

# just a phase

The Forgotten Lunar Calendar



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Produced by the **INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES**



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The Forgotten Lunar Calendar

In January 1966, the island nation of Ceylon spurned the near-universal Gregorian calendar, defined by the Earth's orbit around the Sun, for one aligned with the waxing and waning of the Moon. Driven by notions of national identity and forces of political ambition, the calendrical change sparked ideological debate and real-world disruption – at once a defiant symbol and a curious anomaly. **Just a Phase: The Forgotten Lunar Calendar** examines this bewildering yet bold five-year experiment, tracing the course of a remarkable episode in the country's contemporary history.

59 Minutes | Documentary Feature | Sri Lanka

24 June 2026 | ICES Auditorium, 2 Kynsey Terrace, Colombo 8 | 5.30 PM

The screening will be followed by a discussion moderated by science writer Nalaka Gunawardene, featuring panellists Ruwani Hettiarachchi, Executive Producer of *Patta History*, and Udan Fernando, researcher and documentary filmmaker.



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