



Summary of Policy Proposals by Candidates for the 2024 Presidential Election

Sri Lanka's presidential election is scheduled for Saturday, 21 September 2024. In anticipation of the election, many of the candidates have published manifestos detailing their visions for Sri Lanka. In the interest of comparing these visions for the country, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) has prepared this document which categorises the policy proposals of the candidates in their manifestos. It was practically impossible to include the policy proposals made by all Presidential candidates in this document; as such, CPA had to limit itself to the manifestos of Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mr. Sajith Premadasa, Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Mr. Namal Rajapaksa.

CPA divided the candidates' policy proposals into the categories of economic governance, constitutional reforms, rights and related issues, infrastructure and accountability, truth, and reconciliation. The table on Rights and Related Issues contains policy proposals made by the candidates on access to justice, access to health care and education, women and children's rights, social safety nets and worker's rights, delayed elections, environment and climate change, and cultural and media rights.

The content of each column for candidates are direct quotations from their individual manifestos on specific issues. Though CPA recognises the intersectionality of issues of many of the policy proposals made by candidates, the quotations inserted have been categorised based on the strength of relevance to the issue and ease of reference for the reader. CPA hopes that this document will be a useful tool for all citizens interested in learning more about the candidates and for anyone who is interested in engaging in a deeper analysis of the key policy proposals put forward by the candidates.

Rights and Related Issues

Issue	Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe	Mr. Sajith Premadasa	Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake	Mr. Namal Rajapaksa
Healthcare	<p>“New laws will be introduced to subject private hospitals to proper regulation.”</p> <p>“Special attention will be provided to introduce a resilient health care insurance scheme enabling all citizens to receive treatments from any hospital of their preference.”</p> <p>“The conditions of government hospitals located across the country are to be upgraded.”</p> <p>“With the objective of ensuring the availability of high quality medicine, steps will be taken to establish a Pharmaceutical Standardization Institute recognized by the international standardization institutes.”</p>	<p>“Senior citizens, the disabled and the sick will be provided direct financial transfers”</p> <p>“A full medical test will be conducted with state contribution once every 3 years for every citizen over 40 years of age targeting minimization of the state healthcare expenses through early diagnosis of diseases”</p> <p>“The expansion of care facilities for the elderly and those with chronic diseases is a priority to enhance their well-being and quality of life.”</p> <p>“‘Husma’ programme to improve the availability of medical services to the people of Sri Lanka will be top priority of our government. A total audit of the entire health services network shall be undertaken to</p>	<p>“Gradually increase government expenditure on health to at least 3% of the GDP within a short period.”</p> <p>“The right of individuals to receive the benefits of the health care system with respect and dignity.”</p> <p>“Health Promotion and Disease prevention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.” 	<p>“Current shortages of medicine and medical supplies will be resolved promptly so that all patients island-wide will receive essential healthcare services without delays.”</p> <p>“Special medical insurance scheme has been planned for the elderly monks who have dedicated their lives to the Sasana.”</p> <p>“Develop public health care facilities to improve the life expectancy of men from 74 to 76 and for women from 80 to 82.”</p> <p>“A modern ICT system will be installed linking all government hospitals to provide high-quality healthcare services easily and efficiently.”</p>

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		<p>allocate fund over a period of time to meet global quality standards.”</p> <p>“A Department of Veteran Affairs will be established within 6 months. All existing institutions currently responsible for the welfare of war heroes will be integrated under this department. This will provide the services of rehabilitation, health, vocational education, counseling, and resolution of housing issues.”</p>	<p>“An extended cardiology unit, oncology unit, ophthalmic unit and nephrology unit with facilities in each district/province.”</p> <p>“Introduce a patient charter to ensure accountability of health workers and protect patients’ rights.”</p> <p>Introduce a patient charter to ensure accountability of health workers and protect patients’ rights.”</p> <p>“Provide home-based and institution-based palliative care services for patients with incurable diseases, including cancer and stroke.”</p> <p>“Strengthen the administration and management of Ayurvedic hospitals to expand medical treatments in Ayurveda, Siddha Ayurveda, and Unani.”</p>	<p>“Under the ‘Active Nation’ program, sports will be promoted to improve the physical fitness of school and university students as well as public and private sector employees.”</p> <p>“Medicines will be provided at affordable prices to the people.”</p> <p>“Taxes on health services will be revised by reducing the private healthcare charges.”</p> <p>“Mental health services will be expanded while promoting work-life balance.”</p> <p>“Develop SL into a regional centre for pharmaceuticals and other health product manufacturing through technology adoption.”</p> <p>“Private healthcare sector will be facilitated to provide services for foreigners in a more formal manner.”</p>

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				“Traditional medicine and Ayurvedic medicine will be brought to an international standard through strategic investment.”
Women and Children’s Rights	<p>“Create a society where women are respected and treated equally.”</p> <p>“A separate commission for women’s rights will be established as per the Women Empowerment Act.”</p> <p>“Formulate new policies to support the women suffering from poverty.”</p> <p>“Provide concessional loans to female-headed families at a maximum of Rs. 1,000,000 at an interest rate of 3%, and more opportunities will be provided for self-employment.”</p> <p>“Formulate necessary laws that protect children’s human rights and child rights while</p>	<p>“Expanding the right to free healthcare, we will create opportunities for children to receive treatment from any hospital by expanding the ‘Suraksha Health Insurance’.”</p> <p>“We will ensure the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy.”</p> <p>“Recognizing malnutrition in pregnant mothers and young children as a serious health issue, the programme of distributing ‘Thripasha’ and ‘Nutrition Packs’ to pregnant mothers and young children will be restarted.”</p> <p>“The cost of maternity leave will be borne by the state encouraging higher</p>	<p>“Tackling legal and practical obstacles that adversely affect women’s land rights.”</p> <p>“Establishing specialized high courts dedicated solely to handling cases involving children.”</p> <p>“enacting laws and policies to ensure at least 50% representation of women gradually, in political institutions.”</p> <p>“Social protection for women-headed families, single parent families and women affected by Gender-based/intimate partner violence.”</p> <p>“Establishment of mechanisms for social and psychological</p>	<p>“Law will be upheld strictly on violence against women and children.”</p> <p>“A hotline number and mobile application will be introduced for women to call when they are in danger.”</p> <p>“Women will be given equal opportunities for direct and indirect income generation programmes in the production zones.”</p> <p>“Children from low income families will be provided with a subsidy for preschool education through Samurdhi.”</p> <p>“An investment loan scheme for the development of fish-</p>

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	<p>protecting them from abuse, delinquency and child sexual exploitation.”</p> <p>“Introduce rules to protect children's safety, opportunities and rights by regulating children's homes, pre-schools, tuition classes, sports training institutes and daycare centers.”</p>	<p>participation of women in the work force”</p> <p>“A Presidential Task Force will be established within 3 months with responsibilities for ensuring gender equality, empowering women, and ensuring child protection and physical and mental well-being.”</p> <p>“A panel of experts be appointed to provide recommendations for ensuring full implementation of existing laws for the protection of women's and children's rights, and these recommendations will be implemented within a year”</p> <p>“The companies that employ more than 50% of women in select sectors evidenced through EPF/ ETF will be given tax benefits.”</p> <p>“Formulating a work plan by making policy decisions before January 2025 to address long drawn-out salary, pension and</p>	<p>support for women affected by violence and abuse.”</p> <p>“A maximum of one year of leave with 25% 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.”</p> <p>“Improving education, healthcare, transportation, and other public services to ease the challenges faced by women.”</p> <p>“Revising existing labor laws and introduce new regulations to address specific challenges faced by working women and ensure job security.”</p> <p>“Establishment of childcare centers at the Gramaniladari level with public and private partnerships based on needs and requests.”</p> <p>“Implementing a child-friendly transportation system to ensure safe and dignified</p>	<p>related value-adding industries such as mackerel, dried fish and pickle will be provided especially to women entrepreneurs.”</p> <p>“Arrangements will be made to provide Triposha and necessary vitamins to pregnant mothers and newborn children through the village child and maternity clinic.”</p> <p>“A Foster Parent System will be introduced to provide the necessary care and facilities to children.”</p>

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		<p>service issues in the education sector.”</p> <p>“Building a Smart Sri Lanka, ensuring students can access digital learning platforms in schools shall be prioritised via an expanded ‘Sakwala’ programme.”</p> <p>“All school going girl students from Grade 6-13 can avail themselves on a self selection basis to receive a monthly cash transfer for the purchase menstrual hygiene products.”</p>	<p>transportation of children for legal purposes.”</p> <p>“Setting up a more efficient mechanism for collecting child victims’ testimonies and improving the current investigative process to minimize their re-victimization. “</p> <p>“Streamlining coordination between the National Child Protection Authority and agencies such as Probation and Child Protection Services and capacity building of those agencies.”</p> <p>“Combating period poverty by providing women and girls tax relief, financial support, and other essential resources.”</p> <p>“Implementing the Law Commission’s 2012 recommendations to ensure safe termination of pregnancy.”</p>	

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			<p>“Revising discriminatory laws, including panel code 365 and 365 (a) that oppress women, children and other marginalized groups.”</p>	
<p>Education</p>	<p>“School education will be revised with a focus on soft skills, life skills and moral values. The system of examinations and evaluations will be revisited enabling the students to start university education at the age of 17 years.”</p> <p>“English for All” programme which provides English education to all the school children will be implemented within the next decade.”</p> <p>“A new entity named Vocational Skills Sri Lanka (VSSL) will be established in the year 2025 amalgamating the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority</p>	<p>“A midday meal program will be implemented for school children in food insecure areas to ensure they receive the necessary nutrition to enhance learning, growth, and mathematical skills”</p> <p>“Primary and secondary school education will be designed with the use of tools of modern technology so that a student can understand, speak, and write English from an early stage of schooling.”</p> <p>“Primary and secondary school education will be designed with the use of tools of modern technology so that a student can understand, speak, and write English from an early stage of schooling”</p>	<p>“Increasing Mahapola and other bursaries in line with cost of living.”</p> <p>“An independent regulatory unit will be established under the Ministry of Education to regulate the programs of existing private educational institutions.”</p> <p>“Early childhood development education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal early childhood development education for all children aged 03 to 05 years” • An Early Childhood Development 	<p>“Expand opportunities for formal education by innovating syllabi and teaching methods and teaching media.”</p> <p>“To achieve the HDI target we will work to increase the average time spent in formal education in school and after leaving school.”</p> <p>“A ‘Smart Education’ methodology will be introduced from schools to universities.”</p> <p>“ICT-based systems will be introduced to manage the performance of school teachers, university lecturers and career counsellors.”</p>

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	<p>and the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka.”</p> <p>“A Post-School Education Commission is also planned to be set up.”</p> <p>“Provincial Vocational Education Boards will be established in all nine provinces before the end of 2026, and all the vocational training centers located in the provinces will be upgraded to vocational schools and brought under the established Provincial Vocational Education Boards.”</p> <p>“Technical and Vocational and Management University Colleges will be opened in all the provinces, with faculties thereunder in all districts.”</p> <p>“A new university will be established in Galaha-Kandy with the sponsorship of the Chennai IIT (Chennai</p>	<p>“Initiating actions from January 2025 to create a system of ‘STEEAM’ education that prioritizes Science, Technology, English, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics in all institutions of education by expediting teacher training activities.”</p> <p>“Building a Smart Sri Lanka, ensuring students can access digital learning platforms in schools shall be prioritised via an expanded ‘Sakwala’ programme. This shall involve a total overhaul of delivering content using digital technology. This programme shall be extended to technical and vocational institutions and universities making quality education services affordable. Create 10,096 foster school programme that attract generous donors to support the establishment and improvement of SMART schools and digital infrastructure.”</p>	<p>Regulatory Agency to regulate Early Childhood Development Centres”</p> <p>“National language programs that include English and other national languages as languages of spoken communication in addition to the mother tongue.”</p> <p>“A Vocational Education Regulatory Department consisting of professionals to advise on the qualitative and quantitative changes needed in the vocational education sector, considering job market demands and global trends.”</p> <p>“Senior secondary education;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity for students to select between general streams such as science, arts, commerce, and 	<p>“A personal loan scheme will be introduced for the youth to buy computers and other hardwares.”</p> <p>“A National Higher Education Commission will be established to regulate both state and non-state universities.”</p> <p>“International standards training courses and degrees in marine engineering technology will be offered through The Ocean University of SL.”</p> <p>“Develop SL as a peaceful International Education Centre for foreign students.”</p>

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	<p>Institute of Information Technology).”</p> <p>“Several other Technological Universities will be opened in Hewagam Korale, Siyane Korale and Sath Korale. These activities will be commenced from 2025 to 2028.”</p> <p>“The following universities will be added to the Sri Lankan University network by the year 2029.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Climate Change University • University of Agricultural Technology).” 	<p>“Developing a roadmap to transform every school into a smart school by providing 100% electricity, water facilities, and physical resources to all schools in Sri Lanka.”</p> <p>“Formulating a work plan by making policy decisions before January 2025 to address long drawn-out salary, pension and service issues in the education sector.”</p>	<p>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 reports”</p> <p>“Expanding university degree programs to produce professionals for physical education with international-level expertise.”</p> <p>“Provide necessary provisions to prepare internet facilities in tertiary education institutes, lecture halls, laboratories, libraries, and cafeterias according to proper standards.”</p> <p>“Offer 200 scholarships per year for high school graduates to pursue degrees at</p>	

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			<p>internationally ranked universities.”</p> <p>“Due to the limited capacity of the public education system to accommodate students meeting the basic qualifications for higher education, there is significant demand for private educational institutions, including universities and other private tertiary education institutions. However, there is no regulation of the quality or fees of programs these private institutions offer. An independent regulatory unit will be established under the Ministry of Education to regulate the programs of existing private educational institutions.”</p>	
Anti-Poverty (Social Safety Nets) and Workers' Rights	“Loans will be granted at concessional rates to middle-class families for the construction of houses.”	“Cooperatives will be completely depoliticized, and legislative reforms will strengthen cooperative banks and protect savings.”	“Protect employee rights including fair treatment, fair wages, and secured working conditions in compliance with the principles [of]	“A new personal loan scheme will be introduced to cover the initial cost of recruitment and travel for those who are

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	<p>“Farmers will be provided with seeds, fertilizer and modern machinery required for modern agricultural methods.”</p> <p>“An amount of Rs. 25,000 will be directly credited to the accounts of farmers for the purchase of fertilizer and other requirements needed for paddy cultivation. A fixed rate will be declared for the selling price of paddy from season to season.”</p> <p>“Public servants will receive salary increments starting from a minimum of 24%. The lowest salary, inclusive of the Cost of Living Allowance, will be increased to Rs. 55,000.”</p> <p>“Government employees below the age of 40 will be given one year's leave with scholarships to follow courses to improve service efficiency.”</p> <p>“Government employees without access to housing will</p>	<p>“The unemployed and the underemployed will be trained, reskilled, and provided employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.”</p> <p>“Providing pension revisions that were denied to pensioners during the period 2016-2019 and offering a sustainable solution to pension disparities.”</p> <p>“Gig economy self-employees and domestic employees’ rights and safety nets to be strengthen. We will bring laws and also introduced contributory saving scheme.”</p> <p>“We propose to revise the minimum wage of private sector workers to at least Rs 25,000 per month from Rs. 17,500 per month upon discussions with all stakeholders.”</p> <p>“The new programme will provide a monthly allowance of Rs. 20,000 for up to 24 months for beneficiary families. Until</p>	<p>International Labour Organization (ILO).”</p> <p>“Prajashakthi: Poverty alleviation programme for low-income earners.”</p> <p>“Providing a minimum monthly financial grant from Rs. 10,000 upwards to low-income families.”</p> <p>“Providing a monthly allowance of Rs. 5,000 to senior citizens needing assistance.”</p> <p>“Provision of a monthly financial aid of Rs. 10,000 to persons with disabilities in low-income families.”</p> <p>“A minimum monthly financial grant of Rs. 10,000 to persons with chronic illnesses on a needs basis.”</p> <p>“Introducing a digital platform for identifying eligible beneficiaries using new criteria within a year and providing</p>	<p>selected for foreign employment.”</p> <p>“Increase the remittance income and to give SL workers the global experience, we will prioritise directing them to high-level foreign jobs.”</p> <p>“The Higher the per capita Gross National Income, the higher the standard of living of the people. Therefore in the next decade, efforts will be made to raise the per capita gross national income to the level of a developed country.”</p> <p>“Gradually reduce public debt to 80% of GDP by building an economy capable of repaying all types of loans.”</p> <p>“Low interest loans will be introduced specially for people working in the travel, tourism and leisure sectors.”</p>

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	<p>be given priority under a new housing scheme.”</p> <p>“Eliminating salary anomalies among pensioners.”</p> <p>“Land ownership to 2 million people through the Urumaya programme and the transfer of low-income housing owned by the government in Colombo city to the residents within 4 years.”</p>	<p>the new programme launches, Aswasuma benefits with enhanced amounts will continue to be disbursed as follows: Rs. 10,000/ month (from 5,000) for vulnerable and transitional poor families. Rs. 10,000/ month (from 8,500) for poor families. No changes to Rs. 15,000/ month for extremely poor families”</p> <p>“Through Central Bank directives, banks will be instructed to convert existing loans into long-term loans with concessionary interest rates for genuinely affected businesses, ensuring sustainable support for the [micro, small, and medium enterprises] sector.”</p> <p>“We will implement measures to ease the debt burden on farmers by waiving of their existing farmer loans (Govi Naya). Additionally, we will ensure farmers have access to essential</p>	<p>financial assistance to all qualifying individuals.”</p> <p>“Introduction of a participatory, transparent and efficient beneficiary selection process.”</p> <p>“Assigning a field officer for every 100 families for monitoring and to provide continuous support.”</p> <p>“Establishment of training, technical assistance and financial assistance for low-income families to initiate income generation and livelihood projects.”</p> <p>“Establishment of new elderly care centers at the divisional secretariat level.”</p> <p>“Establishment of a national salary structure that minimizes wage disparities and motivates employees.”</p>	<p>“Cold and dry storage facilities will be developed for the surplus harvest.”</p> <p>“Going by the earlier Mahinda Chinthana Policy, paddy, vegetable and fruit farmers will receive a permanent fertiliser subsidy scheme.”</p> <p>“A special community programme will be implemented at the village level, involving the Samurdhi receivers with tailored benefits.”</p> <p>“Samurdhi financial age package will be given to low income citizens.”</p> <p>“Enter the ‘Very High’ category and be among the first 50 countries in the next decade. Main social development policy targets are Healthy and safe lives, New age education and decent job</p>

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		credit facilities to support their farming.”	<p>“Creation of a social security fund that covers all workers.”</p> <p>“Strengthening of gratuity insurance benefits (AGRAHARA).”</p> <p>“Identification, analysis and developing remedies for poverty and vulnerabilities at the household level through community-based projects.”</p> <p>“Efficient use of the Samurdhi Banking system and staff to empower poor families.”</p>	<p>opportunities, entertainment security.”</p> <p>“Children from low income families will be provided with a subsidy for preschool education through Samurdhi.”</p> <p>“Salary issues and other problems of the Samurdhi Development Officers will be resolved.”</p>
Access to Justice	<p>“The Right to Information Act will be further strengthened.”</p> <p>“Increase the number of female police officers to ensure the maintenance of regular and well-functioning Women and Children Affairs Units in every Police Station.”</p>	<p>“Conduct comprehensive institutional reforms and update laws to better protect and promote innovation, trademarks, intellectual property rights, and operational efficiency across the economy.”</p> <p>“To ensure citizens’ easy access to justice, the Court of Appeal will conduct its sittings in each Province. It will have an original</p>	<p>“Implementing legal and institutional reforms in relevant bodies, such as the Human Rights Commission and Legal Aid Commission, to safeguard the rights of marginalized groups,”</p> <p>“Increasing access to state services, including healthcare, legal assistance, social</p>	<p>“Any person or group that has been found guilty of violating constitutional rights will be brought to justice by upholding the rule of law.”</p> <p>“State and legal protections for individuals’ physical property and intellectual property will be strengthened in line with international standards.”</p>

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	<p>“The cases of long-term detainees and those serving lengthy sentences will be reviewed.”</p> <p>“We will establish the Social Justice Commission to prevent discrimination and marginalization of citizens, with the main aim of making people’s voices heard.”</p>	<p>fundamental rights and language rights jurisdiction. An appeal would lie to the Supreme Court with leave from the Court of Appeal or special leave from the Supreme Court.”</p> <p>“The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka will be further strengthened, ensuring that legal aid is provided to citizens for all types of cases.”</p> <p>“A permanent office for a Mediation Board will be established within the Divisional Secretariat offices, provided with adequate facilities and a permanent staff”</p> <p>“Necessary legal amendments will be made to prevent the misuse of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by law enforcement authorities. The government is committed to addressing the issue of hate</p>	<p>protection, and justice for the LGBTIQ+ Community.”</p> <p>“Update the laws related to bail by looking at the present issues in the bail law and bail process.”</p> <p>“The right of people to access truthful and accurate information.”</p> <p>“To 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.”</p> <p>“Expanding constitutional protections to ensure no discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation.”</p> <p>“Establishing provincial branches of the Department of Government Analyst in order to accelerate the judicial process.”</p>	<p>“The freedom of speech of every citizen will be protected and the rule of law will be upheld so that no other citizen’s freedom of speech or any other freedom is impeded.”</p> <p>“All military and police stations in the country will be modernised. At least one female police officer will be positioned for each village and 10,000 new police women will be recruited for this purpose.”</p> <p>“The public administrative service will be modernised according to international standards. All administrative service officers will be continuously trained to provide high-quality services to the people using modern technology.”</p>

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		<p>speech and strengthening legal mechanisms.”</p> <p>“Every citizen shall be treated equally under the law irrespective of race, religion, caste, class or sex.”</p>		
Delayed Elections		<p>“Taking necessary legal and administrative steps to promptly hold the unlawfully postponed Local Government Elections.”</p> <p>“The provincial council elections will be held within 06 months and steps will be taken promptly to ensure operation of Provincial Councils with maximum financial efficiency and effectiveness.”</p>	<p>“Provincial councils and local government elections, which are currently postponed indefinitely, will be held within a year to provide an opportunity for the people to join the governance.”</p>	
Environment and Climate Change	<p>“We will build disaster-resilient cities in the districts that are prone to natural disasters.”</p> <p>“We are also determined to enforce the Climate Change Act.”</p>	<p>“We envision not just meeting but exceeding the target of 70% renewable energy generation by 2030, aiming to make Sri Lanka a regional renewable energy powerhouse.”</p>	<p>“Designation and protection of ecologically sensitive areas.”</p> <p>“Implementation of laws as per the international Conventions and Treaties to ensure sustainable use of marine</p>	<p>“Animals also share the same Earth that humans live on. So, we recognize their right to the natural environment and will guarantee their rights.”</p> <p>“Steps will be taken to carry out mining industries in a</p>

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	<p>“We will be taking action to establish a Climate Change Secretariat and a Climate Change Fund, which will help us face climate challenges successfully while protecting our environment.”</p> <p>“We wish to enact a new Biodiversity Law and establish a Regulatory Body to conserve the biodiversity of the country.”</p>	<p>“Priority will be given to acting in accordance with the agreements in the Paris Agreement on controlling global warming by promoting renewable energy sources including solar power, wind power, pump storage, wave energy, green hydrogen, and biomass”</p> <p>“Create a nationwide ‘Green Tech Innovation Hub’ network, leveraging Sri Lanka’s natural resources and tech talent to become a leader in sustainable technology. This initiative will attract foreign investment, create high-skilled jobs, and position Sri Lanka as a pioneer in eco-friendly solutions for the global market.”</p>	<p>resources including fish and prevention of marine waters.”</p> <p>“Reviewing and update addressing weaknesses, deficiencies, and gaps in existing environmental regulations also aligning with international agreements and local environmental laws.”</p> <p>“Ensure conservation of existing and future Ramsar wetlands and enhance tourist attractions of them. Restoration of degraded wetlands through multi-stakeholder engagement and community participation.”</p> <p>“Updating legal frameworks and improving infrastructure for waste management in residential, agricultural, industrial and service sectors, based on zero waste 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) principles and circular economic concept.”</p>	<p>more formal and environmentally friendly manner so that these resources can be maintained over a long period.”</p> <p>“Optimise the already used lands more efficiently without clearing more forests.”</p> <p>“Investments will be made in innovative enterprises that can produce environmentally friendly substitutes for plastics, and in innovative waste management and recycling businesses.”</p> <p>“Investments will be made to meet the country’s energy needs from renewable sources so that electricity can be continuously supplied to reduce fuel imports and environmental pollution.”</p> <p>“Protect endangered animals.”</p>

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			<p>“Public Consultation will be made mandatory in conducting feasibility studies for development projects.”</p> <p>“Updating the criteria for environmental assessments ensuring the transparency of process.”</p> <p>“Implementing Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs).”</p> <p>“Taking action to update the sections regarding weak and short-term environmental goals, as a mark of Sri Lanka’s commitment towards the UN conventions on climate change that aim towards zero emissions by 2050.”</p>	<p>“A joint mechanism with anti-cruelty organisations will be set up for the protection of free-living, abandoned and injured animals.”</p> <p>“The Meteorological Department will be equipped with the latest ICT services and other technologies for accurate forecasting.”</p> <p>“Make Sri Lanka a regional centre for renewable energy export. Large-scale investments will be made to harness, store and export electricity produced from renewable energy sources such as hydro, solar, wind and green hydrogen to neighbouring countries.”</p> <p>“It is our main policy to make more use of our natural resources such as water, sunlight and wind to generate the necessary energy to achieve</p>

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				economic and social development goals.”
Culture and Media	<p>“I pledge to protecting and respecting all religions, places of worship, and cultural identities in our multi-cultural society.”</p> <p>“We will introduce Dakshina Kailasa based on Thiruketheeshwaram in Mannar, Naguleshwaram in Jaffna, and Munneshwaram in Chillaw.”</p> <p>“We will be drafting a national journalism policy and building a strong foundation to create a society that values humanity, discipline, loyalty and integrity.”</p> <p>“An Electronic Media Regulatory Commission will be established to generate a transparent media</p>	<p>“We will remove all censorship for artistic creations.”</p> <p>“We will establish free art spaces in every district for organizing training and exhibitions for cultural and artistic activities, including paintings, sculptures, photographs, and musical dramas.”</p> <p>“A priority of the new government will be to introduce a bill that removes clauses against freedom of expression in the Online Safety Act No. 9 of 2024 permitting internet service providers to operate their industries without hindrance.”</p> <p>“An independent National Media Commission will be established with responsibilities for policy decisions and regulation related to media, considering the needs of all</p>	<p>“Amending the 2024 No. 09 Online Safety Act by removing restrictions on freedom of expression”</p> <p>“Enforcing a strong intellectual property law in line with World Intellectual Property Organization to protect intellectual rights, including artists’ creative rights.”</p> <p>“The Right to preserve and develop the cultural identity of every community”</p> <p>“Reforming the National Film Corporation and establishing a National Film Institute”</p> <p>“Establishing cultural zones in every major city with institutions for arts and culture and launching programs to attract citizens to these zones continuously.”</p>	<p>“We will turn Sri Lanka into a Cultural Export Centre which nurtures our ancient art forms and takes them to the international market with modernity.”</p> <p>“Opportunities for intercultural interaction between the different cultures will be increased so that mutual understanding among different cultural communities can be flourished.”</p>

Issue	Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe	Mr. Sajith Premadasa	Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake	Mr. Namal Rajapaksa
	environment which holds values.”	stakeholders in the print and electronic media” “We will Implement the Trilingual language Policy as required under the current constitution of Sri Lanka.”		