% of the population remains below it.
- Food Security: World Food Programme (WFP) reports indicate that 33% of the population suffers from severe food insecurity.
- Child Malnutrition: Sri Lanka, which once held a very favourable position globally for low child malnutrition, has today become a country where 17% of children under the age of five suffer from malnutrition.

In short, the NPP government implemented these austerity measures without changing a single word. As a result, working people and the lower strata of society were plunged into a severe livelihood crisis. Thus, the government has betrayed the aspirations of the people who voted for it, departing from its own stated policy and implementing its exact opposite.

The Stripping of Democracy

Over the past few weeks, the government has faced massive domestic and international backlash over the newly proposed Protection of the State from Terrorism Act (PSTA) and the Prevention of Organised Crimes Act (POCA). In response, the People’s Struggle Movement, a broad popular coalition that includes the Frontline Socialist Party, organised a protest march on November 4th from the Parliament Roundabout towards Parliament. Civil society groups, mass organisations, and trade unions have also voiced strong opposition to the two bills, and several parties have filed petitions in the Supreme Court to challenge them.

Will the government follow the same playbook and use its two-thirds majority to enact the PSTA and POCA despite overwhelming opposition from all quarters? Many observers are watching closely, viewing this as a decisive moment that could define the ultimate fate of the government.

In the first week, the United Nations released a 31-page report concluding that several clauses in both draft acts exceed internationally recognised covenants and charters. In addition, numerous international organisations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have expressed grave concern about the proposed laws.

This intense opposition mirrors the domestic and international backlash that followed the government’s introduction of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, which extended the retirement age for the Chief Justice and Supreme Court judges. The amendment drew widespread resistance from the parliamentary opposition, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), trade unions, civil society groups, and international watchdogs alike.

Yet, during the passage of the 22nd Amendment, the government refused to yield an inch. Instead, it utilised its two-thirds parliamentary majority, in accordance with the Supreme Court's determination, to push the 22nd Amendment into law. This same use of parliamentary strength is now the precedent that raises concern about the current bills.

Will the government follow the same playbook and use its two-thirds majority to enact the PSTA and POCA despite overwhelming opposition from all quarters? Many observers are watching closely, viewing this as a decisive moment that could determine the government's ultimate fate.

However, facing mounting opposition, the government stepped back on November 7th, announcing it would not push the bills through Parliament without consulting all stakeholders. Even so, it is now preparing to introduce a few minor amendments and to pass the legislation early next year. This persistent effort to enact such anti-democratic and arbitrary laws shows that the government is turning its back on the democratic aspirations of the voters who brought it to power. In doing so, it is moving away from its own stated principles.

Many government loyalists worry that ministers and leaders may be dragged down from their high seats and that the government may collapse. But they must realise that a government can collapse internally even while its leaders remain seated in those highchairs if it abandons its principles and squanders its political base. That is precisely what is happening to the NPP government: its predatory economic policies are rapidly eroding the working class's trust, and its attempts to pass repressive laws are actively alienating the middle class. The government is thus collapsing from within because of its own actions, not merely facing external pressure. In this sense, its decline is already underway, and its fate is being sealed by its actions. ■

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Special Edition

World is Pregnant for Socialism !

News sources worldwide report protests, trade union action, and street fights between riot police and civil activists. In the videos, photographs, and news reports about almost all these struggles, it is clear that youths and students make up the majority. Because state security squads are deployed first to disperse the gathering masses, violent clashes have occurred at many protest sites. As a result, although hundreds to thousands have been arrested, the intensity of the demands and the number of participants have not declined.

This is the 'normal outcome' when the 'normal way of life' is disrupted by ruling-class actions carried out to fulfil their greedy profit motives. The state and the governing elites always assume the political temperature may remain at 'normal value' as long as their 'normal formula of exploitation' is applied. They forget that the greater the exploitation, the more heat it generates, and that this heat produces the outcome they now face.

All over the world, neo-liberal imperialist greed is governing; the ruling elites, who act in the guise of democrats, liberals, or even democratic socialists (just as the Lankan state is named), keep the existing socio-economic system, which is nothing but capitalist. Because the common people cannot tolerate the pressure on their backs and the pain they feel, protest movements, riots, and even changes in elections follow as the population proclaims the limits of their tolerance.

In a world of economic crisis, the capitalist class is so helpless in managing its own crisis that it is unable to maintain control over the exploited masses. The ongoing mass uprisings, heating up, are nothing but the conditions for revolution taking shape. Concrete evidence shows that objective factors—the crisis of society, the chaos in social order, the loss of control, the overflow of intolerance—indicate that the possibility of a revolutionary upheaval is maturing. If the world is preparing itself for such an inevitable transformation, what would hinder the process? Capitalism cannot be erased from social existence without a replacement. That replacement would be authored by those capable of creating an anti-capitalist revolution, capable of replacing personal motives with social victories, exploitation with sharing, repression with social consensus, and the war of loot with real peace aiming for collective progress in human society.

That capacity is not with the oppressor but must be cultivated among leaders of the oppressed class. There won't be any revolution without a determination to revolutionise. So, the oppressed class has to be organised and educated to drive the ensuing revolution according to its needs. There are so-called revolutionaries of many kinds who lack the determination to revolutionise. Instead, they are infected with liberal values and other obsessions of the petty bourgeoisie. The working class, the very social force that suffers from economic pressure, mental pain, and the oppression of the state, has to decide how to liberate itself from its chains.

Marxist-Leninists emphasise the revolutionary task of the working class in their political program, and that program must be used to manoeuvre the agitations demanding real change. Still, the political parties based on Marxist-Leninist views are incapable of that task. However, we insist that Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries the world over must provide the needed political engagement, because objective conditions are mature. Comrades, sharpen the subjective factor, strengthen organisation, and make the revolutionary task effective. ■

Emerging Uprisings and the Question of System Change

Currently, youth movements in several European countries, as well as in neighbouring India, have entered the arena of struggle and evolved into popular uprisings. There is a need of finding root causes of the crises and the ways and means of converting the ensuing crisis into a progressive social change. This is an attempt to analyze the crisis theoretically in order to reinforce a program in advancing the socialist revolution.

Massive protests and civil unrest have swept across France following a wave of demonstrations that began in mid-September 2026, driven by a coalition of students, trade unions, and citizens. The uprising's slogans focused on widespread anger over soaring fuel prices, high inflation, and the cost of living.

The 2026 Italian unrest is an ongoing series of protests, demonstrations, strikes and clashes in Italy that began on 16 October 2026. The unrest has involved student movements, labour unions and other protesters expressing discontent with the cost of living, fuel prices and education policies.

The Flamingo Revolution is a series of ongoing public demonstrations and anti-government protests in Albania that began in February 2026, with daily protests in Tirana since 31 May 2026. Initially sparked by local opposition to proposed multi-billion-dollar luxury tourism developments—most notably a $1.4B project on Sazan Island and the Zvërnec coast linked to foreign investors Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump—the movement grew into broader civic mobilisation calling for the Prime Minister's resignation.

The immediate slogans of these uprisings call for cuts to education funding, an end to the rising cost of living, job creation, tax reform, and the reversal of social security cuts, while military expenditure continues to rise. Behind all of this lies the systemic crisis confronting capitalism on a global scale.

Power structures have been rendered irrational. Imperialist forces that once held global hegemony are weakening, while new powers are rising. Yet all of this is unfolding by dragging the proletariat and other oppressed strata of society into a severe living crisis. In this situation, we can observe a new alignment of class struggle running through contemporary popular uprisings.

As in the 2022 struggle in Lanka, many contemporary struggles are rooted in the economic crisis, particularly the resistance to shifting that burden onto working people. A second common characteristic is their multi-class nature, particularly the urban petty bourgeoisie's acquisition of ideological hegemony and a leadership role. Although the militant force that made sacrifices in Sri Lanka's struggle came from the lower classes, leadership and the ideological front were forged by the educated petty bourgeoisie. Furthermore, Gen Z and even newer youth generations are playing a pioneering role in these struggles. In Sri Lanka, they rejected organising within formal political parties or assuming their leadership. Your own experience may, to a greater or lesser degree, be similar to this. Consequently, unstructured and anarchic characteristics are embedded at the very foundation of these struggles.

Inevitably, these struggles have the hallmarks of a "revolutionary mass movement" and reflect "people's power" and "power beyond capitalist establishments." Because society achieved a relative victory through the struggle, and because the masses put into practice and affirmed the idea of extra-parliamentary power and experienced the "Right to Recall," the general public's political understanding was elevated.

However, the dominant ideology of the struggle was "non-partisanship." Some believe this slogan was a calculated creation that effectively eliminated the opportunity for the Left to assume a leadership role. It is no exaggeration to say that both the strength and the weakness of the struggle rested on this non-partisan slogan. The non-partisan label removed barriers to broad participation from all parties, which likely contributed to its widespread reach across society.

There should be serious consideration of the high probability that this pattern will repeat itself in current struggles elsewhere. Marx's The Class Struggles in France, 1848–1850, along with the preface Engels wrote to it in 1895, provides us with a light for analysis.

The popular uprisings that occurred in mid-19th-century France were not treated as a revolution but as a revolt. In that series of articles, Marx draws attention to the complexities of France's class structure. He points out that, even at the time of this uprising, a sharp class antagonism between the class owning capital and the class selling labour had not yet fully developed. However, he explains that, alongside the economic crisis, a complex network of contradictions had developed between what he identifies as the two main factions of the capitalist class—the industrial bourgeoisie and the financial bourgeoisie—as well as among various strata of the petty bourgeoisie, the peasantry, and the working class. The emerging struggle was fundamentally driven by economic pressure and the crisis of democracy, rather than by a push for social transformation. Therefore, Marx refrains from labelling it a revolution, instead calling it a popular struggle. However, as noted in those articles, what the ruling class unleashes against this popular struggle is a counter-revolution. He arrives at this conclusion because the ruling class's repression, instead of targeting all the masses who rose in the struggle, specifically targeted organised forces such as the labour movement and the peasant movement, left-wing political parties and their leaders, and the social activists who led the uprising. Yet he concludes that, although what occurred was not a revolution, the path to revolution remains open within the program of confronting the counter-revolution.

In that work, Marx compares France's economic crisis with the world economic crisis and lays bare the relationship between them. At the same time, in discussing the politics of France and England, he emphasises national specificities by considering differences in class structures and the levels of development of political consciousness in both countries. Generally speaking, that document is considered a valuable illustration of how to connect spontaneous struggles emerging from the masses to a political program based on the materialist conception of history. In the preface to the first edition of the work, Engels proposes three courses of action to counter repression and to carry forward the general political activism of the people that developed out of the struggle: keeping the struggle actively ongoing without halting it, creating a mass-participatory structure to draft a new constitution and thereby raising the political standards of society, and formulating a program to confront elections if they are called. However, our experience in Sri Lanka shows the limits of this path: the struggle recedes as soon as the electoral arena opens, the mass movement fragments into parties, and voters align around the strongest party in the field.■

What Crisis is Driving the Mass Uprisings?

There is a wave of student and youth protests across countries like France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Portugal. The protesters demand authorities to address several important issues. Chronic underfunding of public schools and universities, teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, and proposed budget cuts have compelled the young students to come out of the schools. But these issues compel us to seek deeper into the crisis in Europe



In recent years, a wave of mass uprisings has swept across South Asia. Sri Lanka's mass movement ousted the president in 2022, and Bangladesh's drove the prime minister from office in 2024. Youth and students played a decisive role in Nepal's 2025 struggle, as they had in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Similar movements emerged in India in 2026. Many analysts treated these uprisings as reactions to corrupt, anti-democratic governments in the Global South rather than as expressions of capitalism's crisis. Yet as 2026 draws to a close, youth and workers are mobilising across Europe. This new phase suggests that the crisis is now erupting in the imperialist core.

Nearly seven weeks have passed since France's most serious social upheaval since 1968 began. On September 17, students at Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil, a working-class suburb southeast of Paris, blockaded their school over unfilled teaching posts. Within two weeks, more than 1,000 lycées were affected, with over 200 fully blockaded. On October 17, the Interior Ministry counted 550,000 demonstrators, including 110,000 in Paris; organisers estimated 800,000. A week later, the ministry still counted 410,000, despite a ban on demonstrations not organised by trade unions and the deployment of 70,000 police officers and soldiers to guard public buildings. Repression reached levels unseen in decades: more than 10,000 arrests, a 15-year-old in Lens losing a hand to a police grenade, and a 16-year-old in Tours losing sight in one eye. Night curfews were imposed in parts of Paris, Marseille and Lyon.

France is the most developed expression of a continent-wide movement. In Italy, the October 16 "No Meloni Day" student demonstrations were followed by riots in Milan, Turin and Bologna. The Meloni government sent troops to Milan and imposed prison terms of two to five years for "organised violence at public protests". The measures presume criminal capacity among 14- to 18-year-olds unless disproved and impose fines on their parents.

In Spain, the eviction and subsequent death of an 87-year-old tenant in Madrid sparked a housing movement, with a general housing strike scheduled for 11 November. In Greece, students began camping in Syntagma Square on 13 October. Portuguese police cleared housing camps in Lisbon and Porto, while Belgian trade unions called a national demonstration for November 23. Hundreds of thousands of Irish public-sector employees struck on October 14. In Austria, about 50,000 people marched in Vienna on October 22 against a funding settlement that left universities €2 billion short. On the same day, 150,000 marched in Belgrade, three days before the election in which Serbia's Student List defeated Vučić.

The movement has also reached Germany. According to organisers, youth-led protests under the initiative "Gen Z regelt", roughly, "Gen Z rules", drew about 120,000 young people in Berlin, Frankfurt, Cologne, Hamburg, Munich and other cities to protest against living costs and school conditions. Police responded with water cannons. These protests followed school strikes earlier in the year against the new military service law, which sends every 18-year-old a military service questionnaire and requires young men to complete it.

Youth and students initially led these struggles, with limited participation from workers. The labour movement later assumed a leading role. On Friday, October 30, dock and port workers struck, picketed and demonstrated at 113 ports in 22 countries and regions across five continents under the slogan "Dockers do not work for war". Their joint statement opposed using ports to transport weapons, ammunition, military equipment or troops. In Italy, the walkouts were part of a 24-hour general strike called by the USB trade union confederation against rising living costs, low wages and the war economy. On October 27, Transport Minister Salvini ordered the strikes postponed, citing the All-Saints' Day holiday, and imposed daily fines of €500 to €1,000 on those who struck anyway. USB rejected the order as illegitimate and proceeded. For one day, workers who had never met shut down vital routes supplying the war, demonstrating the international working class's practical capacity to halt the war machine. This action reveals the potential of workers' power, but questions of political leadership and programme remain unresolved. Workers are resisting war and austerity through organisations whose leaders remain committed to the governments pursuing both.

Governments respond to mass opposition in much the same way: Macron blames the "ultra-left", Trump blames immigration, Meloni blames "thugs", and the interior minister in Merz's government blames the left and migrants. None acknowledges that European governments are raising military spending towards 5 per cent of GDP while paying record levels of debt interest and cutting schools, pensions, healthcare and housing. Nor do they acknowledge that the inflationary energy shock stems directly from the war against Iran, which they support. Movements emerging simultaneously across a dozen countries, confronting similar grievances and measures, cannot be explained by national politics alone. They reflect economic forces operating globally.

An international economic crisis underlies these struggles. No genuine recovery has followed the 2008 global crisis, making this the longest crisis in capitalism's history. Global growth is slowing, and a clear risk of collapse persists. The latest IMF and World Bank reports indicate that global GDP growth in 2026 has weakened relative to 2024–2025. The World Bank projects growth of 2.5–2.6 per cent in 2026, compared with 2.7 per cent in 2024 and 2.7–2.8 per cent in 2025. Its figures show growth of 3.0 per cent in 2022 and 2.6 per cent in 2023. Global growth has thus remained below 3 per cent for several years, obstructing capital accumulation. Capital expands by roughly 3 per cent annually; when economic activity fails to keep pace, its circuit is disrupted, threatening capitalism's survival worldwide.

Meanwhile, global debt has surged to record levels. The latest IIF and IMF data indicate an increase of nearly US$10 trillion by the end of the first half of 2026, pushing total debt above US$365 trillion. At the end of 2025, it stood at US$348 trillion, up US$29 trillion from the previous year.



The global debt-to-GDP ratio further highlights the crisis. Total sovereign, corporate and household debt is projected to reach 308-310 per cent of global GDP in 2026, more than three times annual world output. IMF reports place general government gross debt at 94.0 per cent of GDP in 2025, rising to a projected 94.6 per cent in 2026. Government debt in advanced economies reaches 107.8 per cent of GDP. The IMF's 2026 reports identify several structural factors that heighten restructuring and refinancing risks:

Higher-for-longer interest rates: Inflation and monetary policy have kept benchmark sovereign bond yields in advanced economies at multi-decade highs. Emerging-market governments and companies refinancing debt issued when rates were low now borrow at substantially higher rates, sharply increasing interest and debt-servicing costs.

Shorter maturities and reliance on short-term debt: To contain borrowing costs, many emerging-market governments have shifted to shorter maturities. Although cheaper initially, this creates a "refinancing wall": debt must be rolled over more often, increasing exposure to abrupt shifts in market sentiment.

The sovereign-bank nexus: The IMF's Global Financial Stability Report highlights the heavy exposure of domestic banks to government debt in lower-rated emerging markets, particularly those rated BB/B or below. A sharp rise in sovereign borrowing costs or the restructuring of local-currency debt could damage bank balance sheets and destabilise the domestic financial system. These conditions heighten the risk of a global financial recession or even a financial-system collapse. Capitalism's global crisis is therefore deeper and more dangerous than it appears.

As US economic and political hegemony declines, militarism and war have become central strategies for its survival. Resorting to military force as dominance in production and trade erodes is a structural feature of imperialism. BRICS expansion and accelerating de-dollarisation challenge the mechanisms underpinning US economic power since Bretton Woods in 1944 and the petrodollar arrangement of the 1970s: the dollar's global monopoly as the ultimate fiat reserve and settlement currency. Moving away from dollar-denominated trade is more than a currency rebalancing; it challenges the means by which American imperialism offsets its domestic profitability crisis. This structural pressure drives the turn towards militarism. War amid declining American hegemony is therefore not simply a product of individual leaders' decisions, but an attempt by a decaying capitalist system to preserve itself.

War, in turn, deepens the economic crisis. Comparing US federal spending on the military-industrial complex with spending on education and public healthcare reveals state priorities: revenues are diverted from social reproduction towards capital accumulation for defence contractors. This disparity is not an allocation error but reflects an imperial state's political-economic strategy. Although imperialist countries pursue war as a remedy for their crisis, it raises fuel prices, contracts international trade and brings welfare cuts, intensifying class struggle in a new cycle. These conditions demand an international revolutionary strategy. That must be the central discussion now. ■

President Anura Kumara Disanayaka, addressing clergy meeting at infamous Temple Trees Hall, where Rajapaksha's gathered massive political supporter meetings, stated that few articles of the controversial Organised Crime Bill, could be considered. In his remarks made on November 5, 2026, about amending the proposed law, President did not cover the issues debated in the Lankan society. FLSP's Education Secretary, comrade Pubudu Jayagoda, in that media briefing, made the following observations responding to the remarks made by the Prseident.

Important Facts Ignored by the Lankan President In his 'Sermon to the Clergy'



Front Line Socialist Party Responds to the President's Remarks on the Organised Crime Act

On November 5, during a meeting with religious clergy, the President said the Organised Crime Act would be amended.

He said: "This act is not repressive," "Would we ever do such a thing?" "This has been formulated to international standards," and "The ones opposing this are those taking money from underworld gangs and criminals whose laws are meant to put thieves behind bars."

An administration that once defended the bill with such rhetoric has now shown flexibility only because society raised its voice against this repressive act. Trade union leaders, professionals, human rights activists, artists, and struggle activists who joined the protest at the Parliamentary roundabout on November 4 showed that people can stand united against arbitrariness. Protests were also held in numerous other places that day. Hundreds took to the streets against the two repressive acts. Those who could not be there in person strengthened that voice by posting on social media, telling their friends, and repeating it on buses, trains, and at street corners and junctions: "We voted for the government, but we do not agree with things like this." Many who helped bring the National People's Power (NPP) to power also openly opposed these laws. Thank you to everyone. Yesterday, we proved how powerful the people's power—the organised power built outside Parliament—truly is. It showed why an active, thinking society matters, rather than one that sees voting as its only duty and passively accepts whatever the government does.

In yesterday's speech, the President remained silent on the PSTA, which has faced strong criticism. After such national and international backlash, he likely had little to say. In truth, that bill cannot simply be amended; it is fundamentally flawed. The only course is to discard this draft and repeal the PTA entirely. When the government claims the new State Terrorism bill is better than the PTA, it points to the removal of certain clauses. But those very clauses have been quietly inserted into the Organised Crime Act. That is the central deception: the same repressive powers are being shifted into another law.

Nevertheless, the President says he will amend three specific points, as though they are the bill's main criticisms. Either he is not paying attention to the real criticism, or he is deliberately focusing on minor points to avoid the central issue.

1. The Detention Period

First, he says he will reduce the police detention period for an arrested individual from 72 hours to 48 hours. But the issue is not only the number of hours; it is the sweeping powers this act gives the police. They can arrest anyone on suspicion of being a criminal gang member, hold them for days, detain them for up to a year through detention orders without judicial review, maintain detention facilities without judicial oversight, and even bring remand prisoners back to police stations for six months. If a detention order exists, a magistrate is virtually compelled to approve it. If there is no detention order, the suspect must be remanded. Either way, the person ends up locked up. There is no provision to release a suspect for insufficient evidence. This is not about changing hours; it is about turning the magistrate into a rubber stamp and transferring judicial power to the executive. Do not bargain over this. These laws concern the democratic rights of the people.

2. Identification via Tattoos

Secondly, he says the clause identifying a criminal gang member by tattoos will be altered. Reducing the issue to a tattoo is scoundrelism. The tattoo provision symbolises how ridiculous this act is. The core criticism is that this bill makes a person a criminal suspect based solely on outward appearance and social circles. If passed, it would destroy the foundation of existing law: a person can be made a suspect only if they have contributed to a criminal act. So do not play innocent and talk about tattoos. Everyone knows you are not innocent.

3. Excise Ordinance Offences

Thirdly, the President says offences listed under the Excise Ordinance will be removed from this act. Why only the Excise Ordinance? Offences under the Betting and Gaming Ordinance, the Forest and Flora Ordinance, the Wildlife Ordinance, and the Archaeology Act have also been included. Are those not being removed? Even a worker, farmer, student, or youth protesting can be linked to the underworld because "obstructing a public servant's duties" is among the offences in this act. Are these offences also being removed, or is only one section being adjusted?

The President's heart seemed to soften only after liquor manufacturing companies, closely aligned with the government and backed financially, took this bill to court. Despite the criticism, he heard only their voice. Poor villagers who could be remanded for days for cutting a piece of firewood in the jungle, and who could be labelled organised criminals under this act, have not yet filed court cases. So the government does not see the common people; it responds only to the elites of corporate liquor companies.

The criticisms go far beyond those three points. Why did the President forget the clause that accepts confessions extracted by the police, often through torture and coercion, as valid evidence in court? Why did he overlook the clause that punishes people for associating with an organised crime suspect at any time in the past, thereby undermining the basic legal principle that people can reform and rehabilitate? Did he not hear the criticism of the clause that gives police power to access phones and messages, crack passwords on private devices, and record phone calls, thereby violating personal privacy? These are not minor issues; they are fundamental legal violations.

Is this talk of amendments a bow to public opinion, or another fraud? These questions arise for all of us listening to the President's speech. Once, an illustrator at an advertising agency felt hurt because the agency head kept asking him to redraw his artwork. So he drew a human figure with six fingers on one hand. The head then ignored every other flaw and said, 'Erase the extra finger and send the drawing to the design department.' Is the government operating the same way? Did it introduce arbitrary, anti-people changes across the country's legal framework, then later add minor, superficial tweaks and remove them to distract attention? We urge the public to remain vigilant.

We have a proposal for the President. If he wants to discuss relegeous matters with clergy of different faiths , no issue will occur. He can deliver sermons, at his liberty. But discussing repressive laws, specially these repressive bills, with selected clergy is not particularly productive. These matters should not be discussed with crowds forcibly assembled at Temple Trees by mobilising Divisional Secretaries' authority. Instead, meet and talk with the labour and student movements, human rights activists, and professionals, including lawyers who have fought for democratic rights for generations.

Discuss this issue with youth from low-income urban families in areas such as Central Colombo, Wanathamulla, Maligawatta, Modara, Mattakkuliya, and Dematagoda who voted for the NPP. Meet and talk with female workers in Free Trade Zones who protested the day before, calling for the separation of religion and the state. Discuss religious and cultural issues with religious clergy. When addressing democracy, speak with organised people's organisations that advocate for it, and with subject-matter experts.

At the very least, speak with frontline members of the NPP and former members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) who view these laws critically. Instead of turning your back on your own history and the forces that sustained you, be humble enough to admit when a mistake has been made and correct it. Rather than relying on vague sentiments like "I have no desire for repression" or "Do you think we would do such a thing? This is us...", address the fundamental restructuring of a country's legal framework.■



November 2026 US midterm elections concluded with sweeping losses suffered by the Republican Party where the Democratic Party secured a sizeable majority in the House and holding a 54-seat majority in the Senate. The analysts predict that the outcomes for U.S. governance and foreign policy would be profound. Do we expect the US state department would chenge strategical perspectives?



US Midterm Election Result Symptom or Remedy?

The past few weeks have marked a profound public rejection of imperialist war fever, evident in Donald Trump's defeat in the US Midterm Election and Benjamin Net-anyahu's defeat in the Israeli election. The results of the November 3 US Midterm Election record-ed the largest defeat for a sitting president's party in half a century. Behind that result lies an immense rise in social anger over the cost of living, war, social inequality, and attacks on democratic rights. That anger cannot and will not be contained within an electoral framework. It will erupt as class struggle.

These conditions are universal. In exit polls, 90 per cent of voters cited the cost of living as a major concern. Nearly 70 per cent said this economic system favours the wealthy. The No-vember jobs report from the Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) showed average hourly earnings up 3.1 per cent over the year, while consumer prices rose 3.7 per cent in the 12 months through September, driven by higher gasoline prices pushed up by the war. That is, real wages are falling. In the New York metropolitan area, prices rose 4.5 per cent, and official statistics understate the real inflation working people face on fuel and food.

Meanwhile, jobs are being lost. Companies cited artificial intelligence (AI) as the reason for one in five an-nounced job cuts (121,401 jobs) in 2026. A survey earlier this year by the consulting firm Mercer found that 99 per cent of corporate executives expect AI to drive headcount reductions within two years.

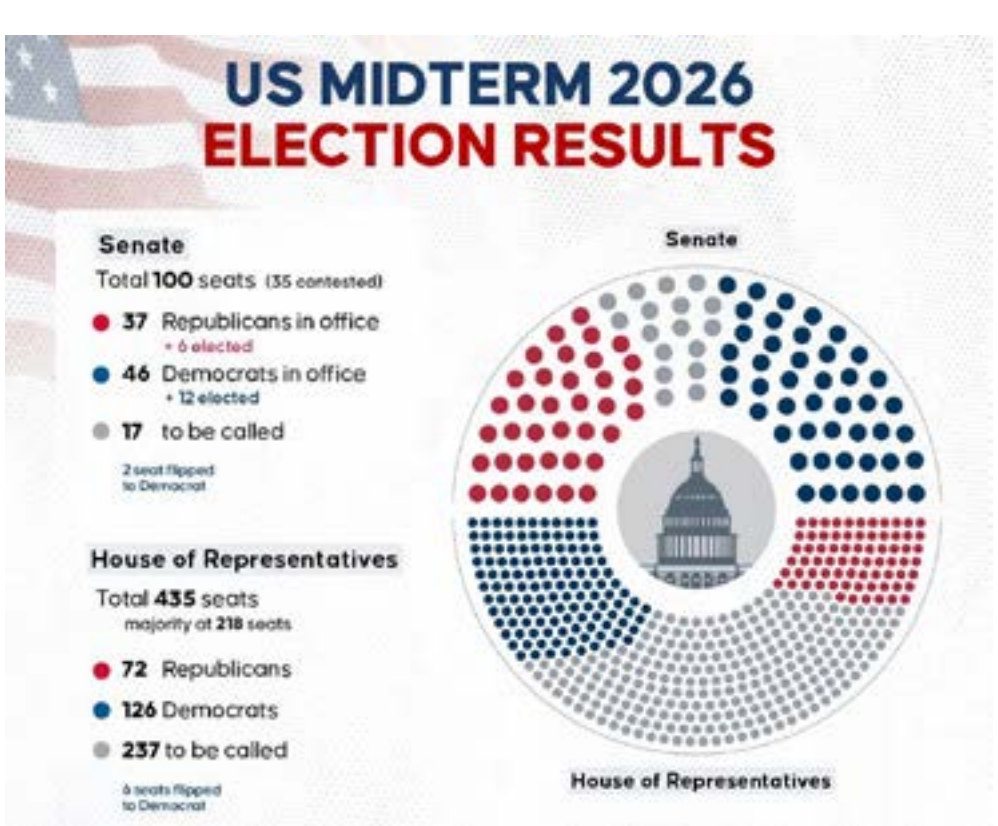
The Democrats responded to fierce opposition to Trump with calls for "bipartisanship" and "common ground." This is driven above all by the fear, shared across the ruling class, of a growing class struggle. Millions of people voted for higher wages, afford-able healthcare, an end to war, and an end to oligarchic rule. But Wall Street has given its marching orders to the in-coming Democratic House and Senate: save the markets and fund the war. No matter what posturing they adopted before the vote, the Democrats will be compelled to wage war on the working class. Who will pay for the national debt ap-proaching $40 trillion? How will the military budget be raised to $1.5 trillion? Both par-ties offer identical answers, and a collision is inevitable.

In July 2026, the DSA issued its revised national program, titled "Work-ers Deserve More." The title encap-sulates its entire politics. It is a plea, addressed to no one in particular, that workers receive a larger share of what they produce. The real meaning behind "Workers Deserve More" is a solution offered in defence of the capitalist system against the risk of uprisings if workers are dispossessed even below their subsistence level, and against market collapses caused by declining purchasing power. The workers' right to life and their right to appropriate the fruits of production are thus converted into a hu-manitarian appeal on behalf of the oppressed.

This so-called progressivism is nothing more than the US ruling class splitting into two, with one side pretending to be more progressive than the other, trapping the American people in a choice between the lesser of two evils and perpetuating the capitalist two-party system. Simple transfers of power at the government level cannot exert even the minimal influence needed to stop imperialist war, because all of these decisions are de-termined not by the desires of Democratic or Republican party leaders, but by the US deep state.

The framework is national through-out. The demands are addressed to the American state; the resources to pay for them are those of American impe-rialism; the workers of China, Mexico, India, and Vietnam, whose labour is bound up with that of American work-ers in the same chains of production, appear nowhere. The single sentence of in-ternationalism reads: "People around the world deserve to live their lives without U.S. interference."

The authors drafted a program with no plank on the war, the Democratic Party's role in it, or the question of power. One author explained that little effort went into the text be-cause it was "more of a pamphlet accompa-nying many other political campaigns than a standalone program." These are the decisions of experienced political operatives who function as the left wing of the Democratic Party and who are hostile to revolutionary socialism. The purpose of the program is to feed the anti-capitalist sentiments of young peo-ple and workers with a vocabulary that keeps them inside the party of Amer-ican im-perialism, and to prevent the one thing a socialist program must do: tell the working class the truth about the crisis it faces and the struggle that crisis will require of it.



What is most striking is the chasm between what the DSA presents as socialism and po-litical reality. Oper-ating in a country controlled by the world's most brutal ruling class, which has waged wars in just the last three decades that have killed millions, which is at this moment preparing to destroy the electrical grid and water supply of a nation of more than 90 million people, and which, within the United States, responds to peaceful pro-test with violence, the DSA offers not the slight-est hint of the depth and extent of the struggle that will be required to put an end to capitalism. It proposes to turn back the tides of imperialist militarism and fascist barbarism with a reformist broomstick.

The fight for socialism must be grounded in a scientific appraisal of the contradictions of global capitalism and their implications for the development of the class struggle. The crisis of world capitalism underlies the resurgence of fascism and the spread of war. The same crisis is driving the working class into struggle on an international scale, and recognition of the global interconnectedness of that struggle is growing within the working class. But general awareness of this interconnectedness is not sufficient. The decisive question is whether class consciousness finds ex-pression in a program that corresponds to the objective situation.

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The only solution to this crisis is to build a strong political organisation of the working class and create a broad revolutionary mass movement under its leadership. The US election result is an expression of the symptoms of the cri-sis of imperialism, not a prescription for a remedy. It expresses the depth of the crisis and the loss of social le-gitimacy of the ruling class's program. It is not a signal that provides us with the solution to the crisis. ■

November 2026 US midterm elections concluded with sweeping losses suffered by the Republican Party where the Democratic Party secured a sizeable majority in the House and holding a 54-seat majority in the Senate. The analysts predict that the outcomes for U.S. governance and foreign policy would be profound. Do we expect the US state department would chenge strategical perspectives?



Secret Agreements with India: What Will Be the Fate of Sri Lanka?

Indian Defence Minister Mr Rajnath Singh arrived in Sri Lanka on September 08, 2026, for an official visit. The visit is significant as it marks the first time an Indian Defence Minister has made an official visit to Sri Lanka in 38 years. The last time a head of India's Defence Ministry visited Sri Lanka was in 1988, when then Defence Minister K. C. Pant visited. However, that visit came at a critical juncture, after the s igning of the Indo-Lanka Accord in 1987, when the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) was stationed in the country. Subsequently, in 2005, then Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee visited the island, but that was not an official visit; he arrived to attend the funeral of the assassinated Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

This time, the stated objective of the visit was to further strengthen maritime and defence cooperation between the two countries. The Hindu reported that authorities would discuss with the Indian Defence Minister the full and timely implementation of the India–Sri Lanka Defence Cooperation Agreement, signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka on April 05, 2025. However, official statements from both nations following the visit made no mention of this. Ultimately, it was announced that three agreements were signed: a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Sri Lankan and Indian cadet corps; an agreement between Sri Lanka's National Defence College and India's Defence Services Staff College; and an agreement for the free maintenance of 24 air defence weapons provided by the Indian government as aid to the Sri Lanka Air Force between 2000 and 2006.

It is hard to believe an Indian Defence Minister would visit Sri Lanka and meet the President merely to sign agreements typically handled by administrative officers of the armed forces. Hence, many believe undisclosed, secret understandings may have been reached without public disclosure. Suspicions surrounding such secret agreements are not coincidental. The agreements signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka on April 5, 2025, remain undisclosed. They have not even been presented to Parliament.

The text asserts that the National People's Power (NPP) government is advancing a four-decade-old neoliberal capitalist agenda that previous administrations could not complete. It argues that IMF-proposed structural reforms are tying Sri Lanka's economy to imperialist interests, with Indian mega-capitalists providing the necessary capital. In this framework, India acts as the primary intermediary for global imperialist operations in Sri Lanka. During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's April 5, 2025, visit to Sri Lanka, seven agreements were signed. While the government confirmed the titles, the specific contents were not officially released, prompting public protests and the agreements being branded as "Secret Agreements".

1. Energy Exchange Agreement
2. Trincomalee Energy Hub Agreement
3. Multi-sectoral Grant Support – Eastern Province
4. Digital Cooperation Agreement
5. Health and Pharmaceuticals Agreement
6. Pharmaceutical Regulatory Cooperation
7. Defence Cooperation Agreement

The government refused to disclose the drafts of seven agreements. JVP General Secretary Tilvin Silva falsely claimed the agreements were tabled in Parliament; Cabinet Spokesman Nalinda Jayatissa later admitted this was untrue. Despite the government suggesting the public could request copies under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, it reportedly denied all such requests. Finally, the Cabinet Spokesman allegedly said copies could not be released without the Indian Prime Minister's permission, thereby challenging Sri Lanka's status as a sovereign nation rather than an Indian colony. Parliamentary opposition parties are in the same stance, "mocking the public" through their silence or complicity:

While the government did not release the documents, copies of three critical agreements eventually leaked online through third-party stakeholders:

1. Energy Import and Export Agreement
2. Tripartite MoU on the Trincomalee Energy Hub
3. Defence Cooperation Agreement

Since the government has not dismissed these leaked versions as forgeries after they circulated, we can accept them as authentic. A preliminary review of these documents suggests they are "extremely serious and destructive" to the nation's interests.

The government has made some agreements signed with India public while keeping others concealed. The first, the Energy Exchange Agreement, establishes a framework to interconnect Sri Lanka's and India's primary electricity transmission grids. Reports from 2023, now formalised by this pact, identified Mannar in Northern Sri Lanka and Madurai in Southern India as the connection points for the proposed cross-border transmission line. While technical details (such as whether the connection will be via overhead spans or submarine cables) remain to be finalised, Indian media reports indicate that Sri Lanka is conducting load-flow studies for the 2027–28 window, anticipating a 500 MW exchange. This clarifies that the project is not about selling Sri Lanka's surplus energy to India, as the government claims, but rather about integrating India into Sri Lanka's national power supply.

Consequently, Sri Lanka risks the same fate as Bangladesh and Nepal under similar Indian agreements. We saw India cut off electricity to Bangladesh for two weeks when Bangladesh's policies contradicted India's political interests. Similarly, during Nepal's 2015 constitutional amendment, India used power cuts to exert political pressure. Today, even when Nepal's reservoirs overflow, it often cannot generate hydroelectricity for domestic use because it is contractually obliged to purchase a mandatory quota of electricity from India, regardless of internal supply. The Sri Lankan government has entered into a similar agreement with draconian conditions.

The second and third agreements, concerning the Trincomalee Energy Hub and the Eastern Province, grant India a virtual monopoly over Sri Lanka's petroleum supply. They also sacrifice the Eastern Province—including the strategic Trincomalee Harbour and the Oil Tank Farm complex—to India's geopolitical ambitions.

- Fuel Monopoly: In 2003, the government granted the Indian Oil Company (LIOC) 100 pumping stations (one-third of the Petroleum Corporation's holdings), which has since expanded to 202.
- Infrastructure Control: By taking over the Trincomalee oil tanks for 50 years and controlling the bunkering (ship fuel) sector at the port, India has secured a monopoly over maritime services on the eastern coast.
- Pipeline Expansion: The agreement facilitates a pipeline from India to Trincomalee, intended to be extended to Colombo, further consolidating Indian control over fuel logistics at both major ports.

This framework includes the formation of Trincomalee Petroleum Terminals Ltd, a joint venture in which LIOC holds a 49% stake. Despite the equity split, India retains administrative control and 851 acres of strategically vital land near the harbour. Originally built by British imperialists and equipped with 101 tanks (99 remaining), the complex is Sri Lanka's only large-scale storage facility. Reports also suggest the government has agreed to designate more than 7,000 acres around Trincomalee as an Indian Economic Zone. Previous attempts by various administrations to cede such vast tracts of land (up to 624 sq. km) were thwarted by public outcry; however, the public still does not know the current boundaries of this proposed zone.

The fourth and fifth agreements pertain to the Healthcare Sector. One pact replaces the British and US standards previously used for pharmaceutical regulation in Sri Lanka with Indian Standards. This poses a severe risk to the quality of medicines and medical equipment. While Sri Lanka currently imports many drugs from India, they are typically those manufactured to Western standards. Only 11 countries (often categorised as "rogue states") recognise the Indian pharmaceutical standard alone. This agreement effectively sacrifices

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Intensify Collective....

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authorship.

We have previously discussed the problems with its content. The definition of terrorism in Clause 3 is so broad that it can be used to label any political activity by the people as "terrorist." Instead of the international criteria for defining terrorism—which are based on murder, causing grievous bodily harm, abduction, and acts intended to terrorise society—the basis here is coercing a government or an international organisation into doing or refraining from doing something.

Furthermore, many powers that rightfully belong to the judiciary have been transferred to the executive. As a result, the political authority's power to arbitrarily arrest and detain individuals as an act of political pressure and repression has increased, thereby curtailing the rights of the people. Crucially, the powers of arrest, investigation, and detention have not been limited to the police but have been handed over to the armed forces.

A government that came to power promising to abolish the Executive Presidency has instead increased the Executive President's powers. Complaining that they only gained governmental power, not state power, they are now introducing laws to further expand state power. Whose mandate are you fulfilling by expanding state power to this extent?

We urge you to defeat this state-terrorism law, both inside and outside Parliament. Because the government holds a two-thirds majority in Parliament, NPP MPs must respond to their voters' aspirations by voting against it. We appeal to the conscience of government MPs: do not allow this measure, and do not become partners in it. We call upon the sections of the public who voted for and supported the government, hoping for a better country, to urge the ruling party to represent your majority opinion.

Let us build the broadest public movement outside Parliament to defeat this act of state terror. Trade unions are uniting for that cause today; join them now. We invite the trade union wing of the JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna) to join. Do not use power this way. Holding a gun is one thing, but sitting on the barrel of a gun is self-destructive. What the government is doing is akin to sitting on the barrel of a gun. If you continue on this path while an entire society opposes it, do so like Gotabaya did—and be prepared to face the consequences.

We are open to any debate or discussion on this. We challenge the government: join us on an open platform to discuss this now. ■

Towards a Solution to the National Question







The document adopted at the 4th National Convention of the Front Line Socialist Party (FSP), proposing a political solution to the national question in Lanka, titled "The National Question in Sri Lanka: Towards a Solution, not a Disaster,"(Tamil Translation) was launched today in Jaffna, initiating a dialogue on the matter.

During this special event held at the Jaffna YMCA Hall, speeches were delivered by General Secretary of the Front Line Socialist Party Kumar Gunaratnam, C.K. Senthivel of the New-Democratic Marxist-Leninist Party, Gnanadevi of the 'Free Women!' movement, Senior Lecturer at the University of Jaffna Mahendran Thiruvarangan, social activist V. Veerasingham, and writer P. Rayakaran.

At the event, it was emphasized that taking this dialogue forward and further bringing the book "The National Question in Sri Lanka: Towards a Solution, not a Disaster" into public discussion is essential in seeking a political solution to the national question in Lanka.

Reveal the Agreements...

Contd from P 01

signing of the Indo-Lanka Accord. A visit after nearly four decades cannot be about cadet training or weapon maintenance alone. The government must disclose what was actually discussed and what agreements were truly reached.

Earlier, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake signed several framework agreements during his January 2025 visit to India. The public still does not know what they are. On April 5, 2025, seven agreements were signed with India, but official copies have not yet been released. Among them is a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation. Indian media previously reported that the Indian Defence Minister was visiting Sri Lanka to sign a broader defence cooperation agreement based on that MoU. The government is concealing this from the public.

Furthermore, last week the Ministry of Defence announced that Defence Secretary Thuyyakontha agreed to closer cooperation with NATO countries. This is the first time in Sri Lanka's history that it has reached such an agreement. Has Sri Lanka been tied to NATO itself, beyond the Asian NATO? This government's foreign policy risks trapping Sri Lanka in a geopolitical snare. Additionally, having come to power promising a new political culture, this government is practising a harmful one by hiding this from the public and obstructing their right to information. Therefore, we must pressure the government to reveal the truth about all steps taken in foreign relations. The consequences of these actions will be borne not only by government leaders but also by the entire populace. ■

Secret Agreements with India...

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Sri Lanka's public health standards to Indian interests. The second health agreement mandates purchasing specific medicines directly from India, without a competitive procurement process, thereby violating both the Constitution and established procurement regulations. We are now contractually bound to buy potentially inferior drugs at higher prices, forfeiting the opportunity to source high-quality medicine globally.

The sixth agreement is titled Digitalisation Cooperation. It aims to entrust India with developing software systems to collect Sri Lankan citizens' biometric data for a centralised database and Digital ID. Under feudalism (Divine Right of Kings), the state claimed authority over the citizen's body. Liberalism and Social Contract theory shifted this, asserting that the state cannot violate a citizen's physical integrity without consent. Current Sri Lankan law follows this liberal tradition: the state can record biographical data (name, address), but it cannot seize biometrics (fingerprints, facial recognition, iris scans) without a specific court order. This new project subverts these protections and creates a "backdoor" for an Indian entity to access the private data of the entire population. In the Information Age, data is a primary weapon of subjugation. By surrendering its citizens' data to a foreign power, a nation effectively surrenders its sovereignty. India is currently executing this strategic intervention, placing Sri Lanka's national security and the privacy of its people in grave jeopardy.

The seventh agreement is a Defence Cooperation Agreement, signed by Sri Lanka's Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Sampath Thuyyakontha, and India's Foreign Secretary, Vikram Misri. While official government rhetoric seeks to downplay it as a mere "update" to existing security protocols, the shift in terminology from Security to Defence is academically and legally significant. "Security" typically refers to soft-power cooperation—combating cross-border drug trafficking and joint training. "Defence," however, implies deep-seated military integration.

Taken together, these seven agreements reveal a clear trajectory: the erosion of Sri Lanka's economic independence and political sovereignty. By integrating its energy, healthcare, digital data, and military apparatus with India, Sri Lanka risks becoming a proxy or satellite state. This alignment does not merely foster cooperation; it ensnares the nation in a geopolitical trap that could dictate its domestic and foreign policy for decades.■

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