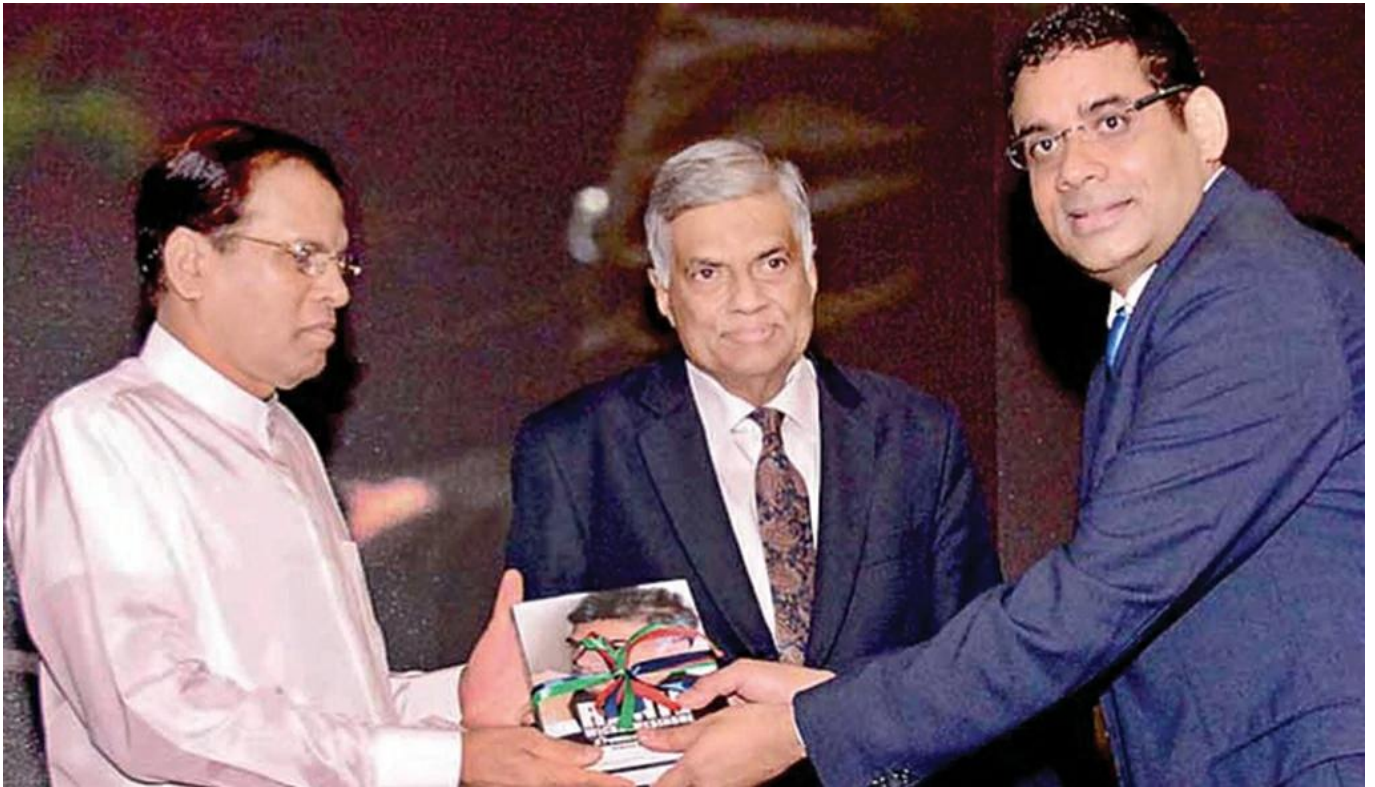


Launch Of 'Ranil Wickremesinghe - A Political Biography'

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The book titled 'Ranil Wickremesinghe - A Political Biography' by Dinesh Weerakkody is a comprehensive narration of the political journey of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that portrays his strength of character and perseverance, a statesman that has weathered many storms.

'Ranil Wickremesinghe - A Political Biography' by Dinesh Weerakkody, follows the political journey and character of a leader dedicated to the progress of Sri Lanka.

The first copy was presented to President Maithripala Sirisena at the launch of the book.

Ven Galaboda Gnanissa Thero, Chief Incumbent Gangaramaya Temple, at the launch, cast back to the maternal ancestors of the Premier, great patrons of Buddhism whose altruism helped mould the Prime Minister. The Thero said like his uncle President J R Jayewardene, the Prime Minister has immense endurance.

Meanwhile, John Amaratunga, the Minister of Tourism Development, Christian Religious Affairs and Land, stated the Prime Minister possesses three valuable qualities: intelligence, vast knowledge and the much less appreciated virtue of patience and that his political career should inspire the young politicians. Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, said the Prime Minister, while being an old boy of Royal College, has never lost the common touch. Keynote speaker, Dr Shashi Tharoor, Indian MP (Lok Sabha), said, "India and Sri Lanka need to look towards the future; a future in which our geographical proximity becomes a reason for closeness rather than controversy; where the past reminds us not of a recent pain but ancient commonality."

Premier Ranil Wickremesinghe, in the concluding address said that today all have come together and it is an opportunity to work as one for the benefit of the country. He further stated, "It is now up to those in the present -living in this time to ensure that we can rebuild the Indian ocean and strengthen ourselves."

