



வட்டுக்கோட்டை 50 எழுச்சி மாநாடு ஏற்பாட்டுக்குழு

VADDUKODDAI 50 UPRISING CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

+94 76 925 2956

692, பருத்தித்துறை வீதி, நல்லூர், யாழ்ப்பாணம்

We pay tribute to the Tamil leaders, including Thanthai Chelvanayakam, who courageously advanced the Vaddukodai Resolution, and we offer our deepest respects to the Maaveerar (Tamil martyrs) who dedicated their lives to carrying forward the principles of that Resolution until 2009.

We also remember our Tamil brothers and sisters who lost their lives through genocide and the destruction inflicted upon our people.

Beloved People of Tamil Eelam,

Respected Religious Leaders,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Political Party Leaders,
Academics,
Community Representatives,
Youth, Members of the Tamil Diaspora, and Our Tamil Nadu Brethren,

Warm greetings to you all.

We Reclaim Our Nation

Today, we have gathered not merely to commemorate a historical event. Rather, we have come together to reflect upon a defining turning point in the history of the Eelam Tamil nation, to reassess its significance, and to chart the path forward.

Fifty years ago, on 14 May 1976, Tamil political leaders assembled in Vaddukodai under the leadership of Thanthai Chelvanayakam and proclaimed, through the Vaddukodai Resolution, their determination to reclaim the sovereignty and nationhood that had been lost. This was not merely a political document; it was the expression of a nation's political consciousness—a national declaration shaped by generations of sacrifice.

We cannot forget the circumstances that gave rise to the Vaddukodai Resolution. For decades, Tamils pursued equality, language rights, educational rights, land rights, and political participation through democratic means. Yet, time and again, they encountered rejection, oppression, and the violence of Sinhala majoritarianism.

The "Sinhala Only Act" of 1956, the anti-Tamil pogroms of 1958, 1977, 1981, and 1983, discriminatory standardization policies in education, and state-sponsored colonization schemes all raised profound questions about the political future of the Tamil people.

It was against this backdrop that the Vaddukodai Resolution emerged.

It was not a resolution born of anger.
It was a declaration of liberation.



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It was not an expression of hatred.
It was the language of self-determination.

It was not a call for division; it was a commitment to reclaim a lost homeland.

It was a historic proclamation to the world of a nation's political rights and right to statehood.

In the 1977 General Election, the Tamil people overwhelmingly endorsed the Vaddukodai Resolution through a democratic mandate. This was the final opportunity afforded to the Tamil nation to express its political will democratically. Thereafter, Sinhala majoritarianism increasingly sought to suppress the voice of the Tamil people.

Today, fifty years later, we must ask ourselves:

Is the Vaddukodai Resolution still relevant?

Our answer is clear:

Yes.

Because the Vaddukodai Resolution is not a document confined to a particular period in history. It is a declaration of the fundamental political rights of the Eelam Tamil nation. It provides a roadmap towards ensuring that Tamils can live freely, securely, and with dignity, free from oppression.

The right to self-determination does not expire.

A people's right to their homeland cannot be erased.

National identity cannot be extinguished.

The world has changed. Technology has advanced. Political realities have evolved. Yet the fundamental issues at the heart of the Tamil national question remain unresolved.

Therefore, Vaddukodai-50 is not merely about remembering the past. It must also serve as an opportunity to shape the future.

Our Historical Responsibility

Dear Eelam Tamil People,

Even today, a historic responsibility lies before us. The democratic mandate entrusted by our forefathers remains alive. Our younger generations carried that mandate forward through immense sacrifice, paying with their lives to uphold it.



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Our liberation struggle, nurtured through sacrifice, dedication, and bloodshed, has now been internationalised. Sinhala majoritarianism, which sought to portray our liberation struggle as terrorism, stands increasingly exposed before the international community.

Although governments have changed in Sri Lanka, there has been no fundamental change in the majoritarian mindset that continues to dominate the state.

From the land appropriations in Mayilathanai and Madhavanai to the illegal Buddhist shrine at Thaiyiddy, Tamil people continue to experience systematic marginalisation.

As our national leader stated, "History is our guide."

History teaches us that this island was peaceful, prosperous, and stable when the Tamil and Sinhala kingdoms existed independently. Both peoples were able to preserve and protect their languages, religions, cultures, and national identities. Neither dominated the other, exploited resources, nor sought to erase the other's heritage.

If we are to once again live with dignity, political movements, social organisations, religious leaders, youth, women, intellectuals, diaspora communities, and our kin in Tamil Nadu must unite around the principles of the Vaddukodai Resolution.

We may hold differing views.

But we are all Tamil.

Our history is one.

Our future must also be one.

The role of the Tamil diaspora remains indispensable. Across the world, Tamils have carried the voice of the homeland to the international stage. Their contributions in education, economic development, human rights advocacy, and political engagement have been immeasurable.

The future also rests in the hands of diaspora generations. They must preserve their identity, language, and history and pass them on to future generations.

We make a special appeal to today's youth:

Do not view the Vaddukodai Resolution merely as a historical document.

Understand it as a political philosophy.

Read it as the dream of a generation.



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Accept it as a responsibility for the future.

To Our Sinhala Brothers and Sisters

Contrary to the narratives propagated by politicians and nationalist ideologues, we have never sought to divide this island through violence. We seek only the restoration of our homeland and sovereignty that were taken from us through colonial arrangements.

We do not seek even an inch of your land.

We do not seek to dominate you or deprive you of your sovereignty.

Prior to the Colebrooke-Cameron Reforms of 1833, this island was never governed as a single political unit. The British unified it for administrative convenience. Sinhala political leaders have clung to that arrangement while using nationalism to maintain power, producing only conflict and destruction.

The agreements we entered into in good faith—the Bandaranaike-Chelvanayakam Pact of 1957 and the Dudley-Chelvanayakam Pact of 1965—were unilaterally abandoned. Even when military realities favoured the Tamil side, ceasefires and peace agreements were pursued, only to end in betrayal and genocide.

To the People of Tamil Nadu

The bond between Tamil Nadu and Eelam Tamils transcends history. It is akin to the bond between mother and child—an inseparable relationship.

Many forces seek to divide this bond today. We trust that you will understand these efforts, overcome them, and continue to stand in solidarity with us.

Your contributions to our political and liberation struggles have been invaluable. We look forward to continuing our shared journey in advancing the principles of the Vaddukoddai Resolution. We respectfully urge the newly elected Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to engage with the national question of the Eelam Tamil people through the political vision and principles embodied in the Vaddukoddai Resolution

To the People of India

As Eelam Tamils, we regard India—the great power of South Asia—with respect and affection as a parent nation. We admire how multiple peoples, languages, and cultures coexist within India through the sharing of power and democratic institutions.

Unfortunately, such a framework does not exist in Sri Lanka.



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The continued subjugation of Tamils by Sinhala majoritarian forces undermines regional stability. A free Tamil nation would not only secure our future but would also contribute to the security of India's southern region and create a close and friendly neighbour.

To the International Community

In today's multipolar world order, we are prepared to engage constructively with all nations and partners. We welcome support from all those willing to assist our national liberation aspirations.

Where our struggle for freedom intersects with the interests of democratic nations, we are ready to work together.

Today, we do not merely commemorate a resolution.

We commemorate the principle that a people must have the right to determine their own political future.

We remember the sacrifices of leaders such as Thanthai Chelvanayakam, the martyrs who gave their lives for our freedom, the fighters who sacrificed their youth and limbs, and the countless people whose lives, suffering, and hopes shaped our national journey.

Dear friends,

Vaddukodai-50 is not an ending.

It must become more than a commemorative event; it must serve as a forum to renew Tamil political thought and purpose.

This is a new beginning.

Tamils living across the globe must unite under the single umbrella of Tamil nationhood. Together, we must work to realize the vision proposed by the Vaddukodai Resolution and ensure that a homeland for the Tamil people emerges on this earth.

The spirit of the Vaddukodai Resolution asks us a question today:

"How will you carry the historic responsibility entrusted to you to the next generation?"

Let our actions provide the answer. We must strive to obtain international recognition for our nation through the democratic path available to us today—a referendum conducted and supervised by the international community. If the democratic choices available to our people are denied or obstructed, history has shown that circumstances will inevitably create alternative avenues. The lessons of history bear witness to this truth.



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For the rights of the Tamil nation,
For the liberation of our people,
For the future of Tamils everywhere,

Let us unite.

Thank you.



Thavathiru Velan Swamigal

Chief Coordinator

Vaddukoddai-50 Ezhuchi Maanadu Organising Committee