

**01 – 05 – 2024**

**News: Katchatheevu Island**

- The Katchatheevu Island has garnered attention for its role in the India-Sri Lanka relationship and the contentious fishing rights issue, showcasing the complexities of maritime boundary disputes and fishing rights in the area.

## **Katchatheevu Island Dispute**

- Katchatheevu Island is a 285 acre controversial uninhabited island located between India and Sri Lanka near the Palk Strait.
- Currently, it is administered by Sri Lanka.
- Katchatheevu is not suited for permanent human settlement as there is no source of drinking water on the island.
- The island's sole structure is St. Anthony's church, an early 20th-century Catholic shrine, where Christian priests from India and Sri Lanka conduct an annual festival service attended by devotees from both countries.
- Its origin is caused by a volcanic eruption happened on 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- The island was originally owned by Ramanad Kingdom of Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu.
- In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sri Lanka claimed territorial ownership.

- India and Sri Lanka signed 2 agreements in 1974 and 1976.
- The 1974 agreement ceded the territory to Sri Lanka while 1976 agreement gave fishing rights in the region.

