

20/02
2024

GS-II (Bilateral Relations)

1) Despite a healthy relationship b/w India and SL, Palk Bay remains a Perilous territory. Critically Analyse (250 words)

Palk Bay, being a sea connection between the India and an island nation also critical to its bilateral relations.

Palk Bay:

- * Bay that connects Bay of Bengal and Indian ocean.
- * Located between the India and SL.
- * Being a good connection b/w Tamil Nadu and east SL.
- * Also, having immense fish resource.
- * Historically, a place for fighting to two country's fishermen.

India - SL Relations:

- * SL, a good friend for India since the historic period.
- * Island nation that shares

maritime border with India through Palk Strait.

* Religious ties:

→ Buddhism is an official religion of SL
→ Also having religious ties with India, which has a Buddhist origin.

* Trade ties:

→ Being a neighbour country, it has huge trade connections with India.

Issues:

* India-SL Agreement in 1976

→ paves the way for including 'Katchatheevu' into SL Territory
→ Katchatheevu → a fishing corridor for Tamil peoples historically.
→ It says, fishing rights would devolve to Tamils after the agreement.

* Katchatheevu Issue:

* Being a fishing corridor historically, Tamils used to take fish from this island.

* Against this, SL navy continuously attacking Tamils for doing so.

* many were arrested and killed in a decade by SL Navy.

Ethnic Issue:

- * Historically, Tamils are the minority in SL.
- * SL govt and navy ~~was~~ had been consistently attacking Tamils in the country.
- * Also paves the way for India-SL relations a critical stage.

way forward:

- * Indian govt. should interfere in this issue.
- * It should urge SL govt to allow Tamils to use "Katchatheevu" for fishing.