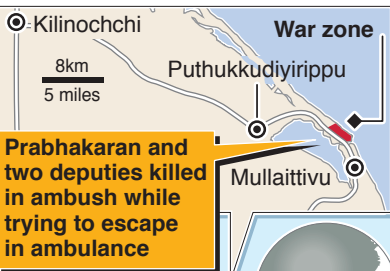


# Tamil Tiger leader killed by Sri Lankan troops

The leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has been shot dead while fleeing government troops. His death comes as the Sri Lankan army claims it has liberated the entire country



■ **1956:** Minority Tamils marginalised after government makes Sinhala the official language

■ **1976:** Rebel LTTE formed by **Velupillai Prabhakaran** to fight for separate Tamil state in north-east of island



■ **1987:** India deploys peacekeepers to Tamil areas but they leave in 1990

■ **1993:** President **Ranasinghe Premadasa** assassinated by LTTE suicide bomber in capital, Colombo

■ **2002:** Government and rebels sign Norwegian-brokered ceasefire

■ **2005:** **Mahinda Rajapaksa** elected president

■ **2006:** LTTE resumes attacks

■ **2008:** Government annuls ceasefire

■ **Jan 2009:** Army takes main rebel bases of Kilinochchi and Mullaivivu

■ **May:** LTTE concedes defeat after army overruns rebel-held area