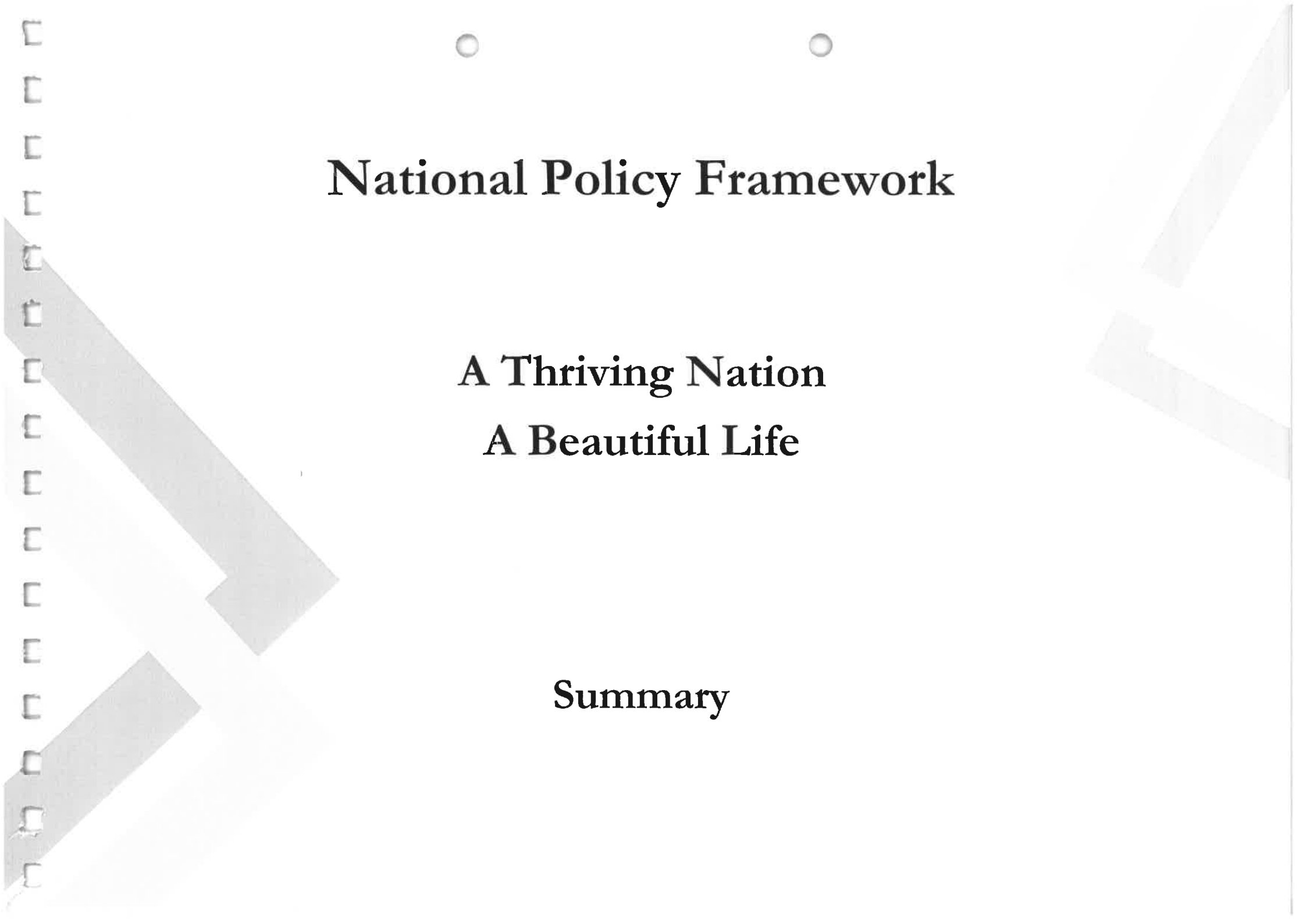




National Policy Framework

**A Thriving Nation
A Beautiful Life**

Summary

National Policy Framework
A Thriving Nation
A Beautiful Life

Summary

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CHAPTER 1

1. A fulfilling life - A comfortable country

Introduction: Challenges and Opportunities in Sri Lanka's Social Development

The *education* system is organized into key stages; early childhood, primary and secondary, higher, and vocational education. The challenges in the education system influence human capital formation of the country. These challenges span across various dimensions including access, quality, affordability and relevance. Lack of enrollment in early childhood education, high enrollment rate in primary education but disparities in terms of secondary education, a high demand for university education but limited capacity to accommodate all qualified students and a growing demand for technical and vocational education but not meeting labour market requirements are major challenges in the sector. Therefore, addressing these issues require education sector reforms to ensure inclusive and responsive education system.

Health sector in Sri Lanka faces several challenges that impact its ability to provide equitable, efficient and high-quality healthcare to its population. By fostering efficiency, transparency, and innovation, it addresses the challenges in health promotion, disease prevention, and digital transformation across primary, secondary, and tertiary care systems while strengthening accountability, safety standards, and inclusive service delivery.

Housing is another major concern, especially for low-income families in urban areas who lack basic amenities. Rural housing faces similar challenges, including unclear land ownership and high construction costs. Although, the government aims to tackle some of these issues by developing multi-story housing complexes. A lot more need to be done to ease the housing burden on low to medium income families.

Sports and culture are vital for community development; however, certain key decision making areas hindered the progress. Therefore, it is essential to revitalize both sectors to foster positive societal contributions.

Meantime, *environmental* mismanagement has long been a pressing challenge, leading to land degradation and water shortages, highlighting the urgent need for the Government actions to align to prioritize sustainable development and resource management.

Policy Statement

Provide quality education that fosters a developed, humanistic, and responsible society with sustainable development and resource management

1.1 A civilized citizen - An advanced human resource

Policy Principles -

- Free education and equal access to all
- Relevance to human development and employment opportunities
- Acceptability for all
- Responsible citizens accountable to society
- Sustainability and innovation
- Lifelong learning

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Early childhood development education	Ensuring all children aged 3 to 5 have access to high-quality education Ensuring successful integration into school life of children of aged 5 years Ensuring adaptation initiatives for multicultural diversity Ensuring healthy future generation Supporting and Regulating Early Childhood Education Development Mandating professional trainings with required qualifications for educators	▪ Provide access for formal early childhood development education for all children aged 03 to 05 years. ▪ Establish an Early Childhood Development Education Centre for every child within 2 km from their home or parent's workplace ▪ Implement programmes that foster the development of good habits, attitudes, and ethics, tailored to suit the physical and mental conditions of children, for their successful integration into social life. ▪ Implement national language programs that include English and other national languages as languages of spoken communication in addition to the mother tongue. ▪ Implement adaptation programs to deal with multicultural diversity ▪ Implement a programme to improve children's health and nutritional status ▪ Establish an Early Childhood Development Regulatory Agency to regulate Early Childhood Development Centers. ▪ Provide mandatory professional training with minimum educational qualifications and introduce a minimum salary for Wardens and Teachers of Early Childhood Development Centre. ▪ Establish a formal national institute and branch system for training early childhood development professionals.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Primary and Secondary Education	Ensuring a decent and comfortable education environment	▪ Establish a government school system for primary education within 3 km of one's home or parents' place of work.
	Ensuring equitable and inclusive education	▪ Introduce a student-centered education that stimulates intellectual curiosity and knowledge development without disrupting childhood.
	Ensuring access to education opportunities	▪ Provide physical and human resources to schools to maintain minimum facilities.
	Ensuring quality of Education	▪ Establish a junior secondary school system and a senior secondary school system covering 2 or 3 primary schools, considering population and geographical location.
	Ensuring continuing development of knowledge and skills of students	▪ Provide opportunities for students to select between general streams such as science, arts, commerce, and technology or vocational education (directly applicable to a career) based on the results of the national level examination conducted in the ninth year and school-based continuous assessment results.
	Ensuring promoting students to select general and technology or vocational streams based on their abilities and preferences.	▪ Introduce school transport system following requirements and accepted standards ▪ Introduce additional subjects and activities to foster social value and civic responsibility.
	Ensuring students'	▪ Enable to choose major subjects for higher education or vocational education according to their abilities and special skills. ▪ Introduce flexible curriculum allowing students to switch from one stream to another during their senior secondary education. ▪ Prepare educational programmes about major religions in Sri Lanka, as well as education about the student's own religion. ▪ Introduce age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health education. ▪ Develop personal attributes that respects culture, environmentalism, and nature conservation. ▪ Implement programmes that provide and develop knowledge and practical skills required for innovation, life skills, and social contribution. ▪ Provide opportunities to select subjects specific to education streams and common

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	empathy on culture, nature, and humanity. Ensure stimulating student-centered education	subjects that will foster general skills such as technological literacy, languages, life skills, literature, and basic law. ▪ Implement programmes to maintain the physical and emotional balance of children. ▪ Improve the education of the government-assisted schools, including Pirivens, by providing adequate funds and other facilities.
National Level Assessment	Enhancing accuracy and efficiency of processes in the examination cycle	▪ Establish a National Examination Evaluation Center with all necessary technological and physical facilities. ▪ Introduce an annual school calendar to ensure national examination evaluation activities are completed within one month and results are released within two months. ▪ Introduce a payment system that reflects the intellectual contribution of examiners involved in the examination evaluation process. ▪ Regulate and broaden the scope of the National Institute of Education for curriculum development, professional development of teachers and educational research and policy formulations. ▪ Establish a fully equipped Curriculum Development Unit for curriculum development within the National Institute of Education.
Development and Maintenance of Human Resources	Ensuring a favorable working environment for workforce in the general education system	▪ Eliminate teacher and principal pay disparity. ▪ Establish a teacher service constitution and a teacher council. ▪ Position the teaching profession among the 10 highest-paying professions. ▪ Provide one year of professional training in the teaching-learning pedagogy before entering the teaching profession. ▪ Establish a National University of Education by merging all Colleges of Education and Teacher Training Colleges. ▪ Conduct teacher training programmes in every three years.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Create a coordination structure between institutions to ensure that curriculum development, textbook development, and assessment processes are linked and maintained. ▪ Establish a strong structure within the school system to address sexual or other forms of violence faced by all communities.
Vocational Education	Ensuring a vocational education process that directs students towards specific fields of employment	▪ Introduce a vocational education process that directs students towards specific fields of employment by acquiring practical knowledge in general professional areas. ▪ Introduce a vocational education stream from year 10 to year 13, parallel to the general education stream, for preparing students to work in fields such as construction and infrastructure, creative industries, primary industries, service industries, social and community services, and manufacturing and technology. ▪ Establish a Vocational Education Regulatory Department consisting of professionals to advice on the qualitative and quantitative changes needed in the vocational education sector, considering job market demands and global trends.
Higher Education	Ensuring quality assurance in the state and non-state university system Strengthening and expanding access to job oriented advance technical education and training programmes Ensuring university education system instill	▪ Respect the freedom of universities, University grants commission (UGC) guides the preparations of academic courses in line with national policies. ▪ Appoint the Chairman and other members of the UGC ensuring representation of social diversity. ▪ Appoint vice-chancellors to uphold the honour of universities. ▪ Appoint independent individuals as external governing council members of universities by the University Grants Commission. ▪ Establish members of governing councils of universities to ensure diversity in professional fields and gender representation. ▪ Establish a pool of commonly recommended names from recognized professional bodies for appointing Council members. ▪ Appoint a retired person from a university to the governing body of that university, with

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	employability and entrepreneurial skills Ensuring Research and Innovation culture in university system Ensuring decisive and respectful freedom of governing bodies of higher education system	only those retired at least five years ago being considered. ▪ Appoint student representative elected by students of the respective university to the Governing Body limiting space only for welfare and other student affairs. ▪ Limit the tenure of a Council member to a maximum of two consecutive terms. ▪ Appoint faculty members who are qualified as Head of Department or Senior Lecturer with at least three years' experience have the opportunity to be appointed as Dean. ▪ Limit the term of a Dean to a maximum of two consecutive terms. ▪ Abolish of non-academic staff recruitment on the recommendations of the minister in charge. ▪ Implement mechanisms at faculty and university levels to address academic, non-academic, and student community grievances and make appropriate recommendations. ▪ Eliminate delays in enrolling students to universities. ▪ Expand gradually tertiary education system so that minimum qualifications for each course are identified and those who meet these qualifications are given opportunities to enroll. ▪ Provide necessary provisions to prepare internet facilities in tertiary education institutes, lecture halls, laboratories, libraries, and cafeterias according to proper standards. ▪ Establish special units in every tertiary educational institution to provide basic qualifications, including English language skills, required for obtaining post-graduate education in international universities and fostering relationships that will allow students to secure post-graduate opportunities through these units. ▪ Offer 200 scholarships per year for A/L qualified students to pursue degrees at internationally ranked universities. ▪ Implement an integrated mechanism to prevent sexual or other forms of harassment of youth in tertiary education institutions. ▪ Provide facilities for students with disabilities to receive education as per recognized

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		international standards. ▪ Increase Mahapola and other bursaries in line with cost of living. ▪ Establish a university for postgraduate research and development. ▪ Provide necessary financial and physical resources to strengthen postgraduate education and research. ▪ Encourage private sector contributions to strengthen research related to industries and service sectors. ▪ Strengthen the vocational education university system for those who pass the tertiary education entrance examination after completing senior secondary education. ▪ Merge nursing schools into a National Nursing University.
Private Education	Streamlining private education to ensure the quality, and affordability	▪ Establish an Independent Regulatory Unit under the Ministry of Education to regulate the programmes of existing private educational institutions.
Adult Education	Ensuring life-long education to address the needs of adult population	▪ Establish community educational centers in each divisional secretariat area, integrated with local educational institutions, libraries, and cultural centers. ▪ Introduce educational programmes for citizens on fundamental laws in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, as well as on information technology and the use of technological tools.
Distance Education	Expanding open and distance education	▪ Expand facilities of the Open University of Sri Lanka

1.2 A vigorous life - Healthy people

Policy Principles –

- The right of individuals to receive the benefits of the health care system with respect and dignity
- The state's responsibility to provide disease prevention and treatment health services to citizens without discrimination
- Promotion of health, disease prevention, and preventive health care
- Health services that meet global standards
- Protection of patients' rights and safety

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Effective Health Service Management	Improving efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the health care delivery system	▪ Increase gradually the government expenditure on health to at least 3 percent of the GDP. ▪ Utilize funds efficiently and transparently while actively combating corruption in the health sector.
Digital Health	Transforming the health sector to leverage the Digitalization benefits.	▪ Digitize patient records and information to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the health services. ▪ Implement online registration for medical appointments to minimize waiting times at health services institutions.
Health Promotion and Disease prevention	Ensuring active community engagement in health promotion programmes	▪ Implement community-based mechanisms to identify, manage, and treat chronic non-communicable diseases. ▪ Conduct annual health screenings for all individuals over the age of 40. ▪ Promote healthy lifestyles, including exercise, walking, and cycling. ▪ Develop programs to identify and address behaviors of school children who may lead to anti-social activities and are vulnerable to risks. ▪ Establish health promotion programs to control severe and chronic malnutrition and obesity.
Food Safety	Ensuring effective implementation of Food safety laws, regulations and guidelines	▪ Establish organization to regulate food-related advertisements and implement a code of ethics to ensure advertisements provide accurate information to consumers. ▪ Control substandard food and beverage production, import, distribution, and sale. ▪ Mandate proper labelling of food products, including disclosure of all ingredients.
Occupational Health, safety and wellbeing	Ensuring a favorable environment for employees	▪ Conduct assessments of occupational health and safety, based on their nature of work for identified workplaces and issue certifications accordingly. ▪ Provide medical expenses coverage and appropriate allowance to employees who meet with accidents during work, until they return to their duties.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Elderly Care	Ensuring healthy and active elderly society to get Silver dividend for the economy	▪ Implement a comprehensive package of activities to promote physical and mental well-being, ensuring a healthy life for the elderly population. ▪ Provide guidance and conduct counselling programs before retirement to maintain physical and mental health. ▪ Introduce specialized geriatric clinics in disease preventions institutions for elderly care.
Primary Care	Ensuring delivery of standard care package at primary care institutions. Strengthening primary care facilities and enforce referral system.	▪ Appoint a family physician and health staff for 5,000 to 10,000 population. ▪ Cluster health institutions into primary care institutions (PMCU and Divisional Hospitals) and as secondary care institution (Base Hospital) and tertiary care institution (District General and Teaching Hospital) to ensure effective and continuous care. ▪ Implement satellite clinics to provide specialized health services (including visits by specialist consultants) in family physician unit areas. ▪ Establish facilities for mental, speech, auditory, occupational, and community physical therapy as necessary.
Secondary care	Ensuring delivery of standard care package at secondary care institutions	▪ Ensure every hospital-admitted patient has a bed and necessary facilities. ▪ Enhance ward management and nursing care plans regularly and improve nursing care for all patients in each ward. ▪ Establish daily treatment (day surgery) centers in every hospital. ▪ Certify all laboratory tests and procedures in government health institutions according to ISO standards. ▪ Reorganize hospital development committees involving professionals and all community groups.
Tertiary and Specialized care	Ensuring availability of specialized care for every patient in need	▪ An extended cardiology unit, oncology unit, ophthalmic unit and nephrology unit with facilities in each district/province

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Patients Safety	Ensuring the accountability of health care workers	- Introduce a patient charter to ensure accountability of health workers and protect patients' rights. - Ensure quality health services to achieve "zero preventable deaths." - Establish a service feedback unit to investigate complaints from patients and caregivers independently.
Emergency care	Enhancing emergency medical response	Deploy trained emergency medical response teams for ambulance services, including Suwasariya.
Provision of essential drugs	Improving the quality of the supply chain	- Establish and efficient pharmaceutical testing laboratory to ensure drug safety. - Expand local pharmaceutical production. - Eliminate corruption and fraud during the import and distribution of medicines. - Ensure the continuous supply of all essential medicines to public health institutions. - Ensure the quality and fair pricing medicine. - Prevent drug shortages by maintaining adequate stock level. - Establish government-owned pharmacies in every town.
Mental Health Care	Improving access to mental healthcare	- Establish a mechanism for early detection of mental health disorders and referral for specialized care in each district. - Set up Primary Mental Health Counselling Centres in every Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area. - Implement programs to promote mental health among children and adolescents, focusing on preventing substance abuse and violence. - Promote community-based programs for treatment, follow-up, and family therapy for patients with mental disorders.
Rehabilitation Care and Palliative care (Sahana Sathkara	Strengthening rehabilitation services and palliative care through	- Establish rehabilitation centers in every district. - Provide community-based rehabilitation services, either within the patients' own environment or in specialized centers.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
seva)	community engagement	Improve home-based and institution-based palliative care services for patients with incurable diseases, including cancer and stroke.
Oral Health Services	Improving Oral health	Implement special oral health promotion programmes.
Estate sector Health services	Increasing the accessibility to preventive and curative healthcare services in the estate sector	Develop special programs targeting nutrition, oral health, tuberculosis control, and the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse, along with health promotion.
Indigenous Health care services	Improving the capacity of traditional medicine services to meet the national and international demand	- Strengthen the administration and management of Ayurvedic hospitals to expand medical treatments in Ayurveda, Siddha Ayurveda, and Unani. - Enhance Ayurvedic/Unani/Siddha laboratories to ensure uninterrupted production of medicines. - Increase the treatment capacity of Ayurvedic hospitals, including the number of available beds. - Expand the training system affiliated with Ayurvedic hospitals. - Promote cultivation and research to support the production of indigenous medicines. - Provide state support for new research on traditional treatment methods and medicines.
Medical tourism in Sri Lanka	Improving required facilities for Medical and Wellness tourism	- Offer exceptional healthcare services with state-of-the-art facilities and well-trained medical specialists in selected public hospitals (both Western and Ayurveda). - Provide a whole range of medical care and treatment including Ayurvedic therapy
Private medical service	Ensuring the quality and affordability of private medical care	Regulate all health services, including private medical services, to ensure the delivery of high-quality healthcare to patients.

1.3 A comfortable home - A healthy living

Policy Principles –

- A healthy home for every individual
- Effective land management
- Comprehensive housing complexes

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Urban Housing	Ensuring the availability of comfortable houses for healthy living through effective utilization of existing lands	▪ Encourage the private sector to develop affordable multi-storied housing projects in urban areas and providing appropriate land for these initiatives. ▪ Promote investments from Sri Lankans living abroad in affordable multi-storied housing projects in urban areas ▪ Implement programs to provide official residences for government employees close to their workplaces ▪ Facilitate the provision of affordable housing for residents of low-income settlements in Colombo through government intervention ▪ Develop comprehensive housing projects in urban and semi-urban areas, including essential facilities such as healthcare, education, sports, transportation, and parks.
Rural Housing		▪ Revisit the relevant laws to address issues related to land ownership for housing development. ▪ Enhance access roads to residential areas. ▪ Establish suitable housing loan schemes for housing facilities
Estate Housing		▪ Provide financial and infrastructural support to enhance housing, water, electricity and sanitation facilities for Malayagam and other estate communities. ▪ Allocate lands for Malayagam communities to construct permanent houses ▪ Develop affordable housing schemes in areas surrounding estates.
Housing for Youth		▪ Offer financial support to newly married couples for purchasing or constructing their houses

1.4 An energetic citizen - Triumphant people

Policy Principles –

- Participation, discipline, confidence, and competitiveness
- Professionalism and excellence at the international level
- Sufficient infrastructure
- Equitable access
- International cooperation
- Collaboration among the government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Sports Policy , Legislation and Governance	Reforming and strengthening sports policy, legislation and governance to ensure transparency and independence	▪ Amend sports legislation ,update sports codes and laws ▪ Establish a National Sports Commission for policy development. ▪ Establish National Sports Regulatory Authority. ▪ Investigate corruption and malpractices in sports bodies ▪ Establish mechanisms to eliminate corruption and fraud in sports including illegal drug use, match-fixing, and other malpractices. ▪ Transform politically controlled sports institutions into independent bodies. ▪ Accelerate the enforcement of the Constitution for Sri Lanka Cricket.
Infrastructure development	Ensuring equitable access to sports facilities and resources	▪ Develop a strategic investment plan to support and upgrade sports and recreational facilities nationwide, ensuring proper regulation ▪ Develop and maintaining a national database of sports facilities. ▪ Distribute sports equipment and facilities to all schools equitably ▪ Construct sports grounds in each divisional secretariat ▪ Establish modern sports complexes with residential facilities and access for people with disabilities in every province. ▪ Ensure greater accessibility to Public playgrounds, Gymnasium and swimming pools for persons with disabilities
Talent identification, Development and Training	Ensuring opportunities for talented individuals from school to national level	▪ Identify and support talented children for advancement ▪ Develop specialized programs at the school and district levels to provide economic support, nutrition, and training for athletes with exceptional skills. ▪ Provide sports teachers and coaches in all government schools ▪ Develop a unified sports training program from the grassroots to the national level. ▪ Expand sports activities at Provincial and national level for students with disabilities and organizing sports events for students with disabilities.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Sports as a Profession	Professionalizing sports and providing support for athletes and sports sector officials	▪ Implement a certification and licensing program for coaches and management personnel, ensuring fair salaries and benefits. ▪ Implement pensions and insurance scheme for athletes and officials coaches, and technical officials registered in the National Sports Pool ▪ Establish a network of modern sports schools across all provinces centered on a National Sports Training School. ▪ Increase university degree programs to produce professionals for physical education with international-level expertise. ▪ Develop structured educational programs for sports media professionals
International Excellence and Competitiveness	Achieving professionalism and international success in sports	▪ Establish an International Center of Excellence for Sports Research ▪ Expand support for athletes with disabilities for international competition ▪ Collaborate with international bodies for knowledge sharing and expertise in sports management.
Health and Wellness through Sports	Integrating sports into public health and promote wellness	▪ Integrate sports into public health policy ▪ Ensure all school children participate in at least one sport ▪ Set up 1,000 Community Physical Wellness Centers
Developing Sports as an Industry	Fostering a coordinated approach between the state and private sector for developing sports as an industry	▪ Develop sports as an industry through a coordinated approach between the state and private sector. ▪ Offer special incentives for investors in sports and local sports equipment manufacturers. ▪ Develop sports tourism as a key economic sector and encouraging hosting international sports event in collaboration with the private sector.

1. 5 A rich cultural life - A compassionate society

Policy Principles –

- The right to preserve and develop the cultural identity of every community
- The right of every community and individual to intervene in the development of culture
- Intercultural enrichment and evolution
- The development of a compassionate individual with intellectual, spiritual, and aesthetic capacities with both local and global cultural knowledge
- Acceptance of cultural diversity and cultural critique
- Cultural products free from political interference
- Government support in fostering a culturally enriched society

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Diversified culture	Ensuring a culturally enriched society through creating a conducive environment	▪ Implement an educational policy that highlights culture as a broad and dynamic domain ▪ Update school curricula to modern standards, encompassing national and world literature, audiovisual media, drama, dance, visual arts, sculpture, photography, and lyrical literature ▪ Recognize the educational sector as the foundation for building a culturally aware society, and integrating arts and cultural subjects into the formal education system and providing systematic training for teachers to make these subjects more attractive and intellectually stimulating for students ▪ Establish a ‘National Fund’ for literature, cinema, drama, and other arts, supported continuously by both the government and the private sector ▪ Use media and social networks to promote appreciation of the arts, and encouraging public discourse to create a culturally enriched society in the 21st century ▪ Design and implementing creative activities that engage youth with culture, thus fostering the development of a new cultural citizen ▪ Provide scholarships to eligible individuals and sending them to international institutions to acquire new knowledge and training in all fields of art ▪ Establish cultural zones in every major city with institutions for arts and culture and launching programs to attract citizens to these zones continuously ▪ Enforce a strong intellectual property law in line with World Intellectual Property Organization to protect intellectual rights, including artists’ creative rights ▪ Encourage the translation of world literature and drama scripts into national languages and systematically securing international translation rights ▪ Review the weaknesses of current state award ceremonies for arts and organizing a comprehensive national awards ceremony that covers all fields of art ▪ Provide tax exemptions to various art sectors on selected materials and equipment, such as paper. ▪ Establish a social security system for the well-being of retired art practitioners ▪ Create a database and comprehensive plan to make available physical resources such as

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		conference halls, theaters, open-air stages, and other infrastructure to the arts and culture sectors Transform cultural centers at the divisional secretariat level into multifunctional cultural hubs equipped with stages, training, lighting, and sound facilities and organizing cultural experiences like book readings, workshops, discussions, and exhibitions centered around these hubs
Literature	Strengthening the literacy level of literature using traditional and modern learning methods	- Distribute critically acclaimed publications that are appreciated and recognized at a national level to school and public libraries. - Establish well-developed libraries in every city and suburb to cultivate an active reading community. - Revive a literary magazine culture dedicated to literary criticism and appreciation. - Encourage authors and publishers to organize national and regional book fairs and participate in prominent international book fairs. - Foster a new generation of readers by organizing literary appreciation workshops for school teachers and students. - Promote the translation of outstanding world literature into Sinhala and Tamil and supporting those involved in such translations. - Modernize and reorganizing the National Archives by providing latest technological advancements. - Support the management of digital knowledge repositories for e-publications and digital libraries affiliated with educational and research centers. - Establish a research fund for the literary arts sector, systematically providing resources for research, and organizing annual international research sessions.
Film and Tele drama	Ensuring film and tele-drama development through effective and efficient resources	- Reform the National Film Corporation and establishing a National Film Institute. - Modernize cinema halls with an organized plan and ensuring that each district has three cinemas. - Standardize loans and other assistance for film and tele drama production.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	allocation and appropriate structural measures	▪ Ensure fair and organized distribution of every cinematic work by following a systematic categorization ▪ Establish a classification board for film and television works to standardize content. ▪ Host an annual international film festival and supporting submissions to international festivals. ▪ Utilize multi-purpose cultural centers to screen outstanding films and organizing discussions based on these screenings. ▪ Establish a National Film and Television Study Institute for emerging Film-makers and creating a National Film Archive. ▪ Facilitate the reformation and integration of existing private film archives into a national archive network. ▪ Initiate film and television societies at the school level. ▪ Update intellectual property laws related to film and television in line with international standards. ▪ Organize an annual short film and mobile cinema festival and creating programs to gain knowledge and experience from international festivals.
Theatre	Ensuring cultural diversification through appropriate reforms and structural measures	▪ Establish a National Institute for Research and Training in contemporary theatre arts. ▪ Maintain a National Theatre Archive to systematically collect and preserve scripts, props, memorabilia, and recordings related to old and new theatre productions. ▪ Organize grants and tax relief for theatre production and exhibition. ▪ Create a structured plan to promote theatre from the grassroots level to the national level through a network of multi-purpose cultural centers. ▪ Construct modern theatres with full facilities in every major city and upgrade existing ones to be part of this network. ▪ Promote international scholarships related to theatre arts and organizing their distribution at regional and national levels. ▪ Develop programs to enhance appreciation of theatre and promote the concept of open-air

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		theatre spaces. ▪ Provide facilities for alternative theatre spaces.
Dance	Ensuring the protection and quality of dance	▪ Involve dance institutions, traditional dance schools and teachers, and veterans in the reform process of dance education. ▪ Establish a National Institute dedicated to the preservation and promotion of dance and integrating it with multi-purpose cultural centers. ▪ Promote research on Sri Lankan folk dances and direct research towards international studies. ▪ Encourage traditional dance forms ▪ Build a network of registered dance institutions. ▪ Facilitate international study opportunities related to dance and organizing scholarships. ▪ Identify and promoting talented dancers from the rural level to the international stage. ▪ Print trilingual academic texts on dance and encouraging international knowledge. ▪ Provide facilities for the study, research, and preservation of both contemporary and traditional dance form.
Visual Arts, Sculpture and Photography	Ensuring preservation and upgrading of the visual arts, sculpture and photography	▪ Establish a National Institute to oversee the preservation, study, and national and international research of past and present visual arts and photography. ▪ Facilitate participation in international conferences and exhibitions for artists. ▪ Setting up regional training centers and guiding these spaces towards professional opportunities. ▪ Promote national and international markets for the visual arts and integrating them with the tourism industry. Establishing art societies from the school level and organizing competitions.
Music and Song	Regulating the music and song industry	▪ Establish a National Institute for the preservation and promotion of musical traditions. ▪ Promote and preserving research on Sri Lankan folk music. ▪ Provide opportunities for the systematic study and research of preserved knowledge. ▪ Build a network of registered music institutions. ▪ Revise and update intellectual property laws related to music and song creation.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Facilitate international study and research opportunities in music and organizing scholarships. ▪ Maintain a digital unit for preserving the original copies of every recorded song and musical creation. ▪ Secure the intellectual property rights of authors and composers by obtaining membership in collective management organizations in the music sector.
Intangible Cultural Heritage and Traditional Arts	Ensuring measures to conservation, preservation and management of cultural heritage for future generation	▪ Establish a National Research Institute for intangible heritage and traditional arts, identifying and preserving existing heritage. ▪ Reform and promote regional knowledge, tools, gurukula, traditions, and human resources continuously from the regional level to the national and international levels. ▪ Develop programs to integrate tourism with this sector, to ensure that cultural heritage becomes a significant part of the tourism industry. ▪ Promote sub-sectors related to intangible heritage, such as traditional medicine, production of eco-friendly products, entertainment industries, and mental wellness promotion. ▪ Foster relationships with international universities and research institutions related to this field and facilitating postgraduate studies. ▪ Identify, network, and update traditional artists, gurukuls, and craft institutions to ensure their continued relevance and vitality.

1.6 A conserved history - Innovating across heritage

Policy Principles –

- Protection of Cultural Resources
- Value of Cultural Heritage and History
- Social Innovation

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Sustainability of Culture, Heritage and History	Ensuring the Sustainability of Culture, Heritage and History through research , participation and education	▪ Research on the impact of history, culture, and heritage on social and economic sectors ▪ Analysis of successful international practices that have integrated history, culture, and heritage into national development plans ▪ Assessment of the value of investing in national heritage values for social innovation, entrepreneurship, job creation, education, and international relations ▪ Organize workshops and conferences to promote collaboration among government institutions, private sector, academic community, and local populations in the field of history, culture, and heritage ▪ Enhance the understanding of cultural heritage and historical values among stakeholders beyond their current roles in protecting and managing cultural resources ▪ Organize educational programs and providing instructional materials to raise awareness of the value of history, culture, and heritage ▪ Incorporate topics related to history, culture, and heritage into school curricula and community-based education programs

1.7 A sustainable biotic world - An evergreen life

Policy Principles –

- Environmental justice and fairness
- Balance between environment and development
- Sustainable use of resources and precautionary approach
- Ecosystem approach
- Institutional coordination and public participation
- Polluter pays principle
- Environmental good governance
- Community empowerment
- Environmental protection
- Cleaner production

Focus area /Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Proper Land Use	Promoting sustainable and balanced land-use practices through efficient utilization of resources	▪ Designate and protect ecologically sensitive areas ▪ Identify, manage and reduce risk in natural disaster-prone areas ▪ Develop and implement scientifically developed sustainable land use plans in agricultural, industrial and residential uses ▪ Conserve areas with mineral resources for sustainable economic operations ▪ Implement existing guidelines for soil conservation and development of new recommendations
Sustainability of Marine and Coastal Zone	Protecting and enhancing the sustainability of marine and coastal ecosystems through integrated management and policies	▪ Complete termination of direct or indirect disposal of pollutants into the coastal and marine environment. ▪ Identify and protect sensitive environmental systems in coastal zones and ensure maintaining the water quality parameters. ▪ Scientifically determine and preserve the conservation zones of beaches and lagoons ▪ Implement emergency preparedness plans with institutional leadership and community involvement to minimize accidental marine environmental damages. ▪ Develop legal frameworks and procedures for assessing and compensating environmental damage caused by marine pollution. ▪ Implement laws as per the international Conventions and Treaties to ensure sustainable use of marine resources including fish and prevention of marine waters ▪ Develop coastal areas and tourist attractions that are culturally significant, into well-developed beautiful ecological belts. ▪ Identify and protect areas where marine life is naturally abundant and ensure maintaining the water quality parameters.
Existence of Clean Air	Ensuring the availability of clean and healthy air for all through sustainable	▪ Introduce suitable and fast-growing timber species for maintaining the atmospheric balance. ▪ Plant, consume, and replant trees to contribute to carbon sequestration.

Focus area /Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	adaptation and mitigations practices	- Promote and regulate alternative energy sources in industry and transportation sectors to minimize air pollution - Intervene diplomatically to avoid or mitigate transboundary air pollution. - Introduce programs to increase public awareness and perceptions to minimize air pollution
Legal and Ethical framework for Environmental Conventions and rules and regulations	Strengthening a robust legal and ethical framework that enforces existing environmental rules and regulations and international environmental conventions	- Review and address weaknesses, deficiencies, and gaps in existing environmental regulations also aligning with international agreements and local environmental laws. - Mandate public consultation in conducting feasibility studies for development projects. - Update the criteria for environmental assessments ensuring the transparency of process. - Implement Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs). - Raise public awareness about environmental policies and laws
Conservation of Various Ecosystems	Safeguarding and restoring various ecosystems through integrated conservation strategies, sustainable resource management, and community engagement	Hilly areas - Manage forests on mountain ridges/ steep slopes with strict control - Review ecosystems and develop a unified data system to highlight their environmental and economic importance. - Conduct cost-benefit analysis and environmental assessment to determine whether to maintain, replace, or restore plantations in hilly areas.
		Lowlands - Manage and conserve all lands according to land-use policies and principles. - Promote community-based agroforestry, and agricultural plantation practices - Introduce early warning systems for natural disasters, management of human activities, and implement compensation and insurance mechanisms

Focus area /Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		Wetlands ▪ Identify, document and conserve wetlands in Sri Lanka ▪ Ensure conservation of existing and future Ramsar wetlands and enhance tourist attractions of them. ▪ Restore degraded wetlands through multi-stakeholder engagement and community participation. ▪ Strengthen inter-agency coordination for integrated wetland management activities. Mangroves ▪ Review and implement national policies on mangrove ecosystems. ▪ Take legal measures for the protection of mangrove ecosystems Forests and Wildlife ▪ Identify integrated forest and wildlife conservation zones and establish new protected areas. ▪ Provide public awareness to eliminate myths and unnecessary financial values given to elephant tusks, pearls, fibers and other animal parts. ▪ Improve natural habitats of wild animals to provide food and water to minimize their intrusion into villages ▪ Introduce and maintain electric fences to prevent elephant movement to villages ▪ Study and manage human-wildlife conflicts with appropriate techniques and public involvement. ▪ Conduct studies on harmful wildlife such as monkeys and wild boar, and implement necessary biological control methods.

Focus area /Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Improve facilities for ex-situ and in-situ conservation for plant and animal species ▪ Enhance in-situ conservation facilities for plant and animal species ▪ Manage and conserve natural forest cover to maintain environmental services ▪ Control and prevent the spread of invasive species
Sustainable Solid Waste Management	Promoting efficient, sustainable solid waste management through innovative solutions and technologies	▪ Update legal frameworks and improving infrastructure for waste management in residential, agricultural, industrial and service sectors, based on zero waste 3R principles and circular economic concept ▪ Review the current solid waste management plans and prepare and implement a National Solid Waste Management Action plan ▪ Make it mandatory to adopt a waste management programs for residential, high rise, service, and industrial buildings/ sector developments ▪ Reduce plastic and polythene use through extended producer responsibility schemes ▪ Mange properly and dispose safely the hazardous and electronic waste ▪ Develop infrastructure for adopting modern final waste disposal methods like sanitary landfills, waste-to-energy and resource recovery facilities ▪ Promote industries to adopt the zero-waste method and locate every industry within the industrial zones whenever possible.
Management of home garden-related resources	Promoting the sustainable management of home garden resources	▪ Grant permits for non-commercial activities such as clearing extra land, obtaining soil to build foundations for home construction ▪ Allow the removal and transportation of a tree in home gardens to obtain timber subject to conservation measures ▪ Introduce eco-friendly criteria for domestic animal husbandry.

Focus area /Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Relationships and values between ecosystems	Recognizing , preserving , and enhancing the interconnected relationships between ecosystems by promoting research and studies	▪ Conduct research and studies to reveal the inverse and reverse relationships between ecosystems, and its relations with humans ▪ Implement formal and informal methods of environmental education ▪ Conduct research on ecosystems, publish research results and obtain patent rights and maintain a genetic database of ecosystems and working to stop gene theft. ▪ Secure the attractive ecosystems for the tourism industry.
Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction Towards a More Resilient Society	Ensuring resilient society through strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction and strengthening disaster preparedness	▪ Identify, manage, and reduce risk in natural disaster-prone areas ▪ Map flood zones and investigate correlations to manmade developments for sudden and extended flood occurrences and providing data-driven R&D solutions ▪ Develop high-tech weather applications that can alert the public ahead of various types of natural disasters, such as storms, floods, tsunamis, landslides, etc. ▪ Develop and implement scientifically developed sustainable land-use plans in agricultural, industrial and residential uses ▪ Manage/regulate forests on mountain ridges/ steep slopes with strict control on use of such for economic and social purposes ▪ Conduct surveys and research on land degradation on higher and steep slopes, and research on increasing soil fertility and structure to prevent landslides ▪ Introduce early warning systems for natural disasters, manage human activities, and implement compensation and insurance mechanisms. ▪ Formalize disaster management structure to minimize health and economic effects and to protect lives from disasters such as industrial and environmental pollution, natural disasters, fires, and droughts ▪ Investigate natural disasters triggered by climatic changes with cutting – edge technology applications to mitigate losses. ▪ Collaborate with industry and public forums establishing a “Natural Disaster

Focus area /Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		Management Strategy” tailored for expected extreme weather events for the next decade including insurance schemes and special funding for disaster preparedness and response.
Safe Water Consumption	Ensuring water security and pollution control	▪ Prepare a basic water map by analyzing data gathered by a chemical and physical parameters of all water sources. ▪ Identify causes of water pollution and adopting actions to minimize it. ▪ Introduce and regulate scientific methods for treating wastewater from agricultural, domestic, industrial and service based activities.
	Strengthening water sources conservation	▪ Study all kinds of water sources in Sri Lanka, conducting sensitivity assessment and conservation of sensitive water sources via Gazettes.

1.8 Free media industry - An objectively informed society

Policy Principles –

- The right of people to access truthful and accurate information
- A media industry that is responsible and humanistic
- Freedom and independence of the media
- The media as a public asset

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	▪ Key Activities
Strengthening Media Freedom and Ethical Standards	Ensuring Media Freedom and Ethical Standards	▪ Facilitate university journalism units and other rating institutions in streamlining the mass media rating system based on the quality and popularity of news and programs. ▪ Amend the 2024 No. 09 Online Safety Act by removing restrictions on freedom of expression. ▪ Introduce new rating criteria, including language use, promotion of intercultural and interethnic harmony, education, and science promotion, and making these ratings publicly available. ▪ Review existing media laws, regulations, agreements, and ethics with a focus on media freedom and develop an optimal media policy. ▪ Introduce a code of ethics for media institutions and journalists that aligns with international standards and local social contexts. ▪ Introduce programs to foster free and healthy competition in media by evaluating newspapers, radio and TV channels, media personal, programs, articles and photographs. ▪ Organize an awards ceremony to recognize media professionals across all sectors. ▪ Provide low-interest loans to journalists for purchasing essential equipment, such as cameras. ▪ Guide state media institutions in upholding high standards of media ethics and excellence. ▪ Promote media development, communication, and education programs to the public. ▪ Support artists and producers in achieving international recognition in fields such as cinema, television, and music. ▪ Encourage local companies and producers to create high-quality advertisements and promotional programs and enter international markets. ▪ Implement a systematic archival process for media creators and their works. ▪ Promote media literacy programs to foster an informed audience. ▪ Establish an independent media commission to oversee the optimal functioning of media process.

CHAPTER 2

2. An honourable life - A safer country

Introduction: Addressing Poverty and Inequality in Sri Lanka

Approximately 5.7 million people in Sri Lanka live below the national poverty line, with over half experiencing multidimensional poverty. Despite the implementation of social protection programs since independence, inefficiencies and political interference have weakened their effectiveness. This underscores the need for a universal social protection system to improve living standards and encourage economic participation.

Human labor is frequently undervalued, leading to many workers earning below the minimum wage. All women face systemic marginalization, necessitating an intersectional approach to address these inequalities and support all marginalized groups.

Children encounter significant challenges, including insufficient protection and educational opportunities, highlighting the need for improved resources and legal reforms. Youth, who make up 38% of the population, often face limited opportunities, emphasizing the importance of empowering them as contributors to national development.

The elderly, comprising 17.2% of the population, require adequate care and support. Furthermore, about 8.7% of the population consists of individuals with disabilities, necessitating efforts to ensure their rights and promote their inclusion in society.

Policy Statement

Enhance the living standards of individuals eligible for welfare benefits and empower them to swiftly engage as active participants in the economy.

2.1 A safer society - An enriched nation

Policy Principles –

- Social solidarity
- Social empowerment
- Financial grants to those in need
- Inter-ministerial coordination
- Life cycle based social protection for all
- Ensuring social justice and leaving no one behind
- Efficient and meaningful participation of beneficiaries and all relevant stakeholders in the selection of beneficiaries

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Social protection and Welfare Programmes <u>Prajashakthi:</u> Poverty alleviation programme for low-income earners	Ensuring the selection of eligible families and individuals for Social Protection and Welfare Programs using scientific criteria	▪ Provide a minimum monthly financial grant from Rs. 10,000 upwards to low income families ▪ Introduce a participatory, transparent and efficient beneficiary selection process ▪ Review digital platform to identify eligible beneficiaries using new criteria within a year and providing financial assistance to all qualifying individuals.
Empowerment under the key poverty alleviation programme.	Ensuring the execution of comprehensive Graduation/ Empowerment initiatives	▪ Conduct a comprehensive participatory study on the causes of poverty and family dynamics in low-income households. ▪ Identify, analyzing and developing remedies for poverty and vulnerabilities at the household level through community-based projects. ▪ Facilitate the implementation of these projects through public-private partnerships and the involvement of the cooperative sector. ▪ Implement training, technical assistance and financial assistance programs for low-income families to initiate income generation and livelihood projects ▪ Efficient use of the Samurdhi Banking system and staff to empower poor families. ▪ Assign field officers for monitoring and providing continuous support.
Ensure a healthy and happy retirement for senior citizens	Promoting healthy life expectancy to reap the benefits of the Silver Dividend	▪ Provide a monthly allowance of Rs. 5,000 to senior citizens needing assistance. ▪ Establish of new elderly care centers at the divisional secretariat level. ▪ Government support and regulation of private care centers. ▪ Professional training for care workers and incentives for small and medium institutions involved in elderly care. ▪ Invest in retirement Funds, such as the Employee Provident Fund, in safe and high-return investments. ▪ Provide incentives for financial and insurance services to ensure the safety of pension

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		funds and continuous benefits. Introduce an interest rate higher than the normal bank rate(s) for senior citizens' fixed deposits.
A Meaningful and Satisfactory Life for Persons with Disabilities	Ensuring greater opportunities for socio-economic activities for individuals with disabilities.	- Establish of a comprehensive data-base, developed by experts, on persons with disabilities - Provide a monthly financial aid of Rs. 10,000 to persons with disabilities in low-income families. - Facilitate education, training, employment, and livelihoods opportunities for persons with disabilities. - Amend existing laws and enacting new ones to protect and empower persons with disabilities, aligning with international standards. - Promote awareness and provide training to help individuals with disabilities use modern technology, improving access to resources and opportunities. - Encourage tech companies to work with persons with disabilities in product development, ensuring inclusivity. - Ensure schools offer an inclusive environment, free from bullying, with tailored support for students with disabilities. - Equip schools with communication and information technologies to support children with disabilities in education. - Promote employment opportunities, business ownership, and self-employment for persons with disabilities. - Ensure access to early detection, diagnosis, and treatment for disabilities, along with rehabilitation and counselling. - Provide government support for the manufacture and import of assistive devices, making them accessible for persons with disabilities.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Social protection for women-headed families, single parent families and women affected by Gender-based/intimate partner violence.	Ensuring the wellbeing of women-headed families, single parent families and women affected by Gender-based/intimate partner violence.	▪ Provide financial assistance for affected individuals (of this categories) based on needs and income levels. ▪ Offer legal aid and counseling services based on needs and requests. ▪ Provide alternative housing and job support when needed. ▪ Establish of mechanisms for social and psychological support for women affected by violence and abuse.
Social Protection for Persons with Chronic Illnesses	Promoting healthy life of Persons with Chronic Illnesses and empower them.	▪ Create a digital data repository of individuals with chronic illnesses such as cancer and kidney disease. ▪ Provide a minimum monthly financial grant of Rs. 10,000 to persons with chronic illnesses on a needs basis. ▪ Provide professional support and social empowerment.
Nourishing Future Generations: Reducing Malnutrition	Ensuring the reduction of malnutrition among children.	▪ Identify low-income families with malnourished children. ▪ Educate parents about measures to combat malnutrition. ▪ Provide financial assistance through field officers for obtaining nutritious food for families with urgent needs.
Nutritional Program for Pregnant Women	Enhancing the nutritional level of Pregnant Women	▪ Identify pregnant women needing additional nutrition through community health services. ▪ Provide financial support for nutritious food packages during pregnancy and the first year of childbirth for low-income families. ▪ Provide continuous awareness and monitoring by family health officers.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Safety: Adequate Care for Children	Ensuring the safety of Children	▪ Establish Childcare Centers at the Gramaniladari level with public and private partnerships based on needs and requests. ▪ Register existing institutions with adequate qualifications for childcare. ▪ Train staff for the effective management of Childcare Centers and monitoring their performance. ▪ Appoint social service/development officers to provide professional services and provide incentives for small and medium scale entrepreneurs to provide such services
Pension Scheme for all citizens	Ensuring the social security of all citizen	▪ Develop and implement of a broad pension policy applicable to all workers in the country. ▪ Establish a government-certified pension fund under the supervision of the Department of Pensions and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. ▪ Motivate all citizens, who are currently not employed in the Government or Corporate sector such as farmers and fishermen and others to join the pension scheme. ▪ Use the pension fund as an insurance scheme during emergencies/disability.

2.2 An efficient workforce - A respectable professional life

Policy Principles -

- Protection of the dignity and the value of labor
- Equal treatment and diversity in labor
- Equal opportunities that are not subject to discrimination

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Dignity and Value of Labor	Ensuring labor dignity through recognition and equal rights	▪ Formulate and implement a labor policy ▪ Resolve issues within service contracts and amend them accordingly. ▪ Update existing laws and regulations and introduce new laws and regulations for an efficient labor force. ▪ Protect employee rights including fair treatment, fair wages, and secured working conditions in compliance with the principles of the International Labour Organization (ILO) ▪ Ensure equal job opportunities ▪ Ensure non-discriminatory selection and equal opportunities for all in job opportunities. ▪ Establish a national salary structure that minimizes wage disparities and motivates employees. ▪ Ensure fair salaries and job security for Manpower workers ▪ Recruitment, promotions, and transfers in the public sector based on qualifications and skills without political interference.
Social Security & Benefits	Ensuring social security through appropriate mechanisms	▪ Promote health/life insurance for private sector workers ▪ Eliminate disparities in the current pension schemes ▪ Provide a maximum of one year of leave with 25 percent of the basic salary for those taking care of children under the age of 5 or those taking care of sick parents over the age of 80. ▪ Provide interim allowances for those unable to work due to special reasons. ▪ Provide two weeks leave for spouse's death ▪ Amend PAYE tax ▪ Strengthen gratuity insurance (AGRAHARA) benefits
Equal opportunities that are not subject to	Ensuring equal opportunities through	▪ Remove obstacles preventing women from effectively engaging in executive and managerial roles.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
discrimination	enhancing inclusivity in labor force	▪ Provide opportunities for women and people with disabilities, who face difficulties or lack interest in entering the job market, to work according to their preferences.
Diversity in labor	Ensuring labor diversification through enhancing the availability of opportunities in labor market	▪ Reduce working hours gradually with the help of modern technology and creating more opportunities to work from home. ▪ Send skilled and trained workers abroad instead of untrained workers. ▪ Create opportunities for the graduates in the areas including teaching, information technology sector, inland revenue, customs, foreign service, and tourism industry through suitable mechanisms.

2.3 Impartial human identity- Gender equality in social-life

Policy Principles –

- Economic justice as a cornerstone for achieving gender equality
- State policies acknowledging the value of unpaid care work within the national economy
- Legislation that ensures fair and equal treatment for all marginalized groups
- Enhanced women's political representation, participation, and roles in society
- Condemning all forms of violence, including systemic violence, across all settings
- Prioritized public services in policy development to alleviate the pressures on women
- Women's involvement in creating sustainable environmental conservation strategies
- A society free from regressive stereotypes perpetuated by social institutions and practices
- Equal access to state services, rights, and justice for all identity groups, including women
- Domestic laws with the standards set by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Gender Equality	Ensuring gender equality and equity through well-established men and women empowering mechanisms	▪ Identify and addressing gender pay gap in the workforce. ▪ Tackle legal and practical obstacles that adversely affect women's land rights. ▪ Revise existing labor laws and introduce new regulations to address specific challenges faced by working women and ensure job security. ▪ Take measures to alleviate the burden of women on high interest rates predatory microfinance loans. ▪ Enhance the access to banking and financial services to support women's entrepreneurship. ▪ Improve education, healthcare, transportation, and other public services to ease the challenges faced by women. ▪ Implement the Law Commission's 2012 recommendations to ensure safe termination of pregnancy. ▪ Offer comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education and services tailored to all age groups. ▪ Combat period poverty by providing women and girls tax relief, financial support, and other essential resources. ▪ Reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women ▪ Increase women's political participation through political education and organizing. ▪ Enact laws and policies to ensure at least 50 percent representation of women gradually, in political institutions. ▪ Institutionalize national labor force surveys to recognize and account for unpaid care work, including childcare, elderly care, and support for the people with disabilities. ▪ Revise laws and procedures to prevent gender-based violence and harassment in workplaces, public transport, and other places. ▪ Revise discriminatory laws, including panel code 365 and 365 (a) that oppress women, children and other marginalized groups. ▪ Expand constitutional protections to ensure no discrimination based on gender identity or

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		sexual orientation. ▪ Improve Access to Services by Enhancing healthcare, legal aid, social protection, and justice for gender minority communities. ▪ Introduce a dedicated secretariat creating a body to oversee and protect the rights of gender marginalized communities.

2.4 A safer world for children- A creative future generation

Policy Principles –

- A legal system aligned with international conventions like the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) that ensures freedom and safety for children.
- Proper care and nutrition for children.
- The well-being and development of all children.
- Protection of children from abuse and all forms of violence.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
A safe world for children	Ensuring protection and wellbeing of children through appropriate reforms and creating child friendly environment	▪ Review, amend, or repeal outdated laws such as the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, Adoption of Children Ordinance, Vagrants Ordinance, and Orphanages Ordinance. ▪ Establish specialized high courts dedicated solely to handling cases involving children ▪ Set up a more efficient mechanism for collecting child victims' testimonies and improving the current investigative process to minimize their re-victimization. ▪ Direct children accused of minor offenses to intervention and community-based rehabilitation programs instead of the court system. ▪ Provide family-based care and support to identify at-risk children and prevent unnecessary separation from their families. ▪ Implement a child-friendly transportation system to ensure safe and dignified transportation of children for legal purposes. ▪ Streamline coordination between the National Child Protection Authority and agencies such as Probation and Child Protection Services and capacity building of those agencies. ▪ Establish an efficient and responsive service for reporting child abuse incidents and ensuring proper follow-up. ▪ Increase budgetary allocation to critical areas, including education, health, social services and other essential child welfare sectors with a special focus on Marginalized and Vulnerable groups. ▪ Implement community, family, and school-based cooperative programs with the support of international and local organizations to improve overall child health, including providing nutritious food. ▪ Train field officers related to child affairs in Divisional Secretariats and direct them to provide direct services to families whose children are at risk. ▪ Establish a robust mechanism for early identification and intervention of at-risk children, including children with disabilities, street children and out-of-school children. ▪ Implement educational reforms in line with international standards aimed at fostering life skills and knowledge in a child-friendly educational environment.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Initiate broad reforms to the foster care system to ensure that every child in need of alternative care receives care and stability in family-based environments. ▪ Implement school and community-based programs for early detection and prevention of psychosocial and mental health issues in children.

2.5 A contented youth – Cultured, independent thinkers

Policy Principles –

- Youth who are actively involved in the economic process
- Freedom from oppression, exploitation, and discriminatory practices
- Contribution to social development
- Advancement of science and modern technology, with a desire to overcome societal challenges
- Youth capable of providing leadership in political, social, and economic processes
- A vibrant cultural life and independent thinking
- A skilled youth capable of assuming national and international leadership
- Youth who stands against social injustice

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
A Flourishing Youth	Securing suitable employment and entrepreneurship opportunities	▪ Collect data on unemployed youth and establish a job bank to manage job placements through an online platform for youth employment. ▪ Update the selection process and competitive exams for government jobs ▪ Provide vocational and technical education for youth who could not gain admission to state universities. ▪ Offer financial support to young entrepreneurs through proposed Development Banks. ▪ Provide initial capital to support unemployed youth with special skills to start entrepreneurship and find suitable markets. ▪ Use the "We for the Renaissance (V4R)" digital platform to transform new ideas and concepts of young innovators into marketable products. ▪ Equip youth with the necessary technical skills and resources to access the global online job market and removing barriers for young freelancers earning foreign exchange through online platforms. ▪ Provide guidance and support for young people returning from overseas to engage in various investment projects of their interest.
Prospects for future (Education, Science and Technology, and Innovation)	Ensuring opportunities for youth through modern education and technological skills	▪ Revise industrial and technical courses to degree and post graduate level. ▪ Allow young people to present proposals for new educational and Development projects through the V4R Digital platform" directly to the government. ▪ Promote technical skills through IT and English programs ▪ Create multi-model centers (MMC) for skill development for youth ▪ Create youth exchange programs to foster understanding among different ethnicities and religions.
Empathetic Youth (Art, Culture, and Leisure)	Ensuring creativity and artistic expression	▪ Implement a system to evaluate youth artistic skills from school to national level ▪ Provide financial support for creative projects ▪ Organize an annual awards ceremony for young creators

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
A Healthy Youth (Physical and Mental Wellbeing Substance Abuse, Sex Education).	Ensuring healthy youth through promoting health and wellbeing	▪ Educate youth on substance abuse ▪ Improve rehabilitation programs ▪ Establish 24-hour confidential counseling and a Youth App for mental health support
A youth Connected to the World (Cyber Space and Information Technology)	Ensuring digital literacy through access to information and technological advancements	▪ Ensure data freedom and data privacy ▪ Provide free internet access in all State universities, technical colleges, schools, and libraries. ▪ Connect local libraries to global e-library networks ▪ Support software and app development for education, economy and daily life
Future of the Leadership	Ensuring innovative young leaders through enhancing adequate skills and capacities	▪ Increase youth representation in political institutions through suitable quotas ▪ Restructure National Youth Services Council and related institutions to develop skilled young leaders. ▪ Establish Youth Circles at local levels. ▪ Youth representation in ministerial advisory councils. ▪ Establish a National Political Education Academy. ▪ Expedite legal proceedings with proper protocols for unresolved and unprosecuted cases related to the 2022 protests.
Youth together with Nature	Ensuring eco-sensitive youth through enhancing knowledge and practical measures	▪ Create a National Environmental Action Center and establish local youth environmental committees ▪ Create a skilled group of volunteers to help with the restoration damaged ecosystems. ▪ Collaborate with international environmental organizations for knowledge and experience exchange. ▪ Involve youth in managing human-wildlife conflicts.
Different, but Equal (Gender Identity and sexual orientation)	Ensuring equality in all gender identities and sexual orientations	▪ Eliminate harmful stereotypical perceptions related to gender identity and sexual orientation

2.6 A respectable senior citizen- A meaningful retirement

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
A respectable senior citizen- A meaningful retirement	Ensuring better living standards of senior citizens through facility enhancements and elderly protection mechanism	▪ Provide basic facilities needed for the care of the elderly within homes. ▪ Healthcare teams conduct health check-ups for the elderly. ▪ Establish a system of elderly care centres that meet international standards. ▪ Develop a program to involve the elderly in creative economic activities to maintain their mental health ▪ Implement a social protection scheme for those employed in the private and informal sectors, including farmers and fishermen. ▪ Establish a fund to implement an insurance coverage system that ensures protection for all senior citizens ▪ Encourage the building of walkways and rest homes near religious sites, and government intervention to ensure that the senior citizens can enjoy their daily lives in a peaceful and happy environment ▪ Implement priority programs for senior citizens at public service locations. ▪ Provide financial assistance to elderly individuals facing financial difficulties.

2.7 An unimpaired social life - A fair and equitable approach

Policy Principles –

- Provision of optimal services.
- Inclusive Education.
- Economic Independence.
- Safety and Rights.
- Health and Well-being.
- Integrated Public Services and Equal Accessibility.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Optimal Service Management and Administration	Ensuring an integrated society where persons with disabilities treated equally	▪ Amend existing laws related to persons with disabilities, introduce new legislation, and enforce international conventions such as the UNCRDP (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). ▪ Develop a national plan for persons with disabilities. ▪ Establish an evaluation framework to measure the effectiveness of services provided to persons with disabilities. ▪ Create an online information center to provide families of people with disabilities access to resources and information about government policies. ▪ Increase awareness, training, and support for persons with disabilities to use modern technology effectively.
Education		▪ Provide high-quality, affordable, inclusive, and accessible early childhood education. ▪ Ensure inclusive education for school students with disabilities. ▪ Expand the knowledge and awareness of inclusive education among school teachers, NGO representatives, and university lecturers. ▪ Facilitate the inclusion of sign language-trained teachers in schools. ▪ Provide facilities for sign language interpreters in public and private institutions. ▪ Establish special education and child development resource centers in every educational zone. ▪ Ensure communication and IT facilities in primary and secondary schools for students with disabilities. ▪ Promote sports and extracurricular activities at provincial and national levels for students with disabilities. ▪ Offer tax incentives to non-profit care institutions for persons with disabilities. ▪ Provide vocational guidance and counseling services for persons with disabilities. ▪

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Economic Independence		▪ Enforce the allocation of 3% of jobs in public and private sectors for the disabled community, and gradually increase this quota to 5%. ▪ Encourage employment opportunities, business ownership and development, self-employment, and entrepreneurship for persons with disabilities. ▪ Strengthen networks of persons with disabilities in workplaces to promote integration so that they can communicate their challenges with each other. ▪ Expand financial assistance for low-income families with persons with disabilities to engage in self-employment
Health and Well-being		▪ Provide professional skills and attitudes of healthcare providers to meet the healthcare needs of persons with disabilities. ▪ Improve accessibility to public spaces and services. ▪ Introduce health facilities for the early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities and intervene to minimize the population with autism. ▪ Provide priority pass cards to facilitate the identification and access to services for persons with disabilities. ▪ Promotion of community-based rehabilitation services through rehabilitation hospitals at the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) level and district level
Security, Rights and Justice		▪ Assist persons with disabilities when applying for government positions. ▪ Promote positive attitudes among transport staff and the public towards persons with disabilities in public transportation. ▪ Provide legal support and ensuring access to courts.
Public Services and Community Support		▪ Ensure the safety and accessibility of persons with disabilities when designing buildings. ▪ Expand opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in social, religious, cultural activities, and recreational sports. ▪ Enforce standards and provide specialized transport services to facilitate the use of public and private transportation for persons with disabilities.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Improve accessibility to online services for persons with disabilities. ▪ Encourage innovations that will benefit persons with disabilities. ▪ Offer tax exemptions to import assistive devices used by persons with disabilities. ▪ Recognize sign language as the language of communication for persons with hearing impairments. ▪ Create inclusive theaters and sports facilities to enhance the artistic and cultural participation of persons with disabilities.

CHAPTER 3

3. A modern life - A wealthy nation

Introduction: Economic Challenges and Reform Strategies in Sri Lanka

Due to the deepest and most complex social, economic and political crisis faced since independence, current economic growth has declined, and real household incomes have decreased to a level that is insufficient to meet even basic needs. The external sector of the economy is weakening day by day due to poor management of foreign reserves and foreign exchange rates, the country's credit rating has continued to decline, and low foreign investment, high import costs, and non-growing export earnings. Tax revenue as a percentage of GDP has declined due to inefficiency, corruption, and tax evasion. Poor fiscal management has led to a national debt burden that has risen from Rs. 310 billion in 1990 to more than Rs. 28 trillion by 2024. There is also a severe disparity in the distribution of economic benefits in the country. The top 50 percent of national income is enjoyed by the top 20 percent of the population, while 26 percentage of the population lives in poverty.

The agricultural sector faces challenges from outdated practices and policies, resulting in high production costs and low farmer incomes. New policies aim to enhance productivity and sustainability. Similarly, the livestock sector is essential for nutrition but struggles with feed shortages, diseases, and inadequate services.

The fisheries sector has seen declining contributions to GDP and fish consumption, impacting public health, while high costs and illegal fishing complicate sustainability efforts. In the ICT sector, despite a skilled workforce, a skills gap and limited R&D investment hinder growth.

Sri Lanka invests only 0.12% of GDP in R&D, well below comparable countries, limiting its innovation potential. Industrial growth lags behind nations like Bangladesh and Vietnam, necessitating a plan to boost local production and attract investment.

Underutilized mineral resources and outdated regulations in the gem industry present missed opportunities for growth.

The energy sector's high costs are primarily due to reliance on oil, highlighting the need for a shift toward cleaner energy.

Transport inefficiencies contribute to high accident rates. Sri Lanka's strategic maritime location offers potential for developing major ports. Land management issues rooted in colonial laws perpetuate socio-economic disparities. The construction industry faces inefficiencies and corruption, necessitating comprehensive reforms across sectors to promote economic progress.

Policy Statement

Create a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economy that uplifts all citizens of Sri Lanka.

3.1 A democratic economy - An affluent country

Policy Principles –

- Priority for humanity
- Economic democracy
- People's participation, equitable and inclusive society
- Food security
- Fair share of economic benefits
- Sustainable resource utilization
- Non-commodified public services and social security
- International cooperation and solidarity
- Recognition of unpaid labour contribution as a care economy
- Progressive and fair taxation

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Fiscal Sector	Enhancing efficiency and fairness in tax administration	▪ Establish a new dedicated unit for designing and implementing tax policies with a special section on international transactions. ▪ Make required legal reforms to enhance efficiency in tax administration ▪ Provide training and capacity development for the officials of the Inland Revenue Department. ▪ Implement measures to expedite the collection of taxes in arrears ▪ Revise the tax rates and tax brackets on a fair basis ▪ Categorize goods applicable for VAT and introduce a different tax rate for each category ▪ Expedite providing Export Development Tax rebate on Input VAT for exporters. ▪ Switch to risk-based audits from the present discretionary tax audits. ▪ Establish a single window service by integrating other state institutions with Sri Lanka Customs to streamline import/export operations. ▪ Simplify the complex tariff structure to increase customs revenue on a fair basis. ▪ Decentralize Sri Lanka Custom operations to provide more efficient and cost-effective services. ▪ Facilitate temporary import facilities for raw materials and machinery under the TIEP scheme to assist Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in export preparation ▪ Develop a mechanism to impose a global minimum tax on international transactions based on international treaties and guidelines. ▪ Integrate the operations of the Excise Department, Sri Lanka Customs, Department of Motor Traffic, and Land Registry Office with the Inland Revenue Department to ensure tax efficiency and fairness ▪ Introduce Point of Sales (POS) systems and digital invoicing to streamline VAT collection ▪ Introduce an online system for tax assessment, filing, paying, and refunding of excess tax incorporated with a mobile application ▪ Implement measures to prevent leakages, tax evasion, under-invoicing and over-invoicing on international transactions and transfer pricing and Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) among countries

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	Enhancing public financial management efficiency, transparency, accountability and financial discipline	▪ Take appropriate strategic decisions on each SOEs based on its strategic importance, potential for economic growth, capability to stimulate the production economy, impact on financial stability, and relevance to national security. ▪ Provide the public with access to comprehensive information on the operations of SOEs to ensure transparency ▪ Prepare an alternative Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) aiming to maintain debt sustainability and to keep the interest at a bearable level for the purpose of using it as and when necessary, in pursuit of debt restructuring engagement. ▪ Conduct a detailed debt audit on foreign loans obtained by the governments to ensure transparency and accountability in public financial management and to take legal actions against those who have misappropriated such loans. ▪ Take actions to improve public financial management and financial discipline to upgrade the credit rating of the country and the banking system. ▪ Promote e-procurement
Monetary sector	Ensuring better financial support for economic activities and enhance financial system stability.	▪ Establish a new 'relief bank' to restore the economic activities of MSMEs and provide relief for outstanding loans. ▪ Establish a new national development bank to provide long-term financing, start new businesses, and expand existing businesses for entrepreneurs. ▪ Direct cooperative banks, Samurddhi banks and regional development banks efficiently to provide financial facilities for small-scale farmers, entrepreneurs, and investors. ▪ Stabilize the policy interest rates to ensure stability of the financial markets, including the foreign exchange market. ▪ Introduce new financing schemes to formally invest bank money and savings in production economic activities ▪ Recapitalize state banks to enhance the stability and efficiency

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	Ensuring the enhancement of the monitoring and standardization of microfinance operations, for a better service delivery	▪ Provide relief to deprived parties after reviewing microfinance loans provided in violation of legal provisions and guidelines given ▪ Encourage microfinance providers to register with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and standardize the monitoring of such institutions
	Strengthening the process of detecting and preventing financial crimes.	▪ Strengthen the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka through formalization of the coordination among state institutions.
External Sector	Ensuring stimulation of long-term economic growth while ensuring alignment with national priorities and global sustainability agenda.	▪ Introduce new savings and investment plans, including Expatriate Bonds for Sri Lankans living abroad. ▪ Issue new development bonds to finance regional development projects adhering to sustainable development goals. ▪ Issue bonds to access funds for sustainable development projects by the global blue green agendas. ▪ Expedite proposed and currently stalled Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) that are aligned with national priorities and development strategies. ▪ Review existing trade agreements and enter into new ones to increase the share of foreign trade through export diversification. ▪ Execute an expedited program to increase foreign exchange earnings from tourism and IT industries. ▪ Amend the Foreign Exchange Act to reconcile remittance inflows and improve operational efficiency

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Investment Promotion	Creating a conducive environment for investment with economic democracy	▪ Establish a single empowered institution by integrating existing state institutions including the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka that coordinate and promote investments. ▪ Introduce a legal framework to ensure transparency and fairness in line with internationally accepted principles and practices for accepting and retaining investment. ▪ Take actions to ensure easy entry for new businesses and finding locations on a level playing field, easy access to utilities, the necessary skilled labour, efficient financial services, the ability to enter international trade, fair and transparent taxation, efficient dispute resolution and arbitration mechanisms, and market competition. ▪ Establish a single window to facilitate business registration, issuance of licenses, certifications, granting of permission for land use, and provision of electricity, water, communication services and other facilities through an integrated system. ▪ Take measures to raise Sri Lanka's ranking in the Global Competitive Index (GCI) to attract investors. ▪ Promote venture capital funds for new investment opportunities. ▪ Restructure the state institutional system to maintain the capital market efficient & productive, build investor confidence and prevent inside trading bribes and corruption. ▪ Promote long-term foreign investments in public-private-people partnerships (PPPP) by prioritizing strategically important sectors. ▪ Introduce investment schemes with special benefits for Sri Lankan expatriates to invest their earnings. ▪ Provide appropriate tax concessions for initial public offerings (IPOs) for capital formation. ▪ Enhance and expand the capital market as an efficient and developed security exchange that facilitates SME listing conveniently, and ensures responsible reporting & compliance, transparency and governance. ▪ Protect employee rights including fair treatment, fair wages, and secured working conditions in

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		compliance with the principles International Labour Organization (ILO). ▪ Implement measures to enhance labour and production relations through collective efforts that empower employees via collaboration and cooperation, increase productivity, and assign responsibilities democratically to each party. ▪ Set up a mechanism to resolve industrial disputes and issues democratically through stakeholder engagement.
Domestic Trade	Ensuring continuous supply of high-quality goods and services to the public through diversified approaches	▪ Establish large-scale economic and exchange centres at the district level. ▪ Establish a monitoring mechanism and an online information management system to ensure the continuation of trade of goods and services in a fair and high-quality manner, protection of consumer rights and transparency in trade-related information. ▪ Implement a coordinated service management mechanism to provide auxiliary services such as finance, banking, transportation, insurance, communications, packaging, and warehousing for the smooth functioning of trade and distribution. ▪ Eliminate unnecessary intermediations who do not add value in trade between production and consumption and facilitate them to transform as active value creators. ▪ Introduce necessary legal reforms and new laws to remove information asymmetry prevailing in the market. ▪ Establish, enhance and modernize marketplaces for potential products including gems, jewelry, precious stones, textiles, and handicrafts targeting foreign buyers. ▪ Implement a mechanism to resolve, by investigating, trade-related issues faced by micro, small and medium-scale business communities ▪ Eliminate price gouging, prevent the creation of shortages of goods, and the formation of monopolies, oligopolies and cartels in the market. ▪ Establish an integrated control system to monitor and administer the quality of public services delivered through a centralized information system.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Foreign Trade	Ensuring promotion of diversification of export of goods and services and providing required infrastructure facilities	▪ Promote diversification of export goods and services and providing necessary infrastructure facilities. ▪ Provide necessary facilities to producers and exporters, by providing export credit facilities, certification services, insurance, new market and demand trends, new market innovations, and information on global value chains. ▪ Promote trade of goods and services by focusing on India, China, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and Europe and especially focusing on global supply and value chains. ▪ Establish an international trading hub that facilitates to reduce transaction costs and to increase operational efficiency for merchants to trade goods including crude oil, fuel, gas, mineral products, and spices ▪ Promote production and exports of non-traditional and value-added products. ▪ Amend the import policy by considering the importance of the protection of local production, assurance of food security, ease of accessing raw materials for production, priority for essential goods and investment goods and competitive access to imports. ▪ Strengthen anti-dumping laws, introduce new fair-trading laws, and update existing regulations. ▪ Promote and provide necessary facilities for value-added re-exports and entrepot trading activities without damaging the brand identity and the good image of Sri Lanka. ▪ Provide the necessary infrastructure facilities to ensure the quality of imported goods through certification and quality inspection. ▪ Enable market access at both local and international levels through strategic trade agreements, export promotion initiatives, and networking opportunities

3.2 Higher productivity - Nation with food security

Policy Principles –

- National food and nutrition security
- High productivity and efficiency in agricultural systems
- Strong agricultural entrepreneurship and sustainable markets
- Correct land management
- Proper management of agricultural practices
- Environmentally friendly operations
- Empowering the agricultural producers
- Mitigation of climate and other risks
- Agricultural research, extension, and knowledge management
- Effective management and control of agricultural operations

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
National food security	Increasing the productivity and resilience in food systems and efficiency in logistics	▪ Encourage the local production of all possible food items and cultivation of suitable substitute crops for imported crops within the country. ▪ Maintain a sufficient stock of essential food items for at least three months having a real time database for existing food stocks in the country. ▪ Establish a transport system that can use cold chain management technology and storages, and processing unit facilities for agricultural products under PPP arrangement.
High productivity and improved management	Encouraging proper management of agricultural practices provided with conducive environment to ensure high productivity and efficiency in Agricultural Systems	▪ Establish an updated real time national agricultural database. ▪ Encourage the transformation of small-scale farming organizations into medium and large-scale farming units while maintaining land ownership ▪ Minimize crop damage from wildlife ▪ Timely renovate major irrigation systems; tanks, canals, and river diversions. ▪ Restore river basins where cascade systems can be re-activated and creation of an irrigation museum to showcase ancient irrigation system and traditional water management and conservation practices. ▪ Promote water conservation technologies, like rain water conservation and micro irrigation through technical and financial facilities. ▪ Provide technical, financial, and other facilities to double the tea production within three years. ▪ Restart the Kantale sugar factory and improve sugarcane cultivation. ▪ Provide technical and financial facilities for processing and transportation of agricultural produce ▪ Direct farmers to systematically cultivate commercial crops, like coconut, rubber and cinnamon in unconventional areas based on comparative and competitive advantages. ▪ Produce chemical fertilizers, organic fertilizers, and other agrochemicals in an

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		environmentally friendly manner using local natural raw materials and manufactured wastes. ▪ Promote the production, processing, and marketing of seeds and planting materials through state and private sector support ▪ Establish agricultural machinery supply centers at the local level to provide agricultural machinery at concessional rates. ▪ Facilitate availability of agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, at fair prices.
	Ensuring optimal Land Management for sustainable agriculture production	▪ Introduce digital land mapping with an agricultural data system using modern technology for proper land use. ▪ Promote integrated farming systems as crop-animal farming systems to increase land productivity. ▪ Utilize underutilized and marginal lands for agricultural production using new technology. ▪ Restrict the use of fertile lands for non-agricultural purposes.
Agri-entrepreneurship Development	Encouraging and promoting agricultural entrepreneurship and sustainable markets	▪ Ensure fair prices for agricultural products through regulating market forces. ▪ Provide financial support to establish 50,000 agricultural entrepreneurs within five years. ▪ Develop agro-industrial zones through organized farmer organizations and private sector contributions. ▪ Expand opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises based on agriculture. ▪ Promote value-added manufacturing industries related to the export of agricultural crops to branded export products. ▪ Provide technical and financial facilities and market opportunities for small and medium-sized agricultural exporters. ▪ Facilitate the development of agriculture-based tourism. ▪ Enhance the Sri Lankan brand (Ceylon Tea, pure Cinnamon etc.) and find high-value

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		markets for plantation commodities through Government intervention. ▪ Establish 1,000 export agriculture villages.
Environmentally friendly Agriculture Operations	Promoting environmentally friendly operations for sustainable food production	▪ Encourage farmers to apply fertilizers and other inputs based on site-specific recommendations. ▪ Increase the area of certified organic farming. ▪ Transform farms to follow “Good Agricultural Practices” progressively ▪ Promote the use of chemical and organic fertilizers and other agricultural inputs based on Good Agricultural Practices.
Management of Climate risks	Enhancing resilience for climate risks for ensuring continuous food production	▪ Develop climate-resilient crop varieties, and using farming, and irrigation techniques for climate variability. ▪ Establish an improved weather forecasting system to guide cultivation and water management.
Producer Empowerment	Creating a favorable environment for enhancing farmer income for decent living	▪ Promote farmer-administered cooperatives and farm companies. ▪ Provide technical, financial, and other facilities for intercropping and diversification in perennial crops; tea, rubber, and coconut. ▪ Provide financial facilities to encourage the use of rain guards for rubber plantations and to identify rubber lands not currently used for tapping and redirect them for rubber tapping. ▪ Provide loan scheme facility up to Rs. 1 million per hectare for cultivating high-yielding varieties of semi perennial or perennial crops with micro-irrigation ▪ Establish a systematic agricultural insurance system for farmers. ▪ Adopt a comprehensive farmers’ pension scheme with more benefits.
Research and Development	Enhancing agricultural research, and knowledge management with	▪ Equip extension agents with knowledge and necessary resources to deliver effective extension services. ▪ Provide efficient agricultural extension services with one extension officer for

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	effective advisory service for enhancing productivity and quality	approximately 350 farm families. ▪ Provide professional training for targeted groups/families and direct them for employment to alleviate poverty of the rural communities and economically vulnerable groups. ▪ Provide performance-based incentives for agricultural extension officers. ▪ Enhance funding for agricultural research and development. ▪ Offer structured vocational education opportunities for agricultural professionals to make agriculture a more dignified and attractive profession
Governance and operational management	Ensuring effective management and control of agricultural operations	▪ Establish a National Agricultural Development Council with representatives from all relevant state institutions, private sectors, and universities ▪ Regulate and monitor of all agricultural projects by the respective line Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Plantation etc.)

3.3 High-quality livestock production - An entrepreneurial approach

Policy Principles –

- High-quality, hygienic animal production
- Fair pricing and sustainable market
- Investment incentives
- Youth and female participation in livestock entrepreneurship
- Public, private, and community partnerships for livestock development
- Improved living standards for industry stakeholders

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Modern and sustainable livestock production	Creating a conducive environment for enhancing the resilience in livestock production	▪ Maximize production capacity through modernization of farms ▪ Establish a Livestock Development Societies where the farm owners are directly involved in the planning and development of the sector ▪ Establish a special operational unit for animal nutrition, breeding, and health sectors. ▪ Conduct a National program for the control and prevention of widespread animal diseases. ▪ Establish a Public Animal Health Division to control diseases transmitted from animals to humans as well as to ensure food safety of animal products. ▪ Expand research and development activities in the livestock sector. ▪ Modernize livestock research institutions and district veterinary research institutes
Scaling up dairy production	Improving the productivity of dairy farms to increase local milk production	▪ Transform small-scale farms into economically viable medium-scale commercial units through mechanization. ▪ Develop a large-scale dairy farming systems/clusters to promote milk production. ▪ Establish 7,500 dairy farms to empower low-income women. ▪ Establish 7,500 dairy farms to strengthen youth entrepreneurship. ▪ Double the current artificial insemination rate through advanced technologies and increasing the number of dairy animals using different technologies ▪ Improve the efficiency and the productivity of dairy farm systems through strengthening the regional veterinary divisions. ▪ Implement successful vaccination programs to eradicate major epidemics. ▪ Provide health insurance coverage for registered dairy cattle.
Systemizing dairy products marketing	Promoting milk consumption through systemized marketing network	▪ Expand the network of regional distribution centers for pasteurized and fresh milk. ▪ Implement a payment system for dairy farmers based on proper standards ▪ Promote liquid milk consumption through targeted dairy promotion programs

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Export oriented poultry production	Enhancing high quality poultry meat and egg production	▪ Provide tax relief for livestock and other raw materials to ensure fair prices for eggs and poultry meat. ▪ Strengthen the export processes for eggs and poultry meat production. ▪ Establish 5,000 small-scale poultry farms to empower low-income women.

3.4 A sustainable management - A quality fish resource

Policy Principles –

- Food and Nutrition Security
- Participatory approach and sustainable management
- Strong legal framework in line with standards and international agreements
- Safe and sustainable practices through standardization and incentives
- Prevention of environmental pollution, and protection of oceans
- Fair market accessibility for fish and related products
- Higher living standards and social protection for the fishing community
- A Professional fishing community

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Sustainable development and management	Developing and managing fish and aquatic resources in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner	▪ Maintain a real-time information system to capture, store, analyze, and distribute all data and information related to the fisheries sector. ▪ Introduce an effective online mechanism to obtain permits & licenses, and do registrations related to the fisheries field. ▪ Establish a consultation council to manage fisheries and aquaculture activities. ▪ Amend the laws & regulations, and processes that hinder the industry, in accordance with international conventions, agreements, and standards. ▪ Assess the oceanic fish resources, and the maximum capacities of seawater & freshwater aquatic systems, and develop the industry based on such assessments. ▪ Identify fish breeding regions, take measures to grow their spread, and identify and conserve breeding areas of endangered aquatic species. ▪ Encourage the fishing community to produce high-quality, eco-friendly, and safe products. ▪ Provide financial and technical support for the use of renewable and hybrid energy and sale of such products. ▪ Discourage illegal fishing activities, minimize ocean pollution, and establish a mechanism for emergency responses and minimization of ocean disasters. ▪ Establish a fund to promote the development of research on fishing and market activities. ▪ Research to estimate the stocks of marine fish resources, continue prediction model development and usage, and accurate estimation of the carrying capacity of freshwater and brackish water systems.
Seawater fisheries	Developing and managing marine fisheries resources sustainably	▪ Provide technical support for fisher folk to harvest fish resources in different temperatures and depths. ▪ Expand artificial habitats and methods such as Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) to facilitate fishing and breeding. ▪ Ensure ownership and access to traditional fishing grounds, including fishing harbors and

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		mesh ports, and develop their infrastructure. ▪ Provide financial and technical support to revitalize ocean fisheries which has currently faced a huge decline. ▪ Provide a fuel subsidy to the fishing community in order to uplift the collapsed fisheries by reducing the production cost. ▪ Introduce novel, eco-friendly, and effective fishing technologies such as vessel monitoring and identification systems, electronic notebooks, and identification of fish grounds through drones and satellites, mother vessels & hybrid vessels, and smart selling. ▪ Introduce a GPS-based warning system to prevent local fishing vessels from entering the territorial waters of other countries. ▪ Ensure efficient and systematic diplomatic interventions in cases of emergencies where fishing boat crews and vessels encounter issues in foreign waters.
Marine and brackish water fish products	Promoting the production of marine and brackish water fish products	▪ Provide modern technology for harvesting and breeding species with high market values such as sea cucumber, crabs, barramundi, oyster, prawns, lobsters, and aquatic plants. ▪ Promote eco-friendly aquaculture by identifying new fish grounds and species suitable for marine and brackish water aquaculture. ▪ Introduce measures to obtain higher values and share in foreign markets by standardizing processes for prawn farms. ▪ Increase the annual production of prawns by providing required facilities including technology. ▪ Establish a formal system to prevent and control diseases in the prawn industry. ▪ Provide technical assistance to diversify the production of sea plants with high demand and under consumption and mediate to find markets for these products. ▪ Increase women's participation by promoting home-based production that uses sea plants and aquatic resources.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Freshwater fisheries and aquaculture	Developing the Freshwater fisheries and aquaculture sustainably	▪ Increase freshwater fisheries by connecting aquaculture around freshwater lakes, breeding fingerlings, and establishing breeding centers on a developed management system. ▪ Implement a suitable program to stock fingerlings in regular reservoirs, seasonal reservoirs, estate reservoirs, and ponds through various aquaculture methods. ▪ Introduce local or new specialized breeding methods, and develop human resources, technology, and infrastructure in breeding centers. ▪ Stock fish in regular reservoirs, seasonal reservoirs, and estate reservoirs as needed to maintain proper capacity. ▪ Breed fish in cages associated with regular reservoirs for consumption. ▪ Provide financial support to promote entrepreneurs to establish large scale farms with modern technology for harvesting commercial freshwater fish.
Ornamental fish and ornamental aquatic plant industry	Ensuring the development of ornamental fish and ornamental aquatic plant industry	▪ Build a Sri Lankan brand name by aiming to increase income from ornamental fish and aquatic plant exports. ▪ Provide financial and technical support to encourage ornamental fish harvesting. ▪ Establish a transparent mechanism to determine the minimum selling price for exporting ornamental fish products. ▪ Implement a program that combines institutes such as regional veterinary centers and labs to identify, prevent, and conduct site-specific testing for fish diseases and pandemics. ▪ Establish regional collection centers to promote exports. ▪ Offer technical and financial assistance for ornamental aquatic plant production methods such as tissue culture, greenhouses, vertical planting and soilless planting. ▪ Organize annual international exhibitions for ornamental fish and plants. ▪ Provide facilities for producing non-living ornamental aquatic material such as dead plants, roots, and pieces of stones and for breeding local ornamental fish using modern techniques for the protection of the environment. ▪ Establish facilities to educate those who collect ornamental fish using diving techniques

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		on the use of diving equipment, sustainable harvesting methods, minimizing post-harvesting damage, and first aid, and introduce alternative livelihoods such as setting up fish breeding centers and becoming diving guides. ▪ Research on finding solutions to generate sustainable income and ensure competitiveness and maintain sustainability in the international markets through ornamental aquatic resources as a niche market.
Social Welfare for the Fishing Community	Ensuring the empowerment of the fishing community	▪ Introduce an insurance scheme for the fishing community, covering their families, equipment and tools used in the industry. ▪ Establish treatment centers for decompression sickness faced by divers. ▪ Re-activate the Fisher folk pension scheme. ▪ Provide training and technical guidance for the younger fishing community, by focusing on professional fishing and nautical fields. ▪ Leverage a broad contribution of the Ocean University, faculties and technical colleges to produce professionals in the field. ▪ Offer comprehensive facilities to meet the needs of the fishing community, including health services, housing, day-care centers for their children and the elderly and cultural events. ▪ Facilitate building cooperatives and banks as community-based organizations located around fishing villages and ports. ▪ Implement programs to enhance the financial literacy of fisherfolk and aquaculture producers, for elevating them to a professional level. ▪ Create a formal process for providing technical counseling services, foreign tours, and training programmes for field officers. ▪ Develop programs aimed at livelihood enhancement and technical skill development for fisherwomen and other vulnerable family members.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Promoting the production of tools and equipment	Ensuring the adoption of new technology and development of innovations in the fishing industry	- Facilitate to produce material used in the fishing industry, including living and non-living food, vessels and nets, cage equipment and machinery required for harvesting aquatic species. - Provide tax relief for imported tools until sufficient domestic production is developed.
Post-harvest management and value-added products	Ensuring the minimization of post-harvest losses and promotion of value added fish products	- Provide the necessary technical support to develop the infrastructure, and raise awareness to harvest, handle, store, and sell fish with minimal post-harvest damages. - Promote production of fish cages, fish feed, liquid fertilizer, and other products using fish waste. - Establish a mechanism for people to buy quality fish products at a reasonable price by systematic distribution systems. - Reduce post-harvest damage through initiatives such as repairing fishing vessels, produce high-quality ice, use enclosed containers, and establish an online mechanism.
Export potential and earning foreign exchange	Diversifying the Export Markets and Products and Enhancing Export Infrastructure	- Take steps to export products by identifying the new foreign market that may emerge in the future. - Promote exports and the market by collaborating with relevant institutes, including Sri Lanka Export Development Board and Embassies. - Promote high quality local products and conserving foreign exchange by limiting imports. - Promote foreign investors to invest in production sectors with high export potential. - Establish an efficient and streamlined process to remove barriers in exporting fish products.
Financial income surrounding fisheries harbours and developing fisheries harbours	Developing infrastructure facilities in fisheries sector to meet international standards	- Allocate service-based regions around fisheries harbours for docking vessels. - Solve issues related to fuel storage and distribution around fisheries harbours. - Upgrade all major fisheries harbours to meet international standards based on a prioritization plan. - Expand ports and enhance facilities in the Northern and Eastern provinces to promote

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		trawler fisheries targeting residents. ▪ Develop fisheries harbours and management methods, based on the green port concept. ▪ Increase the accuracy of the methods used to identify fish-rich areas, use solar and LNG-powered vessels, provide larger vessels with storage facilities and modernize vessels and fishing equipment. ▪ Develop a coordinated approach to advance the fisheries sector, particularly in fish farming, by integrating technology-driven fishing methods, production of fishing equipment and vessels.
Blue economy	Taking actions to use the ocean resources sustainably	▪ Promote the sustainable use of living and non-living ocean resources and the establishment of modern oceanic industries through a blue economy approach. ▪ Introduce measure to effectively utilize fisheries aquaculture, and aquatic resources well to enter the blue carbon finance field.

3.5 A digital state - An international partnership

Policy Principles –

- Sustained growth fueled by innovation
- Digital transformation of government services
- Rebranding Sri Lanka's market identity
- Harnessing the benefits of the digital economy
- International collaborations for advanced technology, best practices, and market access
- Developing infrastructure that aligns with international standards

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Digitalization the State	Adapting to a transparent and efficient governance through digitalization of public sector and establishing necessary infrastructure	▪ Launch a global marketing campaign to position Sri Lanka as a hub for high-value ICT products and solutions. ▪ Implement a zero VAT rate on IT equipment, including computers and locally developed software. ▪ Leverage Sri Lankan foreign missions to actively promote the ICT industry to international clients, with specific targets for each mission. ▪ Establish a fund for new ventures, research, and development to encourage local innovation and entrepreneurship in the ICT sector. ▪ Digitalize state institutions to create a responsive government sector that delivers transparent and efficient services to citizens. ▪ Introduce and strengthen legal frameworks to attract foreign direct investment and address key areas within the ICT field, including intellectual property rights, data privacy, labor laws, and bankruptcy. ▪ Develop and implement an AI policy to ensure ethical AI use, data privacy, and the integration of AI technologies across state sectors, with access to state services in all languages
Digital Industry	Thriving the Digital Industry and Digital Service Industry through innovations and global collaborations	▪ Foster the development of ICT unicorns through innovation and sustainable investment, creating globally recognized companies. ▪ Build partnerships with global ICT companies and research institutions to bring advanced technologies and best practices to Sri Lanka
Digital Skills	Establishing a digital talent pool	▪ Implement training and educational programs to expand the ICT workforce to 200,000 by 2030. ▪ Provide specialized training for engineers in collaboration with foreign experts.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Offer tax reliefs, grants, and other incentives to make Sri Lanka an attractive destination for ICT investments and professional opportunities.
Digitalization of other Economic Sectors	Creating a robust digital economy that supports the sustainable development	▪ Establish Research and Development centers and ICT parks in the Western, Northern, Eastern, and Southern provinces to promote regional development and innovation. ▪ Set up ICT R&D centers in four major universities located in the Western, ▪ Equip Northern, Southern and Eastern provinces with modern technologies and skilled staff. ▪ Enhance continuously ICT infrastructure to support industry growth and competitiveness, including high-speed internet, data centers, reliable and affordable energy supply, public transport, and smart villages. ▪ Formalize the adoption of ICT to advance the industry to Industry 4.0/5.0, incorporating cutting-edge digital technology and automation

3.6 A research and development approach- scientific solutions for the society

Policy Principles –

- Direct support from research and development towards the production economy.
- Distribution of research and development benefits fairly amongst the public.
- Ensure research independence, and implement proper monitoring, and regulation of research sectors.
- Transparency, efficiency, equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Unbiased selection and fair opportunities for grant funds.
- Research according to locally and internationally recognized ethics, practices, and agreements.
- Protection of new products and services via patents, and due recognition for innovators.
- State, private, and public engagement for research and development.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Agriculture, fisheries, livestock, food security & Safety sectors	Ensuring food security and economic growth through enhancing agriculture productivity and resilience to climate change	▪ Conduct socio-economic research to identify resources and optimum utilization, develop agricultural infrastructure, and find solutions to sustainable marketing strategies. ▪ Enhance crop resilience to climate change, improving the sustainability and economic potential of main crops, optimizing food preservation for greater economic benefits, and creating value-added products through R&D. ▪ Research on finding solutions to generate sustainable income and ensure competitiveness and maintain sustainability in the international markets through ornamental aquatic resources, ornamental horticultural crops, and organic agriculture as a niche market. ▪ Conduct new research on domestic and export crops and the livestock sectors to boost productivity. ▪ Research on crop diversification, improved management practices, integrated local-modern technology (genetic engineering and biosafety certification), efficient agricultural inputs (such as water, organic and inorganic fertilizer, and other agro-chemicals), and greenhouse and vertical planting in suitable places/ regions. ▪ Conduct research to develop high-yielding animal breeds, produce high-quality feed, investigating low-cost alternative housing and their management, and select/use suitable lands for small and medium scale livestock farms (milk, chicken, and pork). ▪ Research on identifying high-yielding and stress-tolerant crop and forage varieties (climate-smart agriculture), developing local agricultural management practices, producing easily available and low-cost seeds and planting materials, and increasing production efficiency and productivity by selecting and integrating crop and forage varieties suitable for different agro-ecological

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		regions. ▪ Perform research regarding sales, modern markets and their predictions, social welfare, and extension services and needs. ▪ Increase the accuracy of the methods used to identify fish-rich areas, use solar and LNG-powered vessels, provide larger vessels with storage facilities and modernize vessels and fishing equipment. ▪ Research to estimate the stocks of marine fish resources, continue prediction model development and usage, and accurate estimation of the carrying capacity of freshwater and brackish water systems.
Health, Education, and Science	Advancing National Health, Education, and Technological Innovation through Scientific Research and Development	▪ Apply modern scientific methods such as genetics, metabolomics, proteomics, biochemistry, nanotechnology, and AI etc., to find solutions for dengue, chronic kidney disease, infectious diseases, and other special health issues related to Sri Lanka. ▪ Produce medicines needed for the country through research and development. ▪ Develop alternative local food products to increase the nutrition levels of children. ▪ Modern scientific research for early diagnosis of diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart attack to reduce healthcare cost of long-term treatments. ▪ Conduct island-wide research and surveys to identify quality and resource disparities among schools and recommend research and development-based solutions. ▪ Implement research and development-based solutions to promote inquiry-based learning in school education. ▪ Develop AI tools and virtual training programmes for teacher training and vocational development.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Broaden research and development units in higher educational institutes with the participation of state and private sectors. ▪ Establish a national commission to manage and conduct proper research and development in indigenous medicine. ▪ Develop high quality marketable products such as herbal medicines, nutraceuticals, food supplements, cosmeceuticals etc., by encouraging medicinal plant cultivation, establishing tissue culture and genetic engineering centres, and laboratories to target local and international markets. ▪ Apply nanotechnology-based research and development to produce solar cells, electronics, medicine, energy efficient new inventions, environmental remediation components, futuristic vehicles, and spare parts etc.
Information technology, communication, engineering, energy, maritime, transport and other technology-related sectors	Leveraging Technology and Innovation for sustainable service delivery	▪ Research on establishing multilingual communication systems powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government institutions, and public places to minimize language barriers among different ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. ▪ Conduct research on developing proactive and real-time alert systems to warn against natural disasters (For example Floods, wildfires, and landslides). ▪ Research on establishing efficient public transportation management system (Buses & Trains) using IoT & GPS technology to minimize delays and improve passenger safety and comfort. ▪ Conduct research on establishing air pollution monitoring systems in main cities to reduce air pollution and control vehicle emissions and industrial emissions. ▪ Perform research on implementing Smart Meter Systems in residential houses, buildings, and public places to maximize resource utilization and minimize wastage. Example: research and development to establish electricity meters, vehicle parking meters, and water meters

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Leverage the latest satellite technology and equipment to accurately forecast the weather and calculate the energy requirement based on equipment and satellite data to optimize hydro power, wind, and solar energy sources. ▪ Conduct research on deploying proper waste disposal bins & facilities to reduce environmental pollution by e-waste and promote recycling them. ▪ Conduct research and development to promote locally produced roof-top solar systems, equipment, and connectivity devices to the national grid. ▪ Provide research and development facilities and required skills for local manufacturers to build modern low-cost machinery and tools as are necessary for our country. ▪ Conduct research and development to improve/update local standards for building materials such as soil, sand, stone, bricks, tar, and others aiming to reduce construction cost, and resource wastage and promote sustainable engineering practices. ▪ Expedite research activities on efficient cleansing and usage of sea sand for the construction industry. ▪ Expand research on renewable energy (hydropower, solar, and wind) and prioritization of the off-shore (Akwerala) wind power projects to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels consumption and reach renewable energy goals. ▪ Establish “Technology Development Centers” in selected districts to promote local innovators to build technical solutions for local and national needs. ▪ Leverage local talent, manufacturers, and innovators to build consumer materials, office supplies, hospital supplies, and equipment (beds, chairs, syringes, etc). ▪ Research on promoting locally adopted technological solutions to increase the productivity of agricultural products such as tea, rubber, coconut, and paddy,

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		and to ensure the workers' safety. ▪ Establish necessary systems, mechanisms, and tools to integrate the elderly community and people with disabilities into the national workforce. ▪ Establish a technical task force with specialist knowledge of Information Technology (IT), Big Data, Machine Learning, AI, Communication & Networking, and social media to analyze and approach local entrepreneurs and innovators and encourage them to start business ventures locally. ▪ Conduct research to identify capacity gaps in the maritime area including emergency disaster responses and prioritizing the future vision. ▪ Research to identify value-added opportunities and leveraging local resources for sustainable growth in the tourism industry.
Natural Resources	Leverage sustainable management in public and private sectors through effective technological advancements	▪ Implement the most suitable methods to minimise human-animal conflicts, identified by research and development-based pilot projects. ▪ Strengthen research and development to characterise Sri Lanka's biodiversity 'hot spots' that need protection. This includes catchment and vegetation mapping and categorizing habitats based on Land use threats. ▪ Conduct research on managing agricultural, maritime, and freshwater resources efficiently and introduce necessary technologies to minimize post-harvest damage and increase diversification of products. ▪ Develop value added products such as medicine, cosmetics, and nutritional supplements using maritime and aquatic resources. ▪ Conduct research and explore the potentials of mineral resources in Sri Lanka, such as rare minerals (e.g. monazite in Beruwala), development of titanium dioxide using ilmenite, and the production of copper and gold using the iron ore deposit in Seruvila, etc.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Take necessary steps to use modern engineering technology to save the mangroves and coastal environmental systems, reducing coastal erosion.
Human development, art, history, culture and heritage sectors	Advancing Education, Technology, and Cultural Preservation through Research and Innovation	▪ Update higher education degree programmes including leadership, collaborative, and communication skill development plans, that are designed based on research and development data. ▪ Initiate community educational programmes to share research and development-based innovations and new knowledge, as well as artistic and philosophical ideology promotions that benefit society. ▪ Conduct R&D on home-grown robotic programs or customize already available humanoid robotic platforms to assist people with special needs and elderly community. ▪ Assist the retired or elderly generation by developing modern electronic assistive devices, medication reminder systems, efficient pill dispensers, and telehealth systems and enhancing their independence and comfort by developing visual and communication aids, as well as memory aids, etc. ▪ Research and development to produce musical instruments and dancing costumes that withstand different climatic conditions, aiming the international market. ▪ Integrate modern technological advances into performing arts such as music, singing, dancing, theatre, opera, and cinema to produce research and development-based novel artistic creations. ▪ Increase the capacity and accessibility of the National Archive by use of modern technologies such as Block Chain, Cloud and AI to establish an efficient archival system and public record management. ▪ Conduct scientific studies on palm leaf books that describe ancient heritages,

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		beliefs, rituals, cultures and lifestyles, and initiate national-level research to identify ancient technological advances and practices that may benefit modern-day needs as well. ▪ Conduct appropriate content analysis, surveys, focus group experiments, and participant observation for mass media communication sources, including standard electronic and print media, and improve their communication standards and overall effectiveness.

3.7 A modernized tourist industry - An attractive destination

Policy Principles –

- Visionary leadership, strategic approach, and holistic economic development
- Sustainable usage of natural and cultural resources
- Developing human resources for the tourist industry
- Development and standardizing of new tourist products
- Strategic destination marketing

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Visionary leadership, strategic management, and holistic economic development	Ensuring strong governance and strategic direction in Tourism	▪ Establish National Tourism Council (NTC) for coordinating and managing tourism-related activities and establish the Tourism Policy Formulation Council (TPFC) for developing policies for the industry. ▪ Establish the Sri Lanka Tourism Authority as the central institution for tourism development and promotion. ▪ Implement a new tourism act to enhance the productivity and efficiency of the tourism sector ▪ Identify new destinations and products through research. ▪ Adopt an ICT-based approach to prevent crimes and illegal activities in the Tourism industry. ▪ Attract airlines and establish connectivity from major tourism-origin Countries to Sri Lanka and improve domestic connectivity. ▪ Provide encouragement and facilities to micro, small, and medium scale entrepreneurs to improve the quality of their services. ▪ Implement an international-level standardization program for all sectors in the tourism services. ▪ Provide necessary facilities to convert informal sector tourism operators into the formal sector. ▪ Develop infrastructure facilities needed to advance the local tourism and encouraging private sector participation in this task. ▪ Establish international partnerships with non-governmental organizations, donor organizations, and institutions, and obtaining technical, financial support, and know-how as a key approach in developing the tourism sector. ▪ Organize an annual national tourism award ceremony to encourage and recognize entrepreneurs and stakeholders in the tourism industry.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Sustainable usage of Resources	Promoting sustainable usage of natural and cultural resources	▪ Develop resource utilization plans for tourism ▪ Create a digital land-use mechanism via a land bank in the tourism sector ▪ Safeguard tourist attractions from over – visitation, based on carrying capacity research using scientific methods. ▪ Conduct research to promote sustainable eco-tourism by developing activity based alternative tourist destination maps and utilizing the aesthetic values of oceanic environments, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and resources
Human Resource Development	Enhancing Human Capital and Research in Tourism and Hospitality Sectors	▪ Create a national HR development plan for tourism and hospitality sectors. ▪ Analyze tourism training needs for training and educational institutions in both the public and private sectors of the tourism industry. ▪ Provide facilities to universities that offer degrees related to the tourism industry. ▪ Provide practical training opportunities and work integrated learning opportunities for postgraduate students in the tourism industry ▪ Update syllabi of educational and training programmes in the tourism industry to match global trends and demand ▪ Establish a special social protection program to secure future of individuals in the private, public, and semi-public sectors, including tourist service providers and related workers in the tourism industry. ▪ Provide training for micro-entrepreneurs in the Tourism sector. ▪ Establish a tourism research institute as a PPP.
Development and Standardization of New Tourism Products	Enhancing Tourism Infrastructure and Product Diversification	▪ Improve critical infrastructure at key destinations ▪ Establish a special division/team to develop innovative tourism products for Sri Lanka's tourism industry. ▪ Conduct special promotional programs for selected markets to address the gap during the low tourist season. ▪ Promote MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) and sports tourism

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Engage with the private sector to facilitate and provide the necessary infrastructure development to attract cruise tourism. ▪ Integrate Port infrastructure development and other services with tourism sector ▪ Develop infrastructure and HR in order to cater to elderly and disabled tourists
Strategic Destination Marketing	Revitalizing Sri Lanka's Tourism Brand through Targeted Marketing and Digital Innovation	▪ Revise current destination marketing efforts to align with tourism objectives. ▪ Launch a long-term global marketing campaign with all relevant stakeholders. ▪ Create attractive promotional material for display at entry points to the country and in major tourist markets abroad. ▪ Adopt digital approaches to provide important tourist information about the destination ▪ Promote Sri Lanka as an authentic, eco-friendly, tourist-friendly destination. ▪ Launch a marketing campaign to attract Free Independent Travelers (FITs) and transit travellers passing through Colombo airport. ▪ Undertake promotional campaign, targeting digital nomads and introduce special Wi-Fi packages to tourists and tourism industry ▪ Implement a special marketing campaign focusing on emerging and modern markets based on scientific research. ▪ Use foreign missions and embassies productively and efficiently for Sri Lanka's destination marketing programs.

3.8 An entrepreneurship explosion - An organic approach

Policy Principles –

- Implementation of a national policy framework to deliver essential institutional, capital, technical, and market support for industrial development.
- Encouragement of new investments, both domestic and foreign, as well as fostering entrepreneurship.
- Provision of affordable infrastructure, including energy, transportation, telecommunications, finance, and other essential services.
- Enhancement of market efficiency and transparency within supply chains.
- Promotion of export-oriented service industries alongside the reinforcement of domestic industries.
- Diversification of products and services driven by research and development outcomes.
- Adoption of sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
National planning and state intervention	Ensuring state intervention to streamline industrial sector in line with National Development Policy Framework	▪ Create national industrial think-tanks for all industrial sectors dedicated to strategic planning and foresight analysis. ▪ Enable targeted interventions in key industries, with a strong emphasis on sustainability and the distinct significance of each sector to the national economy and overall stability.
Taxes, law, and productive development	Strengthening Industrial Governance and enabling Business Environment for Sustainable Growth	▪ Introduce tailored taxation frameworks for various industrial sectors, based on specific risks, strategic goals, and state priorities associated with each industry. ▪ Enhance investment protection legislation to mitigate potential losses arising from actions taken in the national needs. ▪ Establish legal safeguards to shield producers from undue market power influences. ▪ Reinforce the conflict resolution framework to accelerate the resolution of commercial disputes through courts and arbitration. ▪ Introduce a robust technical support system to ensure alignment with productivity, quality, and cost targets. ▪ Foster a level playing field environment by ensuring the consistent and equitable enforcement of existing laws.
Expansion of international and local market and efficiency	Enhancing Global Market Integration and Export Competitiveness	▪ Implement necessary legislative reforms to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the local market. ▪ Strategically direct operations to acquire markets based on specific criteria and broaden market opportunities through diplomatic initiatives. ▪ Revise existing trade agreements and actively pursue the formation of new ones. ▪ Support industries in accessing international markets by developing harbors and airports into key supply chain hubs.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Streamline the business registration process and expand certification facilities for emerging export industries. ▪ Strengthen support for MSMEs by offering EXIM bank services, essential financial services, and export consolidation assistance. ▪ Enhance international business opportunities by leveraging digital technology and e-commerce platforms.
Industrial zones and infrastructure facilities	Strengthening industrial growth through optimized zones and infrastructure development	▪ Enhance and optimize existing industrial zones by leveraging previously underutilized resources. ▪ Establish new industrial zones aligned with identified growth potentials, fostering innovation and promoting industrial diversification. ▪ Develop essential infrastructure to support the fisheries, agriculture, and tourism sectors in targeted regions.
Micro, small, and medium-scale industries	Leverage MSMEs through appropriate empowering mechanisms	▪ Create a specialized division to support micro, small, and medium-sized entrepreneurs at both national and regional levels, offering streamlined, single-window services to meet their business needs effectively. ▪ Implement a collateral-free loan scheme of up to Rs. 10 million, contingent on feasibility and credit score, through the financial sector to provide crucial financial support to micro, small, and medium-scale entrepreneurs. ▪ Enhance the financial support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises by reinforcing the cooperative banking system, including Samurdhi Banks and regional development banks. ▪ Encourage cooperative business models to harness and strengthen the collective power of collaboration. ▪ Establish a new 'relief bank' to restore the economic activities of

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		MSMEs and provide relief for outstanding loans. ▪ Offer tax incentives for business startup incubator programs to facilitate the market entry of selected startups. ▪ Facilitate temporary import facilities for raw materials and machinery under the TIEP scheme to assist Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MTIEPs) in export preparation. ▪ Focus on promoting industries such as agro-based value-added, mineral-based, packaging, power and energy, export-led sectors, marine services, aircraft maintenance and service delivery, telecommunications, IT and related services, construction, and transportation. ▪ Develop a coordinated approach to advance the fisheries sector, particularly in fish farming, by integrating technology-driven fishing methods, production of fishing equipment and vessels, product preservation, packaging, and exploring local and international markets, while addressing the socio-economic concerns of the fishing community. ▪ Design and execute a comprehensive program to achieve self-sufficiency in milk and milk-related products, engaging all relevant stakeholders in the field. ▪ Support the promotion of indigenous products within districts or regions as part of the district development plan, considering the availability of resources, market opportunities, and growth potential. ▪ Manufacture of tools, equipment, and machinery necessary for domestic consumption and there by stimulate the production of agriculture, industry, and service outputs.
Traditional arts and crafts industry	Promoting and empowering Traditional Industries	▪ Lead and align the network of institutions dedicated to advancing this industry towards a unified objective.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Develop a program to ensure the availability of raw materials for traditional industries, such as carpentry, and initiate the planting of selected tree species. ▪ Establish a specialized task force by integrating state institutions and non- governmental organizations to address the challenges faced by the carpentry industry. ▪ Offer tax incentives for the acquisition of essential technical equipment for registered craftsmen. ▪ Enhance and support producers by cooperative frameworks. ▪ Launch a program to streamline the export process, reducing costs through an integrated system. ▪ Establish a national program, including a safety net, to safeguard craftsmen and preserve traditional crafts.
Interventions needed for sustainable development	Promoting Sustainable and Fair-Trade practices	▪ Establish a comprehensive program that empowers industries to meet the standards of fair trade, labor quality, and transparency required by the global market, while driving significant progress toward sustainability. ▪ Develop a strategic initiative aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability, addressing climate change challenges, and achieving the essential milestones for long-term resilience and skill development in the industrial sector.
Digitalisation and technical usage	Driving Industrial Digital Transformation and Innovation for Future Growth	▪ Facilitate industries for Industry 4.0/5.0 Maturity Index to expedite the realization of benefits from the Fourth Industrial Revolution and strategically position our industries for the forthcoming Fifth Industrial Revolution. ▪ Advocate for both public and private sector investments to establish

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		robust digital infrastructure, encompassing high-speed internet connectivity, state-of-the-art data centers, and comprehensive cyber security systems. ▪ Lay the foundation for advanced technologies such as IoT, AI, cloud computing, and data analytics to drive industrial innovation and competitiveness. ▪ Foster the adoption and integration of Industry 4.0 technologies among Sri Lankan industrial entrepreneurs, enhancing their capacity for digital transformation. ▪ Offer technical support and financial incentives to facilitate companies in embedding digital technologies into their operational frameworks. ▪ Commit in investing in skills development and retraining programs aimed at enhancing the technological expertise and digital literacy of the workforce. ▪ Create a dynamic digital start-up ecosystem to promote collaboration among industry stakeholders, academia, research institutions, and emerging entrepreneurs. ▪ Establish innovation centers, technology parks, and incubators to provide platforms for knowledge sharing, technical collaboration, and entrepreneurial growth. ▪ Implement a comprehensive legal framework that promotes innovation, safeguards intellectual property rights, and ensures data privacy and protection and cyber security. ▪ Develop a robust mechanism to monitor and evaluate the progress of digital transformation initiatives, ensuring alignment with established quality standards and objectives.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Deploy a state-of-the-art single window platform to streamline industry operations and enhance service efficiency and transparency through the e-government initiative.
Promoting the ease of doing business and entrepreneurship	Promoting Entrepreneurship and Driving Economic Growth through Digital Innovation, financial modals and Supportive services	▪ Facilitate access to funding by encouraging investments through venture capital, business capital funds, and development banks. ▪ Enhance entrepreneurship by integrating education and training into professional programs and the school curriculum, while formally recognizing digital freelancing as a profession and offering essential resources. ▪ Invest in digital infrastructure to support business activities and foster technological adoption. ▪ Enable market access at both local and international levels through strategic trade agreements, export promotion initiatives, and networking opportunities. ▪ Create a nurturing ecosystem for entrepreneurship by establishing incubators, accelerator programs, co-working spaces, and networking platforms.

3.9 A sustainable resource utilization - Generation of highest benefits

Policy Principles –

- Scientific exploration
- Sustainable excavations and usage
- Optimum utilization
- Maximum benefits from local and foreign markets

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Mineral related resources	Promoting industrial growth through resource optimization, innovation and sustainable development	Take measures gradually after conducting feasibility studies on mineral related resources to establish following industries. ▪ Explore mineral ores and REEs within the country and in the seabed using developed technology. ▪ Establish a special unit to give recommendations on studies about mineral related industries, and to make market predictions. ▪ Expand the production of quality salt aiming at the local market needs and international market. ▪ Technical and infrastructure facilities needed to start production industries from salt excavation. ▪ Nickel sulphate and magnesium related products using serpentine ores in Sri Lanka. ▪ Industries to produce single super phosphate that is most appropriate for short-term crops in agriculture, and to produce phosphate fertilizer for medium-term crops. ▪ Produce high quality dolomite fertilizer for agriculture. ▪ A cement factory based on areas with sedimentary lime, aiming at the local market. ▪ Produce quality precipitated calcium carbonate needed for industries such as medicine, paper, and cloth. ▪ Introduce the new technology needed for extracting ilmenite, rutile, zircon etc. during refining of mineral sand. ▪ A titanium oxide production factory instead of importing ilmenite and rutile as raw material. ▪ A factory to clean zircon that is obtained during mineral sand extraction, to be used for shining porcelain goods. ▪ Factories to separate thorium, lanthanum, and cerium from monazite sand, according to international laws and with the help of relevant institutes.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Value adding factories around garnet sand. ▪ New factories around quarts and silica sand, reducing its low utilization. ▪ Conduct research to increase the carbon percentage in graphite to 99.9%, and new factories around that. ▪ Encourage the production of ready-made goods using graphite. ▪ Industries which use graphene to increase the quality of products such as highly efficient batteries, iron, cement, and tyres. ▪ Encourage the production of ceramic and porcelain parts needed for high tech equipment, using local raw material. ▪ Promote small and medium scale industries around mica and feldspar ores. ▪ A method to determine the government portion for small, medium, and large-scale excavations using the price of minerals in the global market, the amount of excavation done, and the cost for it, instead of the linear method followed currently. ▪ Start the production of sulfuric acid used for other industries.
Gems and jewellery	Promoting sustainable development and global competitiveness of Sri Lanka's gem and jewelry industries	▪ Modern technologies to identify gem ores. ▪ Modern technological support to add values to gems. ▪ An international gem and jewellery market. ▪ An international gem centre around the Rathnapura city. ▪ Amendments needed for the Gem and jewellery Authority Act, aiming for the sustainable development of the mining industry and gem industry. ▪ International level gem research labs. ▪ Register all stakeholders formally in the gem industry, and an updated data system. ▪ Standards for the safety of gem mine workers. ▪ A process to give information in international gem prices and standards to all mine owners.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Establish a ‘Gem Industry Workers Protection Authority’ to uplift the living standards of labourers engaged in the gem industry. ▪ Coordinate legally and digitally all state institutes connected to the gem and jewellery industry. ▪ A process to provide a fair compensation in instances of full body paralysis or death that occur due to accidents that labourers face in the gem industry. ▪ A social protection programme along with a pension for labourers engaged in the gem and jewellery industry, by formalizing the existing fund through state intervention. ▪ Introduce educational and professional programmes related to the gem and jewellery industry and related fields, providing facilities to pursue them. ▪ Mechanize the gem industry by securing the traditional gem mining industry. ▪ Introduce a taxation system that is favourable to the development of industry.

3.10 A secured energy centre - A sustainable revenue source

Policy Principles—

- Energy as an essential national service
- Sustainable and secure energy supply and consumption
- Energy economy as a source of foreign income

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Minimizing energy cost	Ensuring accessible, low-cost energy for everyone through competitive low-carbon market mechanisms	▪ Decrease reliance on oil for electricity production by prioritizing Renewable Energy and Clean Energy sources. ▪ Update electricity tariffs and implement a competitive pricing model. ▪ Modify LPG and oil pricing formulas to create a clear and fair adjustment process. ▪ Take steps to implement a straightforward tax system that reduces complexity and intermediary energy-related taxes, helping to avoid tax stacking and enhance consumer comprehension.
Enhancing electricity generation by utilizing Renewable Energy sources	Maximizing the potential of indigenous renewable energy sources through deploying innovative approaches	▪ Initiate a five-year plan to increase solar PV capacity by 2,000 MW to tackle the energy crisis. ▪ Encourage rooftop solar and battery storage through innovative business models and tariffs to reduce costs. ▪ Employ competitive procurement for wind energy project development in Sri Lanka. ▪ Improve forest cover in hydropower catchment areas based on feasibility studies.
Micro grid / Smart grid concept to the system for the effective utilization of solar pv	Ensuring renewable energy integration and enable demand response through effective grid management	▪ Establish smart grid infrastructure to enhance renewable energy absorption. ▪ Enable customer participation in demand response and flexibility services for fair compensation.
Green Hydrogen Technology in Sri Lanka	Harnessing the potential of green hydrogen through establishing a collaborative framework	▪ Create a dedicated state agency to promote and develop green hydrogen initiatives. ▪ Engage professionals from academia and industry to enhance expertise and innovation in the green hydrogen sector ▪ Work to attract international leaders and stakeholders in green hydrogen to foster collaboration and investment. ▪ Set Up Pilot Projects & Prepare for Technology Integration

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Energy Storage Systems	Ensuring the development of a systematic mechanism for energy storage systems that enhances grid reliability, supports renewable energy integration, and provides economic advantages	▪ Complete feasibility studies to assess the potential of pumped hydro storage, battery energy storage systems and hybrid systems for enhancing renewable energy absorption. ▪ Develop innovative business models tailored to the specific energy storage projects and technologies identified in the feasibility studies ▪ Implement investment strategies to attract investments in the developed energy storage projects and technologies.
LNG as transition fuel	Enhancing energy security through diversification	▪ Support the importation of LNG by establishing a competitively procured terminal. ▪ Identify and secure fuel sources through competitive procurement to supply LNG ▪ Prepare 1,500 MW of existing capable thermal power plants to transition to LNG usage.
Renew Power Purchase agreement (PPAs) for the mini hydro plants and other renewable energy plants	Ensuring establishment of renewal mechanism through balanced benefit sharing mechanisms	▪ Establish a mechanism to renew the agreements, striking a balance between ensuring the benefits flow to public to whom the natural resources belong and protecting the capital invested by the project developer by ensuring a fair operating fee
Adopting to Small Modular Reactors (SMR) technology	Ensuring incorporation of nuclear energy through development and deployment of improved nuclear technologies	▪ Engage with leading countries and organizations in technology to finalize and sign collaborative agreements to develop required human resources, physical facilities, standards and regulatory frameworks.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Petroleum sector development	Ensuring enhancement of upstream and downstream petroleum industry to cater the future demand & ensure energy security	▪ Expedite the feasibility studies for modernizing the existing refinery or building a new refinery. ▪ Adopt a holistic, integrated approach, focusing on using refinery by-products of fuel in the manufacturing industries and train a competent workforce for the international market. ▪ Revisit all existing agreements of Trincomalee oil tank farm. ▪ Promptly integrate to the economy of 24 tanks owned by CPC and other 61 tanks owned by the joint venture company. ▪ Modernize the storage network and utilize rail transport to ensure continues supply of fuel during crises periods caused by weather or geological turbulence. ▪ Upgrade depilated pipelines between Colombo port and the Kollonnawa terminal to a system capable of loading and unloading various petroleum products through CPSTL owned fund. ▪ Construct an international oil transmission and cargo storage terminal in Trincomalee following the refurbishment of existing oil terminals. ▪ Modernize the Sapugaskanda Refinery to meet domestic demand and capture a significant share of the foreign market for refined oil and related products ▪ Expedite the commercialization and new exploration agreements with international partners to achieve the Commercial value of natural gas resources in Mannar and Kaveri basins. ▪ Leverage modern technology to forecast reservoir and fuel storage levels and risk management tools to ensure a continuous supply of electricity and petroleum fuels to

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		sustain a resilient economy, with government intervention. ▪ Further strengthen the commitment to achieving the 2050 Net Zero Emission targets of Sri Lanka through updating the inadequate short-term commitments, with the support of both local and expatriate Sri Lankan scientific communities.
Power sector reforms, coordinating Public Private Partnership projects, International Investments	Ensuring energy efficiency, attract investments, and reliable service delivery through methodically restructuring mechanisms	▪ Conduct methodical restructuring of the electricity and petroleum sectors through comprehensive stakeholder consultations and evidence-based strategies. ▪ Create a specialized bureau to attract and facilitate public, private, and international investments, aligned with a Long Term Energy Supply Plan to monitor progress and manage investment risks. ▪ Enforce measures via the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) to reduce technical losses and improve institutional management of power systems. ▪ Develop a long-term compensation mechanism for customers experiencing service interruptions, based on industry-standard indices.
Customer service	Ensuring equitable access to electricity for all customers, particularly low-income households and small to medium enterprises (SMEs), through implementing fair financial solutions	▪ Reconnect customers, including low-income households and SMEs, who have been disconnected due to unjustly high bills incurred between 2022 and 2024. ▪ Offer a reasonable installment plan for customers to settle outstanding dues, ensuring financial relief and facilitating gradual repayment. ▪ Provide installment payment options for new electricity connections for low income households and SME's, promoting wider access to essential electricity services.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Energy efficiency and conservation programs in government institutions and religious places	Ensuring energy independence and sustainability through a comprehensive national programme	▪ Introduce solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable energy technologies to enable institutions (government hospitals, schools, and religious premises) to generate their own electricity. ▪ Implement trainings and resources to promote energy-efficient practices and technologies, reducing overall consumption. ▪ Work closely with local governments, community leaders, and stakeholders to ensure successful implementation.
Energy transition in transportations	Ensuring transformation of the transport sector from fossil fuel reliance to electric mobility, leveraging clean energy and supporting the sustainable development of smart transportation infrastructure	▪ Systematically shift the transport sector from fossil fuels to electric mobility using clean energy. ▪ Combine the national transportation plan, national electric mobility plan, and renewable energy development plan. ▪ Create a dedicated body to oversee electric mobility initiatives. ▪ Develop a national EV charging network and Implement hub-and-spoke smart city transportation networks. ▪ Introduce financial incentives to encourage electric vehicle adoption.
Energy Trading	Positioning Sri Lanka as a competitive player in global energy markets	▪ Establish a Statutory Body to provide expert advice on energy investments, trading and future direction in global market based on international data. ▪ Prepare and implement a comprehensive national strategy to establish Sri Lanka as an Energy Trading Hub, leveraging its geographic and economic potential.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Establishing a digital platform	Ensuring Value for money through establishing a comprehensive digital platform with transparent, efficient tendering and procurement system	▪ Develop a secure a digital platform for transparent and competitive procurement processes in the energy sector. ▪ Ensure the digital platform, seamlessly connects with local banking systems to facilitate real-time tracking of energy transactions. ▪ Utilize the digital platform to design and implement incentive programs specifically for the industrial and commercial sectors. ▪ Streamline processes to ensure prompt payments to suppliers, enhancing the reliability of the supply chain. ▪ Incorporate measures to protect vulnerable customers, ensuring equitable access to energy resources.
Energy Audits	Ensuring energy efficiency through the introduction of incentive mechanisms for conducting energy audits	▪ Implement financial incentives to encourage businesses to conduct comprehensive energy audits. ▪ Make compulsory large-scale industrial and commercial consumers to undergo regular energy audits to enhance efficiency improvements and conservation. ▪ Upgrade and enforce minimum energy performance standards of industrial equipment, buildings, and appliances.
Emission controlling mechanism	Ensuring competitiveness of local industries in international markets by promoting transparency in emissions and green energy usage	▪ Create a dedicated monitoring agency responsible for overseeing and certifying green energy practices to support local industries that export products to international market.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Technology enhancement and skill development	Ensuring a skilled workforce that contributes to global climate efforts while enhancing the country's competitiveness in the international energy sector	▪ Develop a skilled and capable Sri Lankan workforce to support climate goals, contributing to global climate efforts and generating foreign income. ▪ Integrate training divisions of the Ceylon Electricity Board and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation with the local university system and other vocational training institutions to provide skills required for the global energy sector. ▪ Promote productive R&D collaborations among national higher educational institutes and other stakeholders, such as energy utilities, regulators, and the industry, when implementing development projects in the energy sector ▪ Remove barriers to local companies in the electricity and petroleum sector and promote their participation and investments for non-conventional renewable energy projects. ▪ Encourage local companies to form partnerships with international companies to facilitate technology transfer and attract investments. ▪ Enable local companies to leverage the experience and qualifications gained through participation in national energy projects to compete in the international markets and further support through internal and diplomatic mechanisms.

3.11 A good public transportation service - Speedy destination

Policy Principles –

- Transport is considered a public service
- An eco-friendly and sustainable transport service
- Safe and efficient transport service
- Coping with the diversity in the passenger composition
- Coordination among different transport modes
- Digitally empowered transportation system

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Railway service	Ensuring Sustainable and Efficient Transportation through Revitalizing and Expanding the National Railway System	▪ Repair railway tracks that are in a dilapidated state, introducing a formal maintenance programme, and establishing an automatic signal system with new technology ▪ Develop main railway lines into two-tracks, and lines around main cities as three-track lines based on practical requirements ▪ Expand railway lines gradually on a priority basis to cover the regions which are not covered by the railway network at present, and thereby giving railway access to all main cities ▪ Introduce an efficient 24/7 railway service by including more train compartments and increasing running frequency ▪ Develop the railway system gradually to have trains run on electricity ▪ Use efficiently the railway service to safely transport production raw material, consumer goods, and agricultural and fisheries production ▪ Develop parking facilities near train stations to park private vehicles owned by passengers ▪ Introduce rail-based transport systems gradually (light rail transit systems, etc.) to strengthen public transport—in highly populated urban areas, whilst prioritizing the programs to develop railway and bus services
Bus passenger service	Ensuring the Promotion of user-friendly public passenger transport by modernizing bus service with necessary infrastructure including IT solutions and quality human resources	▪ Introduce buses manufactured specifically for passenger transport, and providing an easy financial scheme to procure such buses ▪ Develop a strong passenger bus service by improving transport at night as well as on the main roads and the roads where passenger bus transport is at an unsatisfactory state ▪ Form cluster bus companies using new digital technology, established by integrating state and private bus services for regions selected in a manner that

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		income from buses is equitably distributed among the buses ▪ Allow POS ticket machines in all buses which facilitate payments by pre-paid cards through a digital platform ▪ Allocate bus lanes in populated areas giving priority for public transport and gradually introduce Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system ▪ Introduce electrically operated buses gradually to the public transport service ▪ Create awareness and training among passengers and workers to instill a mindset change needed to create an environment where passengers can travel in buses with dignity without any harassment ▪ Develop parking facilities near bus stands to park private vehicles used by passengers
A formal and essential timetable system	Ensuring establishment of regulatory mechanisms for the improvement of public transportation supported by information technology	▪ Introduce an essential timetable method for both the railway service and passenger bus service ▪ Introduce essential public transport service that runs according to a timetable from morning until midnight ▪ Publish digitalized timetables online, and buses and run trains strictly according to the timetables displayed at the stations ▪ Provide opportunities for passengers to reserve seats on-line basis for long-distance journeys
Transit cities	Ensuring development of Transit Cities for Integrated, Efficient Public Transportation	▪ Identify and develop facilities to establish Transit Cities where the bus and train station is located at the same place, for passengers coming from long distances to suburban cities ▪ Ensure efficient public transport services from transit cities to main cities ▪ Provide safe parking spaces and other required public facilities in transit cities

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Rural transport	Ensuring the inclusive growth through expanding and Enhancing Public Transport in Rural Areas	▪ Introduce public bus services for rural areas without public transport at present ▪ Provide special encouragement when needed to continue the bus service on rural roads ▪ Provide transport services with the appropriate technologies to transport the production of rural public in a safe manner
Road maintenance	Ensuring efficient accessibility and mobility through sustainable maintenance system and enhanced connectivity of road network	▪ Identify rural and estate roads in need of immediate repair, preparation of a priority list, and the repair and sustainable maintenance of the roads according to a prioritized program. ▪ Effective periodic maintenance of express roads (E), highways (A, B), and provincial roads (C, D). ▪ Resolve the issues and the completion of construction of the presently stalled central expressway from Kadawatha to Meerigama.
Encouraging cycling	Ensuring Sustainable Urban Mobility through Cycling Infrastructure	▪ Construct safe cycling lanes within main cities and from nearby areas to the main cities which have traffic congestion ▪ Include required cycling infrastructure for the newly constructed roads wherever possible ▪ Provide cycle parking facilities at main train and bus stations, institutions, and other public places
Pedestrian lanes	Creating an enabling environment for pedestrians	▪ Construct pedestrian lanes on the sides of roads in main cities ▪ Plant trees on the roadsides to provide shade for the pedestrians
Using waterways for goods and passenger transport	Making waterways a significant contributor to the transportation	▪ Establish a technical unit to research and advise on the promotion of waterway transportation ▪ Implement passenger and goods transportation services in waterways identified through feasibility studies

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Protection for women, elderly, and differently abled passengers and improvements to required infrastructure	Ensuring public transportation safe, accessible and convenient to everyone in the society	▪ Change attitudes within the community about the special transport needs of women, elderly, and peoples with differently abled ▪ Introduce an app to immediately inform of harassment and issues faced by women in transport services, and a unit dedicated to act on it ▪ Provide special accessibility facilities for differently abled and elderly in trains and buses ▪ Modify train stations and bus stops for easy accessibility and use by differently abled and elderly ▪ Make it compulsory to reserve seats for elderly and differently abled in public transport vehicles
Minimizing road accidents	Ensuring safer travel across country through enhanced road safety.	▪ Introduce improvements to identified problem creating points in road infrastructure to avoid possible accidents, directing all drivers and riders to more disciplined driving, and making it compulsory to abide by road rules ▪ Systematize the process of issuing and renewing of driving licenses
Para-transit operations	Ensuring regulated environment for para-transit services	▪ Formalize taxi services including three-wheel service, staff transport, and school transport services to improve their quality and efficiency ▪ Introduce a digital mobile phone app for para-transit transport services
Organizing passengers and beneficiaries	Ensuring people-centric decision making process for transport services and its infrastructure development	▪ Recognize passenger organizations as stakeholders in the field, and make them part of the decision-making process ▪ Take residents of the areas as active participants in assessing and auditing the construction and repairing activities for transport infrastructure such as roads and bridges in their respective areas

3.12 A sustainable marine resource - Acquiring a portion of global maritime business

Policy Principles –

- An integrated maritime control for sustainable usage of maritime resources
- Being responsible and accountable for the protection of the maritime environment and resources
- Access to common maritime resources or their personnel use are on consumption fee
- Precautionary approach in decision-making on maritime control and administration
- Community participation in the planning, usage, and conservation of maritime and coastal areas and their resources
- Fair distribution of the benefits of maritime resources among the public

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Maritime logistics	Developing highly skilled and competitive workforce to meet the evolving demands of the international maritime industry	▪ Expand the state intervention to develop primary and professional nautical education. ▪ Develop professional skills and making it easier to obtain relevant certificates ▪ Introduce a structured process to analyze and amend the curricula to fulfil the requirements of the International Maritime Organization ▪ Appoint a third-party evaluation committee to certify that the ministry's examination unit is working according to the Quality Management System ▪ Develop industrial training facilities ▪ Broaden access to new job opportunities in the international market ▪ Protect and develop nautical welfare and ethics
	Establishing a state of the art harbors with standard facilities to attract global maritime business, boosting national revenue and economic growth	▪ Expand the harbor, maintenance, data storage, production processes, national vessels, infrastructure, terminals, and implementations ▪ Improve the nautical industrial services and maintenance, operations, representatives, supply networks, special technical services, banks, ship recycling, services for the ships and other activities ▪ Integrate the nautical field with the tourist industry ▪ Transform Sri Lanka into a maritime service hub that provides naval services including maritime security, fuel, and food. ▪ Develop port facilities to serve as an efficient regional logistic management hub with all facilities to provide services of transshipment, Trans loading, ship-to-ship cargo transfer, and cross-docking. ▪ Establish a crew member-changing center for ships navigating across Sri Lanka. ▪ Improve technology and infrastructure for ship & vessel building and repairs

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	Implementing progressive laws and regulations that foster a business friendly environment while ensuring sustainable environmental practices	▪ Analyze and amend laws related to vessel registration and adopt market models ▪ Introduce a productive and cautious Port State Control (PSC) system ▪ Introduce a transparent PSC service based on goals ▪ Enact the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and other environmental protection laws ▪ Enact laws on nautical protection in Sri Lanka

3.13 A secured data system- An ICT revolution

Policy Principles –

- Ensuring communication access for every citizen
- Easy access to information and data
- Fair pricing
- Protection of national and personal data
- Cyber security and data privacy
- Green infrastructure

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
ICT Infrastructure Development	Ensuring enabling ICT infrastructure access to public at lower cost	Wired Communication ▪ Develop and unify the national communication network under a national strategy that facilitates infrastructure sharing and allows the seamless transfer of subscriber numbers (telephone number) between service providers. ▪ Empower the Urban council to hold responsibility and carry out operations in the access network from the service provider to receiver ▪ Increase the public internet access points. ▪ Build a centralized backbone network with the transmission network of the electricity board, to expand the communication facilities for rural areas. ▪ Integrate the civic registration and the receiver data system of telephone companies. ▪ Establish the infrastructure for an e-government system and centralizing all services into a unified platform. Wireless Communication ▪ Provide priority for technology with high efficiency in the frequency range such as 5G and LTE+ ▪ Remove the use of old technology gradually such as 3G and CDMA, and using 2G for emergency services
	Strengthening of Digital Infrastructure and Expanding Communication Services:	Guard bands ▪ Amend the frequency ranges given to service providers, providing a continuous frequency range, and limiting guard bands Promoting public Wi-Fi and wired connections ▪ Establish wi-fi in public places, including schools, universities, libraries, educational institutes, gardens, and government offices, providing internet access at a reasonable rate with free access for IOT with all essential services Public procedures for the electronic communication industry

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Provide goals for electronic communication service providers to make their networks accessible to all public ▪ Provide free access to essential services such as emergency services, governmental services, public security services, health services, and education ▪ Develop the infrastructure in rural areas, areas with limited coverage, and public places ▪ Provide free access for all citizens for IOT tools with educational programs, online educational programs, and other educational tools such as documents and e-libraries ▪ Provide infrastructure to promote IOT applications in all fields ▪ Establish a regulatory mechanism to regulate the exchange of infrastructure among companies, communication qualities and prices Broadcasting industry ▪ Turn broadcasting networks into digital, absorbing the latest technology and providing services related to the public ▪ Establish a regulatory body for the transmission industry under the CRC-SL ▪ Integrate state-owned radio and television institutes into a consolidated single institute/company in a way that their identities are protected ▪ Operate the National Channel (CH-01) and Nethra Channel (CH-02) within the Public Services Broadcast (PSB) domains, while transitioning Channel EYE (CH-03) to the commercial domain. ▪ Implement SLBC local service and Tamil service as PSB Domains, and maintaining other channels as commercial channels ▪ Allocate annual budget for mass communication in each ministry to the institutions maintained as PSB. ▪ Improve and promote the necessary technical infrastructure to broadcast programs

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		that include entertainment and education. ▪ Identify the terrestrial TV network as the efficient medium for educational services and developing the required technical infrastructure. ▪ Act competitively in the international outside broadcasting industry as an external broadcasting engineering institute which covers and transmits external broadcastings of international ceremonies and competitions which are connected to sports, entertainment, and tourist industry in this region. Cinema and entertainment industry ▪ Mandate 2K as the minimum quality standard for digital cinema projection. ▪ Establish a regulatory body for the cinema, entertainment, digital, and new media industries. ▪ Create state-of-the-art studios and post-production facilities, promoting private sector investment in advanced technology and imported equipment through tax incentives and other forms of support. ▪ Introduce new regulations for the facility service for foreign film companies and industries related to foreign film production, with a centralized office to oversee and coordinate all activities, including registration. ▪ Promote investments in IoT applications such as OTT and VOD services, as well as in the entertainment, digital, and new media industries.

3.14 A productive land management system - Integrated control plan

Policy Principles –

- Optimum land utilization
- Protecting the sensitive areas
- Efficient and productive land administration and management

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Land utilization and Land use Management	Optimizing the efficient use of limited land resources to enhance their economic value and return.	▪ Prepare/update National Land Use Policy and Plan ▪ Prepare and update an Integrated Land Use Map ▪ Prepare local development plans, aligning with the National Land Use Planning Policy ▪ Prepare a land suitability map based on spatial data analysis ▪ Establish a new legal framework and enactment of a Land Act that makes effective land administration and management ▪ Ensure disaster mitigation, climatic resilience and adaptation mechanisms appropriately through land use plans ▪ Establish a National Land Council to coordinate and oversee Land Management ▪ Prepare and update state land inventory
	Ensuring the promotion of efficient and effective land administration system through digitalization	▪ Establish an electronic system for land registration and digitalizing land parcels and reports ▪ Make the land valuation process formal and efficient ▪ Establish a network of quasi-judicial institutes to resolve land-related issues quickly and fairly ▪ Introduce simple and efficient land usage and development permits through scientific and technological methods
	Ensuring environmentally sensitive ecosystems and taking relevant measures for protecting them as appropriate	▪ Protect land in sensitive areas ▪ Take action to preserve and protect environmentally and historically sensitive areas

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Land registration	Strengthening institutional capacity for facilitating and providing better service delivery for people in land alienation	▪ Provide deeds to the people who have been living in state lands for a long period followed by a systematic assessment ▪ Establish an Integrated Land Information Infrastructure (ILII) connecting all local government authorities and land management institution ▪ Ensure an efficient, transparent, and accountable land-related public service
Surveying and Mapping	Strengthening the Land Surveying and Mapping services for efficient, effective and sustainable land management	▪ Expand the control network for surveying and mapping and increase the productivity of land surveys through enhanced technology ▪ Introduce/implement LiDAR surveys or appropriate technologies to cover the entire country and extract accurate elevation data ▪ Connect all surveys to the national Grid for seamless integration ▪ Introduce a mechanism to obtain the optimum service of new survey graduates ▪ Collect and store accurate and timely spatial data needed for development projects on a priority basis ▪ Provide reliable and accurate data sources and introduce new technology to update the spatial data needed for geo-information production ▪ Provide a National Spatial Data Integration treaty to facilitate comprehensive data management

3.15 Scientifically managed construction industry - Excellent quality workforce

Policy Principles –

- A creative construction industry
- Transparent and fair procurement
- Monitoring, supporting, and regulating the construction sector
- Fair competition and equal access among entrepreneurs
- Quality employment with job security, fair wages, and opportunities for skill development based on new architectural knowledge

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
High quality and competitive construction industry	Creating an enabling environment to foster growth through improving research and development capacities, innovation, sustainability and competitiveness of the construction industry	▪ Analyze and make necessary amendments to the Construction Industry Development Act ▪ Introduce a broad ethics system for all stakeholders in the construction industry ▪ Provide financial guarantees through the Construction Guarantee Fund to companies recognized by the CIDA ▪ Provide an ID for each worker in construction that determines and certifies the social recognition and skill level of them ▪ Strengthen the arbitration centre and pool of arbitrators to resolve construction conflicts quickly ▪ Make environmental accountability essential for all construction projects, with a deep assessment of environmental risks ▪ Protect local industrialists by involving international companies in the construction sector under specific conditions ▪ Prepare plans and specifications to update and modify the construction industry according to global developments and international standards ▪ Methodically implement the electronic bidding system in the construction sector ▪ Provide state sponsorship for local industrialists to enter international construction projects ▪ Certify the transparency of the procurement process to increase the participation of local bidders ▪ Establish a special research and development unit for the construction industry to introduce new technology and low-cost raw material ▪ Coordination of all construction training institutes in the country and the regulation of construction technology education ▪ Introduce a long-term insurance plan and a retirement benefit scheme for registered construction workers

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Certify the participation of state sector construction institutes in managing national disaster situations and training the workforce ▪ Increase the knowledge in the field about new project management and contract management ▪ Train the state and private sector technical staff on estimation and procurement processes

3.16 A resilient and innovative aviation sector

Policy Principles –

- Strengthen regional connectivity
- A catalyst for tourism industry
- An aircraft services and maintenance hub to the Asian region

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Aviation towards tourism development	Developing a stable and competitive national carrier that strengthens connectivity and enhances the country's appeal as a premier tourist destination	▪ Protect national carrier and ensure connectivity to key tourism destinations without compromising its financial stability
	Developing and expanding aviation infrastructure including international airports and domestic aerodromes	▪ Encourage low-cost carriers to serve the country from major tourism source markets ▪ Optimize underutilized international airports in the country ▪ Expand the Bandaranaike International Airport focusing on transforming it into a tourist friendly, attractive facility that meets the standards of competitive airports in the region. ▪ Develop Jaffna, Hambantota, and Batticaloa international airports into key gateways for tourism, while establishing specialized tourism zones in these regions to attract and cater to targeted tourist segments ▪ Review current regulatory and operational environment to ensure domestic air connectivity to major tourist destinations. ▪ Develop domestic airports and water aerodromes further in potential key areas to support connectivity, which is essential for high-end tourism growth. ▪ Sound ground transport networks will be established ensuring seamless travel for tourists to and from all airports and destinations across the country
Aviation Services	Positioning Sri Lanka as Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul (MRO) hub in the region	▪ Establish an aircraft service and maintenance hub to cater to the aviation requirements of the Asian region.

CHAPTER 4

4. A dignified life - A strong country

Introduction: Governance and Reforms for a Sustainable Future

Constitutional reforms where all people can be involved in governance within one country will be introduced to strengthen democracy and ensure equality of all citizens

The public service, comprising 1.4 million employees, is the main instrument in implementing state policies but currently faces challenges of inefficiency, public distrust due to corruption and political interference. Reforming the government service is necessary to restore public faith and enhance its efficiency and effectiveness.

The judicial system has lost public faith due to lack of independency and transparency in the process. Rebuilding the public faith and creating independent and efficient administration of justice allows to establish the rule of law.

The police play a vital role in maintaining law and order but are often viewed as corrupt and politically influenced. Transforming the police into an independent and efficient service that genuinely serves the public is essential.

The prison system has faced issues of overcrowding, lack of basic facilities and abusing inmates. There is a pressing need for welfare of the prisoners and effective rehabilitation programs for them even though it is expected creating a social environment where people are not inclined to do crimes

Drug use has become a significant social issue, worsened by inadequate government action to combat trafficking. Emphasizing drug prevention and rehabilitation is crucial, rather than focusing solely on incarceration.

Sri Lanka's strategic location presents opportunities for economic growth and diplomatic leadership, yet foreign policy has frequently been influenced by external factors. A Sri Lankan foreign policy grounded in national interests is necessary for economic recovery and stability amidst regional tensions.

National security depends on independent and balanced diplomacy, democratic governance, equality and harmony and professional military dedicated in protecting citizens. Ensuring internal security requires coordinated efforts among various law enforcement agencies.

Policy Statement

Ensure a cohesive Sri Lankan identity, learning from the past to build a sustainable future for all citizens

4.1. A new constitution – A united Sri Lankan nation

Focus Area/Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Strengthening Democratic Governance	Strengthening the legal and institutional framework to protect marginalized groups	• Recognize and enact the rights mentioned in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as basic rights • Broaden the constitutional law about the rights of children, women, and people with disabilities according to international conventions
	Building up constitutional and electoral reforms for a united society	• Introduce a new constitution that strengthens democracy, ensures equality of all citizens, and the devolution of political and administrative power to every local government, district and province enabling all people to be involved in governance within one country. ▪ Abolish the executive presidency, establishing a government responsible to the Parliament and appointing a president, without executive powers. ▪ Introduce a new parliamentary electoral system ▪ Limit official presidential residences to one ▪ Abolish the pensions and special privileges given to retired presidents and their families ▪ Appoint 25 ministers and corresponding deputy ministers to 25 logically determined ministries and abolishing State Ministerial posts ▪ Appoint an advisory council consisting of specialists on the subject to each ministry

Focus Area/Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Introduce a code of ethics, including not allowing members of parliament (MPs) and ministers to appoint their immediate family members to their personal staff ▪ Abolish allowances made to MPs for participating in parliamentary sessions ▪ Abolish the pension offered to MPs after 05 years ▪ Prevent MPs or their close family members from directly or indirectly engaging in businesses or contracts with the government ▪ Remove the tax-free vehicle permits for MPs ▪ Give only one vehicle for Ministers /Deputy Ministers to be used during their period of office. ▪ Introduce provisions to recall Minister of the Parliament by voter if such Minister of the Parliament does not fulfil the responsibility or involves in corruption. ▪ Affirm the freedom of speech subject to the condition that, not having disunity and religious hatred among ethnicities or not discriminated on gender or any other reasons. ▪ Safeguard the voting rights of immigrants within and outside of the country.

4.2. An efficient public service - A skill based professionalism

Policy Principles –

- Ensuring transparency and accountability
- Merit-based appointments and promotions
- Efficiency and formal procedures
- Ethical behaviour and continuity
- Using advanced technology
- Formulating productive policies
- Partnership
- Public participation, awareness, and skills
- Ensuring inclusion
- No discrimination

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Efficient Public Service delivery	Ensuring digitalized public service delivery with maximum utilization of state resources	▪ Resolve issues in the service minutes and amending them ▪ Prepare a necessary mechanism to address socio-economic issues and needs identified from the ground level, based on the national development programme ▪ Identify the subject fields of the state departments and institutions and directing them to new ministries on a logical basis, and building vertical and horizontal connections among these institutions to maintain high efficiency in achieving socio-economic goals ▪ Establish new institutions as per the need, methodically integrating institutions with similar subject matter, and abolishing unnecessary institutes ▪ Transform the existing state management processes towards new state management systems taking into consideration the concepts of digitalization, performance management, and citizen involvement ▪ Conduct an immediate census to identify information such as the skills and qualifications of workers to re-position them to achieve new socio-economic goals to increase the efficiency of the government service instead of the popular option of laying workers off ▪ Introduce a performance management procedure to ensure that departments and their staff are achieving targets ▪ Establish Divisional Secretariat offices as multi-service provision centers based on the concept under one roof using digital technology. ▪ Introduce a methodologies to obtain public feedback to assess officers on providing the public service in an efficient, well-mannered, and corruption-free manner, preventing the waste of public money that occurs both actively and passively in the decision-making process ▪ Maintain a state asset registry to manage state resources properly and efficiently ▪ Encourage state institutions to prevent the wastage of state resources and introducing scales to measure those

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Develop digital tools to improve the efficiency of internal activities of the governmental service, including procurement, financing, auditing, planning, and administration ▪ Revise necessary rules and regulations for appointments and promotions of officers to all types of services in the government service within a particular time frame ▪ Restructure SLIDA while increasing its capacity to support formulating state policies and develop the skills of officers in implementing the policies

4.3 Rule of law - A judicial system with equal access

Policy Principles –

- Equality and equal protection of law
- Independence and public trust
- Transparency and efficiency

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Ensure independence of the judiciary.	Ensuring timely and equitable justice delivery through enhancing the judicial system	▪ Appoint a committee of legal experts to review the existing laws and update the laws as necessary. ▪ Make the judicial process smoother and more efficient by taking steps to introduce modern technology to the judicial process and providing proper training to the judges and staff. ▪ Take steps to establish Smart courthouses and maintaining soft copies of the judicial reports. ▪ Appoint research officers to assist Judges of Appellate and Original Courts to get accurate, eloquent and prompt results. ▪ Establish an International Arbitration and Conciliation Center for arbitration and conciliation of disputes arising in international commercial transactions within the South Asian region. ▪ Develop infrastructure for safe storage of evidence related to criminal law cases. ▪ Introduce new laws to expedite the disposal of productions to relevant aggrieved parties or confiscation before diminishing the market values of the productions. ▪ Update the laws related to bail by looking at the present issues in the bail law and bail process. ▪ Introduce mechanisms to prioritize and expedite the disposal of cases related to sexual offences committed against minors and women and bring justice to the victims. ▪ Establish provincial branches of the Department of Government Analyst in order to accelerate the judicial process.
Bribery and Corruption	Eliminate Bribery and Corruption	▪ Establish a stolen public asset recovery agency with the technical and advisory support of international organizations such as Stolen Asset Recovery (STAR) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to recover the stolen state assets.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Facilitate the Director General of the Bribery Commission with necessary authority, as per the Section 34 of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 09 of 2023, to give effect to the International Convention on the Prevention of Corruption and Coordinating the Recovery of Stolen Assets. ▪ Appoint a permanent bench of three Judges of the High Court to streamline cases of financial crimes, bribery and corruption. ▪ Establish Anti-Corruption Commission office in every district. ▪ Investigate complaints received by the Anti-Corruption Commission within six (06) months or submit a report to the Parliament every six (06) months on complains that are not dealt with. ▪ Prepare the necessary laws to bring to justice those who facilitate the protection to those are accused of state financial corruption and consider them too be involved in the wrongdoing. ▪ Prioritize legislation to prevent corrupt practices such as financial abuse, bribery, commission etc. ▪ Establish a government-sponsored awareness campaign among the public about corruption, fraud and bribery and to empower the public against them. ▪ Re-visit the cases withdrawn by the Bribery Commission and the Attorney General and resubmit appropriate cases.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Attorney General's Department	Strengthening Attorney General's Department	▪ Introduce a Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP) as a mechanism to eliminate delays within the judicial system and establish a main DPP office and sub office in the provinces which will remain independent of the Attorney General's Department to conduct cases on behalf of the government. ▪ Document the prosecution guidelines that must be followed by the Attorney General's Department when prosecuting. ▪ Inform the complainants/aggrieved parties about the reasons, in the event the Attorney General's Department decides not to prosecute after the investigation process. ▪ Appoint a special Parliamentary Ombudsman to address the grievances of the aggrieved party regarding the activities of the Attorney General's Department. ▪ Establish provincial offices of the Attorney General's Department under a Senior Additional Solicitor General

4.4 Public security assuring - People friendly service

Policy Principles –

- Independence
- Efficient and friendly service
- Professional skill

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Police service	Fostering a transparent, efficient and trusted service through strengthening the professionalism and accountability	▪ Introduce 'Police Public Relations Committees' to establish a close and formal relationship between the police and the public. ▪ Notify the suspect's guardians or next of kin within 24 hours of police arrest. ▪ Inform the magistrate and follow a formal procedure to protect the life of the suspect if they are taken out of a police station for any investigations. ▪ Provide necessary infrastructure to computerize all complaints and produce e- police reports. ▪ Investigate and finalize expeditiously all complaints received by the police and reporting to the Police Commission when it is not possible to do so. ▪ Utilize scientific training, new technological tools, and information technology for crime investigation. ▪ Empower the Police Commission to make all appointments, promotions, and transfers in the police service without politicization. ▪ Introduce a formal promotion procedure for promotions from Police Constable to Chief Inspector. ▪ Introduce a scheme to promote from Sergeant of Police to Assistant Superintendent of Police to be done based solely on merit and performance without politicization. ▪ Provide the necessary knowledge and training to make the police service a professional police service, providing opportunities to follow graduate programmes in areas such as criminology and criminal justice, police public relations, counseling, and psychology. ▪ Appreciate talented police officers through the awarding of prizes and certificates, providing foreign training programmes for them. ▪ Introduce a programme to provide housing to police officers who do not own a house. ▪ Raise the salaries and allowances of the police service in proportion to other public servants.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Strengthen the Special Investigation Unit for a police service free of bribery, corruption and fraud.
Justice for all	Law enforcement related to long unsolved crimes	▪ Take action against the politicians and public officials who were found guilty by the verdicts of the Supreme Court for the Easter Sunday attack ▪ Take prompt legal action against the relevant politicians and officials according to the recommendations of the Presidential Commission regarding the Easter Sunday attacks on 21.04.2019 ▪ Complete investigations promptly into political killing and abductions of journalists, sportspersons and others that have not been solved for a long time and implementing the law against the criminals ▪ Provide justice to journalists, security personnel and other people who left the country under threat due to political pressure

4.5. A humanitarian prison - A lawful confinement

Policy Principles –

- Guardianship and protection
- Rehabilitation and re-socializing

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Prison sector	Ensuring quality living conditions, and protecting the rights through enhancing the rehabilitation and welfare of prisoners	▪ Prevent all forms of torture inside prisons ▪ Analyze the nature, mental status, and other qualities of the prisoners, and categorizing and placing of prisoners accordingly ▪ Expand facilities within prisons, including special facilities according to international standards ▪ Ensure the quality of the food given to prisoners ▪ Refer persons convicted of minor offences to community programs without incarceration ▪ Launch vocational counseling service to reform prisoners ▪ Introduce regular exercise programs to maintain the physical health of the prisoners ▪ Introduce programmes to use long-term prisoners for various production processes and services ▪ Streamline the process to detain prisoners with good behaviour in open-air prisons and or send them home under regular supervision ▪ Provide educational and vocational training courses in every prison ▪ Improve the efficiency of institutions involved in the criminal justice system to avoid prolonged detention as remand prisoners ▪ Pay special attention to the welfare of women prisoners and preventing all form of violence against them in prisons ▪ Expand education, health, and other services to children who live in prisons with their mothers

4.6. A drug-free country - A healthier citizen life

Policy Principles –

- Drug prevention
- Rehabilitation of drug users

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Prevent drugs	Preventing drug trafficking and rehabilitating drug addicts through appropriate regulatory and institutional reforms	▪ Implement an integrated operation to prevent drugs and organized crime in the country ▪ Establish a separate Bureau for Narcotics Prevention ▪ Develop naval and air surveillance facilities and provide modern equipment and training to officials to prevent the entry of drugs into the country ▪ Regularize rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts to free them from drug use ▪ Strengthen penalties for drug offences and taking measures for the speedy resolution of cases ▪ Implement continuous programmes to educate school children ▪ Expand the functions of the Dangerous Drugs Control Board, and establish monitoring committees to involve people in the fight against drugs ▪ Educate the community about the adverse effects of drug use
Rehabilitation of drug addicts		

4.7 A dignified diplomacy - A sovereign state

Policy Principles –

- Complying with the UN Charter and its principals and UN System.
- Promote international and regional peace and security.
- Peaceful Co-Existence: mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, equality of States, mutual growth, mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Supremacy of diplomacy in managing and resolving global problems.
- Promote regional and Global integration through State to State and people to people diplomacy

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Non-aligned and balanced diplomatic policy	Enhancing Sri Lanka's global presence and diplomatic effectiveness through a dynamic foreign policy	▪ Develop Clear Guidelines: Formulate a comprehensive foreign policy outlining strategic priorities, goals, and expected conduct of Sri Lanka's representatives abroad. ▪ Review the policy periodically to adapt to evolving global dynamics. ▪ Restructure the Ministry of Foreign Affairs internally to meet with new foreign policy objectives after comprehensive analysis. ▪ Introduce focused and coordinated guidance on Sri Lanka Foreign Service (SLFS). ▪ Evaluate the economically developing, emerging countries and areas where Sri Lanka should open its missions which can strengthen the country's economic capacity
Diplomatic Missions	Optimizing Sri Lanka's diplomatic network to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in global engagement	▪ Rationalize Sri Lanka Overseas Missions and Right Sizing of Missions. ▪ Create performance indicators for each Mission aligned with trade enhancement, tourism promotion, professional and vocational training and employment opportunities. ▪ Appoint professional career diplomats, with a proven track record, to head Sri Lanka's Missions. ▪ Appoint qualified officers for Foreign Service on merit basis with professional excellence, the highest standards of ethical conduct, and diplomatic discretion. ▪ Ethical Guidelines: Establish a clear code of conduct for diplomats that emphasizes integrity, professionalism, and accountability. ▪ De-politicize the Foreign Service and make appointments on merit basis.
Institutional Reforms and Centralize Supervision	Empowering and modernizing Sri Lanka's diplomatic framework to enhance responsiveness, accountability, and efficiency	▪ Decentralization of Diplomatic Initiatives: Empower Embassies to take the initiative in line with the overall foreign policy framework of Sri Lanka while ensuring accountability through regular oversight. ▪ Streamlined Processes: Simplify and streamline diplomatic processes to make them more efficient and responsive to the needs of the citizen and the State. ▪ Create data bases of human resources (of all categories) and physical assets. ▪ Restructure and strengthen the Diplomatic Training Institute and the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI).

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Enhancing Diplomatic Training and Capacity Building:	Enhancing Sri Lanka's diplomatic capacity through developing and implementing comprehensive, region-specific training programs	- Improved Training Programs: Develop comprehensive training programs for diplomats focusing on negotiation skills, cultural diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and international law. - Introduce tailor-made training sessions to address the specific challenges faced by Missions in different regions. - Continuous Professional Development: Introduce compulsory ongoing learning and professional development for diplomat
Service Efficiency of Sri Lankan Missions	Strengthening accountability, integrity, transparency and efficiency within Sri Lanka's diplomatic service	- Centralized Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish a robust mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the performance of Sri Lankan diplomats. Regular reviews to be conducted to assess the alignment of their actions with national foreign policy objectives. - Standardized Reporting: Implement standardized reporting procedures where missions are required to regularly update the Foreign Ministry on their activities, challenges, and achievements. - Increase the e-services provided by the Sri Lankan missions to reduce the time consumption for the services - Enhance the quality of the services provided to the Sri Lankan diaspora with a people oriented attitude at a reduced cost. - Provide services in an efficient manner with the purpose of encouraging visits of foreigners to Sri Lanka while being vigilant of the National Security aspects. - Provide necessary funds, technology and technical know-how to the Sri Lankan Missions to provide services efficiently.
Political Diplomacy	Ensuring Sri Lanka's global presence and influence through promoting inclusive	- Upgrade status of foreign mission and open new embassies according to the recommendations of a comprehensive study. - Promote and strengthen the Diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with G20 countries, BRICS+ countries, ASEAN, South Asian, Middle East and African Continent

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	global governance, supporting multilateralism and promoting Sri Lanka's values on the international arena	as a priority. ▪ Provide an opportunity to participate in the global decision-making process for all States regardless of their size and development status. ▪ Promote an open, inclusive and prosperous South Asian region in which the rights of all States are respected. ▪ Maintain a secure and peaceful environment in and around South Asia. ▪ Support multilateralism through the United Nations and its affiliated agencies, including regional economic commissions. ▪ Explore new opportunities and new global and regional platforms which can assist to achieve national interests of Sri Lanka, especially in economic sphere. ▪ Promote the nation's self-image through values such as freedom, democracy, social justice, human rights, and the rule of law and climate justice.
Economic Diplomacy	Positioning Sri Lanka at the forefront of the global economy by engaging with international partners	▪ Engage with the international economy and positioning the domestic economy to provide economic wealth and security. ▪ Interact with foreign partners to bring in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), financial assistance, and technology transfer for schemes and programmes. Attempting to diversify sources of FDI. ▪ Analyze and promote Sri Lankan trade, tourism, and investment, as the country aims to become a hub of the Indian Ocean, it seeks synergies with international partners and friends as it moves towards shared aspirations ▪ Open up the domestic market within the National Economic Framework pursuing prudent economic management and expanding economic cooperation with other countries. ▪ Give higher priority to promote and strengthen the Diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with G20 countries, BRICS+ countries, ASEAN, Middle East and African Continent.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		▪ Enact modern and comprehensive investment law to improve the business environment for the foreign and local private sector, including, streamlining business procedures, investing in infrastructure, improving access to finance for Small and medium-sized enterprises - SMEs, and raising skilled and quality of human resources. ▪ Improve access to other markets through new trade agreements and linking Sri Lanka to global production networks to increase exports. ▪ Develop Sri Lanka as a critical service provider to international trade through new bilateral and multilateral trade agreements with main trade partners to promote the Sri Lankan economy and analyze remaining trade agreements and upgrade according to achieve the stipulated targets with the consent of the other signing partners. ▪ Renewable Energy Diplomacy; Position Sri Lanka as a leader in renewable energy by promoting international partnerships and investments in sustainable energy projects. Participating in global renewable energy initiatives and sharing best practices. ▪ Solve the challenges diplomatically posed by foreign fishermen to fishing activities in the North and East and other areas and make room for the necessary infrastructure and marketing facilities
National Security	Safeguarding Sovereignty and National Security through a unique approach in par with international standards	▪ Safeguard Sri Lanka's Sovereignty and territorial integrity including the rights of the territorial waters ▪ Never allow the deployment of any military force into Sri Lanka intended to perform any activities whatsoever. ▪ Work towards strengthening and promoting international law; regional and global stability, peace, and security; and the multilateral system. ▪ Strengthen the engagement with Southeast Asian and ASEAN to combat terrorism, separatism, extremism, piracy, and other non-traditional security threats. ▪ Attract and manage foreign investments without hindering Sri Lanka's national security and economic interests.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		Establish cyber security cooperation, while strictly adhering to the national security policy international collaborations to enhance cyber security infrastructure and strategies.
Maritime Diplomacy	Strengthening Sri Lanka's role in the Indian Ocean with the collaboration of neighboring countries on maritime safety and security, environmental protection, and integration of reliable supply chains	- Take action to preserve a world in which all countries enjoy sea and air access as provided for under international law. - Secure a safe & stable maritime domain and free & open sea lanes of communication based on UN adopted law of the Sea. - Ensure playing an essential role in regional security in the Indian Ocean due to its strategic location proximity to major shipping lines and high-quality logistics services. - Become a net security provider and first responder working closely with countries who share maritime borders with Indian Ocean on anti-piracy patrols, pollution control, marine eco system and biodiversity conservation, maritime search, maritime security, resilient and reliable supply chains, data, and counter terrorism and rescue operations, joint exercises, etc.
Cultural Diplomacy	Promoting of Sri Lanka's cultural diplomacy	- Establish Sri Lanka Directorate of Cultural Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - Enhance cultural exchanges and promoting Sri Lankan culture abroad to build soft power and foster mutual understanding through establishing cultural centers, supporting Sri Lankan artists and performers in international platforms, and participating in global cultural events. - Recognize proper mutual understanding between the peoples of Sri Lanka and other nations is an essential prerequisite for conducting diplomacy. - Utilize sports diplomacy as a foundation for establishing solid relationships with other countries through sports exchanges. - Initiate specific cultural weeks/month with countries in where considerable Sri Lankan diaspora is presence and countries where we get considerable inflow of tourists

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		Promote religious diplomacy to persuasion, attraction and cultural exchanges to promote the image of the country as well as to build friendship among people
Science and Technology Diplomacy	Promoting Science and Technology Diplomacy	- Make science, technology and innovation as a fundamental tool of Sri Lankan foreign policy. - Attract global scientific community with the direct involvement of prominent Sri Lankan scientists to establish laboratories, research centers, and exhibitions in Sri Lanka with regional and global significance. - Consider to grant citizenship for the scientists and research with excellence who are ready to promote Sri Lanka as an important regional center for science and technology. - Improve the quality of human capital by promoting the so-called STEAM combination of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics at all levels of learning. - Encourage multinational IT companies to invest in Sri Lanka to leverage it as the Digital Gateway to Asia. - Appoint dedicated representatives to multilateral agencies like UNESCAP.
Parliamentary Diplomacy	Promoting of Sri Lanka's parliamentary diplomacy by fostering international collaborations	- Establish Parliamentary friendship societies, joint programmes with other Parliaments. - Implement Speaker, Members of Parliament and staff level programmes. - Facilitate the Sri Lankan Parliament to use all regional and global Parliamentary forums to extract the best possible results for the country.
Public Diplomacy	Promoting of Public Diplomacy by developing mutual relationships	- Promote Sri Lankan NGOs and other reputed civil organizations in abroad for the common good of the peoples. - Appreciate Sri Lankan diplomats, academia, security experts and experts on various fields who are ready to strengthen and promote think tanks and platforms which study and engage with regional and global political and economic developments. - Facilitate to open Foreign Relations offices (within the stipulated laws of the country) in order to establish cordial and meaningful relations with their counterparts in other countries by Provincial Councils, Municipalities, Universities and other major

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
		public institutions etc. ▪ Employ prominent Sri Lankan individuals with par excellence in their fields as Brand Ambassadors or Special Envoys to promote Public Diplomacy when necessary. ▪ Encourage Sri Lankan Diaspora to engage with other communities in country they reside.
Humanitarian Diplomacy	Strengthening Sri Lanka's global humanitarian role by promotion of Humanitarian Diplomacy	▪ Participate in international aid programs and disaster relief missions. ▪ Build capacity within Sri Lanka for rapid response to humanitarian crises both domestically and internationally. ▪ Obtain UN peacekeeping and peace enforcement opportunities for tri forces and police to support the genuine grievances of people of other nations.
Legal Reforms	Maximizing economic contributions of overseas Sri Lankans through appropriate legal reforms and other global cooperation	▪ Reform dual citizenship laws and immigration laws to facilitate the economic contributions of overseas Sri Lankans. ▪ Introduce laws relating to prosecution under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). ▪ Strengthen trade rules through bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) to advance our commercial interests in overseas markets. ▪ Establish Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnerships (RCEP) either bilaterally or multilaterally. ▪ Promote and protect the international rules that support stability and prosperity and enable cooperation to tackle global challenges.
Diaspora engagement	Enhancing service delivery for the Sri Lankan diaspora and obtaining their contribution for the	▪ Attach Foreign Employment Bureau to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a better coordination, efficient use of available human and financial resources for the purpose of providing better service delivery for the Sri Lankan diaspora in foreign countries. ▪ Facilitate the foreign employed Sri Lankan citizens to exercise their votes from the country they reside.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	development of the country	▪ Introduce much needed insurance and social security system including a retirement pension for the foreign employed citizens. ▪ Establish Entrepreneur Promotion Unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate capable Sri Lankan entrepreneurs living in foreign countries along with the possibilities of financial facilities as well. ▪ Establish a Consultative body with the Sri Lankan diaspora in every country where a considerable number of Sri Lankans is present, mandating to engage with the Sri Lankan foreign mission. ▪ Appoint NRSLs as Honorary Consuls to further Sri Lankan interests abroad. ▪ Provide solutions with regard to the problems occur at remitting money to Sri Lankan accounts such as higher service charges, difficulties of opening and continuing multi-currency accounts from the country of residence and much needed insurances for such accounts. ▪ Facilitate the possibility of foreign employed Sri Lankan citizens to invest in Sri Lanka including on the bonds for development projects. ▪ Streamline the issuance and renewal of birth certificates and other certificates and passports to Sri Lankan citizens employed in respective countries. ▪ Revise the dual citizenship fees to encourage expatriate Sri Lankans to acquire dual citizenship
Current Foreign Policy Stances	Ensuring the stability of current foreign policy	▪ Prohibit allowing any country or institution to use Sri Lanka's land, Sea and Air spaces to threaten or risk the national security of any country in the region. ▪ Support to the UN adopted Two state solutions to establish a Free Sovereign Palestinian State. ▪ Eliminate the threat of Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism. ▪ Oppose foreign military bases and similar military agreements and militarizing initiatives in the Indian Ocean as a firm policy.

4.8 High level of national security - A secured state

Policy Principles –

- Protection of citizens
- Sovereignty and territorial integrity
- Internal Security and National Reconciliation
- Maritime domain and airspace security
- Accountability and responsibility of national security
- Protection of national resources
- Energy security
- Contribution of state intelligence services to national security
- Formal security research and development

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
National Security and Sovereignty	Strengthening national security and territorial integrity by integrating state-of-the-art technology into the tri-forces and their affiliated services	▪ Strengthen and streamline the National Security Council, ensuring responsibility and accountability for national security ▪ Ensure regional security and peaceful coexistence, strengthening national security through safe international relations. ▪ Ensure territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country without compromise ▪ Streamline the defense research and development structure, to periodically update the defense sector with modern and technological knowledge and development, to meet complex and rapidly changing challenges ▪ Enhance excellence in the defense sector by integrating knowledge of national security with science, technology, and innovation ▪ Create a strategic security environment and permanent foundation for economic stability ▪ Take actions to preserve a world in which all countries enjoy sea and air access as provided for under international law ▪ Integrate and formalize the search and rescue region and flight information region (FIR) in Sri Lanka Air Force, to protect the air space within the maritime control region ▪ Integrate the technical knowledge of the Air Force with the navy and Air services and support critically to ensure regional protection to ensure national security. ▪ Establish a National Security Advisory Board consisting of experts in relevant fields of national security ▪ Establish a mechanism that is accountable and responsible for the consumption and conservation of national and strategic resources towards the protection of national security
Maritime Security	Ensuring the maritime security of the region to facilitate global trade, given Sri Lanka's strategic location and addressing	▪ Protect and conserve a stable marine environment in the sea, and ensure enforcement of maritime laws against challenges facing the maritime industry ▪ Safeguard Sri Lanka's Sovereignty and territorial integrity including the rights of the territorial waters ▪ Introduce an integrated management mechanism with regional partnership to productively

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	Emerging Security Threats	control the international maritime boundaries under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea ▪ Take actions to technical updating of the Sri Lanka Navy and the Sri Lanka Coastal Guard, and enact relevant laws to ensure security and stability of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Sri Lanka ▪ Ensure playing an essential role in regional security in the Indian Ocean because of its strategic location proximity to major shipping lines and high-quality logistics services ▪ Become a net security provider and first responder working closely with countries who share maritime borders with Indian Ocean on anti-piracy patrols, pollution control, marine eco system and biodiversity conservation, maritime search, maritime security, resilient and reliable supply chains, data, and counter terrorism and rescue operations, joint exercises, etc ▪ Introduce a mechanism to raise awareness among the maritime areas, by establishing an absolute control, on air, sea, and land independence with regional partnership
Enhancement of Armed Forces Professionalism	Improving professionalism and competence of defense forces with having efficient manpower planning process	▪ Restore the Sri Lanka defense forces under competent leadership as professional forces with developed and technological knowledge, and proper training with knowledge and capabilities relevant to national security ▪ Streamline the procedures followed for appointment and promotion to higher posts, and selection for special and foreign training in the armed forces, with accepted military procedures and based solely on merit, professional skills, and unblemished professional history ▪ Regulate the private security industry to ensure professionalism and job security for those who have retired from the defense forces and police ▪ Protect the honour and dignity of the members of the armed forces and ensuring they are not assigned to unrelated civilian work except in urgent national needs. ▪ Strengthen and formalize of laws to prevent corruption and financial crimes and other structure

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Intelligence Oversight and Accountability	Establishing effective oversight and accountability in security operations to identify conventional and non-conventional threats based on the constant analyzing of evolving security landscape	▪ Establish a trustworthy and efficient integrated intelligence mechanism along with proper procedures to ensure responsibility and accountability in fulfilling duties for national security ▪ Establish a mechanism to ensure independent and apolitical investigations to protect national interests ▪ Reform and formalize of the monitoring system with the productive integration of the National Intelligence Service by certifying the complete accountability of the law enactment institutes (Police, customs, prison) ▪ Establish cyber security cooperation, while strictly adhering to the national security policy international collaborations to enhance cyber security infrastructure and strategies ▪ Develop the security policy in national information systems efficiently and productively, empowering the responsible institutes.
Support for Defense Personnel Welfare	Ensuring the wellbeing and dignity of retired and current defense personnel	▪ Ensure that the retired defense force members who sacrificed their lives for the motherland, disabled members and members currently serving in the forces spend a life with respect and pride, while respecting the memory of the deceased and missing soldiers ▪ Consider humane aspects regarding soldiers who have left the defense services, empowering them to live as respected and productive citizens ▪ Ensure retired defense force members and disabled members live with respect and pride.

4.9 A Sri Lankan nation - The universal citizen

Policy Principles -

- Political partnership of all ethnicities.
- No citizen/community should be subjected to humiliation, oppression, degrading treatment or injustice on the basis of ethnicity, language, religion, caste, sex or any other grounds.
- Safety, mutual understanding, trust and rights of all ethnicities and religious groups.
- A harmonious Sri Lankan nation undivided by racist, castes and religious ideologies.

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
Democracy	Ensuring people's freedom and involvement in governance	▪ Introduce a new constitution that strengthens democracy, ensures equality of all citizens, and the devolution of political and administrative power to every local government, district and province enabling all people to be involved in governance within one country. ▪ Conduct Provincial councils and local government elections to provide an opportunity for the people to join the governance. ▪ Investigate and serve justice to the political assassinations, disappearances and assaults that happened in the past in all areas including the North and East. ▪ Release political prisoners and ensure their free socialization. ▪ Abolish all oppressive acts ensuring civil rights of people in all parts of the country ▪ Establish a Commission Against Discrimination, with a legal mandate. ▪ Expand the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate acts of violence caused by racism and religious extremism. ▪ Establish an Inter-Religious Council consisting of all religious leaders and religious scholars to resolve inter-religious issues. ▪ Implement programmes for comparative study of world religions ▪ Organize cultural programs and activities for national and religious unity at national, provincial and district level. ▪ Regularize civil administration in a way that the civil rights of the people in all parts of the country including the North and East are guaranteed. ▪ Provide educational and employment opportunities to all ethnicities based on merit without political influence.
Harmonious Society	Ensuring national unity with equal opportunities disregarding ethnicity, language, religion, caste	▪ Provide relief to war widows, internally displaced persons, people with disabilities and people with trauma in need of relief and shelter. ▪ Settle existing land related issues by a National Commission on Lands and Settlements. ▪ End resettlement programmes that operate with the aim of changing population

Focus Area/ Thematic Area	Strategic Direction	Key Activities
	and gender	composition. ▪ Implement of the National Language Policy recognized under the 16th Amendment of the Constitution by providing necessary resources and technical facilities. ▪ Take steps to develop facilities such as land, housing, education, and health of the upcountry Tamil community by recognizing their identity and rights, as mentioned in the Haton Declaration made on 2023.10.15 by the National People's power.
	Ensuring the dignity of all communities by upgrading their socio economic conditions	▪ Increase the salaries of the upcountry plantation workers compared to the cost of living. ▪ Provide officials, employees and translators who can work in Tamil to civil services such as police stations and government offices in the Northern and Eastern provinces and Upcountry areas.