

Institute of National Security Studies

Threat Lens on

“Dealing with Malnutrition Amidst the Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka.”

Post-Event Press Release

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), the premier think tank on national security established under the Ministry of Defence, organized a Threat Lens on “Dealing with Malnutrition Amidst the Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka.” on Wednesday, 28th of September 2022, from 1400hrs to 1600hrs (IST) via Zoom. Guest Speakers of the event were Dr. H.S.R. Perera, Deputy Director General (Public Health Services) II, Ministry of Health and Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Head of the Department of Nutrition at Medical Research Institute. The audience comprised representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security, National Food Promotion Board, UNICEF Sri Lanka, university academics, think tanks, officers from Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Sri Lanka Police, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard.

The event was chaired by Dr. Priyangani Amarabandu, Chairperson of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. representing General Kamal Gunaratna (Retd.) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence.

The moderator, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardane RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc Director (Communications and Publications), Acting Director General of INSS, commenced the discussion by providing an overview on malnutrition and the prevailing socio-economic condition of the country.

Dr. Renuka Jayatissa elaborated on the existing issues related to malnutrition and food security in Sri Lanka by drawing attention to the recent statistics with reference to the prevailing economic crisis. Further, she explained the methods to tackle malnutrition with minimum requirements available in the country.

In supporting the points highlighted by Dr. Renuka Jayatissa, Dr. H.S.R. Perera focused on the policy directions available and in effect with regard to the malnutrition status of the country. She stressed the fact that multisector stakeholders need to collaboratively take part in the implementation of suggested coping mechanisms to combat malnutrition in Sri Lanka.

The insightful presentation of the two speakers was followed by a thought-provoking Q and A session, which provided an array of notable methods to grapple with malnutrition amidst the current economic crisis in the country. Subsequent to the concluding remarks by the event chair, Wing Commander Meuna Heendeniya, military Research Officer at INSS, delivered the vote of thanks marking the conclusion of the event.