

## **IMPORTANCE OF GEO - STRATEGIC LOCATION IN SRI LANKA; SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ASIAN CENTURY**

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The Asian Century is the projected 21<sup>st</sup> Century dominance of Asian politics and culture, assuming certain demographic and economic trends persist. Sri Lanka's location in the Indian Ocean region as an island State has been of strategic geopolitical relevance to several major powers. As an island in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka signifies its higher value in the Geo - Strategic concept. This study mainly focused on the Geo - Strategic importance of Sri Lanka under the Asian Century. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, a qualitative approach has been used and secondary data is the main type of data obtained from various sources such as books, journal articles, newspapers and other relevant documents available in both printed and electronic versions. This study can be identified as a desk study. Through the study, it has been identified that Geo – Strategic location importance mainly affects the economic development of the country, military strength and the improvements of the state's reputation in the region. As an island nation, it's a huge privilege to maintain foreign relations with the other states in the region. Also engaging with the geo-strategic locational importance, it becomes a new era of maritime diplomacy in the Asian Century. Sri Lanka's role in Asia's changing geopolitics has both a new and not-so-new role. The new role is based on its proactive economic diplomacy, through which it is leveraging itself as a regional trade and maritime hub.

**Keywords:** Asian Century, Geo-Strategic location, Sri Lanka, Indian Ocean, Island

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