

Theme 8:
India-Sri Lanka Relations

Politics in Sri Lanka

- **1948:** Ceylon becomes independent
- **1972:** Ceylon becomes a Republic, Sri Lanka
- **1948-1980s in SL:**
 - Denial of Linguistic, Electoral, Cultural liberties to Tamil speaking minorities
 - **1983:** Armed insurgencies against Sinhala speaking majority, govt.
 - Emergence of LTTE
- Indian Involvement in Sri Lankan Crisis: **1983-1990**
- **Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, 1987**
- **IPKF deployed in Sri Lanka (Indian Peace Keeping Force)**

India-Sri Lanka Bilateral Relationship, 1970s-1983

- Sri Lanka: Commonwealth Nation
- India-Sri Lanka Relations under Bandaranaike-Jayewardene: **Unfavourable**
- **1970s:** Emergence of the Tamil United Front
- Sri Lankan constitution ratified in 1972;
Further amendments in 1978, 1983
 - Further alienation of Tamil minority
 - Marginalisation of Tamil Language
 - Dispossession of Tamil held lands
- **1980s:** Full scale emergence of armed insurgency by radical Tamil leaders.

**Sirimavo
Bandaranaike,**
PM: 1960-65;
1970-77; 1994-
2000

**JR
Jayewardene,**
President:
1978-1989

Civil War: Indian Intervention

- **1977-1987:** Increasing violence in Sri Lanka ; Jaffna
- 1977-Early 1980s: India offers humanitarian relief to Tamils in SL
- **1983:** India conveys a strong message to SL on the Tamil issue
- Dominance of LTTE over all other separatist and rebel outfits in SL
- 1985 Peace talks between LTTE & Sri Lanka govt: **Failed**
- **1987: Indo-Sri Lanka Accord**
- **1991: Former PM Rajiv Gandhi assassinated**

1987 and after

- IPKF Operations: Intensely complex and violent
- Unsympathetic SL leadership
- Covert SL support to Tamil Insurgents
- Foreign context: Perceived closeness of SL to Pakistan, China, US against Indian Interests.

Indian intervention in Maldives (1988)

- **Operation Cactus** launched by India at Maldives' request: (**Nov 1988**)
 - Protect President Gayoom from militant intruders originating in Sri Lanka
 - To apprehend the Tamil outfit responsible for the crisis: **PLOTE**, Maldivian insurgents
 - Resolve the Hostage situation
- **International signalling** to Sri Lanka to end the Civil War to prevent further crisis.

IPKF: Operation Pawan

- Northern SL: IPKF HQ
- North-Eastern SL: LTTE Strongholds.
- **Operation Pawan: Oct 1987**
 - Destroy the Political & Mil HQ of LTTE (Jaffna Uni)
 - Destroy LTTE
 - Capture and safeguard Jaffna city ; Jaffna University
- **IPKF Strategy:**
 - Limited Co-ordination
 - Scarce Supplies
 - Overconfidence
 - LTTE capabilities not assessed properly