

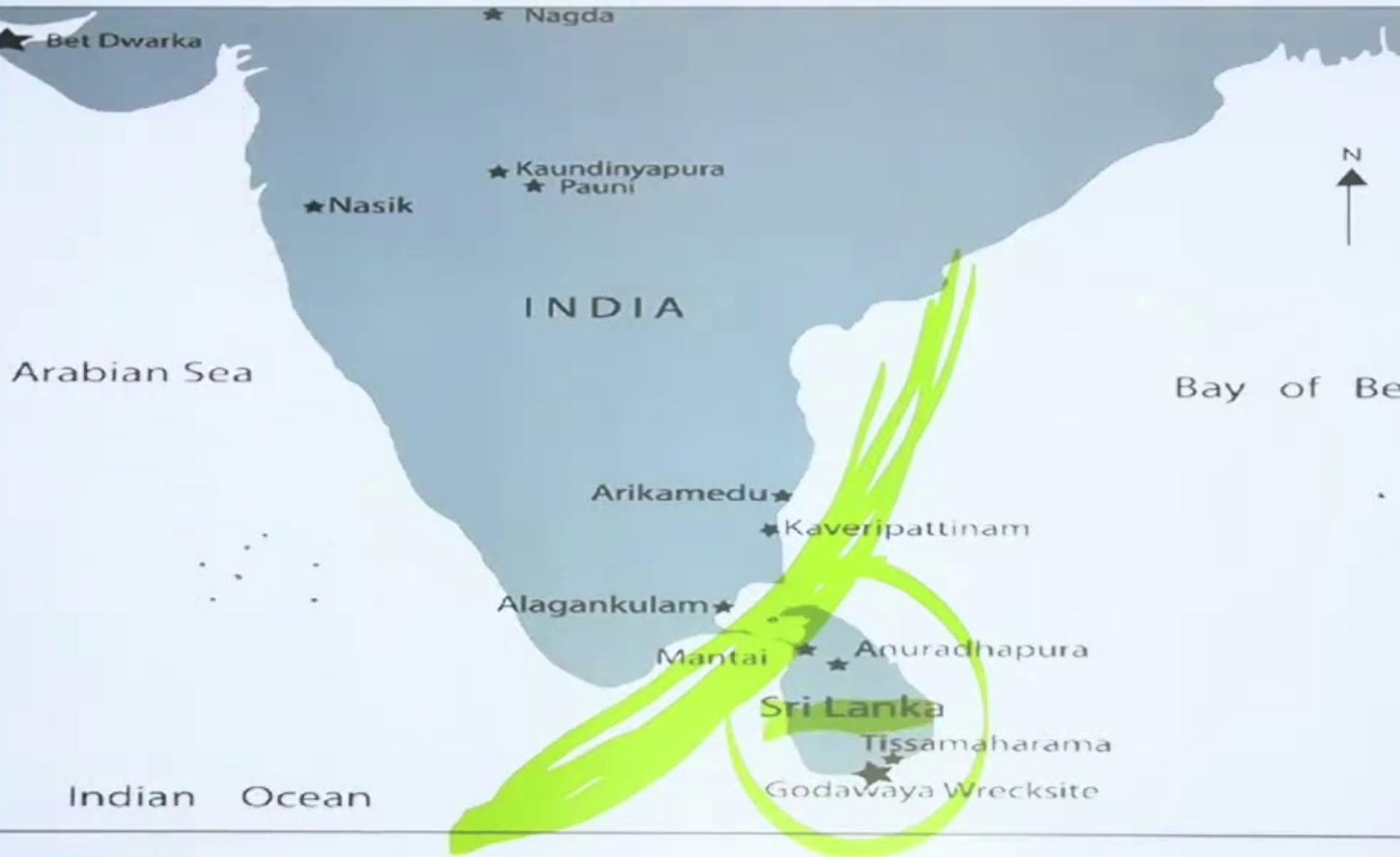


Indo-Sri Lanka



India-Sri Lanka: An intro

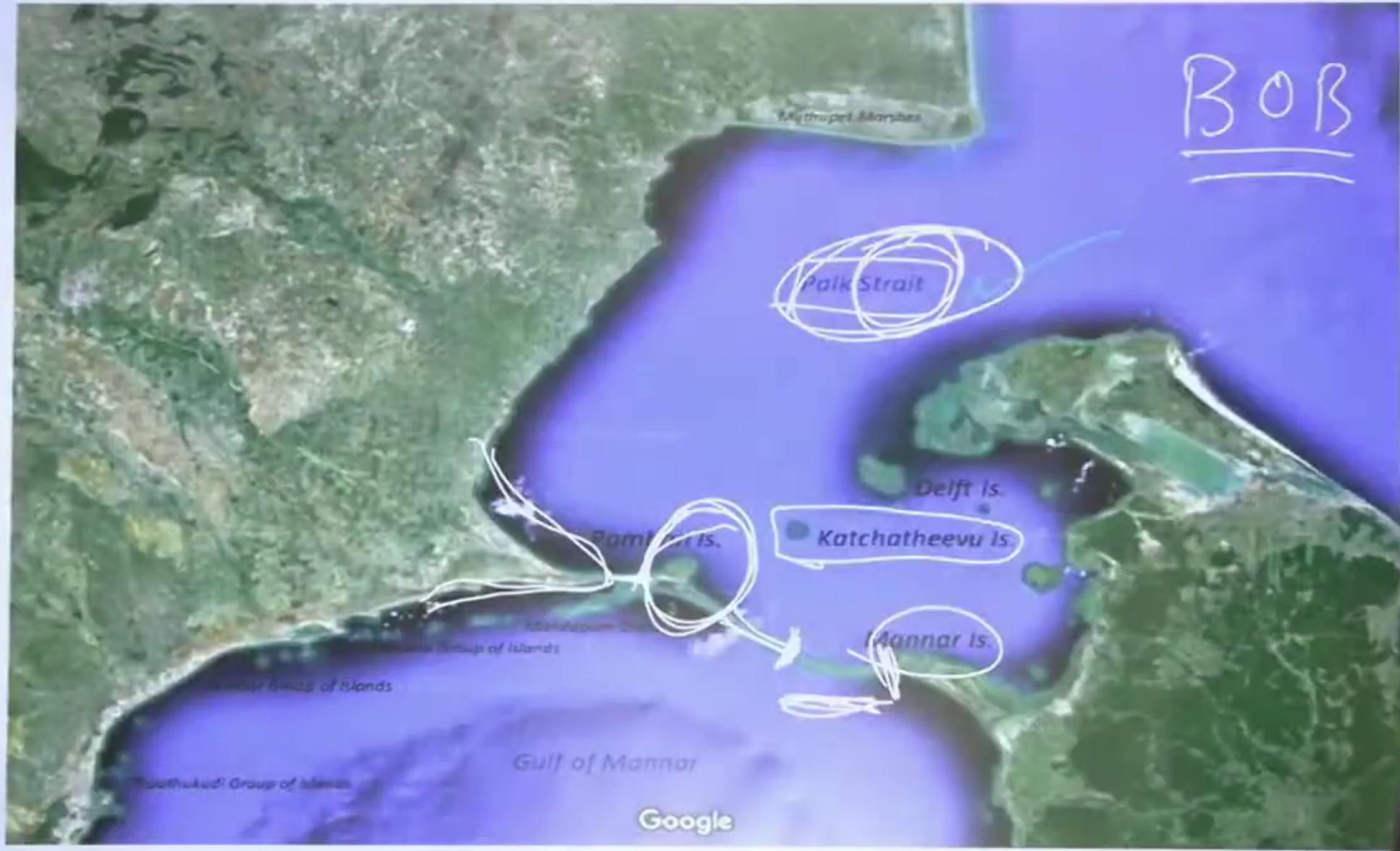
- The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is more than **2,500 years old.** 
- **Buddhism** spread to **Sri Lanka from India** which remains a main source of religion and culture for a majority of its people.
- India and Sri Lanka are part of many regional and multilateral forums such as **SAARC, BIMSTEC** etc.
- Sri Lanka is an **important maritime neighbor** and an integral element in India's **larger maritime strategy** in the Indian Ocean
- Sri Lanka remains significant for **India to secure its southeast coast.**
- **India was largest trading partner** of Sri Lanka until China took over recently.



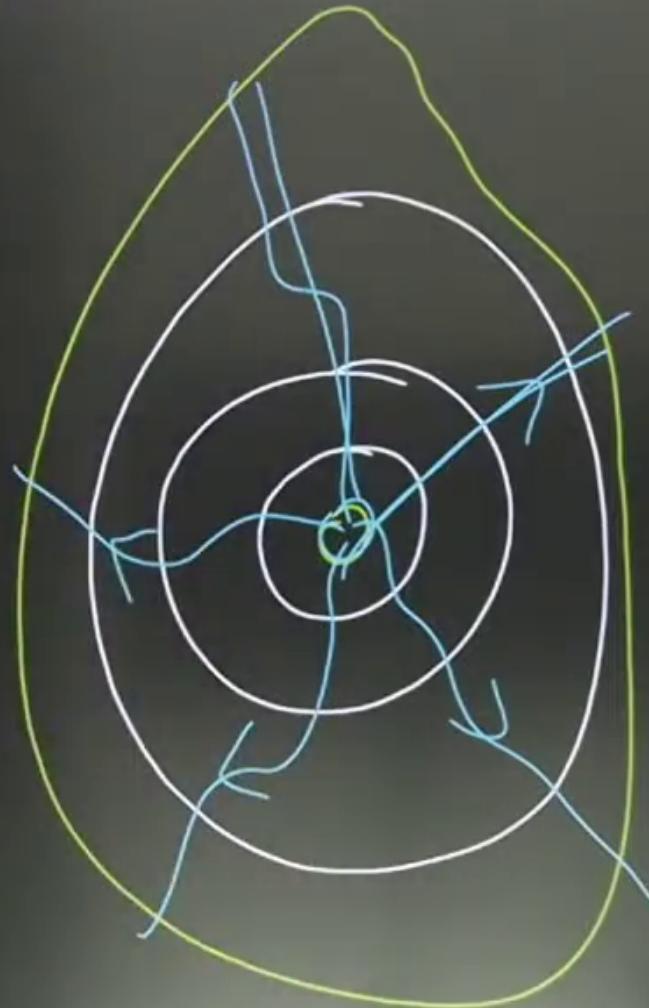
Geography of Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka is an island country in **South Asia**.
- It is located **southeast of India** and northeast of the Maldives
- Sri Lanka lies on the **Indian Plate**, a major tectonic plate that was formerly part of the **Indo-Australian Plate**.
- According to Hindu mythology Lanka was connected with India via **Adams bridge/Ram Setu**
- Sri Lanka is separated from the mainland portion of the Indian subcontinent by the **Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait**
- Sri Lanka has **103 rivers**. The longest of these is the **Mahaweli River**.

BOB



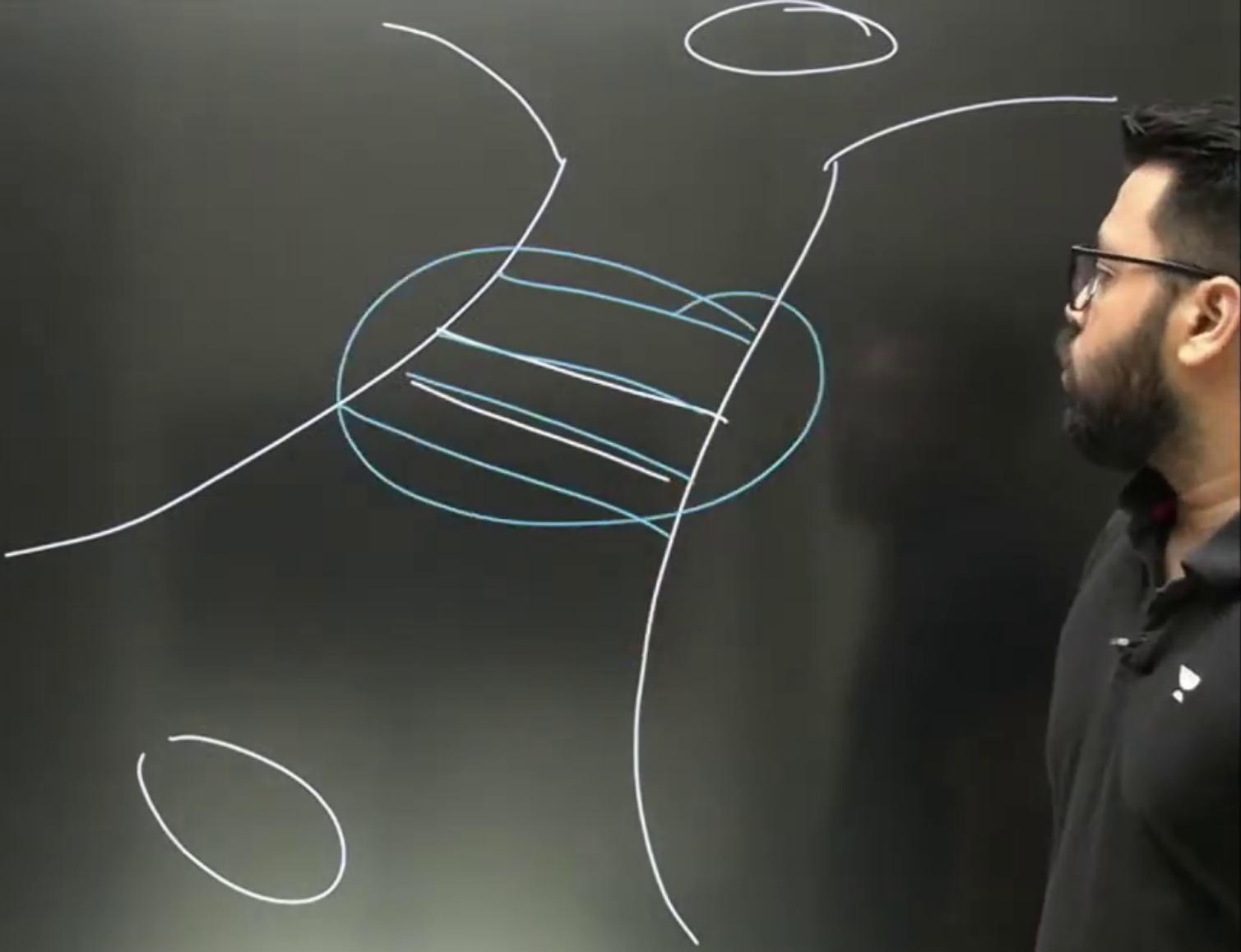




Radical

B O B





The Sri Lankan Civil War



- The war in Sri Lanka between the separatist Tamil forces and the government was a heavy one with a death toll of over 150000 from both sides including civilians.
- The majority of Sri Lankans are ethnic Sinhalese.
- The Sinhalese were predominantly Buddhist and the Tamils were mostly Hindu. The British ruled over Sri Lanka from 1815 to 1948. During this time, they brought nearly a million Tamils to work in the coffee, tea and rubber plantations to the island-nation.
- After attaining independence, the new government initiated many laws that discriminated against the Tamils. Sinhalese was declared the sole official language which effectively eliminated the Tamils from government service.
- A law was also passed which simply barred Indian Tamils from getting citizenship.
- The Tamils started demanding equal rights in their homeland. However, ethnic tension was rising in the country and the successive Sinhalese governments did nothing to provide equal rights and opportunities to the Tamil people.



Rajiv Gandhi assassination -1991

- It was case of suicide bombers **near Chennai**, in Tamil Nadu, India on Tuesday, 21 May 1991
- The attack was blamed on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (**LTTE**)
- At the time India had just ended its involvement, through the Indian Peace Keeping Force, in the Sri Lankan Civil War.

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Indo Sri Lanka Accord-1987



- It was an accord Signed in Colombo on 29 July 1987, between Indian Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene
- The accord was expected to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War by enabling the **13th Amendment** to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987
- Under the Agreement, Colombo Agreed to a devolution of power to the provinces, the Sri Lankan troops were to be withdrawn to their barracks in the north and the Tamil rebels were to surrender their arms



The Sri Lankan Civil War Eelam War III



Sri Lanka



Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam

LTTE

Oct 1997

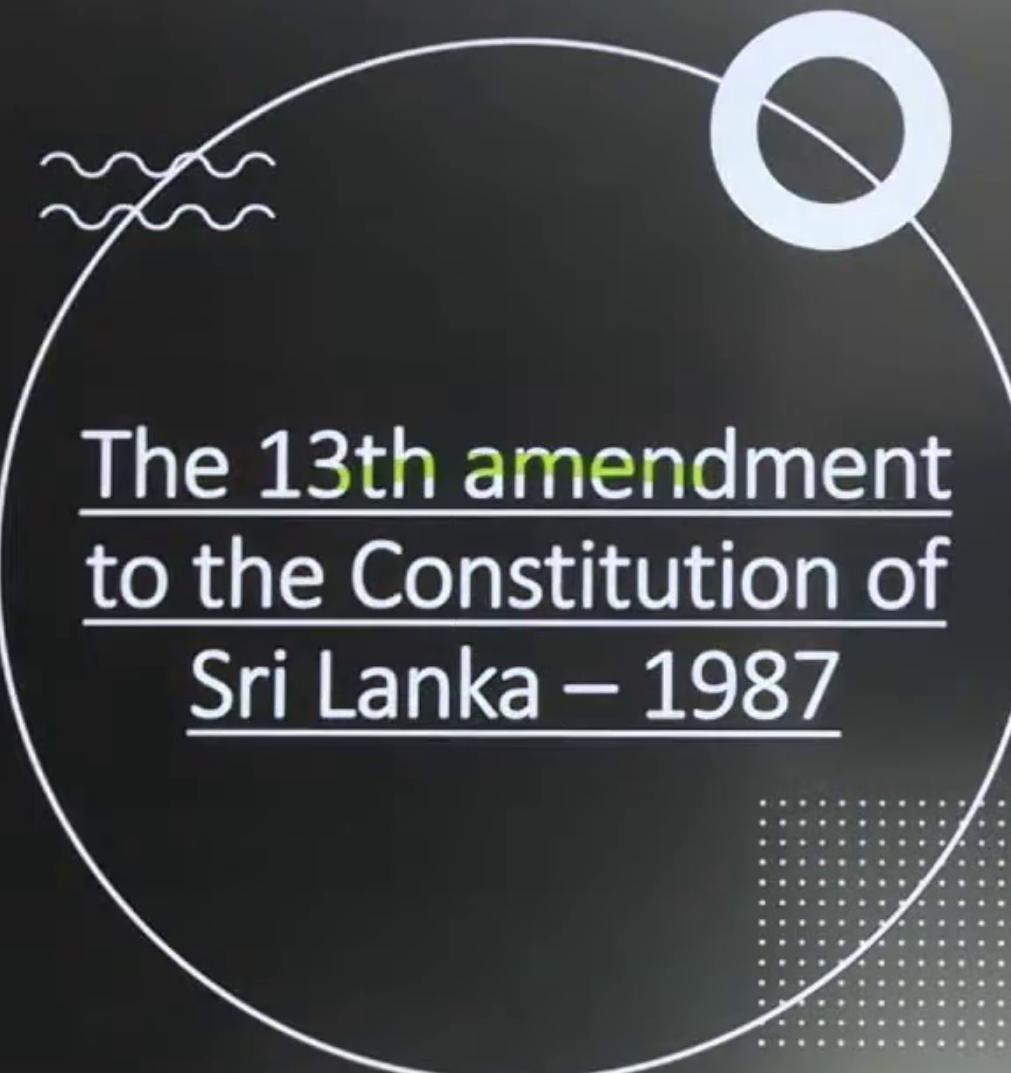


Indo Sri Lanka Accord – 1987

Tamil Eelam
தமிழ்நாடு



- The Tamil groups, notably the **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)** (which at the time was one of the strongest Tamil farces), **had not been made party to the talks**.
- They **initially agreed to surrender** their arms to the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) only reluctantly
- Within a few months however, this **flared into an active confrontation**.
- The **LTTE** declared their intent to **continue the armed struggle for an independent Tamil Eelam**



The 13th amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka – 1987

- Objective was to **create provincial councils** based on the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord of July 1987.
- It also provided for the establishment of a **high court in each province**, and to make **Tamil one of the official languages** with English as the link language

Defeat of LTTE- 2009

- The nearly three-decade long armed conflict between Sri Lankan forces and **the LTTE came to an end in May 2009.**
- During the course of the conflict, **India supported the right of the Government of Sri Lanka to act against terrorist forces.**
- After **the defeat of the LTTE**, Sri Lankan President Mahinda **Rajapaksa had given assurance to India** as well as the International community that the government **would go beyond the 13th Amendment** to devolve substantial powers to the Tamil majority areas.

UN Resolutions against Sri Lanka



- There were **allegations that during the Sri Lankan Civil War, Sri Lankan military committed war crimes against the LTTE including unlawful killings, sexual violence etc.**
- **Between 2009 and 2015**, UNHRC had passed around **five resolutions of Sri Lanka**.
- The **US sponsored 2012 resolution** sought censuring Sri Lanka for its alleged rights violations.
- The **2015 resolution demanded Sri Lanka to establish a credible judicial process**, with the participation of Commonwealth and other foreign judges, defense lawyers and authorized prosecutors and investigators, to **go into the alleged rights abuses**.
- India voted in **favor of 2012 & 2013** resolutions while in **2014 and 2015** resolutions, India **abstained** itself from voting.