



Vision

To enhance National Security of Sri Lanka through excellence in research education and networking

Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) is the premiere think tank on national security in Sri Lanka established under the Ministry of Defence

INSS celebrates the dawn of the New Year 2022 with Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of Defence



Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), the premier think tank on National Security, commenced duties for the New Year 2022, on the 03rd of January 2022 by organizing a special event as it coincided with the 5th Anniversary of INSS. The Chief Guest for this special event was General Kamal Gunaratne (Retd.) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of Defence. The Chief Guest commended the work done by INSS during the previous years and gave his blessings to work hard towards achieving the goals of INSS in the New Year. Appreciating the dedication and the service towards the institute for more than 05 years, Ms. Nilmini Ulluwishewa, Director (Administration) and Mr. Nalin Kariyawasam, Driver of INSS was awarded tokens of appreciation from the Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The event was culminated subsequent to a coffee break with traditional snacks.



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Closed Door Round Table Discussion on “Combating the Financing of Terrorism to Affirm National Security”

INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
Closed Door Round Table Discussion
on
“Combating the Financing of Terrorism to Affirm National Security”

Professor Rohan Gunaratna
Director General
Institute of National Security Studies

Mr. J.M.M. Jayasundara
Chief Inspector of Police
Criminal Investigation Department

Mr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe
Deputy Director
Financial Intelligence Unit

Dr. Rasheen Bappu
Adjunct Professor
Anthropologist & Intelligence Data Scientist

Date : 25th January 2022
From : 1400 hrs to 1600 hrs

Held virtually via **zoom**

INSS organized a closed door Round Table Discussion titled “Combating the Financing of Terrorism to Affirm National Security” on the 25th of January, from 1400hrs to 1600hrs via ZOOM. The discussion involved top experts from the fields of security, intelligence and finance. The discussion was chaired by Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies.

The discourse analytically addressed the past and existing issues pertaining to the financing of terrorism in Sri Lanka. Chief Inspector J.M.M. Jayasundara from Criminal Investigation Department presented a domestic case study of terrorist financing in Sri Lanka. The case study was followed

by Mr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe, Deputy Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka delivering a presentation on the role and capabilities of the Financial Intelligence Unit in Sri Lanka. Finally, Dr. Rasheen Bappu, Adjunct Professor, Anthropologist and Intelligence Data Scientist spoke on global and regional terror groups and financing during his presentation. The discussion concluded after a brief interactive Q and A session between the speakers and the audience. The comprehensive dialogue provided valuable insights and policy recommendations to strengthen financial and terrorism intelligence in Sri Lanka.

Staff of INSS invited to attend “A Shared Vision for the Indo-Pacific”



The General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, hosted “A Shared Vision for the Indo-Pacific” conference on regional perspectives on economic, political, and security challenges in the Indo-Pacific on 31st of March 2022, 0830hrs onwards at the Atrium Lobby, Cinnamon Grand, Colombo. U.S. Ambassador Julie J. Chung gave the opening remarks, and U.S. State Department Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu delivered the keynote address.

Welcoming the guests, Major General Milinda Peiris, Vice Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka stated: “The Indo-Pacific is increasingly a focus of international geopolitical attention due to the rising influence of both China and India”.

Research staff of INSS including Director (Communications and Publications), Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, RWP**, RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Mr. Madushan Senevirathna, Research Analyst and Mr. Bodhana Perera, Ms. Gayanga Dias, Ms. Charani Patabendige, Research Assistants represented the INSS at the aforementioned conference in addition to

the Director General of INSS, Prof. Rohan Gunaratna who was a member of one of the panels. The conference consisted of three panels discussing three thematic areas; US Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) perspectives related to Diplomacy, Defense, and Development, Regional Perspectives on Security and Regional Perspectives on economics & Socio-politics respectively.

Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka Visits INSS

INSS had the privilege of hosting the Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka, Ambassador Mizukoshi Hideaki on 28th January 2022. Director General of INSS, Professor Rohan Gunaratna welcomed the Ambassador, emphasizing the close friendship that is shared by Japan and Sri Lanka. INSS staff and representatives from the Japanese embassy participated in this special meeting which was held at the conference hall of INSS. The meeting was focused on the new threat landscape that is faced by Sri Lanka and the shift of the threats from physical space to cyberspace.



Professor Gunaratna discussed the above discourse to educate the Japanese Ambassador on the threats that Sri Lanka is facing today. The meeting was successfully concluded after an exchange of tokens of appreciation by both the parties.



“EU Indo-Pacific Strategy through Sri Lanka’s Lens: Opportunities for Cooperation and Partnership”



“The epicentre of geopolitical, geo-economic and geostrategic power is shifting from the Euro-Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific” said Professor Rohan Gunaratna speaking at the above conference which was held at the Lakshman Karigamar Institute in Colombo on January 27th, 2022. Chaired by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Professor G.L. Peiris, Professor Gunaratna, the Director-General of INSS addressed the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy through Sri Lanka’s Lens: Opportunities for Cooperation and Partnership.

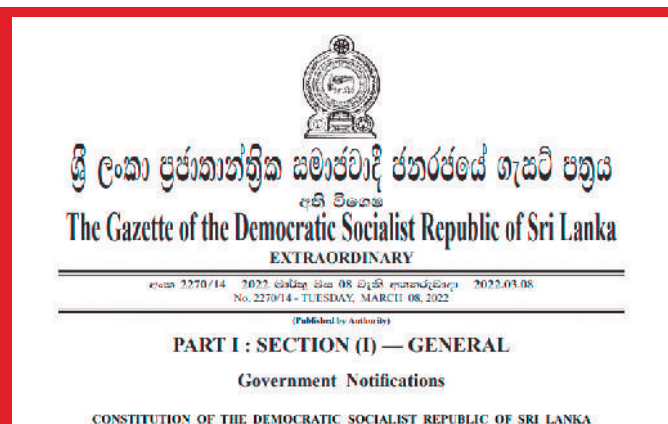
Professor Gunaratna said, “There is an increased outflow of narcotics and weapons from Afghanistan since the Taliban-al Qaeda alliance captured power in Kabul on August 15, 2021. The Taliban-al Qaeda alliance has access to a huge reserve of weaponry the western forces left behind. Due to poverty, Taliban is permitting the Afghans to grow poppy and manufacture heroin. To counter the flow of narcotics, the Sri Lankan navy is playing a frontline role. At this point there is neither global nor regional cooperation,

collaboration and partnership to address this apex challenge. Unless we come together, the reserve of weaponry and unhindered cultivation of poppy will pose a threat to the region and beyond. With cooperation, collaboration and partnership with the US, EU and ASEAN, Sri Lanka can detect and disrupt the eastward flow of narcotics and weapons.” “As the EU is not a hegemon, Sri Lanka is comfortable working with EU and EU countries,” added Professor Gunaratna.



Change of Ministry for INSS

Institute of National Security Studies which functioned under the State Minister of National Security and Disaster Management has been changed to function under the State Minister of Defence with effect from 04th March 2022 via an extraordinary gazette issued by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka on 08th March 2022.



Closed Door Round Table Discussion on “Internal and External Dimensions of Economic Security”



Sri Lanka is in a great need of a comprehensive evidence-based analysis of the current economic situation in order to consider policy options to enhance the country's economic security in the years ahead. In this backdrop, INSS organized a Closed Door Round Table Discussion on “Internal and External Dimensions of Economic Security”. The event was successfully concluded on Wednesday, 09th of February 2022 from 1000hrs to 1130hrs (IST) via zoom. The audience comprised military officers representing the Sri Lankan Armed Forces,

representatives from Sri Lanka Police, National Defence College, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Foreign Ministry and academics.

Dr. Ganeshan Wignaraja, Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore and Former Executive Director of the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute, was the first speaker of the session. Dr. Wignaraja's presentation was on “Sri Lanka's Economy and Geopolitics in COVID times”. He began by giving an overview of Sri Lanka's economic

development as well as the macroeconomic imbalances that Sri Lanka possessed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, he discussed Sri Lanka's complex economic ties with great powers such as the United States and China.

The second speaker of the session was Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Former Senior Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. He offered an overview analysis on the trends of real GDP growth and per capita GDP and external reserves over the years. He argued that the level of external reserves is substantially lower than annual debt service obligations in 2021, representing the worst position historically, when considering the adequacy of external reserves against debt service repayments. Moreover, Dr. Weerasinghe stressed that an efficient monetary policy would not be enough until an unsustainable fiscal policy is addressed. According to Dr. Weerasinghe the only solution now is to seek IMF assistance to restructure external debt and arrange financial assistance to bridge external financial gaps in the coming years. The session was followed by an insightful Q and A session, which generated a great interaction between the speakers and the audience.

INSS welcomes new Research Assistants

INSS welcomed new Research Assistants to their research department on 01st of February 2022. Ms. Charani Patabendige, Mrs. Dilmini Abeyratne and Mr. Thusitha Bulathsinghe joined the research team as new members.



Ms. Charani Patabendige

Ms. Charani Patabendige holds a Bachelor of Laws degree with a second-class Lower division and an Advanced Diploma in Transitional Justice from Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies with a Distinction Pass. Currently, she is reading for the final year of the Attorney at Law examination.



Mrs. Dilmini Abeyratne

Mrs. Dilmini Hasintha Abeyratne has completed her Bachelor's Degree in Economics in second class upper division from University of Kelaniya in 2020. She has served as a Research Assistant at the Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya in 2021. Currently she is reading for her Master's Degree in Economics at University of Peradeniya and also she is an intermediate year law student at Sri Lanka Law College.



Mr. Thusitha Bulathgama

Thusitha Bulathgama is a graduate from University of Kelaniya with BA (Hons) in Peace and Conflict Resolution. He has done many kinds of volunteer services apart from the academic work such as being a team leader and a member of a Digital Experience (DXP) Team at AIESEC in University of Kelaniya and for a project in Environmental Conservation.

INSS dwells in to Energy Security



Institute of National Security Studies organized a Public Lecture titled "Sectorizing Sri Lanka's Energy Production; A Solid Remedy for the Prevailing Crisis" on Friday, 11th February 2022, from 1400hrs to 1530hrs (IST) via Zoom. The Guest Speaker of the event was Eng. Dr. Narendra de Silva, General Manager, Lanka Electricity Corporation. The audience comprised officers from Tri Forces, representatives from Ministry of Power, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, think tanks and academia.

The moderator, Mr. Madushan Senevirathna, Research Analyst at INSS commenced the discourse by elaborating on the significance of energy diversification, given the looming energy crisis of Sri Lanka. Dr. Narendra de Silva presented on the status quo of energy supply, energy demand and energy balance of Sri Lanka. At

present, renewable energy accounts for a share of 60% of the total energy supply of the country. Further, he elaborated a methodical explanation over the course of action required to achieve the government's declared target of achieving 70% of electricity needs through renewable energy by 2030. According to Dr. Narendra de Silva, reduction of biomass energy production by 10% and increase of dependency of transport sector on electricity by 10% are two possible energy transitions, which energy planners should be mindful in formulating the exit strategy of current energy crisis in Sri Lanka. The insightful presentation of Dr Narendra de Silva was followed by a thought provoking Q and A session, which provided an array of notable methods to realize the government's goal to be an energy self-sufficient nation by 2030.

The staff of INSS participates in a one day training workshop on 'Challenges of Implementing a Risk Management Network'



INSS staff underwent a one day training workshop on 'Challenges of Implementing a Risk Management Network' on 08th March 2022 at the conference hall of INSS. The program was conducted by Madam Yasoda Wickramasekara, who is a barrister in UK and Australia and Solicitor in NSW Australia. She is an experienced Legal, Governance, Risk and Compliance professional with over 25 years of industry experience. The program focused on how risk management can be implemented in an institutional environment to avoid the creation of a crisis that will harm the efficiency of an institute.

Round Table Discussion on “Future of Food Security in Sri Lanka”



INSS organized a Round Table Discussion titled “Future of Food Security in Sri Lanka” on Thursday, 10th of March 2022, from 1400hrs to 1530hrs (IST) via Zoom. Guest Speakers of the event were Dr. V.T.S.K. Siriwardhane, Director Environmental and Occupational Health and Food Safety, Ministry of Health and Ms. Niranjala S.D. Jeganathan, Director Pricing and Management, Consumer Affairs Authority. The audience comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, officers from Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Sri Lanka Police, think tanks and academia.

Gunawardane, Director (Communications and Publications) of INSS, commenced the discussion by providing an overview on food security and its significance for development of a country. Dr. V.T.S.K. Siriwardhane presented on the critical role played by food safety in ensuring food security. He provided a comprehensive explanation over the current legal landscape with regard to manufacturing, importation, sale and distribution of food. Further, he explained the role and function of institutional arrangements that are placed in the country to ensure food safety.

dimensions of food and nutrition security. According to Ms. Jeganathan, availability of household resources, prices of food items, physical, social and policy environment are principal variables that define food availability and food accessibility in Sri Lanka. Further, she drew the attention of the audience to current initiatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Affairs Authority, which are focused on increasing food availability and food accessibility in the country. The insightful presentation of Ms. Jeganathan was followed by a thought-provoking Q and A session, which provided an array of notable methods to grapple with the current food crisis in the country.

The moderator, Rear Admiral Dimuthu Ms. Jeganathan explained different

Personal data vs. National Security”



INSS organized a Public Lecture titled “National Security Implications on Sri Lanka’s Personal Data Protection Bill” on Tuesday, 15th of March 2022, from 1000hrs to 1130hrs (IST) via Zoom. The Guest Speaker

of the event was Mr. Jayantha Fernando, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer of Information Communication Technology Agency (ICTA).

The moderator Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardane, Director (Communications and Publications) initiated the discussion by providing an overview on the importance of data protection and national security. Subsequently, Mr. Jayantha Fernando commenced the lecture by explaining the international as well as domestic laws relating to data security. Then, he spoke on Sri Lanka’s Personal Data Protection Bill and the security implications of it. He spoke on the materiality of data protection, where data processes must be done vigilantly. Aftermath of the insightful presentation, the question and answer session began. Consequently, the audience brought out, many thought provoking and interesting questions which were well answered by the Guest speaker. The concluding remarks were given by the moderator which closed the session.

The audience for this Public lecture comprised of ministry officials, policy makers, officers from Sri Lanka Armed Forces, Sri Lanka Police, researchers, representatives from governmental institutions and academia.

Threat Lens on “Sri Lanka’s Media Discipline vs. Online Falsehoods and Manipulations”



RSP, VSV, USP, nswc, psc, hdmc, Director (Communications and Publications) at INSS moderated the event. The audience comprised of officers from media divisions of Sri Lanka Armed Forces, media division of Sri Lanka Police, TV channels of Sri Lanka, think tanks and academia.

Mr. Shamir Zavahir elaborated the topic with core media issues that the country faces currently. He delivered it in a meaningful manner taking other countries, like Malaysia as an example. Also, he spoke about the difference between misinformation and disinformation. Moreover, he discussed the LTTE media campaign and how it affected the Sri Lankan community on a larger scale. He addressed this issue compared to Singapore as they also face many online falsehoods and manipulations. Even though they experienced the same, they managed it effectively. Further, he said that since the Ministry of Justice is to strengthen the law in the country, they will pass an Act in near future to prevent the threats in the digital world. Several timely questions were posed by the audience in the Q and A session where the speaker responded constructively.

INSS, the premier think tank on National Security established under the Ministry of Defence, organized a Threat Lens titled “Sri Lanka’s Media Discipline vs. Online Falsehoods and Manipulations” on Wednesday, 16th March 2022, from 1400hrs to 1530hrs (IST) via Zoom. Events categorized as ‘Threat Lens’ are closed door discussions with limited audience to discuss a particular impending threat to the National Security of Sri Lanka

The Guest Speaker of the event was Mr. Shamir Zavahir, Head of Reforms and Coordinating Secretary, Minister’s Bureau at the Ministry of Justice. Major General, K. R. P. Rowel (Retd.) RWP VSV USP ndu psc USACGSC, Director General, Centre for Defence Research and Development chaired the event on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of Defence. Rear Admiral Dimuthu Gunawardena, RWP**,

Head of Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) participates in a Security Salon.



INSS organized a Security Salon titled “Changing Geopolitical Landscape of South Asia” on Wednesday, 30th March 2022, from 1400hrs to 1530hrs (IST) at the Suranimala Auditorium, Ministry of Defence. A security Salon is a closed door discussion with limited audience held with the aim of generating a discussion on a timely and relevant topic of interest in the region or beyond which may have an implication to the National Security of Sri Lanka.

The Guest Speaker of the event was Dr. Pramod Jaiswal, Research Director at Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE). The Chair of the event was Chief of National Intelligence, Major General J. R. Kulathunga (Retd.) RSP ndc psc who represented the Secretary Defence and State Ministry of Defence. Professor Rohan Gunaratna, Director General of Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) moderated the event. This event was a landmark event for INSS as it was the first time an event of INSS was conducted at the fully fledged Suranimala Hall of the Ministry of Defence. The audience comprised of representatives from ministries, Sri Lanka Tri Forces, Sri Lanka Police, intelligence services, academics and policymakers. Dr. Pramod Jaiswal presented the existing geopolitical strategies hidden behind the formal ties between South Asian countries. The geopolitical strategy launched by Xi-Jing-Ping in China was highlighted in his speech along with ample examples drawn from small economies in the region. Further, he elaborated the Silk Road initiative of China and the direct and indirect effects of collapse of one regional economy over other economies giving special reference to Russia, China and India relationships. Most importantly, he emphasized the fact that predictions of geopolitical challenges are likely to change unexpectedly and irrespective of the size and power of a country. He presented this view by drawing the attention of the audience to the World Trade Centre attack in the USA in 2001. The insightful presentation of Dr. Pramod Jaiswal was followed by a thought-provoking Q and A session and a discussion, which brought into light the potential threats and challenges of small countries as a consequence of the geopolitical strategies employed by economically and politically powerful countries. Subsequent to the concluding remarks by the Chair, Major General J. R. Kulathunga, Mr. Hirantha Wijesinghe, Intern (Research) at INSS, delivered the vote of thanks marking the closure of the event.

Glorification of LTTE; A National Security Threat

By Kavindu Peiris - Intern (Research), INSS

Sri Lanka is a unitary state. The country is home to over 21 million people of various ethnicities. The unique geographical location, the existence of high-value natural resources and the importance of Sri Lanka in trade and shipping are evident in the history of the country during the Western rule. Sri Lanka, which was liberated from the control of the Western imperialists, came under the political leadership and was led by a unique political figure.

Thus, Sri Lanka, ruled by individual heads of state, came to the fore in the face of political conflict and crisis. All these victories and defeats were frozen and the political climate in Sri Lanka, which was gradually developing, suddenly began to change. During this crisis, another force was secretly emerging in Sri Lanka. That is, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) organization led by "Velupillai Prabhakaran". The stated objective of the organization was to establish a separate state, Tamil Eelam state in our motherland. However, under the courageous leadership, our security forces fearlessly fought to destroy the LTTE. At the risk of their own lives, our security forces' near 30-year-long humanitarian operation ended on May 18, 2009, defeating all the terrorists, including the terror leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. Sri Lanka is the only country in the modern world to completely dismantle a terrorist force previously regarded as the most brutal in the world, which bled the country for nearly three decades while waging a lengthy separatist war.

The national security of a country refers to the unity of all the ethnic groups living in that country, the independence and the sovereignty of that country as well as the territorial integrity, citizenship rights and human rights without any threats that may be posed internally or externally. Of course, in order to create a strong social environment in a country, special attention must be paid to the safety of the citizens living in that country. Although it is in the national interest to create a secure society through a strong set of policies, the rising tide of crime over the years has made a strong impact on this process. It is very appropriate for a country to have an independent judiciary with a system of moral justice for future development. The first stage in this process is prevention. It must be understood that it

is not the responsibility of an individual but a collective effort.

Our resilient nation's strength is in its ability to forgive the traumas of the past in the hope of a brighter future in a peaceful society. However, it must be emphasized that the LTTE international front is engaged in a struggle to destroy the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our nation and to undermine the past victory of the entire country against terrorism. At present, it is evident that Sri Lanka is still confronting an active threat emanating from pro-LTTE front organizations operating overseas. Protecting the state and the nation from these threats is a primary responsibility of the government and its security forces. It must be acknowledged that having a comprehensive national security strategy is the foundation of a developing country to achieve prosperity and lasting peace. Therefore, the time has come to formulate a new national security strategy to protect its national interests in the face of the strategic threat environment that is developing against Sri Lanka.

It has been 12 years since the end of the gruesome war in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government has been concerned with ensuring security since then. However, some acts show that many parties try to thwart the efforts of the government. On 23rd September 2021, Tamil National People's Front Member of the Parliament Selvarasa Gajendran and two others were arrested by the police for organizing a memorial for Rasaiah Pradeepan alias Thillepan, a former LTTE terrorist who died while on a hunger strike in 1987. In the face of these actions, the counter-terrorism process of Sri Lanka is challenged. Although the terrorists conflict has ended, there are constant efforts by LTTE supporters to revive it. These commemorations support them in the process. Government must implement strict laws to put an end to such acts, which promote terrorists. In order to revive terrorism within Sri Lanka; LTTE international network use false propaganda to share baseless allegations of war crimes against the country while glorifying the LTTE. The International terrorism expert Professor Rohan Gunaratna has elaborated on the glorification of the LTTE in their study of the future. This situation is undoubtedly a serious threat to the national security in Sri Lanka. Indeed, it should be emphasized that such glorification of LTTE terrorism must be addressed through the enactment of legal



provisions and policies to further strengthen the stability and national security that is the basis of ethnic and religious harmony in Sri Lanka. Currently, there is no provision in the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act No. 48 of 1979 on the grounds of glorifying or commemorating terrorists. Therefore, it is an urgent need for the authorities responsible to impose the relevant legal provisions expeditiously. The maximum punishment should be imposed to those who glorify the terrorists that threaten the communal harmony of the country by degrading the victory that has been won after making many sacrifices for nearly three decades.

The LTTE international fronts' propaganda created an environment conducive to LTTE plots, planning and revival. Immediate action must be taken to ban such activities altogether. Just as Germany banned Nazi symbols and activities after World War II, the necessary provisions must be imposed to ban LTTE propaganda and paraphernalia forever. Article 86 of the German Criminal Code further clarifies this. The article emphasizes that "the use of symbols by unconstitutional organizations outside the context of 'Art or Science, Research or Teaching' is strictly prohibited. However, the law does not specify what those symbols are, and it is stated that Nazi, Communist and Islamic extremist symbols are prohibited".

Of course, Sri Lanka is a democratic country. However, further examination of this scope shows that the tolerance of excessive liberty has given a new life to violent terrorism. For example, although the United States have declared their victory over Afghanistan and Iraq, the infrastructure that necessitated the revival of the terrorists remain unchanged. Likewise, the same fact is encouraging the LTTE's revival.

Read full paper at <https://uploads.ceylontoday.lk/epapers/files/CT-11-02-2022-CT.pdf>

B. Kavindu M.H. Peiris is a Research Intern at the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS), the premier think-tank on national security for the Ministry of Defence Sri Lanka. The opinion expressed is his own and not necessarily reflective of the institute.



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