

10 years since war, justice is still elusive

Reconciliation is afar as survivors say some lands are yet to be released and relatives are missing

MEERA SRINIVASAN
JAFFNA

Given a choice between living in a camp for displaced persons and in a home of his own, Dinesh Kumar would have chosen the latter any day. But nothing prepared him for the daily battle at his new house.

“I go to the sea to fish, but the catch has fallen drastically in the years we were displaced. I do some home gardening with my wife, we barely manage,” said the 30-year-old, standing in front of his small, Army-built house in Tellippalai, in Jaffna peninsula. Authorities have named the colony ‘Nallinakapuram’ (colony of reconciliation). But for residents here, concerns over finding livelihood and drinking water have trumped the relief of being back on their land.

Over the last couple of years, over 80 families have relocated here, after being displaced for decades during Sri Lanka’s three-decade-long civil war between the state armed forces and rebel Tigers. The war ended 10 years ago with a brutal finish, as the armed forces defeated the LTTE. It claimed 40,000 civilian lives in the last phase alone, leaving behind a trail of grief and mass destruction.

For the survivors, healing hasn’t been easy. The post-war efforts of the two governments in power since 2009 have at best been patchy, and grossly inadequate, going by several residents’ accounts. With justice out of sight, reconciliation appears even harder for some. Nallinakapuram residents pointed to gaping holes in the roof of their



Seeking information: Relatives of people who went missing during Sri Lanka’s civil war taking part in a candle light vigil in August 2017. •GETTY IMAGES

homes built by the Army. During the rains, many are forced to seek shelter elsewhere. Residents in some other areas, who tried building their own homes with foreign donor grants, often found themselves trapped in debt. The grants proved insufficient amid spiralling costs and jobs remain scarce in the war-hit areas.

The lack of jobs and the pressure of predatory loans, especially among women, have been recurring themes across the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which have tried bouncing back for a decade now. A Presidential Task Force has been working on reviving old factories to generate employment, but the pace has hardly helped, according to many.

Emerging local conflicts over land and water among former and newly resettled residents have not only

fanned tensions within the community, but point to the many challenges in resettlement.

Seemingly ‘bread-and-butter issues’, they add up to a stifling post-war reality that makes everyday life significantly harder for the war-hit community. “We lost our homes, we lost our loved ones. Today, as we try to build a new life for our children, we are struggling to make ends meet,” said a resident, who asked not to be named, citing possible “action” from the military. “Why take a risk,” he said.

Military occupation

Ten years after the war, there are families in the north who are still agitating to retrieve their military-held land. Most of the private land held by the Army has been returned in the last few years, but the military still holds

considerable amount of state land which, residents say, ought to be used for the public, or for the thousands who don’t make it to beneficiary lists of various projects because they are landless.

“With so few jobs available, a relative of ours worked in an Army-run farm until last year. But wearing the uniform they give and toiling in their farms made her uncomfortable after a point,” said a young woman in Kilinochchi, who spoke on condition of anonymity. “In our case, I work in a garment factory, so she quit, but some people don’t have a choice.”

For those who were already concerned about the lingering military presence after the war, the recent Easter attacks have brought a new, but familiar concern. “The attacks were somewhere else, but the military started intimidating us in the north

first. The number of security checks and the heightened surveillance is bringing back awful memories of those war years,” said Leelavathi Ananthanatarajah, an activist based in Kilinochchi.

Old fears

“Some of us are hoping to go to Mullivaikkal tomorrow for remembrance, but we fear they will try to prevent us from even remembering the dead,” she said.

The post-war years have been rather unkind to many like her who are looking for their missing relatives. Enforced disappearances are among the chief concerns of many survivors of the war.

The Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe government set up the Office on Missing Persons (OMP) “only to show Geneva that they are doing something,” she said, referring to annual UNHRC sessions.

“We know their task is huge and not straightforward. But we say take some five cases where substantial evidence is available. Show us how you might deal with those cases for us to put our faith in the mechanism,” said Ms. Ananthanatarajah, secretary of an association of families of disappeared persons in the north-east.

Moreover, politicians who promise to deliver on accountability never fail to mention they will never punish a “war-hero”. “What are the chances that we will know the truth? And authorities speak of interim relief and reparations already. That could only mean that authorities think justice is dispensable for us, right? Surely it is not,” she said.

House Democrats concerned over Trump’s India policy

Ask President to appoint a permanent official for South Asia

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Disturbed by what they describe as a lack of leadership and policy coherence, Democrats from the U.S. House of Representatives, including the chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Eliot Engel, have written to President Donald Trump.

Their letter asks that the President appoint an Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and lists a series of concerns, including the lack of a coherent India policy. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is copied on the letter, which is dated May 15.

“We are deeply concerned by your failure, more than two years into your term, to name and have confirmed an Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs at the Department of State,” the letter reads.

Position vacant

The position has been vacant since January 2017, when Nisha Biswal left the Department. In April, the White House had confirmed

that it was withdrawing the name of Robert Williams, an intelligence officer nominated for the top South and Central Asia job. The Department has been run by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Alice Wells in the absence of a permanent appointment.

“From the failure of the Department’s senior officials to engage directly with Sri Lankan government officials during the country’s October-December 2018 constitutional crisis, to the Department’s failure to form a coherent India policy, to the mishandling of the U.S.-Afghanistan relationship in the midst of seeking a peace deal with the Taliban, it is clear that American leadership – when it is needed most – is missing in action,” the letter says, adding, “We believe that these failures are at least in part the result of not having a confirmed Assistant Secretary.”

The India-U.S. relationship has been mixed over the last two-odd years of the Trump administration. Mr. Trump had announced his South Asia policy in August

2017 – calling for a greater development role for India in Afghanistan (and linking that to India “making billions of dollars in trade” with the U.S.), asking Pakistan to end its support for terrorism, and seeking stability in Afghanistan. The U.S. also played a central role in helping to get Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar sanctioned by the UN.

However, of late, the trade-related irritants in the relationship have piled up. Disagreements over ICT, dairy products, medical devices, India’s e-commerce policy and the U.S.’s H-1B visa policies are yet to be resolved. Mr. Trump’s March announcement that preferential trade benefits for India under the U.S.’s GSP program will be withdrawn, and the U.S. requiring India to stop its imports of Iranian oil from May have added to the strain on the relationship.

The Democrats say that they cannot understand why the position remains vacant given that, to their knowledge, a number of candidates have been considered for the role.

In a first for Asia, Taiwan Bill legalises same-sex marriages

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TAIPEI

Taiwan’s Parliament legalised same-sex marriage on Friday in a landmark first for Asia as the government survived a last-minute attempt by conservatives to pass watered-down legislation.

Lawmakers comfortably passed a Bill allowing same-sex couples to form “exclusive permanent unions” and another clause that would let them apply for a “marriage registration” with government agencies.

The vote – which took place on the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia – is a major victory for the island’s LGBT community and it places the island at the vanguard of Asia’s burgeoning gay rights movement.



People celebrating outside Taiwan’s Parliament after the passage of the Bill. •AP

“marriage registration” – known as Clause Four – put their community much closer to parity with heterosexual couples.

“The passage of Clause Four ensures that two persons of the same-sex can register their marriage on May 24th and ensure that Taiwan becomes the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage and to successfully open a new page in history,” said the Taiwan Alliance to Promote Civil Partnership Rights.

Two years ago, Taiwan’s top court ruled that not allowing same-sex couples to marry violates the Constitution, with judges giving the government until May 24 to make the changes or see marriage equality enacted automatically.

Trump tells defence chief that he does not want war with Iran

MARK LANDLER
MAGGIE HABERMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has sought to put the brakes on a brewing confrontation with Iran in recent days, telling the acting Defense Secretary, Patrick Shanahan, that he does not want to go to war with Iran, administration officials said, while his senior diplomats began searching for ways to

defuse the tensions.

Mr. Trump’s statement, during a Wednesday morning meeting, sent a message to his hawkish aides that he does not want the intensifying U.S. pressure campaign against the Iranians to explode into open conflict.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the leader of Oman, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, on Wednesday to confer about the threat posed by

Iran, according to a statement. Oman was a site of a secret channel in 2013 when the Obama administration was negotiating a nuclear agreement with Iran.

De-escalating tensions

Mr. Pompeo also asked European officials for help in persuading Iran to “de-escalate” tensions, which rose after U.S. intelligence indicated Iran had placed missiles on

small boats in the Persian Gulf. The intelligence prompted fears that Tehran may strike at U.S. troops and assets or those of its allies. Asked on Thursday whether the U.S. was going to war with Iran, Mr. Trump replied, “I hope not.”

No new information was presented to Mr. Trump at the Situation Room meeting that argued for further engagement with Iran, accord-

ing to a person who attended. Mr. Shanahan and Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented the President with a range of military options and ticked off the troop levels, costs and risks of each, one of the officials said.

But Mr. Trump was firm in saying he did not want a military clash with the Iranians, several officials said. NY TIMES

Cross-party Brexit talks end without any deal

Chances of PM May’s agreement getting passed in Parliament fall further

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

Hopes that cross-party talks could navigate a way through the Brexit stalemate were dashed as Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn announced that these negotiations had gone as far as they could do and would now end without an agreement.

The talks, which began in March after the European Union (EU) agreed to push the Brexit deadline to October 31, had been widely seen as giving Prime Minister Theresa May an option to get Parliament on board her Withdrawal Agreement.

The end of the talks will exacerbate concerns that

Britain could be heading towards another Brexit cliff edge. This is all the more so as Ms. May has started the countdown to the end of her premiership as she agreed to set a timetable for her departure after the second reading of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, due to go before MPs in the first week of June.

Corbyn’s letter

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Corbyn said that while talks had been detailed, constructive and involved a lot of effort on both sides, significant policy gaps remained amid a Conservative failure to compromise on some of Labour’s key

asks, particularly around customs union membership and guarantees that Britain’s standards for environmental and worker protection would remain at European levels. In addition, he cited concerns that Ms. May’s successor would not honour commitments made by her.

Both Ms. May and Mr. Corbyn have faced criticism from members of their respective parties over the talks, greatly limiting the scope for a compromise. This meant that the government was only willing to offer customs union membership till the next election, and provide limited guarantees around worker and en-

vironmental rights. Mr. Corbyn has faced pressure to insist that any deal would have to be the subject of a confirmatory public vote or second referendum.

Exit May

Many Conservative MPs and the Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland continue to oppose Ms. May’s withdrawal deal with the EU and with the cross-party negotiations coming to an end, chances of the Bill getting passed in June have fallen even further.

This makes it likely that Ms. May will have to set her exit date earlier rather than later.

ELSEWHERE



Pope accepts Brazilian Bishop’s resignation

VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Brazilian Bishop Wilson Dias de Oliveira, the Vatican said on Friday in a statement. The Bishop is under investigation for alleged extortion of priests in his diocese and the covering-up of sexual abuse cases, according to Brazilian media reports. He allegedly protected a priest accused of clerical abuse. The Bishop confessed to the police in April that he had swiped \$4,000 from parish funds for personal use. AFP

U.S. delays decision on auto tariffs by 6 months

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he will delay by six months a decision on imposing steep tariffs on imported autos while the U.S. pursues talks with key trading partners.

“Within 180 days... the Trade Representative shall update me on the outcome of the negotiations,” he said in a proclamation issued by the White House.

Mr. Trump faced a Saturday deadline to announce whether to implement 25% punitive duties on autos – a possibility that has worried the European Union (EU) and Japan in particular, as



Cars sitting on a truck at a warehousing company in Richmond, California. •AFP

well as Mexico and Canada. While delaying what would be a sizeable escalation in Mr. Trump’s multi-front trade wars, the decision leaves hanging the threat of tariffs.

Negotiations expected to resolve the impasse with the EU will now occur in the backdrop of Mr. Trump’s tariffs threat.

सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी / Semi-Conductor Laboratory
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निविदा सूचना संख्या. एस्सीएल/पीटी/149 / TENDER NOTICE No. SCL/PT/149

दिनांक / Dated: 16.05.2019

निदेशक, एस्सीएल के लिए एवं उनकी ओर से सेमी-कंडक्टर लेबोरेटरी के प्रमुख क्रय एवं भण्डार, निम्न के लिए दो भागों में ऑन लाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित करते हैं। / For and on behalf of The Director, Head-Purchase & Stores, Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL) invites Online TWO part Tenders for the following:

क्र. सं./Sl. No.	निविदा संख्या / Tender Number	विवरण / Description	संख्या / Quantity
1	एस्सीएल/पीएस2/2019ई0137001 SCL/PS2/2019E0137001	डिजिटल टेस्ट ईडीए टूल बंडल 01 (2018-19) और डिजिटल टेस्ट ईडीए टूल बंडल 02 (2018-19)। Digital Test EDA Tool Bundle 01 (2018-19) and Digital Test EDA Tool Bundle 02 (2018-19)	निविदा अनुसार / As per Tender

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Date & Time for download of Tender Form

निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि एवं समय
Date & Time of Submission of Tenders:

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Date & Time of Opening of Tenders:

शुरू / Starts: 17.05.2019 से / from 1201 बजे / hrs (IST)
समाप्त / Ends: 14.06.2019 तक / at 1030 बजे / hrs (IST)

शुरू / Starts: 17.05.2019 से / from 1202 बजे / hrs (IST)
समाप्त / Ends: 14.06.2019 तक / at 1100 बजे / hrs (IST)

शुरू / Starts: 24.06.2019 से / from 1201 बजे / hrs (IST)
समाप्त / Ends: 26.06.2019 तक / at 1700 बजे / hrs (IST)

नोट / Note: निविदा दस्तावेज को e-tender portal <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> से देख सकते हैं और एस्सीएल की वेबसाइट www.scl.gov.in / इसरो की वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in / सीपीपी पोर्टल (<http://eprocure.gov.in>) से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।
Tender Documents can be accessed at e-tender portal <https://eprocure.isro.gov.in> and can be downloaded from SCL website (www.scl.gov.in) / ISRO website (www.isro.gov.in) / CPP Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.in>).

प्रमुख, क्रय एवं भंडार प्रभाग / Head, Purchase & Stores Division

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED- E-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division - Kalpetta
Tender ID : 2019_KSEB_277204_1 * Laying, Testing and Commissioning of 20.3 Km of 11 KV 3x300 sqmm XLPE Aluminium UG Cable under Electrical Section Kalpetta * **PAC** : Rs. 2,26,04,769 * **Last Date** : 24-05-2019.
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref. PR/MC/E137/E-TENDER/2019

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टेंडर सूचना / Tender No. : CDACB/BD19/006
टेंडर आमंत्रण सूचना NOTICE INVITING TENDER

कार्य का नाम : पीसीबी की असेंबली के दर अनुबंध / Name of the Work: Rate Contract Assembly of PCBs
सी-डैक, बेंगलूरु ई-निविदा दस्तावेज में दिए गए विनिर्देशों के अनुसार पीसीबी की असेंबली के दर अनुबंध के लिए अतिरिक्त विस्तारों से द्वि-बोली प्रणाली (तकनीकी और वाणिज्यिक) में निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है।
C-DAC, Bengaluru invites tenders in Two-Bid System (Technical & Commercial) from reputed vendors for Rate Contract for Assembly of PCBs as per specifications given in the tender document.
Tender document can either be downloaded from <http://www.cdac.in/tenders/> <https://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app>.
निविदा दस्तावेज <http://www.cdac.in/tenders> या <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app> से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।
The last date for submission of Tenders is 06.06.2019
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक ०६/०६/२०१९ है।
Corrigendum if any, against this tender will be published in the above website.
इस टेंडर के विरुद्ध अगर कोई श्रद्धि पत्र हो तो उपर्युक्त वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।

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CIN No.: L39907TN1956G003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES (e-Tender Notices Sl.No.2 to 5)

Sl.No.	Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. reqd.
1. UNIT-MINE-I:002/P9/SME/2019/MINES dt.15.05.2019:	Material code: 461060283: 1500 KW Bucket Wheel gear box Indigenous make for 1400L BWE as per NLCIL drawing. Drawing No. SME-4185. Qty.: 1 Number. B.G.Amount: ₹ 7,50,000/-
2. UNIT-MM COMPLEX-19-20/000415/MM10(01) dt.10-05-2019:	Mild Steel Spiral weld pipe of size: 914 mm OD × 11.5 mm Wall thickness with edges bevelled to an angle of 30 Deg. and in length of 10 M to 14 M conforming to IS: 3589/2001 FE410GR. (Short length pipes in the range of 4 metre to 10 metre can also be accepted up to 7.5% of the total length as per IS: 3589-01 clause 12.4.3) Qty.: 980 Metres. Due date of opening: 12.06.2019
3. PTE NO: ENQ/19-20/000413/MM01(03) dt.10.05.2019:	Hydraulic Cylinder. Due date of opening: 17.06.2019
4. PTE-ENQ/19-20/000419/MM01(05) dt.10.05.2019:	7 Items of gear box internals. Due date of opening: 18.06.2019
5. PTE-ENQ/19-20/000420/MM01(06) dt.15.05.2019:	4 Items of Worm shaft & Worm Wheel. Due date of opening: 19.06.2019

Cost of Tender Documents: Sl.No.1: ₹ 5,000/-
Pre bid conference: Sl.No.1: On 24.05.2019 at 11.00 Hrs., at GM/SME/TECH/Mines, Chamber in Administrative Office, Mine-I & IA, Block-26, NLCIL, Neyveli-3.

Sl.No.	Last date for sale	Last date for receipt	Date & time of opening
1	03.06.2019	04.06.2019 Upto 12.00 Hrs	04.06.2019 At 14.30 Hrs.

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