

The Daily News Line by Faraz



President AKD celebrates his 1st full year in Power

President Anura Kumara Disanayake is set to deliver his inaugural address at the United Nations General Assembly during its 79th session, taking place in New York later this month.

The Sri Lankan Head of State is scheduled to speak on Wednesday (24) during the afternoon segment of the General Debate, according to the latest list of speakers released by UN officials.



This marks President Disanayake's first appearance at the UN since assuming office, and is seen as a key opportunity for him to introduce Sri Lanka's renewed global outlook to the international community. His speech is expected to lay out a comprehensive vision for the country's path forward, touching on domestic reform efforts, strategies for economic recovery, and Sri Lanka's stance on pressing international concerns.

Sources familiar with the planned address suggest that the President will underscore the importance of climate resilience, equitable development, and stronger multilateral partnerships. He is also anticipated to call for fairer international financial structures and more inclusive global dialogue, particularly from the perspective of developing nations navigating post-crisis recovery.

The annual General Debate, which runs from September 23 to 29, will bring together heads of state and government from across the globe. Leaders from major powers including the United States, China, India, Brazil, and the European Union are also expected to address the assembly under a theme designated by the current UNGA President, aimed at fostering global unity and action on shared challenges.

BRITAIN RECOGNISES PALESTINIAN STATE - WE WILL HOLD OUT FOR A TWO-STATE SOLUTION

"Now is the time to stand up for a two-state solution," David Lammy the Foreign Secretary said while speaking on the Laura Kuennsberg programme.

He acknowledged that the announcement won't necessarily change the situation on the ground significantly - "will this feed children? No it won't, that's down to humanitarian aid. Will this free hostages? That must be down to a ceasefire."

But this is an attempt to "hold out for" a two-state solution, he added.

When Lammy was asked if Hamas was being given a propaganda victory, he replied that there is a distinction between a proscribed terrorist group and the Palestinian people.



"What do we say to the children of a future Palestinian state? Do we say we have to wait for the perfect conditions before we can recognise a Palestinian state?" he asks.

He adds that the UK government has always said it believes in a homeland for the Jewish people, but we also believe in the civil and religious rights of the Palestinian people.

UK, Canada and Australia formally recognise Palestinian state

Symbolic move comes seven decades after end of UK mandate in Palestine

UK recognises Palestinian statehood, Starmer says

The British prime minister, Keir Starmer, has just announced the UK's recognition of a Palestinian state, in what is seen as a major change in UK foreign policy, albeit largely symbolic.

It comes shortly after Canada and Australia both decided to recognise Palestine as a sovereign state -

thus far a total of 147 nations recognise the Palestinian State.

Meanwhile a wave of Israel's allies are announcing their recognition of the state of Palestine, as part of a wider manoeuvre designed to ostracise Hamas and challenge attempts by the Israeli government to erase the chance of a Palestinian homeland.



But the delicate and partly symbolic move by as many 10 states, largely pioneered by the French government, has the potential to lead to a negative spiral of further confrontation amid fears Israel will respond by annexing parts of the West Bank, leading in turn to European trade sanctions and further political isolation for Israel, including an ultimate possible suspension from the UN.

Easter attack victim's father calls for justice at UNHRC session

The father of Vihanga Tejantha, a young employee killed in the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks at Colombo's Shangri-La Hotel, has called for justice for the victims at the 60th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Suraj Nilang, speaking on behalf of the Centre for Society and Religion (CSR) and Franciscans International, stressed the need for a thorough, independent, and speedy criminal investigation to hold all those responsible accountable.

He further urged authorities to ensure comprehensive economic, social, and psychological assessments to deliver justice for the injured and the families of those killed.

Vihanga Tejantha, who was 20 years old at the time, died in the suicide bombing carried out at the Shangri-La Hotel. While most of the Easter Sunday victims were Christian worshippers, Tejantha, a Buddhist, was among the few non-Christians killed in the attack.

Addressing the Council, Suraj Nilang said nearly a year after Anura Kumara Disanayake's election as President, hopes of justice for the victims were fading.

He noted that key masterminds behind the bombings had yet to be exposed, while investigations continued to suffer from serious shortcomings.

Nilang also expressed concern that prior warnings were ignored and adequate security measures had not been implemented at churches and the Shangri-La Hotel, leaving worshippers and guests vulnerable.

Franciscans International and the Centre for Society and Religion urged the government to ensure independent investigations, cooperate with international mechanisms to guarantee accountability, and provide justice to victims' families through proper assessments and reparations.

