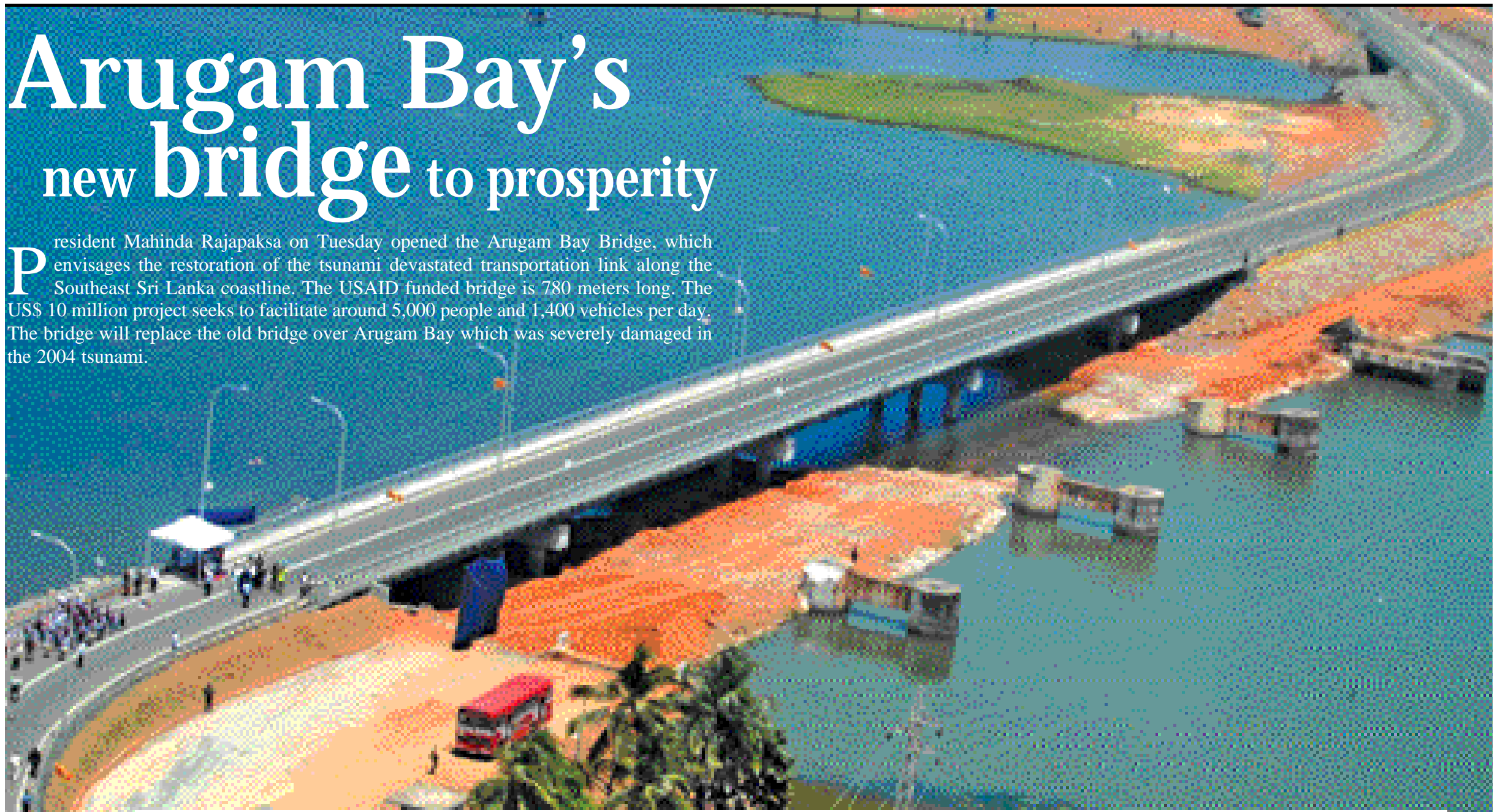


# Arugam Bay's new bridge to prosperity

President Mahinda Rajapaksa on Tuesday opened the Arugam Bay Bridge, which envisages the restoration of the tsunami devastated transportation link along the Southeast Sri Lanka coastline. The USAID funded bridge is 780 meters long. The US\$ 10 million project seeks to facilitate around 5,000 people and 1,400 vehicles per day. The bridge will replace the old bridge over Arugam Bay which was severely damaged in the 2004 tsunami.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa being conducted to the bridge



The President being greeted by the EP Chief Minister and others



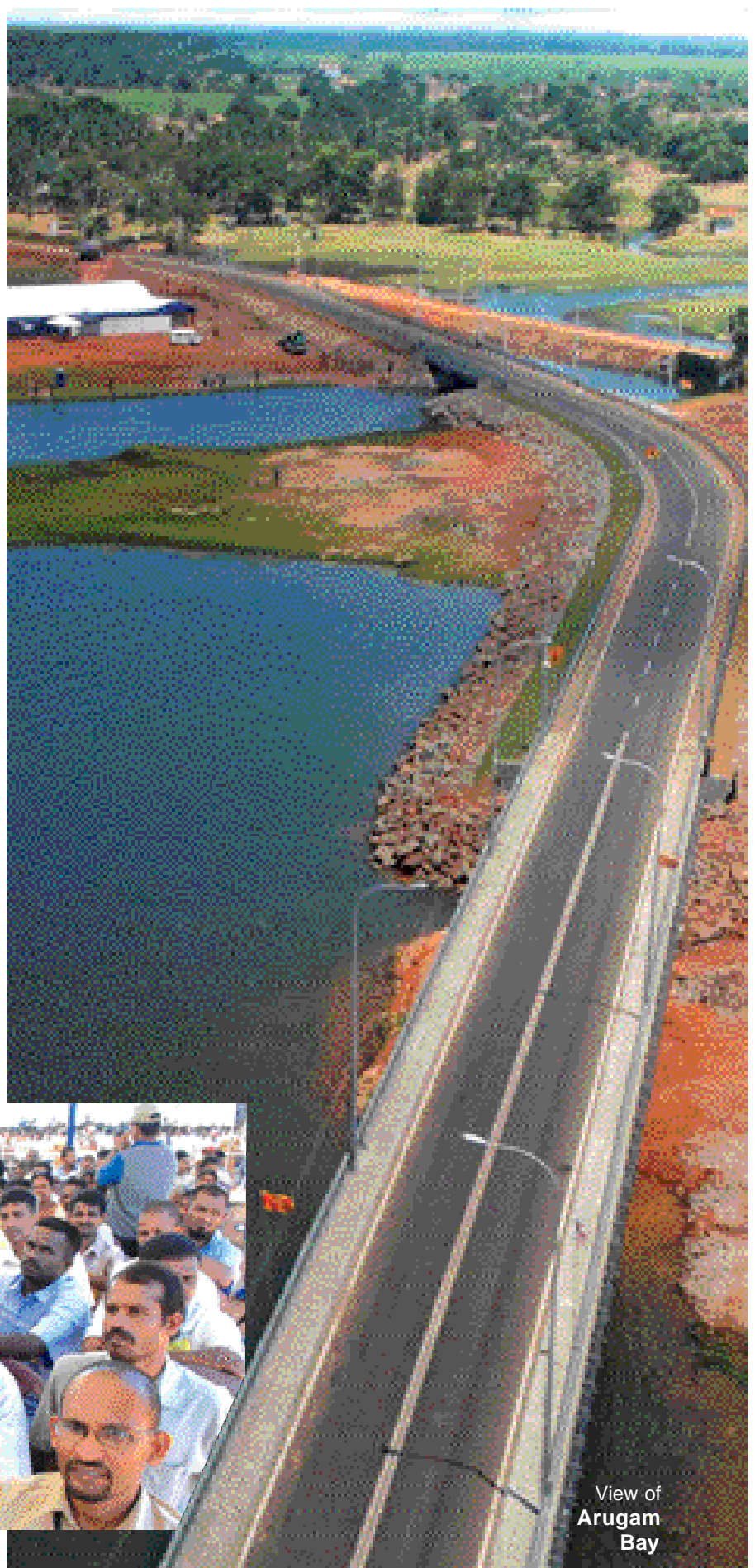
Participating in religious observances



The President and US Embassy Charge d' Affaires James R. Moore unveiling the plaque to mark the opening



President Rajapaksa addressing the gathering



View of Arugam Bay

Pictures by Sudath Silva

