



# LTTE'S POTENTIAL REVIVAL IN SRI LANKA

## ABSTRACT

In 2025, particularly November, Indian intelligence agencies have raised alarms about **former LTTE operatives or remnants forming alliances with international crime syndicates**, primarily for narcotics trafficking.

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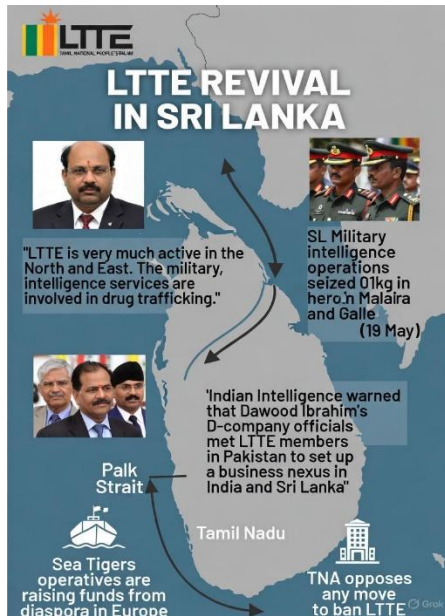
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## LTTE's Potential Revival in Sri Lanka



Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) leader and Jaffna District MP Gajendra Kumar Ponnambalam have made serious allegations against the Sri Lankan Military of being safe havens for drug traffickers across Sri Lanka, particularly in the North-east which is largely militarized. The police are also allegedly involved in this illegal drug network.

LTTE is back in the headlines after 15 years of the ethnic conflict between the Tamils and the government. According to the **National Dangerous Drug Control Board (NDDCB)**, 1,62,000 people were arrested in **2023** for possession of methamphetamine as compared to 89,000 in 2019. This rise is attributed to the new drug routes that have emerged in recent times.

In **Sept 2025**, a Lt Col of the army was handed over to the CID for selling T56 Ammunition to underworld figure "**Commando Salintha**". Salintha had worked as an assistant to Lt Col during his tenure in the army, suggesting rouge elements arming the LTTE network.

In **November 2025**, the Tamil land's military intelligence conducted 'successful' operations one after the other in Matara, Godagama area and in Galle district seizing over 400 kilograms of Heroin and Wallapatta. Some critics suggest this could indicate selective enforcement or insider knowledge.

In **November 2025**, **Indian Intelligence** warned of alliance between the **D- Company (led by Dawood Ibahim)** and former LTTE members to revive narcotics operations via sea routes from India's Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka. India's NIA also investigated a Sri Lankan narcotics trafficker who had sent money to Karachi, the dots connected to the LTTE and hinted at the revival of the group.

Date	Arrest/Key Event	Link to LTTE
Jun 13	Taher Salim Dola (Dawood associate)	Synthetic drugs for arms funding.
Jul 7	Kubbawala Mustafa	MD factory; narco-terror links.
Jul 26	Brijesh Morabia	Chemicals for LTTE routes.
Aug 9	Salim Pistol	ISI weapon smuggling to SL.
Oct 18-25	Danish Merchant & aides	1.3kg MD; D-Syndicate expansion.
Nov 1	Shera Batla	6 drug cases; hawala to Karachi.
Nov 11	NIA probe update	Guna's LTTE revival funds exposed.



Sudden increase in busting of drug networks and multiple raids confirm that the Tamil land is increasing its efforts to contain any such revival efforts of LTTE. Ex-Sea Tigers operatives like **Suresh Raj and Soundarajan** are active in Europe, handling logistics and diaspora funds.

## Politicians' Motivation behind exposing Military Drug Deals

The Tamil and minority politicians have criticized the military for trafficking in the Tamil-majority northern and eastern areas. This is a part of the general systemic issues affecting their constituencies and calls for demilitarization and greater autonomy. Opposition uses these allegations against the military to challenge the ruling government and its security apparatus. Such accusations coupled with the recent arrest of the former president Ranil Wickremesinghe, complicates the domestic political scenario, might even weaken it. If the government does not take firm actions, the revival of LTTE is highly likely.

## What's in it for India?

India has a sour history with LTTE. In contemporary times the Tamil issue poses' high risk to the South Indian population, who have historically shown solidarity for the Tamil minorities in Sri Lanka. India backs the minority rights in Sri Lanka, but New Delhi will be cautious not to let the neighboring country's crisis spillover in India, it might even provide backdoor support to ensure stability, which has very recently returned to Sri Lanka.

Drug nexus of **Sri Lankan Military- Dawood – LTTE** is more concerning. There are chances of crypto dealings and hawala transactions using European countries like UK, which have traditionally been haven for anti-India activities. Bangladesh and Myanmar are also going through vulnerable times; it would not be surprising if these countries are used for smuggling activities by LTTE revivalists.

Military exercises like **Mitra Shakti XI-2025** and the April MoU that institutionalized such exercises are steps in right direction, to collaborate in any war like situation. It'll be necessary to look out for Chinese activities in the island state **as Beijing is well-known for its spying activities and even colluding with rebel groups** like it did in Myanmar to secure its interests.

## News Summary

Sr No.	Date	Sector	News Headline	Source
1.	01-11	Foreign Affairs	<a href="#">India, SL advance talks on cross-border grid interconnection</a>	Daily FT
2.	01-11	Economy	<a href="#">ADB grants \$ 90 m loan to upgrade rural roads</a>	Daily FT
3.	02-11	Security	<a href="#">Probe into how service firearm reached Padme</a>	Ceylon Today
4.	03-11	Society	<a href="#">Over 1,300 arrested in nationwide anti-drug operation</a>	Ceylon Today
5.	03-11	Economy	<a href="#">Trade Deficit Widens 43% to USD 910M in September</a>	Ceylon Today
6.	03-11	Foreign Affairs	<a href="#">Sri Lanka signs UN Cybercrime Convention in Ha Noi</a>	Ceylon Today
7.	03-11	Security	<a href="#">Navy seize Rs. 5 b worth of drugs in deep sea operation</a>	Daily FT
8.	05-11	Security	<a href="#">35 Indian fishermen arrested</a>	Ceylon Today
9.	05-11	Security	<a href="#">Strengthening maritime security: Navy to get satellite interception system – Dr. Jayatissa</a>	Ceylon Today
10.	08-11	Security	<a href="#">Indian intelligence warns of new alliance between Dawood syndicate, LTTE remnants.</a>	Xinhua
11.	11-11	Security	<a href="#">Sri Lankan drug kingpin sent funds to Karachi, says NIA after probe into LTTE revival conspiracy.</a>	Hindustan Times
12.	12-11	Foreign Affairs	<a href="#">Military: Indo-SL Mitra Shakti exercise in Karnataka</a>	The Morning
13.	19-11	Foreign Affairs	<a href="#">Debt restructuring: Sri Lanka-Denmark signs bilateral agreement</a>	The Morning
14.	19-11	Foreign Affairs	<a href="#">‘UPI One World’ launched for Sri Lankan visitors</a>	The Morning
15.	19-11	Society	<a href="#">Drugs: 225 kg drugs found in Beruwala, Bentota</a>	The Morning
16.	19-11	Security	<a href="#">Political-organised crime links under probe</a>	The Morning
17.	19-11	Economy	<a href="#">Apparel Sector SMEs Struggle to Compete Amid Rising Costs, Limited Support</a>	Ceylon Today
18.	25-11	Security	<a href="#">Complaint lodged with CID over A/L economics paper leak: Nalinda</a>	Daily Mirror
19.	25-11	Foreign Affairs	<a href="#">Sri Lankan delegation wraps up high-impact trade and investment mission in Canada</a>	Daily Mirror



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