

Despite a healthy bilateral relation btw Ind & SL,
Palk bay remains a perilous territory. Critically analyse.

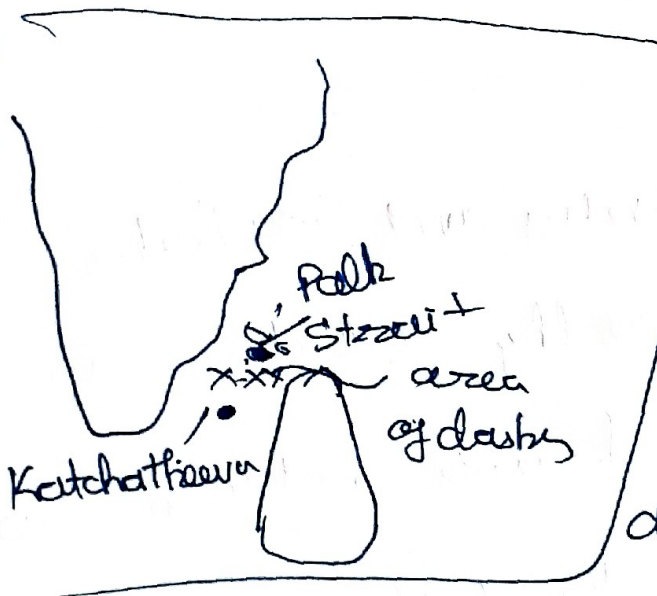
India and Sri Lanka are natural
neighbours that share friendship about
3000 years. The latest clashes at the
Palk Bay is causing concerns in the
friendship.

Healthy relation India and Sri Lanka
share long term healthy relation in
areas: Economy the trade between two
countries is about \$3.6 billion and
India helped Sri Lanka by advancing
\$400 million to bail out the country.

Transport - the recent ferry service
between Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu
has been started and talks are on
to construct a land bridge between
the three countries.

Human exchange - Tourism has been a strong point, millions from both countries visit each country in a year.

Given this, the clashes at the Palk Strait remain an achilles heel on the relations.



Palk Bay clashes

The ~~area~~ number of fishermen arrested until this year stands at 59 due to ~~cross~~

border fishing. The maritime borders between the two countries is not demarcated as the main reason for border breach.

Grey area - as fisheries are in state list it is the responsibility of the states to govern territorial waters i.e. upto 24 nautical miles, but the

international border starts at 9nm ~~is~~ after
of course keels.

Trawling has been referred to the
main reason, as Tamil Nadu fisheries
regulation act mandates mechanised boats
to fish beyond 3nm from the coast
increases trawling risks.

Remedial measures

The Joint working group instituted
in 2017 must be made to work efficiently.
The number of its meetings must increase
for better deliberations.

The Palk Bay scheme for diversification
of trawlers to deep sea fishing boats
must be liberally funded to reverse trawling.

The smooth conduct of two countries
in Palk Bay is crucial to maintain
healthy ties. ~~the~~ The diversification of
trawling and clear boundary demarcation
can be the long term solution.