

Peace in North & East of Sri Lanka : Some Facts

Peace Attempts

Thimpu in July 1985

The Tamil militant groups urged the government to accept four principles including the right to self determination and the recognition of the north and east as the traditional Tamil homeland.

July 1987

Indian Prime Minister Rajeev Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J. R. Jayewardene signed the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord in Colombo. The Tamil militant groups agreed to hand over their arms. Provincial councils were introduced. Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) started their operations in North & East. the LTTE resisted disarmament attempts by the IPKF resulting in the death of 1500 Indian soldiers.

April 1989 - June 1990

President R. Premadasa engaged in direct communications with the LTTE leadership in seeking a peaceful settlement for the conflict.

February 1990

Formal peace talks between the government and the LTTE commenced at the Colombo. India withdrew the last of its forces from Sri Lanka in early 1990.

October 1994

President Chandrika Kumaratunga initiated peace talks with the LTTE.

January 1995

The Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE agreed to a cessation of hostilities as a preliminary step to a government-initiated plan for peace negotiations. However, in April 1995, the LTTE resumed hostilities with an attack on Trincomalee Naval base.

December 2001

Following the election of the new government, the LTTE and the government declared unilateral ceasefires.

February 2002

The Government and the LTTE signed a Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) with Norwegian facilitation and peace talks began in December 2002. After three rounds, peace talks broke down on 22nd April 2003.

31st October 2003, the LTTE issued its own peace proposal, calling for an Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA). The government's coalition partners rejected this proposal.

Meantime, The eastern Commander of the LTTE, Vinayagamurthi Muralidharan (Colonel Karuna) broke off from the LTTE along with 5,000 eastern cadres and subsequently formed a political party known as the Tamil Eelam Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP)

November 2005

The LTTE enforced a voting prohibition in areas under its control in presidential election.

SLFP candidate, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse was victorious and offered to hold unconditional peace talks with the LTTE.

February 2006

The co-chairs of the Tokyo Donor conference called on both parties to return to the negotiating table. Both parties agreed and new talks held in Geneva, Switzerland on 22nd -23rd February.

8th-9th June 2006

Further peace talks were scheduled in Oslo, Norway, but cancelled when the LTTE refused to meet the government delegation. 21st July 2006; The LTTE closed the sluice gates of the Mavil Aru reservoir. The clashes erupted on 2nd August 2006.

28th -29th October 2006

Despite these incidents, both parties agreed to unconditionally attend peace talks in Geneva

on 28th -29th October, the peace talks broke down due to disagreements over the reopening of the A9 highway.

11th July 2007

The Army's capture of the last eastern stronghold of the LTTE at Thoppigala.

3rd January 2008

The Government of Sri Lanka formally notified its decision to terminate the Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) between the Government and the (LTTE).

15 Nov 2008 Pooneryn liberated.

02 Jan 2009 Kilinochchi town captured by SL Army. 18th May 2009 defeat of LTTE officially announced by President of Sri Lanka.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs) as at 05.11.2009

- Total IDP were 250,000 (Aprox. at the end of the humanitarian operation)
- 130,000 IDPs were released
- Over 11,000 former LTTE combatants are being rehabilitated
- 18 primary health centers are in seven welfare villages in Vavuniya District
- Over 3,000 patients are treated daily
- Restrictions imposed on the movement of civilians in the IDP centers will be lifted with effect from 1st December 2009
- Resettlements will be completed by 31.01.2010