

Belated election

Now that Sri Lankans have held a presidential election and will have a general election in February, the victors should concentrate on nation-building, addressing the aspirations of all ethnic communities without compromising any community's aspirations.

The election is welcome, though it comes a thousand unnecessary political killings too late. Southern Sri Lanka, after the signing of the "Indo-Sri Lanka accord" on July 19, 1987, was gripped by anarchy.

President Jayewardene, who announced his impending retirement from politics, had lost confidence among wide sections of Sri Lanka's society, who demanded an immediate dissolution of parliament, his resignation and the abrogation of the Gandhi-Jayewardene accord. This "accord" was signed by Sri Lanka under duress and against the will of the Sri Lankans, over a backdrop of an island-wide curfew, burning buildings, tear gas, gun shots, and a boycott of the accord by the prime minister (now elected president), security minister and some other cabinet ministers.

India, which created Sri Lanka's problem by fostering, nurturing and financing the Tamil separatist terrorists, should let sovereign Sri Lanka solve its own "internal" problem and stop fomenting the crisis with Indian-sponsored separatist terrorism.

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