



# India-Sri Lanka Relations: With Special Reference to Narendra Modi's Reign (2014 – 2024)

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## Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi called Sri Lanka the 'daughter state' of India, promoting unity and sovereignty. India's foreign policy under Modi focuses on 'neighbourhood first' cooperation. Post-civil war, relations improved and India provided financial and humanitarian aid during economic crises. India's 'Neighbourhood First' foreign policy aims to strengthen relations with Sri Lanka despite the post-civil war deterioration. Post-Covid, India has demonstrated its commitment to its maritime neighbor by providing aid, signing cooperation agreements and embarking on official visits. The NDA government of India, led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi, has implemented development policies and promoted initiatives in Sri Lanka from 2014 to 2024.

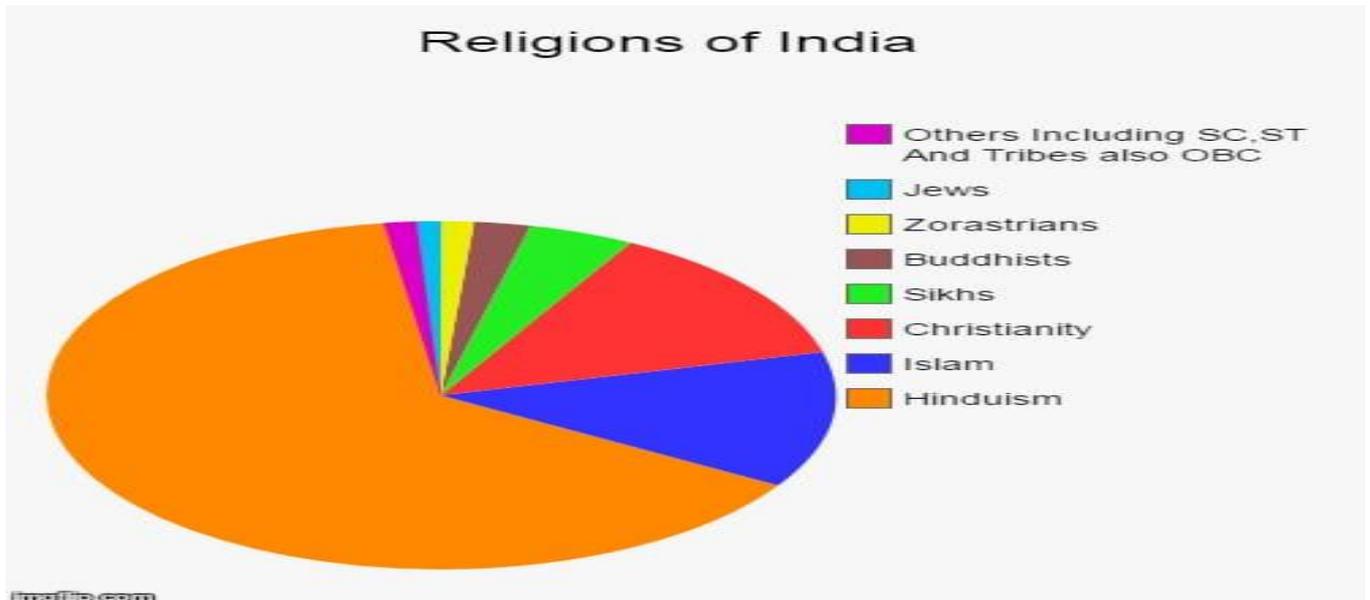
Keywords . 'neighbourhood first' , Post-COVID, the economic crisis , promoted initiatives .

## Introduction

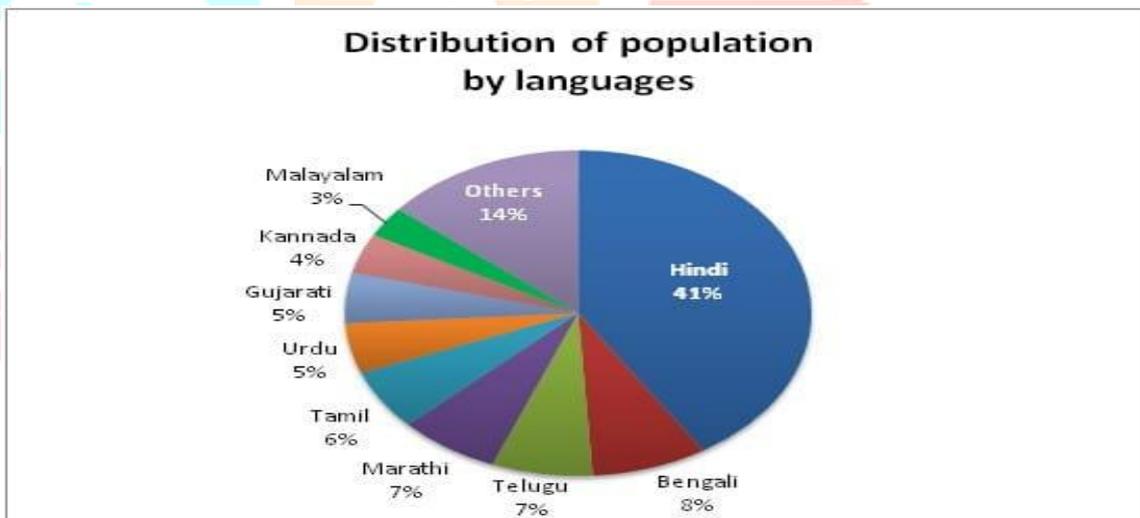
India, covering 3.28 million sq km and with a coastline of 7,517 km, is part of the Indian plate and the northern part of the Indo-Australian plate. The majority of people in India are Hindus, with 79.8% of the population being Hindus. At around 14.2%, Muslims form the second largest religious group. Jains (0.4%), Buddhists (0.7%), Sikhs (1.7%), Christians (2.3%), and people of other religions or no religion are additional significant religious groups. India is a linguistically diverse nation with Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Marathi being the most widely spoken languages, mainly belonging to the Indo-Aryan family. British colonialism and distinct social structures have shaped India's political culture, which combines traditional ideals with contemporary democratic practices. A legal system, universal adult suffrage, federal structure, multi-party system, ethnic influence, regional variation, modernization and globalization, role of media in influencing public opinion and a thriving civil society are all important elements. Research is ongoing on the impact of the caste system on political representation and behavior. India is a federal state where the federal government and state governments share authority.

India's history spans thousands of years, beginning with the Indus Civilization around 3300 BC. The country has a rich tapestry of culture, religion and political system shaped by internal developments and external influences. The Indus Valley Civilization, which flourished between 3300 and 1700 BCE, exhibited advanced urban planning, trade, and writing systems. Indo-Aryan culture spread across the subcontinent, leading to the development of the Vedas, which laid the foundation for Hinduism and Indian philosophical thought. The Maurya Empire, founded by Chandragupta Maurya, was India's first great empire, uniting most of the subcontinent under one rule. The Gupta Empire, founded in the 4th century AD, is considered

the Golden Age of India, marked by significant advances in science, mathematics, art and literature. The British East India Company eventually led to British colonial rule, leading to economic exploitation and the rise of Indian nationalism. India became an independent republic in 1950, facing challenges like political instability, economic inequality and social inequality.

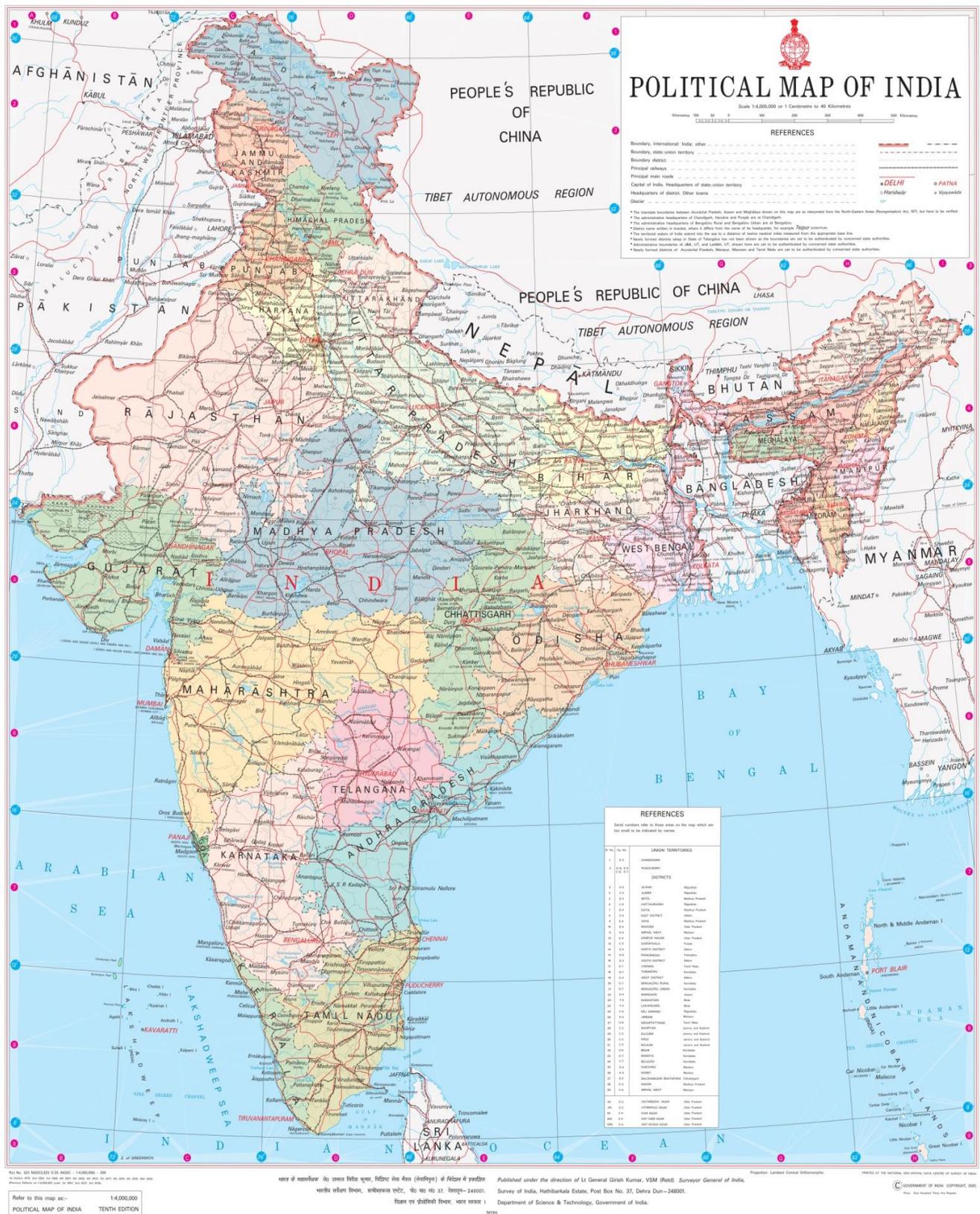


India religious percentage 2011 census



The linguistic composition of India Census 2011?<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://thetalklist.com/which-indian-language-is-spoken-most-in-the-world/>

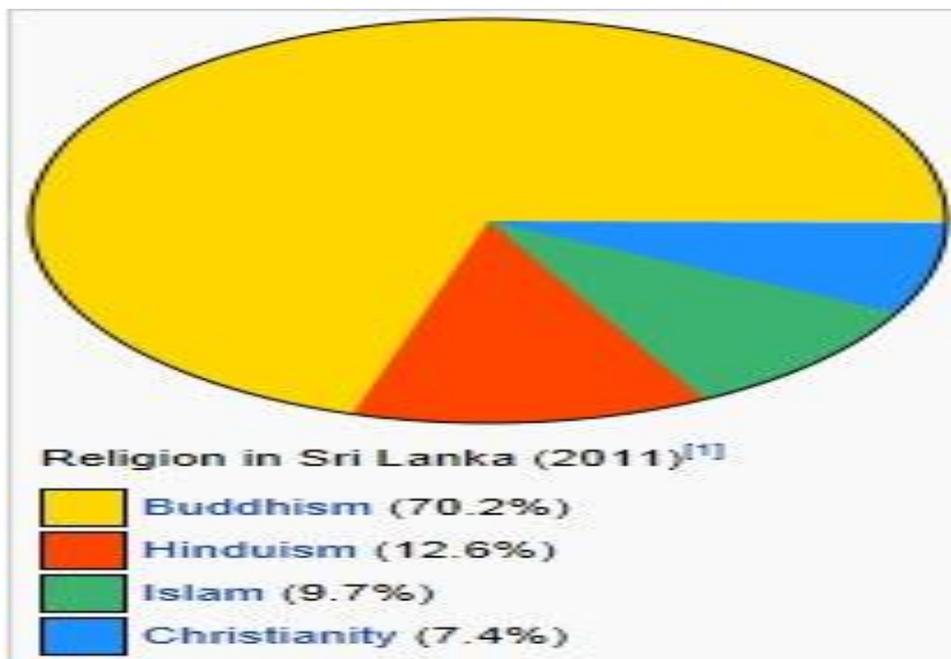


Sri Lanka, an Indian Ocean island nation, is predominantly Buddhist, with Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity being the major religions, accounting for 70.2% of the population, followed by 12.6%, 9.7%, and 7.4%, respectively. Strong democratic governance has defined Sri Lankan politics since independence, with the United National Party (UNP) and Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) typically switching places in power. English is used as a link language, and Sinhala and Tamil are the official languages of Sri Lanka, which boasts a multilingual population. Many different languages and dialects are spoken, with the majority (about 74%) speaking Sinhala, an Indo-Aryan language, and a sizable minority (approximately 18%) speaking Tamil, a Dravidian language. Sri Lanka's history is a blend of ancient kingdoms, European colonialism, and ethnic conflict. The island's civilization, rooted in Indian migrations, developed sophisticated irrigation systems and a strong Theravada Buddhist tradition. European powers, including the

Portuguese, Dutch, and British, exerted influence for centuries, leading to British rule and eventual independence in 1948. The island was united under one British administration as Ceylon in 1833. The British introduced plantations, brought in Tamil laborers, and established an administrative structure. Sri Lanka gained independence in 1948, but the civil war between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority, lasting from 1983 to 2009, significantly impacted the country. Post-conflict, Sri Lanka has focused on reconciliation and reconstruction, but faces challenges related to debt and inequality.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> <https://thuppahis.com/2018/11/27/the-role-of-religion-in-tamil-militancy-in-sri-lanka/>  
<https://srilanka.factcrescendo.com/english/misleading-claims-about-national-language-policies-of-sri-lanka-in-north-east/>  
<https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Asia-and-Oceania/Sri-Lanka-LANGUAGES.html>  
<https://countrystudies.us/sri-lanka/38.htm>  
<https://www.fairobserver.com/region>  
<https://thuppahis.com/2018/11/27/the-role-of-religion-in-tamil-militancy-in-sri-lanka/>  
<https://srilanka.factcrescendo.com/english/misleading-claims-about-national-language-policies-of-sri-lanka-in-north-east/>  
<https://countrystudies.us/sri-lanka/38.htm>  
[https://www.fairobserver.com/region/central\\_south\\_asia/carmen-aguilera-carnerero-sri-lanka-civil-war-tamil-sinhala-language-world-news-18894/](https://www.fairobserver.com/region/central_south_asia/carmen-aguilera-carnerero-sri-lanka-civil-war-tamil-sinhala-language-world-news-18894/)  
<https://www.studycountry.com/wiki/can-tamils-sp>  
<https://srilanka.factcrescendo.com/english/misleading-claims-about-national-language-policies-of-sri-lanka-in-north-east/>  
[https://www.fairobserver.com/region/central\\_south\\_asia/carmen-aguilera-carnerero-sri-lanka-civil-war-tamil-sinhala-language-world-news-18894/](https://www.fairobserver.com/region/central_south_asia/carmen-aguilera-carnerero-sri-lanka-civil-war-tamil-sinhala-language-world-news-18894/)  
<https://www.studycountry.com/wiki/c>



India and Sri Lanka have a rich history of cultural, historical, political and economic ties, but post-independence hostilities have affected their economies and national security. In 1983 the LTTE attacked Sri Lankan Tamils, triggering a three-decade civil war. After independence in 1948, Sri Lanka became a unitary state and recognized Sinhala as the official language in 1948. Tamils face discrimination in government jobs and education. In the 1960s, Sri Lanka demanded the return of 8 million Tamils brought as tea plantation workers to India. During the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence, Sri Lanka sided with Pakistan. The LTTE was founded in Sri Lanka in 1976, in response to Buddhist-dominated policies and Sinhala as the national language. Despite the status of Tamils in the 1978 constitution, the LTTE carried out terrorist attacks, leading to riots in 1983 and the displacement of 2.5 lakh Tamils.

India tried to negotiate with the Sri Lankan Tamil government, but the Tamils demanded an independent state. In 1987, India intervened, imposing an economic blockade and supplying Tamil militants with food and medicine. The 13th Amendment Treaty between India and Sri Lanka ended the dispute.

1. Sri Lanka shall preserve its territorial integrity while implementing a federal system.
2. India will not give sanctuary to Tamil rebels.
3. Third party navies will not be allowed on Sri Lankan bases.
4. The Sri Lankan military will vacate the barracks and India will send the Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) under the supervision of the Tamil Regional Council and force disarmament.
5. LTTE will lay down its arms.
6. The Indian Peace Keeping Force or IPKF will remain in place until the agreement is fully implemented.

The Indo-Sri Lankan accord required Sri Lanka to amend its constitution, but the Sinhalese government and the Tamils were unhappy, the LTTE refused to surrender and demanded the inclusion of Tamil Nadu in the Tamil Elam.

From 1987-1991, the IPKF was sent to Sri Lanka under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi. The LTTE attacked and the Sri Lankan government supported the LTTE. More than 1,100 Indian soldiers were killed and the IPKF was accused of human rights abuses.

Indian foreign policy blunders in Sri Lanka as Indian troops clash with Tamils over rights. In 1990, VP Singh withdrew Indian forces, triggering the Sri Lankan crackdown. The killing of the LTTE in 1991 and its subsequent designation as a terrorist organization sparked Indian opposition.

The Sri Lankan army intensified its forcible invasion of the region, leading to the suicide of LTTE leader Prabhakaran and the death of his entire family in 2009.

Although extremism has been ended by force, a political solution has yet to materialize. The Sri Lankan army controls 30% of the northeastern region, with India helping to rehabilitate. The situation is fragile, anger is rife among Tamils.

<sup>3</sup> After 26 years of civil war, Sri Lanka entered a new chapter in 2009. During this time, India, a neighbour, was actively involved in Sri Lanka's political and security developments. Look at the nature of bilateral relations between the two countries as well as India's response to post-civil war concerns.

India's bilateral relations with Sri Lanka deteriorated due to the rise of Tamil militant separatism in the 1980s. India's controversial two-pronged policy involves seeking political solutions and strengthening Tamil militant groups; its interference in Sri Lankan airspace, including the interception of food shipments, in violation of international law; The Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Agreement, brokered by India, proposed a political solution and a system of provincial councils; However, India's "Indian Peacekeeping Force" failed to disarm the LTTE and went to war with the LTTE.

During the 1991 Tamil Nadu general election campaign, the LTTE assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. As a result of that incident, the Indian government banned the LTTE as a terrorist group. But in the 1990s, the LTTE emerged as the most powerful terrorist group in the nation and the entire world.

In June 2009, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa visited India, where Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced India's support for reconstruction and rehabilitation of war-torn areas. India has provided financial support for various projects including emergency medicine, temporary shelters, and cement and demining programs in war zones. In 2010, India extended its cooperation to Sri Lanka in implementing reconstruction projects in Uttar Pradesh, construction of the Northern Railway Line, and a housing scheme for resettled families. India contributed 15% of the foreign financial commitments by major donors to Sri Lanka in 2010.

India and Sri Lanka have entered into a complicated relationship over the past three years, with the Tamil Nadu government accusing the Sri Lankan government of war crimes during the culmination of a military campaign against the LTTE in 2009. The pro-LTTE protests have led to calls for an international investigation and the possibility of economic sanctions on Sri Lanka. In March 2013, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa Jayaram moved a resolution against Sri Lanka, calling on the New Delhi

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aspireias.com/daily-news-analysis-current-affairs/India-Sri-Lanka-relations>  
<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/india-sri-lanka-relations/>  
<https://blog.ipleaders.in/indias-role-sri-lankas-civil-war/>  
<https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/india-sri-lanka/>  
<https://www.lankaenews.com/news/3703/en>  
<https://gokulamseekias.com/mains-c-a/gs-2/india-sri-lanka-relations/>  
<https://socialstudieshelp.com/ap-government-and-politics/the-evolution-of-u-s-china-relations/>  
<https://www.secbrief.org/2012/05/defeat/>  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-sri-lankan-civil-war-195086>  
<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/regime-change-in-sri-lanka-impact-on-india>  
[https://www.academia.edu/12092975/Indian\\_Foreign\\_Policy\\_in\\_Sri\\_Lanka\\_Trials\\_and\\_tribulations](https://www.academia.edu/12092975/Indian_Foreign_Policy_in_Sri_Lanka_Trials_and_tribulations)  
<https://www.studycountry.com/wiki/what-is-the-current-relationship-between-india-and-sri-lanka>  
<https://southasiajournal.net/whi-countries-helped-the-sri-lankan-government-in-the-sri-lankan-civilian-war-2009/>  
<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/u-sri-lanka-u-n-resolution-addressing-alleged-092120530.html>  
[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009\\_Tamil\\_protests](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Tamil_protests)  
<https://www.secbrief.org/2012/05/de>  
<https://satp.org/satporgtp/countries/srilanka/terroristoutfits/lte.htm>  
<https://www.amacad.org/publication/daedalus/ending-sri-lankan-civil-war>

administration to impose economic sanctions on Colombo until the repression of Tamils ends and those responsible for genocide and war crimes face international investigation.

<sup>4</sup> Between 2012 and 2013 Tamil Nadu saw several anti-Sri Lanka protests, including attacks on pilgrims, Buddhist monks and airports. GOSL has issued a travel advisory for Sri Lankans not to travel to Tamil Nadu until further notice due to increasing incidents of violence. During President Rajapaksa's visit to India, several anti-Sri Lanka protests took place in Tamil Nadu, with MDMK general secretary Vaiko protesting against the President and the Governor of Madhya Pradesh for inviting him. The protesters aimed to accuse Sri Lankan Tamils of war crimes and human rights violations. Political parties in Tamil Nadu were behind these anti-Sri Lanka protests.

#### Review of Literature

Bhasin Avatar Singh's account of India's relations with Sri Lanka highlights the country's security fears, maintaining friendly relations with the US, Britain, Pakistan and China.

Jayapalan N discusses India's relations with Sri Lanka, the Tamil problem, India's response and various agreements signed between the two countries.

The article by Sahdevan P and Devotta Neil criticizes India's foreign policy towards Sri Lanka, focusing on the intervention and non-intervention phases, highlighting India's role in the ethnic conflict.

Arya S. Kedar discusses India's international relations with Sri Lanka, highlighting the issue of the LTTE and India's support for the Sri Lankan Tamils, which led to protests against the Indian government.

Chandra Purana's Handbook of Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy of SAARC Countries explores bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka, focusing on trade, investment and India's post-2004 tsunami assistance.

Gupta B.K. Discusses the changes in India's foreign policy under the "Modi" government, including the Act East policy and the Neighborhood First policy towards Sri Lanka.

Manoharan's 2013 IPCS article explores China's growing influence in Indo-Sri Lankan relations, examining its strategy, investments and India's response, highlighting potential conflicts.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aspireias.com/daily-news-analysis-current-affairs/India-Sri-Lanka-relations>  
<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/india-sri-lanka-relations/>  
<https://blog.ipleaders.in/indias-role-sri-lankas-civil-war/>  
<https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/india-sri-lanka/>  
<https://www.lankaenews.com/news/3703/en>  
<https://gokulamseekias.com/mains-c-a/gs-2/india-sri-lanka-relations/>  
<https://socialstudieshelp.com/ap-government-and-politics/the-evolution-of-u-s-china-relations/>  
<https://www.secbrief.org/2012/05/defeat>  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-sri-lankan-civil-war-195086>  
<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/regime-change-in-sri-lanka-impact-on-india>  
[https://www.academia.edu/12092975/Indian Foreign Policy in Sri Lanka Trials and Tribulations](https://www.academia.edu/12092975/Indian_Foreign_Policy_in_Sri_Lanka_Trials_and_Tribulations)  
<https://www.studycountry.com/wiki/what-is-the-current-relationship-between-india-and-sri-lanka>  
<https://southasiajournal.net/which-countries-helped-the-sri-lankan-government-in-the-sri-lankan-civilian-war-2009/>  
<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/u-sri-lanka-u-n-resolution-addressing-alleged-092120530.html>  
[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009\\_Tamil\\_protests](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Tamil_protests)  
<https://www.secbrief.org/2012/05/de>  
<https://satp.org/satporgtp/countries/srilanka/terroristoutfits/ltte.htm>  
<https://www.amacad.org/publication/daedalus/ending-sri-lankan-civil-war>

India has scored a strategic victory over China in Sri Lanka by signing an agreement to set up a power plant in northern Sri Lanka after China suspended its plans.

5

Devi Anjani and Rohit Kumar discuss India's pragmatic foreign policy towards Sri Lanka, focusing on relations after Sri Lanka's new presidency, security concerns and concerns of the Tamil minority.

The Ministry of External Affairs briefly discussed India-Sri Lanka relations, including historical background, political relations, investment, trade relations and cooperation in development projects.

### Significance of the study

Studying the historical perspective of India-Sri Lanka is crucial for understanding the complex relationship, resolving unresolved issues, building trust, contributing to regional stability and providing insight into international relations. These two countries play a key role in the geopolitics of South Asia, making understanding their historical context essential for informed decision-making.

### Research problem

Sri Lanka's economic and political challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly impacted the post-pandemic crisis, raising questions about India's foreign policy towards the country under the "neighbourhood first" theme. This paper focuses on India-Sri Lanka relations from 2015 to 2024, examining Indian contributions to Sri Lanka's economic and political crisis in 2024.

### Research Objectives

Post-independence, bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka deteriorated during the Sri Lankan civil war, but India has rebuilt them in the post-war and post-Covid pandemic, focusing on the "neighbourhood first" policy.

<sup>6</sup> Methods and Procedures of data collection.

This study examines the historical perspective of India and Sri Lanka using primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include respondents based on age, gender, and nationality, while secondary sources include published research papers, reference books, political commentaries, biographies, dissertations, and newspaper editorials. Data collection tools include observation and questionnaires., research articles and

<sup>5</sup> <https://bestdissertationwriter.com/his>  
<https://bestdissertationwriter.com/histori>  
<https://sleepyclasses.com/geopolitica>  
<https://sleepyclasses.com/geopolitical-shifts>  
<https://info.3diamonds.biz/effects-on-international-relations/>  
<https://socialstudieshelp.com/ap-government-and-politics/the-evolution-of-u-s-china-relations/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://bestdiplomats.org/importance-of-international-relations/>  
<https://info.3diamonds.biz/effects-on-international-relations/>  
<https://alljournals.blog/geography-international-relations-enduring-influence/>  
<https://bestdiplomats.org/importance-of-international-relations/>  
<https://info.3diamonds.biz/effects-on-international-relations/>  
<https://alljournals.blog/geography-in>  
<https://alljournals.blog/geography-international-relations-enduring-influence/>  
<https://geekmode.blog/international-relations/>  
<https://socialstudieshelp.com/ap-government-and-politics/the-evolution-of-u-s-china-relations/>  
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contemporary media reports, using a descriptive-analytical approach to collect and analyze the data collected.

India is hesitant to strengthen bilateral ties with China, as China's growing involvement in Sri Lanka raises security and stability concerns in the South Asian region.

This paper examines post-pandemic relations between India and Sri Lanka. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, both the countries were experiencing political changes with the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visiting Sri Lanka multiple times. The relationship has been marked by a high-profile visit to India in November 2019 by former Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. High-ranking Indian government officials have praised India's willingness to develop ties with Sri Lanka. The realignment of relations was mainly evidenced by Sri Lanka's economic crisis and political crisis in which President Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned.

Political relations between India and Sri Lanka have been marked by regular visits, with Prime Minister Sri Ranil Wickremesinghe visiting India in 2018, Mahinda Rajapakse visiting New Delhi in 2018 and President Sirisena visiting India in 2015. He also attended the BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit of the 61st Session of the 20th World Health Assembly, Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and Founding Convention of the International Solar Alliance.<sup>7</sup>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made three visits to Sri Lanka between 2014 and 2019, launching new projects in several sectors and establishing Sri Lanka as his closest neighbor.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi prioritized maintaining relations between India and Sri Lanka, visiting the country three times between 2014 and 2019. During these visits, he implemented initiatives in various areas such as infrastructure development, economic development, educational development, railway development, public health, welfare and maritime.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka, several initiatives including infrastructure development, economic development, air connectivity, military and maritime security, energy sector, public health and public welfare were implemented. Key initiatives include construction of Rabinathan Nirvana, Tagore Memorial Auditorium, Indian Housing Project, SAARC Satellite, Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding, Commercial Economic Partnership Agreement, Air Connectivity, and establishment of multi-specialty hospitals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected Sri Lanka's post-pandemic political and economic problems, raising concerns about India's "neighbourhood first" foreign policy towards the nation.

India provided humanitarian and financial assistance to Sri Lanka during the economic crisis, including a credit line facility of USD 3.5 billion. This facility allows Sri Lanka to import essential commodities and fuels such as petrol, diesel, kerosene oil and medicines. This assistance helped Sri Lanka to import 40,000 metric tonnes of diesel, 40,000 metric tonnes of petrol and 400,000 tonnes of cooking gas.

India has provided humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka including rice, milk powder, medical drugs and fertilizers under its line of credit assistance. Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar assured India's support and congratulated Sri Lanka's new President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.civildaily.com/burning-issue-india-sri-lanka-relations/>  
<https://www.aspireias.com/daily-news-analysis-current-affairs/Sri-Lanka-Civil-War>  
<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/south/st>  
<https://www.academia.edu/10317963>

President Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Modi on a two-day official visit to New Delhi expressed gratitude for India's solidarity and support during Sri Lanka's difficult times.

India has been providing financial and humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka since 2015, enhancing economic, technical and cultural cooperation. Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka twice in January 2023, agreeing to implement a joint program focusing on socio-economic development infrastructure. The Sri Lankan government has given approval to the Adani Group to build two wind power projects with an investment of over \$500 million. India has also signed a joint venture solar power generation plant agreement with the Ceylon Electricity Board and the National Thermal Power Cooperation of India. Reintroduction of Chennai-Jaffna air service will accelerate people-to-people connectivity. India has extended financing assurances to Sri Lanka's debt restructuring program to help it recover from the economic crisis. India's first international cruise departs from Chennai in June 2023 and air services to other important Sri Lankan cities are also being improved.

<sup>8</sup> India-Sri Lanka's political relations have been characterized by high-level exchanges, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting Sri Lanka three times since 2014. The Economic Missionary Group (EAM) has visited Sri Lanka seven times since 2019, with the most recent visit in October 2024. Regular high-level visits by Finance and Corporate Affairs, National Security Advisors, and Ministers of State have maintained a strong bilateral relationship. In February 2023, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayaka visited India, resulting in joint statements and financial assistance.

India significantly contributed to Sri Lanka's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) with approximately \$1.7 billion between 2005 and 2019.

<sup>9</sup>



<sup>8</sup> <https://theasialive.com/india-sri-lanka-why-india-is-helping-sri-lanka/2023/07/08/>

<https://www.indiandefensenews.in/2022/05/india-deliver-over-2-billion.html>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-has-not-demanded-compensation-from-sri-lanka-for-assistance-during-two-recent-maritime-disasters-high-commission/articleshow/100481924.cms>

[https://edukemy.com/blog/india-is-an-age-old-friend-of-sri-lanka-discuss-indias-role-in-the-recent-crisis-in-sri- /](https://edukemy.com/blog/india-is-an-age-old-friend-of-sri-lanka-discuss-indias-role-in-the-recent-crisis-in-sri-/)

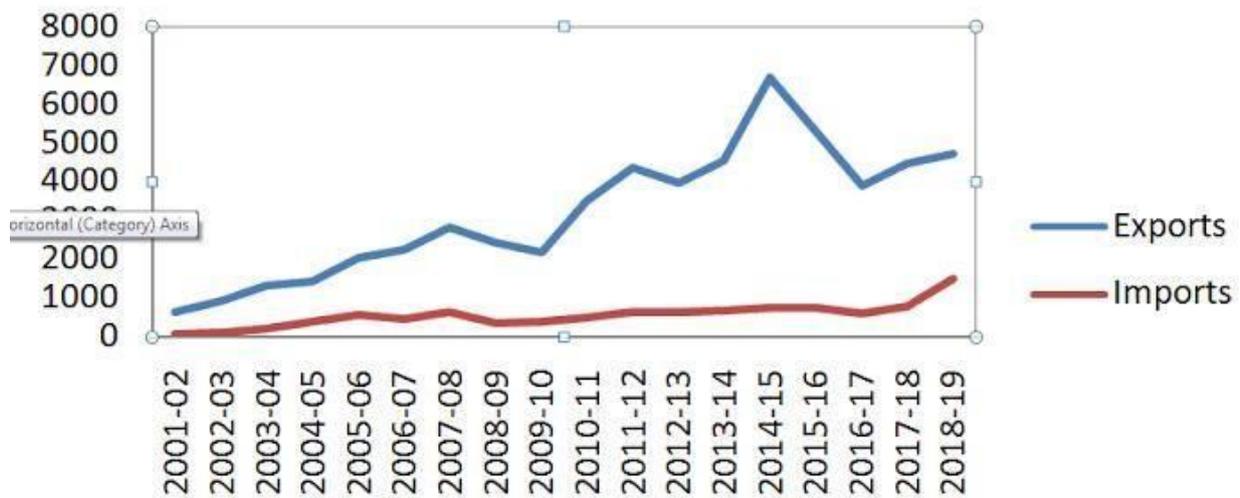
<sup>9</sup> <https://theasialive.com/india-sri-lanka-why-india-is-helping-sri-lanka/2023/07/08/>

<https://www.indiandefensenews.in/2022/05/india-deliver-over-2-billion.html>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-has-not-demanded-compensation-from-sri-lanka-for-assistance-during-two-recent-maritime-disasters-high-commission/articleshow/100481924.cms>

<https://edukemy.com/blog/india-is-an-age-old-friend-of-sri-lanka-discuss-indias-role-in-the-recent-crisis-in-sri-lanka-in-the-light-of-the-preceding-statement-150-words-10-marks/>

**Figure 1: India's Trade with Sri Lanka  
(in US\$ million)**



Source: Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Government of India

Sri Lanka's Trade with India vs Exports and Imports under ISFTA

Year	Exports (US \$ Mn.)			Imports (US \$ Mn.)		
	Total Exports to India	Exports under ISFTA	% under ISFTA	Total Imports from India	Imports under ISFTA	% under ISFTA
2000 (March-Dec.)	55.65	8.6	16	600	53.9	9
2001	70.12	15.9	23	601	113.1	19
2002	168.81	114.2	68	834	81.7	10
2003	241.14	238.8	99	1076	150.4	14
2004	385.49	339.9	88	1342	394.7	29
2005	559.21	543.0	97	1,399.43	246.2	18
2006	494.06	431.1	87	1,822.07	459.3	25
2007	516.4	398.2	77	2,785.04	385.3	14
2008	418.08	309.3	74	3,006.93	541.4	18
2009	324.87	218.5	67	1,709.93	371.7	22
2010	466.60	358.4	77	2,546.23	573.7	23
2011	521.59	391.5	75	4,349.43	579.6	13
2012	566.37	379.5	67	3,517.23	156.4	4
2013	543.37	368.8	65	3,092.67	393.4	13
2014	624.81	375.8	60	3,977.76	540.1	14
2015	643.03	407.28	63	4,273.30	253.3	6
2016	551.20	375.25	68	3,827.50	186.7	5
2017	689.48	442.29	64	4,495.99	257.04	6
2018	768.71	483.48	63	4,158.18	246.87	6

2019	759.37	489.89	64	3,830.82	198.74	5
2020	602.32	358.43	59.51	3,002.09	158.58	5.28
2021	815.79	525.85	64.46	4,421.35	208.94	4.73

Source: Sri Lanka Customs & Department of Commerce

India and Sri Lanka have a strong trade relationship, with India's merchandise trade reaching USD 5.54 billion in FY 2023-24 and Sri Lanka's exports at USD1.42 billion. India has resumed negotiations for the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement, covering goods and services, in FY 2024-25.

India is a significant contributor to Sri Lanka's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with a cumulative investment of USD 2.25 billion till 2023, primarily in energy, hospitality, real estate, manufacturing, telecommunication, banking, and financial services.

India and Sri Lanka have a significant bilateral development cooperation, with India providing over USD 7 billion in credit and around USD 780 million in grant assistance. India has carried out people-oriented development projects across 25 districts, including the Indian Housing Project and the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity project.

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## CONCLUSION

India–Sri Lanka relations have a long history of trust and distrust, with geopolitical factors influencing cooperation and conflict. However, India's support for Sri Lanka's collapsing economy has been seen in solidarity with the Neighbor First policy during the post-Covid pandemic period. The two countries have developed friendly relations, India–Sri Lanka relations have developed in the 21st century. Tamil Nadu's influence has contributed to deteriorating relations. Pragmatism, dynamism, adaptability and peaceful co-existence to advance our interests and address global challenges.

India has provided significant

Humanitarian and financial assistance to Sri Lanka following the economic crisis,

Demonstration of its strategic proximity and ability to provide assistance. India-Sri Lanka

China's free-flowing loans improve Lankan relations

Investment in infrastructure is helping New Delhi gain credibility. it demands a

Re-evaluation of current foreign policy framework to establish sustainable norms

For credibility and effectiveness.

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