

Ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka: Implications for India's security

Umrao Singh

Department of Defense and Strategic Studies,
Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab-47002, India
E-mail: umrao03@rediffmail.com

The rise of domestic violence on ethnic, religious, ideological and socio-political lines is posing a serious crisis of governance to the state almost everywhere in the world. Similarly, the ongoing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has affected the prosperity, development process, internal stability, peace and security of the country. Rising extremism, militancy and socio-economic crisis are the disturbing realities to make the situation worse. There is of course a particular political history behind the crisis in Sri Lanka, which reached a stage of chronic violence.

This paper attempts to investigate, the manner in which the problem in Sri Lanka would be solved has implications for India's internal and external security. Besides geographical proximity, geo-political, geo-strategic and geo-cultural perceptions have their role in determining the relationship between India and Sri Lanka. It will also assess the structural conditions under which the ethnic violence erupted in Sri Lanka, it is important in this regard to analyse the ethnic stratification and the geographical distribution of ethnic groups, as well as, external factors which provide the potential for secessionism. Finally, it will attempt to find the answer to the problem, there is a need to find ways to resolve the problem, as well as, to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people of Sri Lanka. At the same time, it is important for India and Sri Lanka to adapt their concepts of security in the light of changing national and international environment.

Key words: Ethnic conflict; Domestic violence; Socio-economic conditions ; Political history; Security