



“For the Motherland Forever”

# STRAT KDU

Quarterly of the Department of Strategic Studies  
(DSS)

Faculty of Defence & Strategic Studies

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

Volume 1 issue I

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### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This Special Issue of the STRAT KDU includes news briefs on the events and programmes organized by the DSS and unpublished work of both academia and students of the BSc degree programme in Strategic Studies and International Relations in a format like articles and poems, related to the theme “COVID –19” pandemic.



The members of the Department of Strategic Studies (DSS) of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), led by Prof Amal Jayawardane (Senior Professor, KDU) and Brigadier Silvester Perera (Dean, Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, KDU) handed over a strategic forecast on the post-pandemic situation of the country to Major General Kamal Gunaratne (the Secretary, Ministry of Defence), by Major General Milinda Peiris (the Vice Chancellor, KDU) on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at the Ministry of Defence.

The Department of Strategic Studies provided insights for well-integrated National Security strategy on the areas of National Security Threats, Foreign Policy Options, Border Management Issues, Service Delivery Issues, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Modernization of Governance, Institutional Reforms, Reforms in Pedagogy, Disaster Management Capacity of the Armed Forces and the Force Modernization in the Post-Pandemic situation.



The Department of Strategic Studies (DSS) is the teaching and research facility under the Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies (FDSS), KDU.

The DSS specifically focuses on the field of Strategic Studies as an interdisciplinary academic subject area under guidance of the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Defence) and Dean FDSS.

### **VISION**

To be the national focal point and resource center for national strategy towards making a well- informed strategic community in Sri Lanka.

### **MISSION**

Is to conduct best teaching, research and outreach programs on Strategic Studies for KDU students, officers in the Armed Forces, Police, government and private sector officials and others who seek opportunities to learn the subject.



### Message from the Vice Chancellor



As the Vice Chancellor of the General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), it gives me great pride and pleasure to write this message for the “STRAT KDU” which is the newsletter published by the Department of Strategic Studies (DSS). I congratulate the DSS staff for their tireless efforts that have enabled to accomplish the planned activities towards the achievement of the KDU Mission as per its vision.

Over the last several years, DSS has established itself at the forefront of education, training and research, and it supports multidisciplinary research on areas of strategic studies. The department ensures the delivery of product-oriented programmes in the field of International Relations and Strategic Studies. In this setting, I believe that this issue of the newsletter presents important news about significant events during the first half of 2020, especially including some of the activities carried out by our undergraduates. This kind of newsletter is certainly useful for KDU to network with the public and private sector institutions.

Most importantly, the “STRAT KDU” can also be named as one of the best platforms for students to express their views and present their creativity. Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to all the students and the staff of the department, involved in producing this newsletter.



### Message from the Dean, Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the “STRAT KDU” as the Dean, Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies (FDSS). During a time span of forty years, the functions related to the military training and studies have been augmented into a faculty which broadens new frontiers in the field of Defence and Strategic Studies. Today, with a history of providing academic excellence, I am proud about the path the faculty has taken. The role played by the FDSS to produce academically and professionally qualified officers to the Tri-Services and Day Scholars has contributed a lot to brighten up the name of the KDU. Particularly, the Department of Strategic Studies (DSS) which functions under the FDSS, is entrusted with dissemination of knowledge and conducts independent research on areas of national and international strategic interests. From its inception, the DSS has been striving to establish a research culture and to conduct cutting-edge research in strategic issues.

In marking another milestone in the history of FDSS in its commitment to produce graduates with multifaceted skills for global education, the faculty commenced Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Strategic Studies and International Relations for Intake 37 Students. This is the first-ever degree program in a Sri Lankan State University dedicated to offer the widest spectrum of knowledge on international relations and strategic studies. Further, I would like to assure that as a faculty, we make every attempt to equip the undergraduate and postgraduate students to launch their future careers in any part of the world. I wish you all the best.



Brigadier ULJS Perera RSP USP psc assumed duties as the 5<sup>th</sup> Dean of the faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Prior to this appointment Brigadier ULJS Perera served as the Brigade Commander of the 573 Brigade in Killinochchi.



## KDU Book Launch “Comprehensive Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Challenges and Opportunities”



KDU organized a remarkable event 06 October 2020, to launch the edited book “Comprehensive Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Challenges and Opportunities” published by KDU with Knowledge World (KW) Publishers, New Delhi. The edited book publishes research on Non-Traditional Maritime Security issues such as Sri Lanka’s Marine Environment, Illegal Fishing in South Asia and Illegal Seaborne Migration from South Asia to Australia in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) within a Comprehensive Maritime Security approach focusing on the need to understand Maritime Security comprehensively and holistically. Several chapters in this edited book also emphasize links between Non-Traditional Maritime Security and National Interests and Security. The book was edited by Dr. Sithara Fernando, DSS KDU and Scholars and experts from Sri Lanka, India and New Zealand contributed to this edited book.

Admiral Professor Jayanath Kolombage a former Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) and the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka graced the event as the Chief Guest, and Major General Milinda Peiris, the Vice Chancellor of KDU welcomed the Chief Guest and the other distinguished guests.





### The Panel Discussion on “Indo-Sri Lanka Relations”



A panel discussion on “India-Sri Lanka Relations: The Way Forward” was organized by the Department of Strategic Studies on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the FDSS auditorium with the participation of delegates from Institute of Defence and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi, India. The panel comprised of practitioners and academics from Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) including Ambassador Sujan R. Chinnoy, (Director General) Dr Ashok Behuria (Senior Fellow) Commodore Roby Thomas, (Senior Fellow) Dr Smruti Pattanaik (Research Fellow) and Dr Gulbin Sultana (Research Analyst). The session was chaired by Emeritus Professor Amal Jayawardane, Senior Professor in International Relations. The audience was educated on security implications of Free and Open Indo-Pacific region. The discussion was also followed by a question and answer session to the panel where important questions were presented by the students of the Bachelor of Science degree programme in Strategic Studies and International Relations, Bachelor of Law degree programme and the members of the faculty.





## STUDY PROGRAMMES

### MSc in Security & Strategic Studies

The Faculty of Graduate Studies of KDU in collaboration with the DSS conducts the Masters of Science in Security and Strategic Studies programme (MSSS).

MSSS envisions developing a strategic community and broadening their horizons in order to serve the national interest of Sri Lanka. The two-year program is designed in accordance with the Sri Lankan Qualification Framework, published by the Ministry of Higher Education and its academic standard is equivalent to Sri Lanka Qualifying level 8 where a minimum of 60 academic credits are to be earned. The main objective of the MSSS program is to provide professional and post-graduate level education on practical analysis and theoretical comprehension of National security strategies.



### Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC)

Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Batalanda, the professional Military Educational Institution, prepares Field Grade Officers of all services (primarily Majors and equivalent ranks in Navy and the Air Force), Foreign Officers, and Civilians from Civil Administrative Services to assume positions of higher responsibility within the military and other government arenas.

Participants who successfully complete the psc programme at the Staff College is entitled to receive Master of Defence and Strategic Studies (MSc in D&SS) from KDU. The DSS of KDU coordinates and supervises all students on the research component that is a compulsory requirement to achieve the MSC in D&SS. Apart from research supervising, the DSS conducted the course module on Strategic Studies. From this year onwards, the DSS has undertaken two more course modules on Sri Lankan Studies and International Affairs in addition to the Strategic Studies Module. The DSS with the use of its faculty, other relevant academics from other faculties of KDU and qualified academic from outside maintains high academic standards on its contribution towards DSCSC.



## Publications & Conference Participation of the DSS members in 2020

### Edited Book

Dr. Siithara Fernando, from the Department of Strategic Studies has edited a book titled “Comprehensive Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Challenges and Opportunities” which is published by General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University and the ‘Knowledge World’ (KW) publishers, New Delhi.

### Journal Articles

Senevirathna, A. (2020, September), “Sri Lanka and the Covid 19 Crisis: Strategies and Future Challenges, Tribhuvan University Journal, (34), 147-158.

Senaratne, B. (2020, January-March). “Sri Lanka and BIMSTEC: Past, Present and Prospects for the Future”. National Security, 4 (1). New Delhi: Vivekananda International Foundation.

### Paper Articles

Sanjeevani, D.G.N. (2020, August). “Trafficking in Rohingya Women: The ASEAN Perspective”, Kaldor Centre’s Special Series Marking the 5 Year Anniversary of the Andaman Sea Crisis, Kaldor Center for International Refugee Law, University of New South Wales, Australia.

Sanjeevani, D.G.N. (2020, February) “Family Reunification of Unaccompanied Minors: Realities of the European Asylum System”, Routed Magazine on Migration and (Im) mobility .

Senevirathna, A. (2020, September), “Sino-Indian Rivalry and the Port of Colombo: Geopolitical Implications for Sri Lanka”, Critical Asian Studies Commentary Blog .

### Newspaper Article

Senaratne, B. (2020, March 14). “Sri Lanka the Centre of the Indo-Pacific for France”, Daily News.

### Conference Participation

Mr Asantha Senevirathna, Lecturer at Department of Strategic Studies participated in the Conference “Other Voices: European Influence in the Cold War in Asia” organized by Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand from 20 – 21 January 2020. He presented a paper titled ‘Britain-Ceylon Relations and the Cold War.’

### Participation in a Panel Discussion

Gen 2 (Gen Squared) was a virtual summit organized by the East-West Center for peer-to-peer collaboration and learning that enhances leadership, professional development and celebrates the cultures and arts of the diverse ‘rendezvous of the EWC leadership’ alumni. Sanath de Silva, an alumnus of the East West Center Generation 17 Asia Pacific Leadership Program (APLP), was one of the four panelists of the webinar on “Diversity and Inclusion Strategies to Maximize the Potential of a Multicultural Workforce” took place on June 29<sup>th</sup>.





## Expert Voices

**The “Thucydides’ Trap”**

By Prof. Amal Jayawardane



Thucydides, an ancient Greek historian who lived in the 5th century B.C., was best known for his book: *The History of the Peloponnesian War*. His book describes a series of wars that took place between Sparta and Athens from 460–395 B.C. According to Thucydides: “It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this inspired in Sparta that made war inevitable.”

The phrase “Thucydides’ Trap” was coined by Harvard Scholar Graham T. Allison when discussing the present conflict between the United States and China. In his book, *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’s Trap*, he has theorized, based on Thucydidean explanation, that “when one great power threatens to displace another, war is almost always the result.” Accordingly, the US, the current global hegemon, and China, the rising power, are heading towards a war that neither wants. He has studied sixteen power conflicts that occurred during the past 500 years, and found that all of them, except for four cases, ended in war. According to Graham, the defining question about global order today is whether China and the US can escape Thucydides’s Trap,” which means a likely war between a dominant power and a rising power. However, he acknowledges that some clashing powers in the past were able to maintain peace through negotiations and subtle diplomacy.

During his visit to the US in 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping said: “there is no such thing as the so-called ‘Thucydides Trap’ in the world. But should major countries time and again make strategic miscalculations, they might create such traps for themselves.” He emphasized the need to “foster a new model of great power relations” based on mutual cooperation, respect and dialogue between the US and China. Unlike the era of the Peloponnesian War, there is a greater degree of interdependency today between the hegemonic power and the rising power. The volume of trade between the two countries is enormous and China has heavily invested in the US economy. Therefore, no power can expect a zero-sum outcome from any conflict between the two. Besides, a war between the two will be a disaster for the entire world because of the nuclear factor. Therefore, there is a greater need for political will and leadership skills to resolve problems through negotiations and diplomacy. President Trump’s trade war against China which started in 2018 is still continuing and they are still far from resolving it. The Covid-19 pandemic has reignited Trump’s rhetoric against China. The US and China represent the World’s largest economies and their cooperation is absolutely necessary to save the world from the economic fallout from Covid-19 epidemic. The lack of global leadership is acutely felt during the present coronavirus crisis.



## COVID 19 and its Implications on Higher Education

By Dr. Harinda Vidanage

In his final chapter of trilogy of human history , present and future, philosopher Yuval Noah Hariri focuses on education as a fundamental for future resilience in societies, that he predicts will be under tremendous pressures to constant transformations derived from technological disruptions to cataclysmic climate extremities. Hariri speaks about a future, *'Where strangeness becomes the new normal, your past experiences, as well as the past experiences of the whole of humanity, will become less reliable guides'* he argues. This is an important and



relevant observation to explore education in times of a pandemic. Covid 19 disrupted all aspects of human life, and its fundamental functions from economics, social interactions to diplomacy. This set-in motion a series of policy responses from political elites with the primary intention of rescuing economies and save lives. Thus, it is the first national emergency of a global scale in the 21st century. Without real heavy weapons to fight the virus, humankind is still resorting to defensive maneuvers such as lockdowns, institutionalization of social distancing to tracing of infected carriers. Virus mitigation strategies have hugely impacted the process of education. Education was in crisis prior to Covid 19 outbreak due to various structural causes such as poverty, hunger to manmade situations from conflicts to forced migration. Nearly 800 million children of school going age were left out of access to education. The current crisis has unleashed an universal stalling of education systems as governments in their short term efforts were struggling to resuscitate economies, which many educationists fear will lead to overlooking of fixing and providing necessary infra structures for educational establishments to cope and overcome Covid 19 challenges.

One should realize any society will be resilient to shocks from crises such as pandemics only if that society possess a robust education system and culture. Investing and encouraging innovation in education can only build a resilient social and economic system. Education itself becomes a pathway to economic recovery, only education can provide the necessary tools and shape a country competitive edge in highly volatile times and merging of technological platforms with education generates future proofing of human capital.

Covid19 and its aftershocks have made it abundantly clear that all societies advanced or emerging are vulnerable and resilience can be achieved when people are endowed with faculties of critical thinking, communication, creative adaptation and computational capabilities to project, respond and survive even at times of crises. Thus for students and educators alike, covid19 has illuminated the singular truth of making education key to resilience and advancement of societies irrespective of the challenges that confronts them may this be a guiding lesson to all young students and faculty in this esteemed establishment.



## Commencement of the New Degree Programme in Strategic Studies and International Relations

The Department of Strategic Studies commenced its first Bachelor of Science degree programme in Strategic Studies and International Relations on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for Intake 37.

With the emerging requirements of the higher education sector, the department identified the necessity of introducing a new discipline that is shaped and aligned with the emerging realities in the International Relations and Strategic Studies fields.

As a result, the department launched this three-year degree for the first time in the country.



The first batch of the Bachelor of Science degree programme in Strategic Studies and International Relations with the DSS staff.



## Student Achievements



H.Wijesundara won Bantamweight Championship in 2020.

T. wijesekara participated in the inter squadron swimming meet 2020. He also won

- ◇ 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 133m Breaststroke
- ◇ 3<sup>rd</sup> place: 66m Breaststroke
- ◇ 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Freestyle Relay
- ◇ 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Medley Relay

He also selected to represent world cadet games 2020

C. Silva Participated in 'Colombo Cubs Hockey League' and won the 4th place.

We are glad to mention that the students of the Bsc in Strategic Studies and International Relations degree programme have already shown their performance in extracurricular activities including

- ◇ Toastmaster club
- ◇ Rotract club
- ◇ Enigma leadership program in 2020 and sport activities.



### Recommencement of the Academic programmes

The Bachelor of Science degree programme in Strategic Studies and International Relations was recommenced on 15 June 2020, after the Covid-19. On the very first day, Brigadier ULJS Perera, Dean FDSS addressed the students of the degree program and gave an introduction on the precautionary measures.





## Faculty and Staff Voices

### **SHE'S CRYING, CAN YOU HEAR HER?**

You are chopping her limbs,  
And she is moaning in pain.

Her cries are ignored,  
But WE just call it 'Rain'.

The blood that she sheds,  
The tears that she drops,  
Remains ignored.

But we just call it 'floods'

Her veins are drying up,  
Her body is warming up,  
She is dehydrated.

But WE THINK it's just a 'drought'

If your mother is dying,  
And you hear her crying,  
Asking for a cup of water,  
Would you IGNORE her?

Would you IGNORE her cries?

Sayumi Jayawardene

BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations

### **The Poor Family of Four**

It was curfew again.  
The tenth day in a row.  
Food was fast dwindling,  
Savings he had naught.  
Cabbages and pumpkins,  
Some rice on the shelf too.

What to eat tomorrow,  
Was on his thoughts more.  
Wife and children he had to feed,  
Job was no longer a hope.

This Corona came  
and messed his world  
Just as it became heavily pearled.

He looked at the starry sky  
Questioned the gods above  
Why are they doing this to him,  
His poor family of four.

Bhagya Senaratne  
Department of Strategic Studies

### **The Background Image:**

Sri Lankan police personnel distributing food in Colombo. | Source : AFP



### The Unforgettable Virtual Peer Teaching

To reach massive heights and achieve our aims, we always need to keep the first initiative step. Nevertheless it's the hardest and most unpredictable. Despite of varies different career and personal goals, as undergraduates we all share a common goal to get a good class and become a graduate in the field of degree we study.

When COVID – 19 hit Sri Lanka, our university had to be closed and as a result, we were physically distanced from each other for nearly 3 months. As fresher's we were always fascinated to have physical peer teaching sessions at the KDU library or at the 'Ambasewana' with the whole batch involved. However, we didn't fail to find alternatives to that either. YES we came up with the idea to initiate the online peer coaching session. So as one big team, together we kept our first step by organizing the peer coaching sessions on the Zoom platform. We started with Economics and we continued with Political Science, International Relations and Sri Lankan Foreign Policy.

The whole batch contributed and participated in each and every peer coaching session. Even the officer cadets got together in their billets and joined the session online.

Written By Deshani Samaragunaratna and Prasansa Gunawardena

BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations

### Working from home

What day is it today?  
A Monday, a Tuesday or a Friday?  
I no longer feel the days go by.  
The week, feeling like an eternal blur.  
The weekend came and I didn't know.  
The clock stopped striking  
And the sun, forever glowed.  
The koel coos,  
Perched on the mango tree.  
Leaves rustling  
Ever so softly.  
What day is it today?  
I have lost count.  
I no longer know.  
I no longer know...

Bhagya Senaratne  
Department of Strategic Studies





## COVID-19 VS GLOBAL WAR

From hijacked planes, car bombs and nuclear attacks

To Brussels, Paris and Easter attack

Did terrorism lose track, from just a single virus attack!

Bin Laden, Al Qaeda where are the wars now?

From sneezing to wheezing -It all went down to the value of breathing

And all of a sudden

Religion and Ethnicity – Division and Boundaries

Are words with no meaning- When you are tested positive!

From power to politics and fighting global wars

Ended up in lockdown and staying indoors

From weapons to killings and mass destruction

It taught the importance of medical production

From Europe to Africa—Libya, Sudan, Nigeria

It showed no difference as it marked the importance of 'Equal Acceptance'

From Actors to Doctors—Forces and Nurses

Did it change your mentality about the so called “Inspirational power figures”

As the tables turned from Wealth and Prestige to Health and Best fit

It was the immunity that mattered

Not the wars we were fighting

Open your eyes and mind--Use all the might

The wars we fight-Are useless right?

We are given a time, to spend our lives

With God’s might-Spend it right!

**R.H.M.Imasha Lakshmiwewa**

**BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations**



### **Defence Session International Research Conference 2020 Successfully Launched**

General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University commenced its two-day International Research Conference under the theme “Holistic Approach to National Growth and Security,” on 15th October 2020. The inaugural session of the conference held for the 13th consecutive time was graced by the presence of Hon Minister of Education, Professor GL Peiris as the Chief Guest, and Professor Kapila Perera, Secretary to the Ministry of Education, was the Keynote Speaker of the event.

Under the Defence and Strategic Studies session, 2 Plenary Sessions and 6 Technical sessions were conducted under themes “National Growth and Security”, “A Secure Nation: Maritime Security Issues”, “Approaches to National Security and Leadership Roles”, “An Integrated Professional Approach to National Security”, “Extremism as a National Security Threat”, “Sri Lanka: Historic Trajectories” and “Strategic Dilemmas in Statecraft: Different Dimensions”.





### **Heroism born in the minds of human heroes who are not indebted to their motherland.....**

Sri Lankans always admired the heroic actions of our countrymen from our ancient times until now, and those heroes shaped the way we see ourselves as a nation. But do people really admire our modern military heroes? In my perspective the war has ended with a great victory but still all the militants are heroes for us. And there's no issue in calling them heroes. There was many paper work of the campaigns, battles of the wars.... but there were so many hidden stories behind our young ordinary soldiers who held our protection in their hands. We should never forget the unflagging courage and dignity of war heroes, who selflessly contributed to the success of the story and liberated the country from the clutches of terrorism that plagued our society for more than 30 years. The war has ended with a victory but their responsibility towards the motherland has still not ended. Sri Lanka's Military holds a massive contribution towards the COVID-19 Pandemic. They are playing an incredible role to protect us, as we all can see they are on their duties without proper protection. Every country has their own military power. But my question is, is there any other country who treat their citizens like this? It is only Sri Lankans and Sri Lankan military. Whatever the crisis we faced they are always with us. As a Sri Lankan it's shameful to see some incidents, the way some people treat them and the behaviors of few heartless people towards our real heroes. We should never forget thousands of valiant soldiers who sacrificed their lives to give us the freedom that we are enjoying today; we breathe freely today because of them. Our responsibility is to respect not only them but also their families. We are forever grateful to our real heroes who served in various ways to defend our motherland. Still they are with us!!! Thanks to all the unsung heroes who dedicated their lives for ordinary people....

Venuri Siriwardana-BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations



### **Virtual Visit to Hawaii**

Deshani Samarathunga, student of the Bsc in Strategic Studies and International Relations participated in the 'Change Leadership' course which was conducted by the East –West Center in Hawaii, from 14 May to 4 June 2020.

Being the youngest to follow the course, she presented her ideas to the leaders of various backgrounds. Her main focused goal during the programme was to establish a "Future Club" at the University to enhance the skills and knowledge of students.



### **Intention Vs Tension**

Expect nothing and nothing will disappoint you...

I hope you understand what I mean...

When you do something great in your life...

Do not expect people to praise you...

Just be there... Stand still... Think about all the hard work  
you've done for the beautiful moments you'll be living...

And clap for yourself... You were born not to expect...

You were born to live an independent life... Like a king/queen...

And by any chance while walking towards your goal  
if you get lost...

Just get off track and that will remind you what you were working for...

Will make you get back on the right path...

Be hungry for success...

Do not waste your time here and there...

Or else someone with greater hunger will eat up your  
opportunities...

After every failed attempt you think that you've failed in your life?

So lemme tell you buddy... You'll be called a failure only if you quit...

So keep grinding... Be an example... Every morning when you wake up...

Just think about walking a step closer to your dream...

**START YOUR DAY WITH INTENTION AND NOT TENSION...**

Deshani Dewmini Samaragunaratna

BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations



### The Forgotten Reality

Visiting the earth to establish the order  
COVID has emerged, pandemic is what it created  
Silencing the busy people with its power,  
No one's no longer talking about power, democracy and order  
Or even about war against civilizations  
But against a virus.  
Force of the universe has locked us in houses  
'Trapped' we call it, with few people  
Though bound by same blood  
Have we laughed, talked and loved them before  
As we do now, or did we neglect them calling out of order.  
Hegemonic countries collapsing,  
Losing thousands of its own people  
Decaying, being picked by God in silence  
No one's concerned about the terrorists no more,  
Nor race and religion —But about the survival of the fittest.  
Nature has chosen wisely,  
A messenger to reflect powers unspoken.  
Though timing is brutal—Need for survival is vital.  
Nature has given us a vacation  
To feel the environment  
To love our loved ones better  
To have faith and walk the long distance with kindness.  
To maintain social distance  
The more we do the better.  
Paramount is the obstacles we have to tackle,  
But be grateful for the life you've been given.  
We were given another chance by nature  
To adapt, rebuild and improvise  
Until the forgotten lessons become unforgettable.

Arthana Medawatte-

BSc in Strategic Studies and International Relations

# COVID-19 VS GLOBAL WAR



By Prasansa Gunawardane

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