

**RESTRICTED**

**ABSTRACT**

1. Last half century has seen profound changes in the field of international relations. Several strategically important nations have gained prominence in the geo politics of Indian Ocean Region (IOR). These nations have become increasingly relevant over the time. Sri Lanka is one such country that has gained immense geo-strategic and geo political importance in the last decade or so. According to The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wikramasinghe, the political interplay in the Indian Ocean is in danger of becoming a major centre of tension. A power struggle in the Indian Ocean will no doubt also adversely affect Sri Lanka's objective of becoming the hub of the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka's future prosperity depends on the stability of the Indian Ocean. A power struggle in the Indian Ocean also risks making the littoral states into spectators in the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka being strategically located in the Indian Ocean is likely to play crucial role in the geopolitics of the regions. Thus, Sri Lanka has a very important role to play in the geopolitics of IOR and South Asia.

2. Sri Lanka is gradually projecting itself as a geo-politically important nation. Accordingly, I intend to study the geopolitical significance of this island nation in the wake of the changing times. My study will try to identify the likely roadmap for Sri Lanka which may enable it to achieve the geopolitical importance which it should have, given its strategic location in the IOR and South Asia. Further my research will also subjectively and objectively analyse the factors which determine the geopolitical importance of any nation.