

How did Sri Lanka turn from a rising tourism paradise...



...into a nation on the brink of economic collapse?



Intended Effect

Correlate Sri Lanka's economic landscape with major events since 2000

Tone

Emotional and Analytical

Big Idea

Highlight how the Sri Lankan crises are a result of mismanagement and external shocks, affecting everyday life since 2000

Audience Persona



Demographic Data

- **Education Level:** Undergraduate and graduate students
- **Field of Study:** AAI, Computer Science, or related fields
- **Location:** Primarily in Rosenheim, Germany (with international and German students)
- **Tech Proficiency:** Familiar with graphs and can recognize patterns that correlate

Audience Persona

Goals and Needs

- **Learning Objective:** Get a better understanding of social and economic issues in Sri Lanka.
- **Engagement with Real-World Topics:** Interested in exploring the socio-economic impacts of historical events through data, especially in a cultural context like the Sri Lankan civil war and economic crisis.
- **Career Aspirations:** To work in data science or visualization roles, leverage storytelling to influence decision-making.

Audience Persona

Challenges and Pain Points

- **Connecting Data with Real-World Impact:** Challenging to move beyond raw numbers to understand a compelling human story, especially when the data is tied to sensitive subjects like war or economic crises.
- **Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness:** As someone from a different cultural background, cautious about understanding issues from regions they haven't personally experienced, worried about inaccuracies or unintended bias.

3-min Story

Tsunami



- Tsunami on 26th December 2004
- Sri Lankans believed to be unaffected by Tsunami
- 30.000 people lost their lives and thousands more were displaced
- Infrastructure destroyed and fishing communities wiped out

3-min Story

Civil War



- Civil war 1983 - 2009
- Against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, also known as the Tamil Tigers)
- War ended under the leadership of Srilankan army commander *Sarath Fonseka* and president *Mahinda Rajapaksa*
- 18th May 2009 Sri Lanka declares victory

3-min Story

Easter Attack



- 21st April 2019
- Jihadist suicide bombers attack churches and luxury hotels on Easter Sunday
- More than 350 people were killed and hundreds wounded
- Deepened political and religious tension in the country

3-min Story

Corona Pandemic



- First corona incident - 27th January 2020
- Lockdown for months in multiple occasions
- Tourism came to a halt
- Unemployment increased from 4.8% in 2019 to 5.5% in 2020

3-min Story

Economic Crisis



- The debt increased from US\$ 11.3 billion in 2005 to \$56.3 billion in 2020
- Foreign debt 42% of GDP in 2019, rose to 119% of GDP in 2021
- In April 2022 US\$ 1 = LKR 355 (2021 - LKR 183)

- Sri Lanka was financially unstable to buy necessities such as food, medical supplies, fuel, gas, and more
- As a result, the price of basic commodities increased



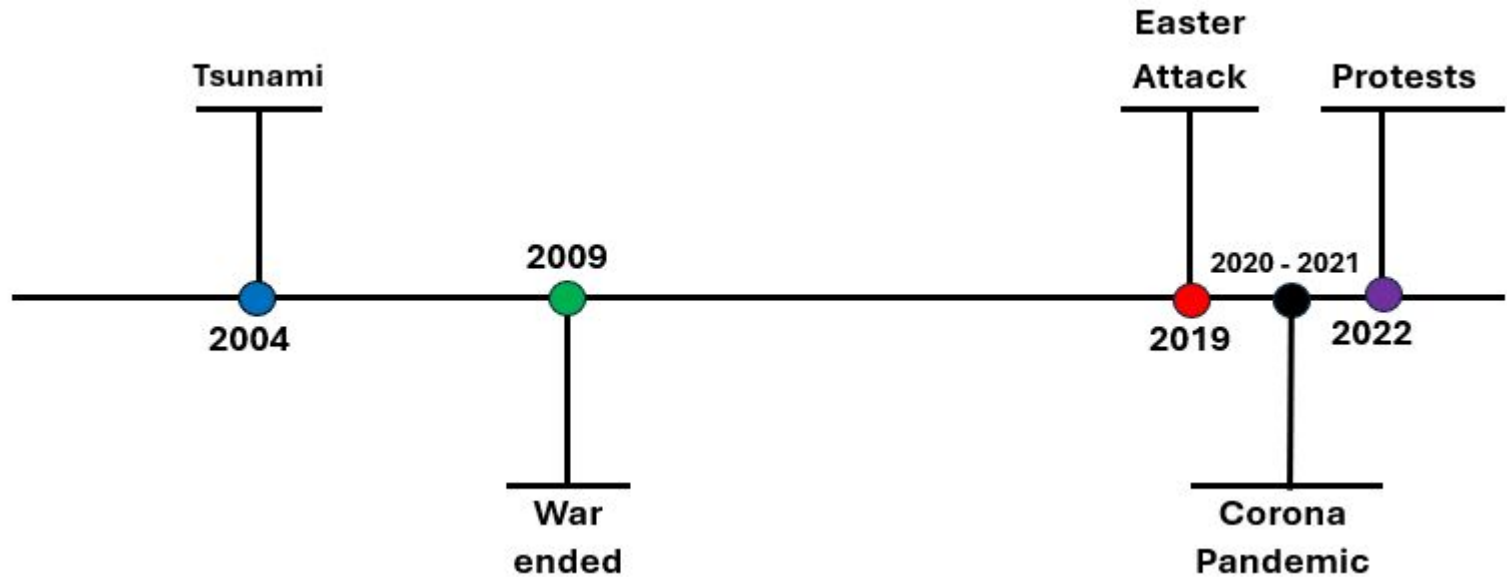
3-min Story

Protests against the government



- Protests lasts from 15th March 2022 to 14th November 2022
- Reasons:
 - Economic crisis
 - High inflation and rapid rise in the cost of living
 - Authoritarianism, corruption and nepotism of the Rajapaksa family
- Goals:
 - Resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa and the Rajapaksa administration
 - Drafting of a new constitution

Timeline from 2000 to 2024



The Data

kaggle

Sri Lanka News Data

- scraped from Dailymirror and Newsfirst; 2009-2022
two prominent Sri Lankan news websites

Economy of Sri Lanka

- economy of Sri Lanka from 1960 to 2021



Open Data Inventory



Tourism and Leisure
(1)



Agriculture and Livelihood
(45)



Travel
(1)



Information Technology &
Cyber Security
(26)



Demography
(19)



Economic
(17)



Employment and Skills
(5)



Industry and Investments
(4)



Infrastructure
(8)



National Security and
Safety
(6)



Transport
(11)

But there is so much more...

- Central bank of Sri Lanka
 - Data about economic indicators and statistical tables
- Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
 - Data about tourism in Sri Lanka > e.g. tourists arrivals from all countries monthly from 2016 to today
- Humanitarian data exchange
 - Data on conflict events in Sri Lanka
- World bank group
 - Provides 1500 different topics across economical and social aspects of Sri Lanka from 1960 to 2023

Datasources

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/amritharj/economy-of-sri-lanka?resource=download>

<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/ivantha/sri-lanka-news-dataset/data>

<https://sltda.gov.lk/en/statistics>

<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/world-bank-economy-and-growth-indicators-for-sri-lanka>

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/sri-lanka>

<https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/statistics>

<https://data.gov.lk/>

<https://sltda.gov.lk/en/statistics>

<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/ucdp-data-for-sri-lanka>

http://www.statistics.gov.lk/DashBoard/srilanka_glance/

SRI LANKA AT A GLANCE

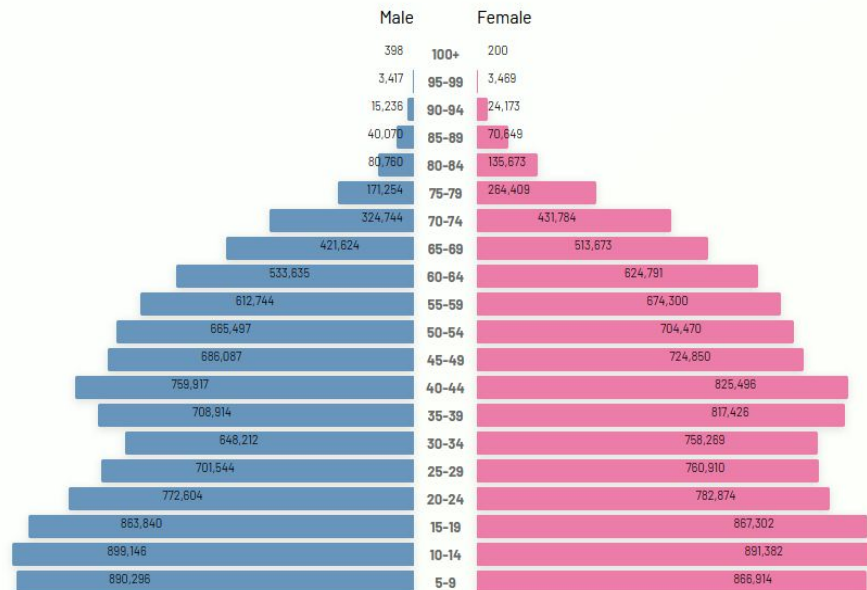


Search

- Area and Population
- Vital Statistics
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- Income and Expenditure
- Agriculture
- Price Indices and Prices
- National Accounts
- International Trade
- Tourism
- Education

Age Sex Dynamics of the Sri Lankan Population

Show Values For : 2021



Children
Ages 0 - 14

15.9%

Youth
Ages 15 - 24

14.8%

Working Age
Ages 15 - 64

65.1%

Older Persons
Ages 60+

16.4%