

Presidential Task Force for Archaeological Heritage Management — 2020

Presidential Gazette Extraordinary No. 2178/17 (2 June 2020) establishing an all-Sinhala Presidential Task Force with jurisdiction over the Tamil-Muslim majority Eastern Province.

Presidential Gazette Extraordinary No. 2178/17, issued on 2 June 2020, established a Presidential Task Force for Archaeological Heritage Management in the Eastern Province. The Task Force comprised a Sinhala-Buddhist membership with no Tamil or Muslim members, exercising jurisdiction over a province with a majority Tamil and Muslim population. The gazette is the institutional anchor of the cultural-statutory erasure pack tracked by /mp-packs/pack/cultural-statutory-erasure.

§1 What it established

The Task Force was empowered to identify, manage, classify and recommend protections for archaeological sites in the Eastern Province. Its composition — Sinhala-Buddhist clergy, military, and academia — and its silence on Hindu, Sufi and Christian heritage in the province generated sustained Tier-A documentation by PEARL, the Oakland Institute, Human Rights Watch, Adayaalam, and academic studies by Köpke (Conservation & Society 2021) and McGilvray (Routledge 2016).

§2 What this page is not

This page does not assert that any specific Buddhist archaeological claim is fabricated. The North-East landscape is palimpsestic — the audit object is the institutional gazetting process, not the substantive heritage claim. The MP pack frames it as 'an all-Sinhala Presidential Task Force ruling on Tamil-Muslim majority province sites without a single Tamil or Muslim member'.

Sources

- [pearl-sinhalization-2022](#)
- [oakland-endless-war-2021](#)
- [hrw-cant-go-home-2018](#)
- [adayaalam-normalising-2017](#)

What this is not

- This page does not name individual Task Force members, monks, archaeologists or soldiers.
- This page does not claim any specific archaeological assertion is fabricated.
- This page does not frame the audit as anti-Buddhist.