

Review of Bilateral Ties between India and Sri Lanka in the years after the Civil War

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Abstract - To the west, Sri Lanka has a close neighbor in India. Over the course of their more than 2,500-year-long history together, the two nations have exchanged ideas, culture, religion, and even language. In recent years, the two countries' leaders have met often, commerce and investment have increased, they work together on matters of development, education, culture, and defense, and they have a common view of the world's most pressing problems. The past year has seen increased bilateral exchanges between the two countries on a variety of levels, as well as significant advancements in the implementation of developmental assistance projects for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and disadvantaged sections of the population in Sri Lanka. In May 2009, the almost 30-year civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE was declared over. India stood for Sri Lanka's government, saying it had the right to use force against terrorists throughout the war. At the same time, it made clear at the highest levels its concern for the condition of the mostly Tamil civilian population and the need to ensure that their rights and welfare were protected throughout the conflict with the LTTE. Is this paper discuss the bilateral ties between india and sri lanka in the years after the civil war.

Keywords - bilateral ties, India, Sri lanka, civil war

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INTRODUCTION

The rise of Tamil militant insurgency in Sri Lanka in the 1980s strained ties between the two countries. More contentious in bilateral ties was India's two-pronged approach to dealing with Tamil separatists. To begin, the New Delhi government under Indira Gandhi became heavily engaged in the war in Sri Lanka by providing arms and military training to the Tamil terrorist organizations. Second, the Indira Gandhi administration offered her excellent office to help find a political resolution to the crisis at the same time. When India violated international law by sending fighter planes into Sri Lankan air space to deliver food aid on the Jaffna peninsula, relations between the two countries worsened further. The GOSL felt constrained to accept this contentious Indian action in order to end the huge military blockade of the LTTE by government troops in Sri Lanka. In 1987, President Jayawardena and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed an Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Agreement brokered by India. The political solution to Sri Lanka's conflict envisaged in the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement included the creation of a provincial council system based on the devolution of authority for nine provinces in Sri Lanka. In addition, India promptly sent what it calls "Indian Peacekeeping troops" (IPKF) to Sri Lanka with the mission of disarming Tamil armed organizations in Jaffna. Not only did the IPKF fail to disarm the LTTE, but they also went to battle with them, losing 1,500 men in the process. When he took office after Jayawardena,

President Premadasa of Sri Lanka called for the IPKF to leave the country immediately.

INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS

To the west, Sri Lanka has a close neighbor in India. Over the course of their more than 2,500-year-long history together, the two nations have exchanged ideas, culture, religion, and even language. In recent years, the two countries' leaders have met often, commerce and investment have increased, they work together on matters of development, education, culture, and defense, and they have a common view of the world's most pressing problems. The past year has seen increased bilateral exchanges between the two countries on a variety of levels, as well as significant advancements in the implementation of developmental assistance projects for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and disadvantaged sections of the population in Sri Lanka. In May 2009, the almost 30-year civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE was declared over. India stood for Sri Lanka's government, saying it had the right to use force against terrorists throughout the war. At the same time, it made clear at the highest levels its concern for the condition of the mostly Tamil civilian population and the need to ensure that their rights and welfare were protected throughout the conflict with the LTTE.

India's senior officials have stressed the need of achieving national unity via a political resolution of the ethnic question. India has always advocated for a negotiated political solution that is compatible with democracy, pluralism, and human rights and is acceptable to all populations within the context of a unified Sri Lanka.

Political Relations:

The political relationship is characterized by frequent visits between top officials. Prof. G.L. Peiris, Sri Lanka's Minister of External Affairs, traveled to India on 22 January 2013 for the ninth meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. During the trip, the two countries inked a revised double taxation avoidance agreement and a treaty to combat international terrorism and drug trafficking. On July 4-5, 2013, Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister for Economic Development, also traveled to India. The Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Rajyasabha, Shri. Ravishankar Prasad, led a group from the India Foundation to Sri Lanka from June 4-10, 2013. On June 24-26, 2013, Shri. S. R. Rao, the Secretary of Commerce, traveled to Sri Lanka. Additionally, the first meeting of the Joint Task Force to explore the logistics of soliciting Indian investment to boost Sri Lanka's export capability was conducted.

The 2nd NSA-Level Meeting on Trilateral Cooperation on Maritime Security between India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives took place on 8-9 July 2013 in Colombo, and it was attended by India's National Security Adviser, Mr. Shivshankar Menon. During the visit, the three parties signed an Outcome Document outlining a plan for future maritime security cooperation. India's Minister for External Affairs (EAM) On October 7-8, 2013, Shri. Salman Khurshid traveled to Sri Lanka. The President of Sri Lanka was a guest of EAM, who met with him for bilateral discussions. During the visit, an MoU was signed for India's technical assistance with Sri Lanka's National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka, and an agreement was reached on the Sampur Coal Power Project. EAM also visited Jaffna to speak with the Northern Provincial Council's prime minister. The 22nd Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was place in Sri Lanka from November 13-17, 2013. EAM attended on behalf of the Prime Minister.

INDIA-SRI LANKA BILATERAL RELATIONS

To the west, Sri Lanka has a close neighbor in India. Each side of the 2,500-year-old connection between the two nations has benefited from the other's rich heritage of shared ideas, practices, and languages. The depth and breadth of the two nations' ties have grown and broadened throughout the years to embrace everything that is now important. The basis for a multifaceted collaboration is laid by the common cultural and civilizational legacy of the two nations and the considerable people-to-people contact of their populations. In recent years, the two countries' leaders

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In May 2009, the almost 30-year civil war between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE was declared over. India stood for Sri Lanka's government, saying it had the right to use force against terrorists throughout the war. At the same time, it made clear at the highest levels its concern for the condition of the mostly Tamil civilian population and the need to ensure that their rights and welfare were protected throughout the conflict with the LTTE. Nearly 300,000 Tamil civilians have been living in IDP camps since the end of the armed war, creating a significant humanitarian issue. The Indian government has implemented a comprehensive aid program to help internally displaced people get their lives back on track as soon as feasible. Sri Lanka received a gift of INR 5 billion (SLR 12 billion) from the Indian government in June 2009 for relief and reconstruction efforts. India sent 250,000 family aid parcels to the displaced people just after the fighting stopped. The organization also set up an emergency medical facility in the refugee camps, which provided care to more than 50,000 displaced people and performed more than 3,000 surgical procedures between March and September of 2009. In addition, Sri Lankan authorities received pharmaceuticals worth a total of SLR 225 million (INR 9.2 crores).

Commercial Relations:

India and Sri Lanka have a prosperous economic partnership. In the region of South Asia, India's biggest trading partner is Sri Lanka. In turn, Sri Lanka's most important trading partner is India. After the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement went into effect in March of 2000, trade between the two nations expanded at a fast pace. In the subsequent eight years, commerce between the two countries approximately five-folded. In 2012, bilateral trade reached \$4.01 billion, as reported by Sri Lankan Customs. The two nations' governments have been talking about expanding their economic and commercial cooperation over the last several months. For a very long time, Sri Lanka has been one of India's top picks for FDI. With total investments of about US\$ 800 million, India is among the top four foreign investors in Sri Lanka. India invested almost US\$160 million (out of a total of US\$1279.15) in Sri Lanka in 2012, making it the fourth biggest investor in the country. We focus on real estate, telecommunications, hotels & tourism, banking & financial services, information technology, food processing (tea & fruit juices), and the retail sale of gasoline and other petroleum products. Many Indian corporations have a foothold in Sri Lanka, including IOC, Tatas, Bharti Airtel, Piramal Glass, LIC, Ashok Leyland, L&T, Dabur, and Taj Hotels. Sri Lankan investments in India have been on the rise in recent years. Aside from other investments in the

freight servicing and logistics sector, notable examples include Ceylon Biscuits (Munchee brand), Carsons Cumberbatch (Carlsberg), Brandix (approximately US\$ 1 billion to set up a garment city in Vishakapatnam), MAS holdings, John Keels, Hayleys, and Aitken Spence (Hotels). Throughout 2013, bilateral trade and commerce remained constant. In the period between January and October of 2013, bilateral trade was \$2.96 billion, with imports from India totaling \$2.51 billion for Sri Lanka.

Developmental Cooperation:

Nearly 300,000 Tamil civilians have been living in IDP camps since the end of the armed war, creating a significant humanitarian issue. India's central government has implemented a comprehensive aid package to enable internally displaced people get back on their feet and return to their homes as soon as feasible.

India's initial humanitarian aid to internally displaced people included the distribution of 250,000 family relief packs, the establishment of an emergency medical unit that provided care to more than 50,000 IDPs, the distribution of over a million roofing sheets, the provision of 400,000 bags of cement for the construction of temporary housing, and the provision of 95,000 starter packs of agricultural implements. Agricultural and commercial activity in conflict-affected regions were helped along by Indian aid. The government of India prioritized meeting the housing needs of displaced people after focusing previously on relief and rehabilitation. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made the statement that India will back a program to rehabilitate 50,000 dwellings in Sri Lanka during President Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to India in June 2010.

Cultural Cooperation:

Each country's government is responsible for signing and implementing its own cultural exchange program, however they both rely on the Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka on November 29, 1977 in New Delhi as the foundation for their agreements. The goal of the 2010-2013 Programme of Cultural Cooperation (PCC) is to strengthen ties between countries in a wide range of cultural sectors, including the arts, libraries, museums, archives, handicrafts, archaeology, youth and sports, professional exchanges, and the media. The Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo provides lessons in Indian music, dance, Hindi, and Yoga in order to spread knowledge of Indian culture. Both nations often host cultural troupes from the other. Together, India and Sri Lanka celebrated the 2600th anniversary of Lord Buddha's enlightenment (Sambuddhatva Jayanthi). From August 19th, 2012, until September 11th, 2012, many events, including an exhibition of sacred Kapilavastu relics, were held in Sri Lanka. About three million Sri Lankans (15 percent of the country's total population) paid their respects to the Sacred Relics

during the course of the 25-day display at 10 different locations.

Defence Cooperation:

Defense ties between the two countries are flourishing because to substantial training and Service-to-Service ties. Both nations have an interest in ensuring the security of their maritime lines of communication, and this shared interest influences their bilateral discussions.

Fishermen Issue:

It is not uncommon for fisherman to accidentally cross into the other country's seas due to the proximity of their waters in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar. To address the problem of legitimate fisherman from either side crossing the IMBL, both nations have agreed to a set of practical agreements. These agreements have made it feasible to address the incarceration of fishermen in a compassionate way.

Indian Community:

People of Indian Origin (PIO) are a diverse group of people who speak a variety of Indian languages and have made Sri Lanka their permanent home (many of them after partition) to pursue economic opportunities. Even though they are far less numerous (about 10,000) than Indian Origin Tamils (IOTs), they are economically successful and socially prominent. There is a group in each of these villages that plans celebrations and other cultural activities. Unofficial estimates put the number of Indian expats in Sri Lanka at roughly 2,000. Younger generations of IOTs have been relocating to Colombo in recent years in search of jobs, although the majority of the older generations continue to work on tea and rubber plantations in Central, Uva, and Sabragamuwa Provinces. A significant percentage of Colombo's IOT population is self-employed. There are around 842,000 people living in IOTs, according to government census data from 2011.

INDIA-SRI LANKA RELATIONS IN WAKE OF SRI LANKAN ECONOMIC CRISIS

Sri Lanka's proximity to one of the world's busiest marine commerce routes makes it a vital trading partner for India. Sri Lanka has a Sinhalese majority, but there is a sizable Tamil community in the country's Northern and Eastern regions, and the two have a cultural kinship with each other and the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Since 1988, India and Sri Lanka have been party to a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and Sri Lanka is India's second biggest trade partner within SAARC, generating significant business for India in the areas of infrastructure, tourism, and education. Years of mismanagement and flawed economic policies undertaken by the government have led to a debt-to-credit ratio of 111%, plunging Sri Lanka into an unparalleled

economic catastrophe that has now exacerbated into a humanitarian disaster. This signifies that the country's debts exceed its income. The President of Sri Lanka announced tax cuts and a prohibition on using chemical fertilisers, which severely damaged the economy, marking a shift from the country's previous pro-market stance to a welfare-driven paradigm. Concerned about the economic and humanitarian crises in Sri Lanka against the background of Beijing's geopolitical interests in the area, tourists fled the country as the Covid overhang pushed the economy into a severe recession. Due to the nature of Chinese investments in the island country, India has provided Sri Lanka with an economic package worth close to \$4 billion and helped Sri Lanka apply for loans from the International Monetary Fund.

India-Sri Lanka Through the Ages

➤ Mythological Connect

Relationships between the two countries may be traced back to the third century BCE. The Ramayana has the first known Hindu reference to Sri Lanka, which occurs during the reign of Yaksha King Kubera. The epic describes Rama's construction of a rocky causeway between India and Sri Lanka with the help of Hanuman and others. Satellite photographs show what is likely the remains of the sandbar bridge that formerly connected Sri Lanka and India (known as Ram Setu). Shiva was worshiped in several regions of Sri Lanka, as shown by excavations.

➤ Spread of Buddhism

Arahant Mahinda, son of King Ashoka, brought Buddhism to Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan chronicles report that the reigning monarch of Sri Lanka became a Buddhist not long after Mahinda's arrival. Sinhalese people generally converted to Buddhism, while Tamils stayed Hindu. The foundation for Hinduism's continued existence in Sri Lanka was laid via connections with Tamil Nadu's Hindu population. The majority of Sri Lanka's Hindu knowledge, philosophy, and temple building came from northern Tamils, who were mostly Shaivites.

➤ Post-Independence

There is now economic integration between the northern and northeastern parts of Sri Lanka and India. Both India and Ceylon gained their independence in 1947. Discrimination against Tamils by the Sinhalese Government after independence widened the chasm between India and Ceylon. Under the controversial 'Sinhala-Only Act,' the Sinhalese government 'instituted' Sinhala as the official language and relegated Tamil to the background. After the India-Pakistan War of 1971, India got closer to the Soviet Union while Sri Lanka moved closer to the United States. Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister JR Jayewardene favored an open economy and a westward pivot throughout his time in office. As a

result of Tamil riots in 1977 and 1981, the situation became much more dire. Training and equipping Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka was tasked to India's Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW). The plan was to teach terrorists how to fight for Tamil rights without making them a danger to Sri Lanka. In 1976, V. Prabhakaran created the separatist and insurgent militant group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as the only representation of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

➤ Perilous Intervention (IPKF [1987-89])

The India-Sri Lanka Accord (ISLA) was an effort to end Sri Lanka's ethnic strife via legal and diplomatic channels. The ISLA's primary objectives were (1) to encourage the warring ethnic groups to join mainstream politics and (2) to seek political devolution in Sri Lanka, by amending the Constitution of the state to get autonomy for the Tamil community. This would give India a chance to influence the post-war political trajectory of Sri Lanka. As a result of the LTTE's rejection of the Accord, bloodshed against India and Sri Lanka continued until 2009. The Accord in Sri Lanka is being enforced by the International Peacekeeping Task Force. At its heart, this arrangement was an effort to provide the Tamils the best possible deal without threatening Sri Lanka's territorial integrity. Because of this inability to secure participation from all sides, the Accord ultimately failed. Both the Sinhalese and the LTTE lost trust in the IPKF owing to what they saw as betrayal when the latter was left out of formalizing the Accord, while the former came to see India's position as an unwarranted meddling in Sinhalese domestic matters that was not in Sri Lanka's best interests. The IPKF operation was cancelled after a change of administration in India, and the soldiers were subsequently returned. After this intervention, India took a new approach to its foreign policy.

Factors that Led to the Crisis

- **'Welfare-Driven' Policy:** Sri Lanka's economy collapsed due to a "welfare driven" approach. To help more individuals avoid paying income tax, President Rajapaksa increased the personal exemption level and lowered the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 15% to 8% in December 2019. As a result, in 2020, government revenues as a percentage of GDP will have dropped from 2019's 13% to 2020's 9%. The ban on chemical fertilizer imports was a fatal blow to the country's agricultural output. The welfare state's stranglehold on the economy was too strong for the nation to overcome.
- **Impact of Pandemic:** Sri Lanka's tourist sector, which accounts for more than 10% of the country's GDP, was negatively damaged by Covid, leading to a severe decline in numerous macroeconomic parameters such as employment, growth rate, foreign

investments, etc. During the epidemic, nearly 200,000 individuals in the tourist business lost their employment, and another 500,000 were forced into poverty as a result.

- **Food shortages:** The government's decision to prohibit synthetic fertilizers and support organic farming led to a precipitous drop in agricultural production. The administration seems to have acted hastily, without making proper preparations for carrying out this policy shift. In 2021-22 (April-March), rice output in Sri Lanka declined by 13.9%, while average yield per hectare fell by 14.4%. Meanwhile, imports reached a five-year high.
- **Chinese Debt Diplomacy:** China's 'debt trap diplomacy' against the background of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Covid has been a crucial influence in Sri Lanka's economic catastrophe. In the years between 2000 and 2020, China lent the Sri Lankan government close to USD 12 billion for wasteful infrastructure projects like a costly port facility in the Rajapaksas' hometown of Hambantota. This amounted to nearly 10% of Sri Lanka's total foreign debt. After Sri Lankan authorities realized they could no longer pay off the debts, they essentially leased the Port to Chinese authority half a decade ago. Instead of renegotiating its loans with the IMF or enforcing austerity measures to placate the Paris Club, Sri Lanka chose this route. Without any policy adjustments or debt restructuring, Beijing gave Sri Lanka an additional \$3 billion on top of the \$35 billion it already owed. The initial effect of Beijing's debt diplomacy was to promote wasteful spending on infrastructure projects. The second reason is that the governing Rajapaksa family has strong political backing from Beijing. The economic downfall of Sri Lanka may be traced back to these political mistakes.

Indian Response to Sri Lankan Economic Crisis

✓ Overall Response Strategy

The proximity of Sri Lanka to strategic maritime routes has made it a source of rivalry between India and China. India looks to be in a better position to pursue its foreign policy goals in Sri Lanka as a result of the present economic and political crises in the nation. India has always played a minor role in financing the island country, but that is beginning to change. India is progressively becoming a significant aid provider, but it is doing it in a democratic and open way that will not leave the country reliant on it in the long term. The Sri Lankan High Commission in India issued a statement thanking India for being the first nation to "support Sri Lanka in a manner so that it could secure finance required by Sri Lanka until the debt restructuring with the IMF could be negotiated." This demonstrates India's responsible reaction by involving a reputable foreign lender that would monitor the success of the aid provided by India.

✓ Economic Initiatives

Credit of USD 4 billion was made available by India for the purchase of food, fuel, fertilizer, and medication. In a declaration to Parliament in June 2022, then-Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe accepted this reality. The Indian High Commission recently issued a press statement stating that India has provided Sri Lanka with USD 5 billion in economic assistance, including over USD 600 million in grants. Trincomalee Power Company was established in March 2022 after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed. A renewable energy project in northern Sri Lanka for USD 500 million was awarded to Indian energy and ports magnate Gautam Adani. Adani has already been awarded a USD 700 million contract to construct the West Container Terminal at Colombo Port. By the end of May, India's USD 500 million credit line had allowed Sri Lanka to purchase 400 thousand metric tons of gasoline. Again, it sent 80,000 metric tons of fuel to Sri Lanka the next week. News outlets in India report that New Delhi has extended a grace period on USD 1 billion in Asian Clearing Union loans that Sri Lanka owes. Tamil Nadu, a state in southern India, has committed to send 40,000 tons of rice, 500 tons of milk powder, and medication to Sri Lanka. From that, a shipment of over 25 metric tons of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, including 9 thousand tons of rice and 50 tons of milk powder, landed in Colombo in May. Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay delivered the shipment, with a value of over USD \$5.5 million, to Foreign Minister GL Peiris. Additionally, India has promised Sri Lanka 65,000 metric tons of urea.

Indian Foreign Policy Essentials for Way Forward

✓ Beyond 'Neighbourhood First Policy'

India would have to rethink its 'Neighborhood First Policy' now that it understands the security importance of its relationship with Sri Lanka. Our views and answers in this situation will have repercussions not just for ties between India and Sri Lanka, but also for those between us and a number of other countries, some of which are experiencing economic crises and are likely to follow Sri Lanka's Road towards debt default. Therefore, our reputation and the larger security dynamics in our immediate neighborhood will be affected by India's mature handling of the crisis. The story of the Chinese scientific research vessel Yuan Wang 5 docking at Hambantota Port and India's response is instructive. Considering Sri Lanka's political dilemma, with its massive Chinese debt and attempts to renegotiate a repayment plan with China, is essential to making sense of this development. India could show maturity by not increasing the ante beyond a certain level, and it should use this chance by demonstrating magnanimity in other ways, such as the recent gift of a Dornier aircraft to the Sri Lankan Forces. Despite India's worries, a strong retaliation would only risk drawing Sri Lanka farther closer to China's sphere of

influence. The India-Sri Lanka Accord was struck in the 1980s, and since then, Sri Lankan sensibilities have evolved. India, on the other hand, has to take a more mature and inclusive tack toward China in order to strike a healthy balance in their bilateral relationship. There has to be a summit-level conversation on expanding the Colombo Security Conclave, which now includes India, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka, into a regional Quad-like framework of countries with comparable challenges and security interests in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

✓ The 'People' Connect

Although trade is the lifeblood of the relationship between India and Sri Lanka, it is cultural similarity that must serve as its public face. It is imperative that the Indian community in Sri Lanka be used. Indian economic efforts need to be built on the foundation of increased people-to-people interaction between the two countries. While it is widely understood that a positive economic outlook is crucial for gaining a strategic advantage considering India's indulgence in Trincomalee and the Western Port Terminal, any endeavor that fosters closer ties between the two countries' peoples will be immensely beneficial, given the current state of China and Sri Lanka's relationship. India could use this power to its advantage by increasing spending in areas like healthcare, agriculture, and technology that bring people of both countries together. Actions like Tamil Nadu's donation of food, milk powder, and medication to Sri Lanka demonstrate regional affinity and have a bigger effect than monetary aid alone. India can take advantage of the cultural and religious similarities by establishing Buddhist learning institutes, Tamil and Sanskrit centers, and other similar organizations to develop regional ties. Scholarship programs and technical assistance programs now in place might benefit from a dose of private sector innovation. In order to identify and create shared doctrines for regional security, it is essential to expand this exchange programme to include the strategic security community (the Think Tanks).

RELATIONS IN POST CIVIL WAR ERA

India was among the nations that congratulated the GOSL on the conclusion of the conflict, which lasted for 26 years. India also planned to send a high-level delegation to Sri Lanka. The Indian embassy sent a mission to Sri Lanka on May 23 of that year. Mr. M.K. Narayan, a consultant for Indian national security, and Mr. Shiva Shankar Menon, India's foreign secretary, led the team. Indian government delegations briefed their Sri Lankan counterparts on India's urgency in seeking a political resolution to the country's ongoing national crisis. They also convinced the government to look for a permanent fix to the underlying issues that have led to Tamil secession in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksha traveled to India in June 2009, shortly after his country's military triumph.

During bilateral meetings between the two leaders, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced his country's commitment to helping rebuild war-torn regions and institute rehabilitation initiatives. India is eager to help the GOSL in its post-war rebuilding and rehabilitation efforts in a variety of ways. India is contributing to numerous programs in North and East that aid displaced people as a result of the fighting. With an initial commitment of \$ 110 million, the government of India supplied emergency supplies of medical, temporary housing, and cement, and began demining programs in battle zones. Later, India increased her support, participating in a variety of post-war rehabilitation initiatives in Sri Lanka. For instance, in 2010, India allocated US\$ 27.5 million for Northern Province restoration initiatives. India has been helping with the development of industrial zone, supplying fishing equipment, agriculture tools, buses, tractors, and cement for IDPs, rebuilding Duraiyappa Stadium, and constructing a cultural center in Jaffna. They have also provided aid in developing healthcare facilities in Kilinochchi and Mulaitivu. For the Northern Railway Line from Omanthai to Pallai and from Madawachchiya to Talaimannar, the Government of India has given credit lines to Sri Lanka totaling US\$416.4 million. For displaced families in India's North and East, the government has built 50,000 new homes as part of a housing development initiative. With a total budget of US\$ 270 million, this project is receiving complete grant support from the Indian government and is one of the biggest grant aid projects ever conducted by the Indian government abroad. The construction of a coal plant at Sampur, in Sri Lanka's Eastern region, is another major development project undertaken by the Indian government in the wake of the conflict. India provided 15% of major contributors to Sri Lanka's foreign finance contribution in 2010.

Despite India's promises to help Sri Lanka rebuild economically after the war, tensions between the two nations have increased over the last three years. Historically, New Delhi's foreign policy toward Sri Lanka was affected by the Tamil Nadu factor on many occasions. Even though New Delhi has ignored Tamil Nadu's input on a number of key issues in the past, the state's political climate has recently shifted. During the climactic stages of military operations against the LTTE in 2009, the Sri Lankan government was accused of committing war crimes by the Tamil Nadu Chief minister Jayalalitha Jayaram (AIADMK), other pro-LTTE political parties (DMK, MDMK), and important political figures of Tamil Nadu. Pro-LTTE parties like the DMK, AIADMK, and MDMK have been organizing anti-Sri Lankan rallies throughout the whole state of Tamil Nadu in South India. Pro-LTTE political parties and thousands of students joined the demonstrations, demanding an inquiry into possible war crimes perpetrated by the government against the Tamil people. These demonstrators were pressuring the Indian government to consider economic measures on Sri Lanka and demanding the establishment of a Tamil homeland. A resolution condemning Sri Lanka

was sponsored by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jeyaram and approved by the state legislature in March 2013. The Tamil Nadu Assembly overwhelmingly approved a motion calling on the New Delhi government to impose an economic blockade on Colombo until the persecution of Tamils ceased and those guilty for "genocide and war crimes" were brought to justice. Jeyalalitha also pushed for changes to be made to the US-backed resolution on Sri Lanka concerning war crimes against Tamils in Northern Sri Lanka, which she said should be moved by the central government in New Delhi. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Sing to urge him to "Don't just support the US - backed resolution on Sri Lankan Tamils issue at UNHRC, but strengthen it through suitable amendments."

In 2012 and 2013, there were several anti-Sri Lankan protests in Tamil Nadu. In September 2012, Islamists from Tamil Nadu stormed the Poornima church in Trichy, where 180 Sri Lankan visitors were worshipping. Two further attacks on Buddhist monks by demonstrators in Tamil Nadu were recorded, this time in Tanjavur and Chennai. Chennai was the target of an assault on two landmarks in 2012: the "Maha Bodi" pilgrim center in Egmore and the "Mihin Lanka" airline headquarters. The Chief Minister of Sri Lanka, Jeyalalitha Jeyaram, had ordered the return of a school football squad that had traveled to Chennai to compete in a competition. The Government of Sri Lanka issued a travel advise warning its citizens against traveling to Tamil Nadu due to a rise in violent occurrences. 19 Several anti-protests took place in Tamil Nadu during President Rajapaksha's visit to India. The President of Sri Lanka paid a visit to New Delhi in September 2012 to pay his respects at Sanchi Stupa and to lay the cornerstone for the University of Buddhist Studies. When MDMK general secretary Vaiko and his party's supporters stopped in Nagpur on route to Sanchi, they voiced their displeasure to Sri Lanka's president and the governor of Madhya Pradesh for inviting President Rajapaksha.²⁰ In February of 2013, the President of Sri Lanka and his family traveled to Bodh Gaya in the Indian state of Bihar to pay their respects at the revered Buddhist shrine, Mahabodhi. When he arrived at the shrine, hundreds of protesters had gathered nearby, yelling anti-Sri Lankan slogans. Karunanidhi, head of the DMK in Tamil Nadu, rallied protesters waving black flags in Chennai against President Rajapaksha's visit. Protesters said they were there because Tamils in Sri Lanka have been victims of war crimes and human rights violations. Those protests Sri Lanka clearly had political party backing from Tamil Nadu.

CONCLUSION

India and Sri Lanka have been friends for centuries and have numerous cultural and historical links. They are maritime neighbors that share a border. India and Sri Lanka have had diplomatic ties for over 2,500 years. Intellectual, cultural, religious, and linguistic exchange between the two nations goes back a long way. Trade and investment have increased, and the

two countries have worked together on issues of development, education, culture, and defense since independence. There is widespread agreement between the two nations on most matters of global significance. Developmental Assistance Projects for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Sri Lanka have made great strides since the conclusion of the country's civil conflict, strengthening ties of goodwill between the two nations. The two nations' governments and economies had been in constant communication. Top ministers from both nations have been meeting often, and high-level delegations from each have been making frequent visits to the other country to address bilateral concerns respectfully. There's no denying that the Ethnic War put a major crimp on ties, but talks have been ongoing to resolve unresolved issues to everyone's satisfaction on both sides. For a very long time, Sri Lanka has been one of India's top picks for FDI. When it comes to SAARC countries, Sri Lanka is a major commercial partner for India.

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