



Changing patterns of China- Sri Lanka from historical to contemporary era

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Abstract

The international relations of Sri Lanka serve as an interesting spectrum to look into changing world political scenarios especially South Asia, SAARC region and India in the limelight. The Sri Lankan government's attempts of initiating Sri Lanka on a similar equation as India worth noticeable with further efforts to guarantee cordial relations with Pakistan and other countries in the region. The same axiom applies to east-Asian regions. The Sri Lanka –china ties have proved to be the keystone factors in determining Sri Lankan undertakings with other countries, not only at present but since its post-independence era. China- Sri Lanka had great historical relations from spice trade to rubber- rice pact. In contemporary era relation of Ceylon-Sino touch the high level with mutual understanding. Sri Lanka and China together also play major role in Indian Ocean region politics. This paper deals with over all relation of Sri Lanka- China relation in changing pattern and wearing glasses of history and political views along with analytic approach for future understanding.

Keywords: Sri Lanka, China, IOR, Maritime route

Introduction

China and Sri Lanka are intimate neighbors in tradition. The two have a long history of close benevolent relationship with potent and dazzling future prospects. The cordial relationship between china and Sri Lanka started will before latter's independence. An enduring religious, cultural, commercial and trade conversions laid the historical support perpetual close companionship between china and Sri Lanka. Chinese monks Faxian, tour to Sri Lanka in 5th century for leaving Buddhism and Chinese travelers of Ming dynasty, Zheng's visit to Sri Lanka thrice in 15th century marked the historical exchange occurrences between 2 nations. "China –Sri Lanka friendly relationships after the independence of Sri Lanka, with the guidance of the five principles of peaceful

co-existence, the independent Sri Lanka and the newborn people's republic of china worked together to promote sustainable development of the friendly relationship between the two countries, which set up a good example for the big and small countries to deal with their relationship on the basic of equality friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation."¹

China-Ceylon In History

Sri Lanka did not offer much patronage to communist ideology after its independence. But Ceylon later changed the viewpoint for communist ideology after a down reaching study of economic importance in country's development. The UNP government bifurcated its approach towards China from its attitude towards Chinese counterpart, Soviet Union. On January 6, 1950, the day

on which “the British recognition of the People’s Republic was announced; Ceylon’s ministry of Defense and External affairs Stated that ‘the Government of Ceylon has decided to recognize the new Government of China.’”²

“On August 2, 1956, premier SWRD Bandaranaike announced that a mission led by Sir Claude Corea, the then high Commissioner for Ceylon in London, would visit first Russia and then China to “explore various possibilities of establishing diplomatic relations in trade, in commerce and to ‘see whether in respect of our industries and agriculture their assistance might be obtained.’”³

“The politico-economic rationale which underlay the disposition of the Bandaranaike Governments towards the establishments of economic links with the socialist powers was composed of two rather in articulated considerations. There was, in the first place, the requirements arising from the ‘conversion’ of the Country’s ‘Colonial society’ into a ‘free society’. Second external diversification necessitated the establishment of made relations with the Communist power so as to free the Ceylon’s trade with china

Country’s international trade from its excessive dependence on the west.”⁴

By mid 1952,inspite of Food ministries ‘desperate attempts’ to buy the necessary requirements from South-Asia sources of Supply the rice quantity in Sri Lanka harassed down to a level which was not enough to fulfill the needs of the country. Sri Lanka encountered a severe “food Crisis” with Serious indications regarding internal Stability. Moreover by 1952, rice in place of sterling commodity, became a dollar commodity making the price to soar high which raised the governments demand of dollars for payment of already imported rice from Burma, Thailand and South Vietnam along with further procurement as per needs. In addition Sri Lanka suffered a shortage of dollar reserves due to reduction in its exports of traditional rubber to US. All these factors conjointly eventualised country’s balance of payments crisis in 1951-1953. The unbreakable rising rice imports payoff forced the UNP government to agree upon a rice pact in 1952 to bump off its financial and political stability crisis. The pact made China a leading trading partner of Sri Lanka.

Year	Exports		imports		balance Of trade	trade		Turnover
	Value Rs Mn	% of total	Value Rs. Mn.	% of total		Value Rs. Mn	% of total	
1950	0.11	.01	2.8	0.25	-2.69	2.91	0.13	
1951	36	1.9	4	0.3	+32	40	1.1	
1952	124	8.2	33	1.9	+91	157	5.05	
1953	242	15.4	209	11.3	+33	451	13.8	
1954	222	12.2	158	11.3	+64	380	11.7	
1955	121	6.5	80	5.5	+41	201	6	
1956	182	11.0	134	8.2	+48	316	9.6	
1957	167	10.5	84	4.6	+83	251	7.5	
1958	78	4.7	152	8.8	-74	230	6.7	
1959	78	4.6	150	7.5	-72	238	6.0	
1960	121	6.6	132	6.8	-12	253	6.7	
1961	83	4.9	35	2.0	+48	118	3.4	
1962	133	7.5	41	2.2	+92	174	4.8	



1963	101	5.9	138	9.2	-37	239	7.5
1964	122	6.6	204	10.3	-82	326	8.4
1965	172	9.0	114	7.7	+58	286	8.3
1966	177	10.4	217	10.7	-40	394	10.6
1967	153	9.1	185	10.6	-32	338	9.9
1968	195	9.6	245	11.3	-50	440	10.5
1969	240	12.5	282	11.1	-42	522	11.7
1970	252	12.4	289	12.5	-37	541	12.7
1971	181	9.4	161	8.1	+20	342	8.7
1972	160	8.0	96	4.6	+64	256	6.3
1973	241	9.2	211	7.8	+34	452	8.5

Source: Gajameragedara, "Sri Lanka and the Power", 'GODAGE international publishers private limited, Sri Lanka, 2011 page -332.

Ceylon's trade with china

In 1953, the Sri Lankan government permitted China to Establish a no 'diplomatic status' trade agency in Colombo. Sir John announced , "I have sent a communication to communist china reminding the Chinese Government that they only Have a trade agreement and let our relations with each other remain that way. We have taken nothing from you. We sell you rubber and you sell rice in return. We do not want any other friendship or Dealing with Communists."⁵

The Philosophy of NAM, adopted in 1956, postulated creation of friendly relations with Communist pores regardless of its differences in ideologies. Premier SWRD Bandaranaike, Contrary to his predecessors, was visibly more inclined towards China.

The confluence of their attitude led to evolution of an era of national companionable relationship between china and Sri Lanka during 1956-62. The first political relation was installed in 1956 when "the Claude Corea Mission, which was sent by Mr. Bandaranaike to explore the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with China and Russia, arrived in Paking on September 8, 1956. This mission and Chinese delegation agreed on the establishment of diplomatic representation at ambassadorial level and 2 a trade and Payment agreement and a technical co-

operation agreement."⁶ Ceylon's government established diplomatic relations along with assurance for full compliance with international legitimacy and maintenance of People republic's righteousness despite articulation done by Chinese leadership.

During 1958-65, the total trade value turnover fell from Rs. 316million in 1956 to a new low of Rs 286 million in 1965 China consumed about half of the Ceylon's rubber output which made rubber the second largest export commodity. China emerged as the chief supplier of rice to Ceylon with about half of total imports coming from China. These trade figures depict the importance of trade relations which facilitated the signing of first loan Agreement between two Countries in 1957 which obligated China to provide a loan of RS 50 million to Sri Lanka in the form of goods supply. The Indo-Sino war of 1962 coupled with UNP coalition government's 'anti-china' attitude in 1965 election campaign led to ridge in china-Sri Lanka relations. The Chinese leadership became approachable after the United Front Governments announcement of Ceylonese left-radical foreign policy in 1970. This germinated the seeds of inter-government mutual political unification between two countries. The new unanimous alliance is followed by significant developments in Sino-Ceylon relation in present decade.



In Feb. 1972, China presented five gun boats to Sri Lanka which was equipped with auto-aircraft, anti-submarine and anti-surface weapons. This constituted the first military help from China to Ceylon Reflecting China's worry about Sri Lanka's naval dependence on India during urgency, keeping in mind the Indian mediation during JVP insurgency on the Island.

The Chinese government nevertheless, 'expressed admiration for the active efforts' made by Sri Lanka government "in building the country", in order to support Ceylon "in developing her national economy "it decided to grant her with "a long –term loan free of interest" The construction work of BMICH (Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference hall), which was abandoned in 1965-70, recommenced after Union front's come back which made 400workers and technicians to indulge in its creation thus, accomplishing the work in April 1973, eight months before the target time. Mrs. Bandaranaike, in the opening ceremony speech to the press, Characterized BMICH as 'a unique symbol of Sri Lanka-China friendship and co-operation' and stated that this sparkling instance of Chinese friendship in crux of Colombo is an affirmation of high compatibility and understanding between two nations since 1950.

China-Sri Lanka Friendly Relationship In 21st Century

The international diplomacy and economic patterns have undergone intellectual adjustments since the advent of new 21st century .The Sino-Sri Lanka bilateral conjunction have showcased its regional and global significance in this new era.

Sri Lanka, geographically located in Indian ocean on the major sea routes of the ancient times as well as modern trade routes connecting for east and Australia has allured many naval ships since plodders. The ancient and medieval period sailing ships found refuge in the port of Tricomalee (called Gokanna in those days) which was one of the abundant small bays, anchorages and roadsteads available in the island. "from

about the second century when Sri Lanka became know to Greek and Arab sailors she become a port of call and an emporium of the maritime trade between the west and the east".⁷The roots of Chinese contact can be found in early periods and the assess ions made by Ambassadors to the court of Claudius who mentioned commercial relations between china and Sri Lanka in 1st century .These Chinese travel accounts are one of the numerous foreign accounts of visits and impressions about the island which mention existence of early relations between Sri Lanka and china, so far away east.

The great Chinese monk Fahein visited Sri Lanka in 411 and inhabited on the island for 2 years. He called Sri Lanka as 'the land of lions' and claimed persistent china-Sri Lanka relations throughout the early centuries. Four Sri Lankan embassies had gone to china during first half of 5th century. By second quarters of 6th century Sri Lanka had become a sea partner linking east and west. Chinese Ships and vessels from other eastern countries anchor din Sri Lanka ports along with cargoes from west carrying silk and merchandise of the Persian and the Auxmites. The mariners from distant areas as well as Indian merchants exchanged goods with one another and bought Sri Lankan war products from the harbors of Ceylon. "Because of her central position Sri Lanka had developed into a great emporium and was receiving wanes from all the tradingsments and in turn distributing them all over the world. Sri Lanka was indeed a mercanhle exchange and a busy resort of ship from diverse part of India, Persia, Ethiopia and from China in the distant far east by the middle of the seventh century and Arabians had gained a domination over the ocean routes to the west and handed all that made but the Chinese continued to retain control of the seaborne traffic to the far east Sri Lanka however, lay at an intermediate point in the trade route from the east to the west and trades coming from both directions met in the island and sold



and exchanged their wares and goods. The exchange of Embassies between the Sinhalese and the Chinese continued to take place during the seventh and eight centuries too, between neighboring India and distant china from very early times there had soon extended to Sri Lanka as well.”⁸

The Progressive spread of Buddhism in china and neighboring countries further paved way for establishment of congenial ongoing China–Sri Lanka relationship. The relationship led to arrival of not only religious people from china to Sri Lanka in search of immortal truth but also the arrival of merchants on the island for seeking worldly benefits. Sri-Lanka – China became more Customary and harmonious from 1433 and indulged in religious cultural and commercial engagements well before 15th century. The relations were more political during the 15th century. The associations between two countries were smooth and accordant based on equal status of both sides. However, the advent of European powers in the Indian Ocean and the east served as a lasting and durable obstruction for the perpetuation of traditional and usual relations between Sri Lanka and china. “episodes like that of the pilgrim monk’s barefoot journey along the ancient silk routes from china to the west through cold mountaineers and hot-desert tracks and to Sri Lanka in the quest for heavy and holy texts of Buddhism despite the great wall enabling cultural cross fertilization became truly a tale of the past.”⁹

Economic Relation Between China And Sri Lanka

The end of Sri Lanka civil war in 2009, unlocked new doors of economic growth in the country. The government of Sri Lanka has framed ambitious targets of economic development striving GDP growth rates over 8% and enrooting economic hubs of ports, aviations, and commercial knowhow and energy resources thus engaging the economic concerns of foreign investors. Nevertheless, Sri Lanka is more liberal to foreign investments, as compared to other Asian countries, due to its open financial

system, good infrastructure and competent workforce.

Sri Lanka and china had a history of intimate international diplomatic friendship since Mao Zedong’s power gain in china and Sri Lanka’s independence from 150 years of British rule in 1949. The two countries signed a rubber-rice pact under UNP direction in 1952. Further, the relations were essentially more political and diplomatic during Mrs. Bandaranaike’s period in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lanka–China relations reached the new zeniths during Mahindra Rajapaksa’s presidency in terms of trade and economic aids. China has become one of Sri Lanka’s nearest economic partners since 2000. “The 1952 Rubber-Rice pact laid the foundation for trade between the two countries. First, made was modest mainly because both countries were relatively poor and had not much to offer each other. Sri Lanka’s main export markets were in the west while the total value of trade was modest there was not much of a gap between the amounts exported and imported.”¹⁰

“Since the time, three major factors arms imports, China’s growth as an export-powerhouse, and Chinese aid to Sri Lanka have been responsible for the rapid growth of Sri Lanka –China trade. In regard to the first factor, when western countries refused to sell arms for the Sri Lankan military, China stepped into the breach. The second and the more important factor was the emergence of china as a global economic power before Deng-Xiaoping transformed the Chinese economy starting in 1979 from the Maoist socialist model to a free-enterprise market model; china had a relatively weak, small and under-developed economy. That changed in the last thirty years when the Chinese brand of Capitalism transformed the country into the world’s second largest economy surpassing Japan in 2010, and second only to USA.”¹¹.

“The most visible symbol of Chinese assistance remains the BMICH which is an enduring testimonial to Sri Lanka – China



friendship. Prior to the Rajapakse period China has also funded several projects including the supreme court complex, the central mailing Exchange , Ging Ganga hood protection scheme and the redevelopment of the lady Ridgway children’s hospital. In the aftermath of the Tsunami Disaster China helped Sri Lanka to build three Fishery harbors for affected people and extended 300 million USD worth of support.”¹² China was the biggest donor to Sri Lanka in 2009 with an aid of \$1.2billion by way of growth, loans and credits forming 54% of the total \$2.2 billion promised by foreign agencies and nations. The second

highest contribution to Sri Lanka was made by Asian Development Bank Worth \$423 million and next \$241 million by World Bank. Mahindra Chintana policy document incorporates gradual propositions for reforms and boost to positive market FDI with better support system domestic enterprises. The policy emphasizes on equitable distribution of profits among public. The end of terrorism was in 2009 followed by reorganization and reformation of various projects including shipping, aviation, commercial services knowledge hub led to Sri Lanka’s applaudable success in attaining as excellent growth rate of 8.2% in 2011.

Year	Pact
1952	Sino-Lanka rubber rich pact
1962	First agreement on economic and technological cooperation
1963	Maritime agreement between china and Sri Lanka
1981	Formation of Sri Lanka – China society
1982	Signing of Sino-Lanka joint trade committee
1984	Signing of Sino-Sri Lanka economic and trade cooperation committee
1994	Formation of Lanka-China Business cooperation Council
2009	Signing of investment facilitation.

Source: Agreement between, the China Develop bank and central bank of Sri Lanka.

The Birch
 Nilable Hydro Power Station
 Central Mail & Telegram Complex
 Supreme Court Complex
 Gin Ganga Flood Protection Project
 Udawalawe Fresh Water Fish Breeding & Experimental Station
 Polonnaroma Water Supply Project
 Veyangoda&Pusoda Textile Mills
 Restoration Of Abayagindeseba
 Rurael Electrification Vii

Duttlam Coal Power Project
 Colombo Katunayake Expressway
 Hambantota Port-Development Project
 Etc
 Colombo City

China’s big projects in Sri Lanka

Sources:-Authors China’s increased trade and investment in south Asia (spollen heart: It’s the economy) By- Emily Brunjes, workshop in international public affairs, spring 2013, Madison

Project	Facilitate trade	Facilitate movement	military	Income potential for china	Chinese workers or materials
Hambantota deep seaport	Yes	Yes		High	Yes
Mahindra Rajapakse international airport	Yes	Potentially		High	Yes
Norochoilai coal power plant	No	No		Medium	Yes
Matarakatanagama railway project	No	No		High	Yes
Mahindra Rajapakse international (cricket) stadium	No	No		Low	Yes
Mahindra Rajapaksha lotus pond theatre	No	No		Low	Yes



The Hambantota deep sea port has attracted media hypes as well as Indian security analysts' concerns about its close proximity to India. However economic and geopolitical worries are not always independent with each other, thus the Hambantota sea port is the reflection of china's unified economic geopolitical aims. The Hambantota sea port, located on Asian European sea route, will function as a refuel station for commercial as well as military shipments. In addition the dock repair and refuel abilities will substantiate the china's energy security due to an increase in its logistic capacities to import oil from Iran, Saudi Arabic and Sudan.

The port further furnishes Chinese links with other countries that have probable import capacities from China. It is beneficial for China to increase it imports and trade with not only Sri Lanka, But with Other Surroundings as well through this port. Other projects undertaken by China, Rajapaksha Cricket stadium and the lotus Pond theatre are designed to win over the patronage of Sri Lanka government. These projects have no economic importance for china and constitute the part of China's diplomacy through aid strategy ventured in other nations a well. Lotus pond theatre was a gift of china to Sri Lanka.

Though China has geopolitical aims behind few projects in the region, but ultimately the great presence and dominant status in world affairs (rather than dispositioning India) is the main objective of China. The Sri Lanka sea port at Hambantota has undoubtedly made India anxious and worried. Looking broadly the tale of energy and trade sea-lanes for economic profits seems to be more practical than the attempts designed to confront India militarily.

Maritime Silk Route And China And Sri Lanka

Human beings have from ancient times wandered from place to place and exchanged goods, skills and ideas with their neighbors. All through the history, Eurasia was intertwined with many communication

and trade routes which progressively led to a Silk Road route across the whole world. Maritime routes were especially a significant part of trade networks as they facilitated the trade of spices linking east and west by sea thus, eventually named as the spice route. The broad trade networks not only led to an exchange of just merchandise and precise commodities, but also aided movement and mingling of populations causing a thoughtful impact on Eurasian people due to transformation of knowledge ideas, cultures, and beliefs through the trade routes. As a part of trade network, Maritime trade was of immense significance as it was used for shipment of spices from the Moluccas Island in Indonesia, supplying the world market with cinnamon, pepper, ginger, cloves, nutmegs and other wide range of products.

The historical roots of their maritime routes can be found in the links between Arabian Peninsula, Mesopotamia and Indus valley civilization dated thousands of years back. These networks expanded further in the early middle ages after the exploration of new trading routes across the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. Actually, the maritime trading route between China and Arabic originated during 8th century AD. Technological enhancements in navigations sciences and better techniques of ship building made long –Distance Sea travels more feasible and realistic.

In late 15th century , Portuguese sailor Vasco de Gama, navigated round the scope of Good Hope thus for the first time exploring now Maritime link between Europe and South East Asia and encouraging direct European investment in the trade. There trade routes and the attractive profits had become a severe matter of competition among Portuguese, Dutch and Britisher's by 16th and 17th centuries. The conquest of a port along the maritime route brought the benefits of wealth and security to the conqueror as the acquisition governance of the maritime passage and monopolies over the exotic high-demanded goods as well as ample taxes levied on the merchant ships.



Howbeit, the enduring heritage of these extraordinary networks is apparent in several unique interrelated culture, languages, customs and religions that matured over 1000 years along these routes. The Silk roads became an incentive for development of multifarious societies in Eurasia and far beyond, in 21st century the silk roads again reignited many new commercial connections. China is also indulging in exploration of new maritime Silk Road in conjunction with Sri Lanka therefore further integrating their trade relations.

The Chinese Ministry of commerce and Foreign affairs, in a combined statement on the vision and action of joint establishment of Silk Road economic belt 21st century silk maritime Silk Road, stated “the silk road spirit” as the foundation of Silk Road project. According to publication, this spirit is one of Peace and co-operation mutual learning and mutual benefit.

The fundamental objective of “one belt, one road “is to geographically expand and connect the industries, people and governments to and through china, in compliances with the principles and purpose of UN charter. The ‘one belt, one Road’ (OBOR) and 21st century Maritime Silk Road aimed at connecting china to Africa and Europe through South and Central Asia by way of an extensive road, rail and sea network.

Linking the ports to mainland through roads and sea through South east and central Asia with Beijing is presumably the trademark foreign policy of Chinese President Xi Ting Ping.

China’s relation with her neighbors have got full acknowledgement through the new Silk road which surely reformulates her stand in current global platform. On one hand, the ‘mutual beneficial’ Chinese project reflects a well articulated dependable and all – encompassing affirmation from all arms of Chinese states, while on the other hand, this project has undoubtedly made China to enter the dark waters in neighboring areas due to shifting foreign policies of Sri Lanka

that was evident in the Island’s post-election foreign strategy rebalancing act.

The centre of attraction as a port for steeled colonizers, royal ambassadors and merchant capitalists from east and west has historically framed the identity Sri Lanka regarding its Strategic location in Indian Ocean. This same cardinal maritime position of the island possesses indispensable capacities for the maritime Silk Road sphere of 2016.

Guiding Sri Lankan welfare and maintaining good relations with her neighbors of east and west while capturing the chances of global connection such as 21st century maritime Silk Road linking 3 billion people from various economies is the basis of her foreign policy.

Prime minister Wickremasinghe while being tentatively hopeful about large scale cooperation’s ,said in the Galle Dialogue at International Maritime Conference November 2015 that , “our future is connected to the ocean around US and with it the concept of scare seas engaging with Stable maritime management is of the almost importance while the Indian ocean region re-emergence in its Prominence in the gaze of global superpower and a Paradigm Shift in the balance of Sea-power currently takes place”.

Dr Saman Kelegama, 2014, describes, “Strategically located in Asia Next to the Indian sub-continent and in close proximity to Southeast Asia, coupled with a long history of engagement with the region, Sri Lanka is in an ideal position to Foster strong relations with rising Asia.”

As described by Dr. Kelegama Sri Lanka’s economic development demanded more attention of authorities towards minimal rate of growth in island’s exports as compared to rising imports into the country.

In 2013, Sri Lanka’s proportion of imports to exports to china were at 103% to 16.4%. The huge differences require cautious Strategic Solutions to make the small island capable of capitalizing the Benefits of 21st century Maritime Silk Road.



The maritime Silk road is of extreme importance to China due to the legacy of US naval vigilance in the vast water bodies (South China sea to Indian ocean, the Arabian sea and finally Mediterranean Sea), which have always been doubtful about China's objectives. Thus Chinese government, under this projected, has been indulged in setting harmonious relations with nations along this route to establish port facilities outside the US regime of Influence in the water mass. Sri Lanka is strategically critical for china due to its location exactly in the centre of this 21st century maritime Silk Road.

Colombo City Project

The Colombo city project is sat to reform 233 hectares of Land , across from Galle face green costing approximately 1.34 billion US \$ completely financed by china without even a single penny Expenditure by Sri Lanka itself. Many hotels will be built on the Land creating 100,000 jobs in the country. The Project is estimated to be complete by 2017. The Chinese in exchange have demanded only 108 hectares of land for 99 years of lease. Question to be considered in this project are:-

What is the need of reclaiming 233 hectors when Sri Lanka is not short of land?

Why spend 1.34 billion \$ for it? Why not only few \$?

Why offer the funds for free to Sri Lanka?

Why demand for small 108 hectares of Land and that too only for 99 years and then return it?

How is this project a good deal for Chinese policy makers?

The Google map below shows the distance between Colombo and Diego Garcia, a US military base. Diego Garcia is strategically crucial for US in the Region as it serves as naval support, airbase and communication and space tracking centre for US. It is equipped with instant military supplies for US ground forces and supported the launch of B-52s, B-1s and B-2 bombers on Iraq and Afghanistan. It is called America's "unsinkable Aircraft carrier". The J-31 when

launched from Tulia (China) can smash Diego Garcia within 5 hours halt in between Colombo. China has no partners from Pakistan coast to North Korea shores thus; Colombo becomes valuable for China as a port for its Naval Base in the Region. The PLA Navy, however cannot match with US navy, risks overstrains in its efforts for securing Arabian Oil Imports thus, Making Colombo a Decisive Place For China's submarine fleet. As evident in WW I and WW II, Submarines are the Strategic winning tools for an excellent navy therefore Colombo will offer a supply base as well as political and Physical harbor for China.

Outlook Of China –Sri Lanka Partnership: At Glance

China – Sri Lanka relations future can be anticipated on the basis of cautious realistic analysis of their historic and contemporary relations. Though Sri Lanka does not a physically attached boundary with China still, it is a significant part of China's neighbor policy.

China and Sri Lanka should amalgamate their interest and empower their mutual relationship with enhanced strategic coactions and economic exchanges. Economically, the two nations should enter into a bilateral FTA agreement immediately to facilitate large Scale economic and trade Cooperation, alteration in the Structural trade imbalances and magnify China's direct investments in Sri Lanka.

Moreover, the two sides need to materialize a commonsensical conjecture in the field of defense and security and give support assurance to each other in fights against terrorism and three forces i.e. Taiwan ,India & GS.

Additionally, strong regional and international bilateral cooperation through unified partnership is the need for China and Sri Lanka's enhanced worth.

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