

## Working hard to help Sri Lanka: Jaishankar.

Recognising that “timing is key” for Sri Lanka as it tries to cope with a grave economic crisis, the Indian system is working “overtime” to expedite its assistance to the island nation, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday, wrapping up his visit.

“In a situation like this, things cannot be done at a normal pace. Everything must be fast-tracked. Our system is working overtime. What would have taken weeks earlier is now taking days,” he said, adding that the recently finalised Indian credit line of \$1 billion for essential imports would be operationalised “very soon.”

Briefing Colombo-based Indian journalists ahead of his departure to New Delhi, the Minister — who was here to attend the BIMSTEC summit — said India may not be Sri Lanka’s top creditor but is the country’s closest neighbour.

“We are approaching it [Sri Lankan crisis] like a sensible, good neighbour, keeping politics out of it,” he said, pointing to the \$400 million RBI currency swap, the \$500 million loan deferment, \$500 million credit line for fuel, and the more recent billion-dollar credit line that New Delhi has extended or facilitated this year. “I can’t remember the last time we stepped up like this for any country. We have helped countries during natural disasters or the pandemic. But this is different,” he said, admitting Sri Lanka’s “needs are more.”

Recent bilateral pacts, including for private sector investment from India, had “strengthened Sri Lanka’s overall position,” Mr. Jaishankar observed. “That Sri Lanka’s closest neighbour is investing as much here is a statement in itself.”

Since January, India has signed several long-negotiated agreements, including the joint development of the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farms, and energy projects in the north and east to be set up by the National Thermal Power Corporation and the Adani Group.



## Expected Question (Prelims Exams)

**Q. Consider the following statements.**

1. 'Mitra shakti' is a military training exercise conducted between India and Sri Lanka.
  2. 'SLINEX' is a maritime exercise conducted between Indian navy and Sri Lankan Navy.
- which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

## Expected Question (Mains Exams)

**Q. Discuss the various commercial and diplomatic ties between India and Sri Lanka.**

**(250 Words)**

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**Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC main examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.**