

**As DMK Fumes, Tamil Nadu Boils**  
**By Vibhuti Agarwal, India Real Time**  
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Thousands of students across the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu have launched protests, including hunger strikes, to press India on Sri Lanka.

Specifically, they want India to move a resolution in a United Nation's human rights forum later this month against its southern island neighbor for Sri Lanka's alleged war crimes against Tamils.

More than 500 students have been arrested across the state in the last three days "for fasting, picketing and boycotting classes," the state's police commissioner, S. George, told India Real Time Tuesday.

On Tuesday, protests in most parts of the state capital, Chennai, remained "peaceful," Mr. George said. Still, state authorities have asked colleges to remain closed "till further order," he said.

On Tuesday, at least 100 students from the state's premier Indian Institute of Technology-Madras went on a day-long hunger strike, said L. S. Ganesh, dean of students at the university.

"The students have expressed their way of protest. They will continue to do so in a peaceful way," Mr. Ganesh said.

The interest of Tamils in Sri Lanka is a sensitive issue in India as the country's nearly 60 million Tamil population, mostly based in Tamil Nadu, share close cultural ties with those in Sri Lanka, where Tamils represent nearly 12% of the island's population.

Over the past week, students across the state have been pressing for an independent international probe against the Sri Lankan government for alleged human rights violations in the aftermath of the 2009 civil war that led to the killing by the army of rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and many of his followers in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The protests come as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, a key ally of the ruling Congress-led United Progressive Alliance that rules in New Delhi, withdrew support Tuesday to the federal government over differences on how to address atrocities reportedly committed in Sri Lanka.

Both the DMK and its political rival, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which is currently in power in Tamil Nadu, have raised the issue of the treatment of Tamils in Sri Lanka in the current budget session of Parliament.

Sri Lanka has denied allegations of human rights violations and said it will oppose any resolution against its army.

A "resolution on Sri Lanka in UN is uncalled for. We don't think there is a need for international community to get involved in Sri Lanka at this point," Sri Lankan High Commissioner Prasada Kariyawasam said in an interview to CNN-IBN television news channel Monday.

On the ongoing protests in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Kariyawasam said "this is again the kind of violent method practiced by LTTE in the past in Sri Lanka."