

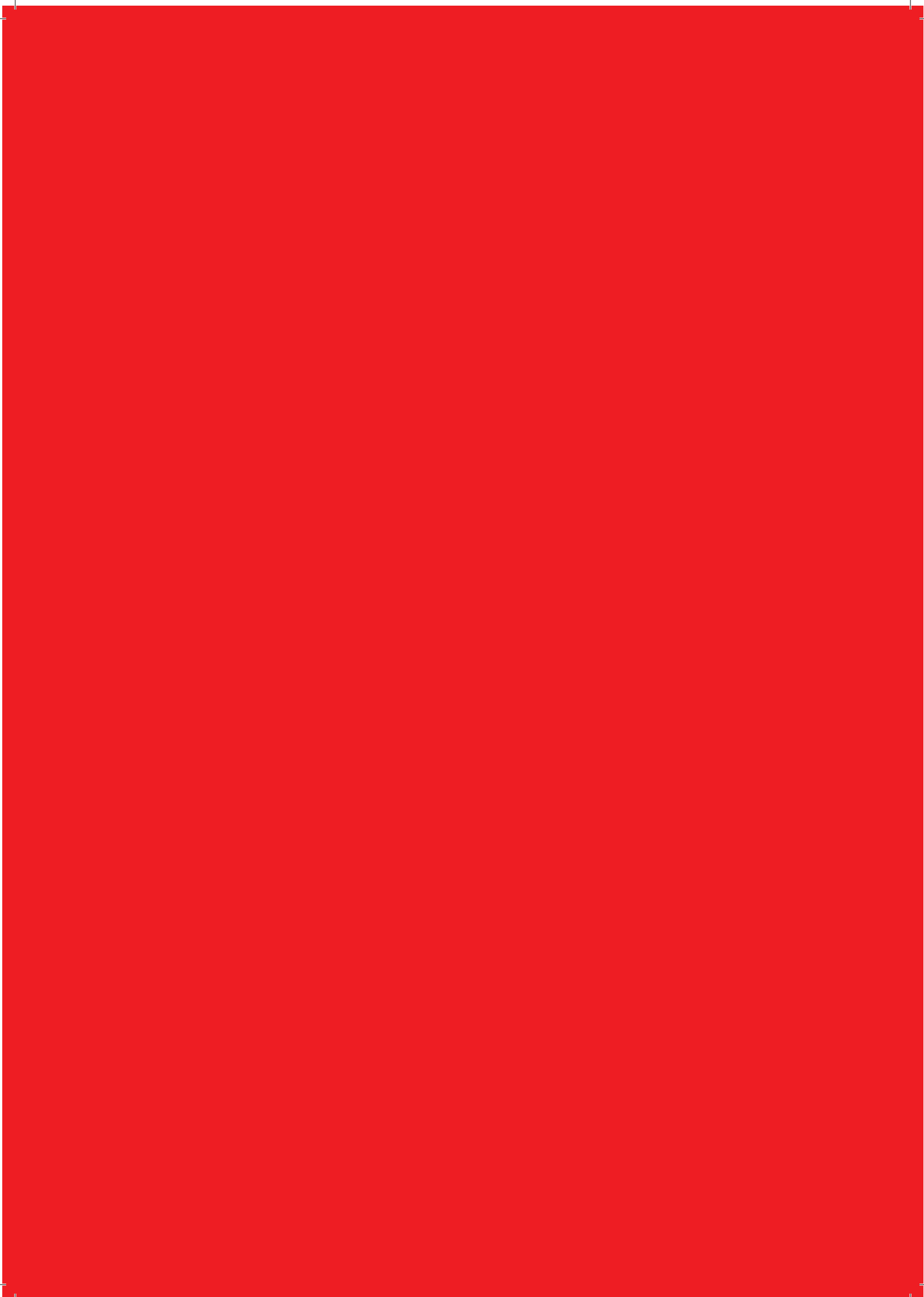


Dhammika Perera

A Prosperous Village A Prosperous Nation

To Increase
GDP Per Capita to

USD 12,000



A Prosperous Village - A Prosperous Nation

- 1 A community kitchen to be made available in temples, kovils, churches and mosques or some other appropriate location in every village. This community kitchen will provide food to the poorest families who find it difficult to feed themselves. The government will cover 50% of the costs while the more affluent persons and community organizations are expected to provide the balance.
- 2 Village preschool education will be improved by providing furniture and toys that meet the standards in developed countries like the USA. Following how world leading countries educate students, smart classrooms with digital screens will be provided to ensure preschool children can obtain an internationally recognized educational experience. Since 90% of cognitive development happens in the first five years of a child, this system is extremely important to provide a good preschool education for their future. Additionally, preschool teachers who maintain this standard will be given an allowance of Rs 1,500 per student.
- 3 The standards of village schools will be raised to that of popular schools in Colombo by providing smart classrooms. With this, children in village schools will be given the opportunity to learn each subject from experienced teachers in the country.
- 4 **One Village, One Product**
Knowledge and basic facilities will be provided for women and young people to engage in one industry in each village (for example, breeding ornamental fish, making crafts made of coconut shells, garments, and incense sticks) and earn a steady income. This will give these families additional income as they are engaged in one industry, allowing them to sell the products in bulk. Moreover, those who purchase in bulk can easily obtain supplies at a good price from one village.
- 5 **One crop per village (Colonial Crops)**
All families in villages will be provided with seedlings that can provide long-term crops suitable to climate and soil conditions (for example, coffee, mango, coconut, arecanut, durian, rambutan, nutmeg, clove, pomegranate). Marketing the yield will be easier because all families will grow the same crop. Similarly, it will also be easier for those who purchase in bulk. During the harvest season, each family will receive an additional income, adding value to each village.

A Prosperous Village - A Prosperous Nation

6

An outlet that is like a mini economic center will be established in every area within close proximity to Samurdhi Bank to facilitate the selling of various food crops such as vegetables, fruits, dried fish, betel and arecanut. Then, people in the area can easily transport their produce even by bicycle and sell it at the center.

7

Free Wi-Fi zones

In each village, free Wi-Fi zones will be set up in the temple, kovil, church, mosque or other public places such as Government buildings. This way, villages can access the internet easily and get their work done.

8

Youth leadership societies will be set up in every Grama Niladhari division. Through this, young people will be given leadership training and career guidance for their future. Then, they could discover career paths suitable to their abilities and interests with greater confidence to secure a high-paying job.

9

Fifty Employment opportunities in the IT sector will be created in each village. They will also have an office equipped with computers and internet facilities. Up to now, jobs in the IT sector were only available in the main cities. However, with this development IT jobs will be made available to the village. In addition, an Online Language School will be set up in every village so that young people seeking employment overseas can learn English, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Italian and excel in international exams. Additionally, a programme will be implemented in the villages, allowing them to get a good theoretical foundation in vocational training for most in-demand jobs worldwide through smart classrooms. The courses will be designed to be completed in 6-9 months, ending youth unemployment.

10

A computerized smart system will be developed to empower farmers with access to essential fertilizer, seeds and agricultural knowledge resources. A similar system will be implemented to help farmers market their produce easily and efficiently. This will allow them to benefit from a minimum price for their produce and use an effective transportation system. A digital mechanism will be made available so that they can get compensation in the event of damage to their crops. Further, a mobile app will be developed for vegetable farmers to get an accurate 10-day weather forecast. This will minimize losses and price fluctuation. Modern technology will be given so that those in coastal villages engaged in fisheries can easily identify areas where fish are found. This will reduce their fuel cost by 50%.

A Prosperous Village - A Prosperous Nation

- 11 Season tickets will be offered if private busses run on routes that SLCTB buses do not travel. Parents of primary school children who accompany their children to school can obtain a season ticket for the same price. If no buses run on a particular road, and the distance is less than 5 kilometers, arrangements will be made to provide one or two eight-seater three-wheelers as needed. A minibus will be provided if the distance is more than 5 kilometers. The fare for females will be reduced by 50% in SLCTB buses from 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. A new smart app will be developed for three-wheelers in every village. Accordingly, they will not have to wait in a queue for hires, and can either stay home or engage in some other activity.
- 12 Electric fences will be put up in every village where there is a threat from wild elephants.
- 13 Deep wells will be constructed in water-scarce villages to provide access to clean drinking water.
- 14 Financial assistance will be offered to residents in areas that attract foreign tourists to build attached bathrooms and accommodate other homestay facilities. Such residents will be offered the knowledge necessary to maintain such facilities online according to international standards and to advertise these homestays through internet listings.
- 15 Implementing the suggestions above will ensure an increasing, steady cash flow to villages islandwide. In turn, this will create opportunities for small-scale businessmen to improve their businesses. Furthermore, a reality television show named "Startup Sri Lanka" will be introduced seven days a week for those interested in starting a new business. These individuals can creatively present their business ideas, obtaining the necessary capital.
- 16 Buddhist monks and clergy belonging to other religions in villages who wish to share their religious teachings in other countries will be given the opportunity to further their studies and learn languages such as English, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Italian through the village online language school, and excel in international exams. Parents of Buddhist monks and clergy belonging to other religions will be given VIP cards to obtain services from government institutions on a priority basis. Smart classrooms will be established to further improve "Pirivena Education".

A Prosperous Village - A Prosperous Nation

17

In Sri Lanka, about 1,496 plants are becoming extinct. Arrangements will be made to restore these numbers by planting seedlings in each village, considering the soil and climate of each area. Seedlings of plants and vines with Ayurvedic importance will be distributed based on one type of plant per village. Accordingly, villagers will be able to obtain an additional income.

18

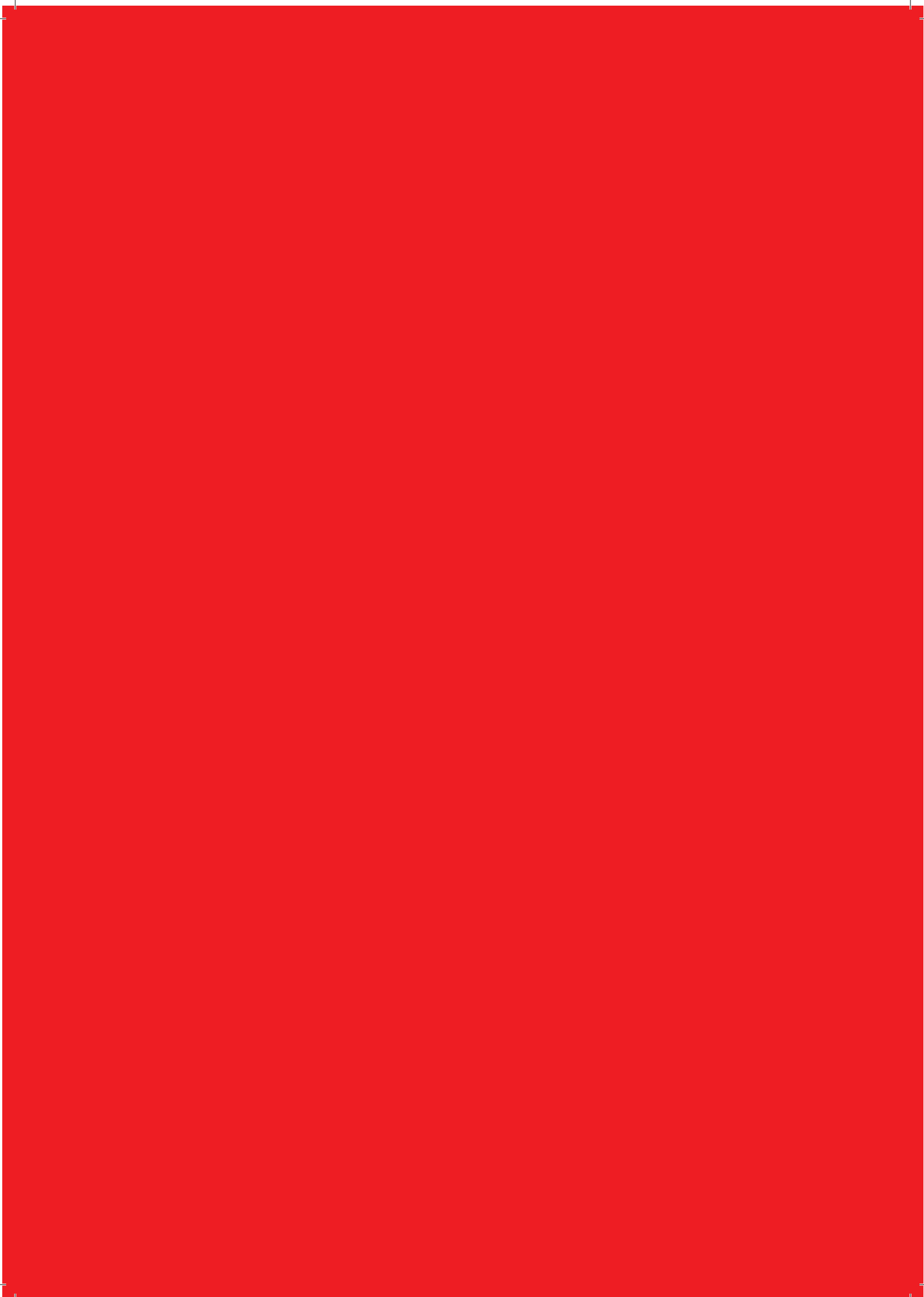
Permission will be given for dairy farmers to grow grass on government owned lands situated alongside village roads, rivers and streams. A technical officer will be assigned to each Samurdhi Bank zone, to perform artificial insemination on cattle.

19

A “Telemedicine” service will be introduced for every 5 villages. Villagers can consult doctors online and get prescriptions without traveling to the hospital. A programme will be implemented to check the sugar and blood pressure levels of the elderly in the comfort of their own homes. Thereby, we hope to increase the life expectancy of Sri Lankans from 78 to 81 years.

20

Those engaged in sports such as volleyball, cricket, and athletics (100m, 200m, 400m, high jump and long jump) in schools and village-level sports clubs will be given the opportunity to obtain the necessary professional knowledge and guidance from experienced experts in sports through video technology. Three state-of-the-art residential training facilities will be established in three provinces so that athletes with special skills can compete in international events. This will help to build professional athletes and create a nation of healthy young men and women.



www.dhammadhammika.com