International Relations · GS - II

“The recurring detention of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy highlights the intersection of maritime boundary management, livelihood security and bilateral relations.” Examine the major challenges involved and suggest measures to address the issue.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

India–Sri Lanka relations, Palk Strait, maritime boundary, fishermen’s arrests, livelihood security, traditional fishing rights, bottom trawling, marine ecosystem degradation, diplomatic dialogue, consular assistance, fishermen-level negotiations, sustainable fisheries, deep-sea fishing, alternative livelihoods, maritime cooperation, neighbourhood diplomacy.

Model Answer

Introduction

The recurring arrest of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy is a persistent issue in India–Sri Lanka relations. The Palk Strait, a narrow maritime region, supports fishing communities on both sides but also presents challenges related to maritime boundaries and resource use.

Major Challenges

1. Livelihood Security: Arrests, detention and confiscation of boats cause financial hardship for fishermen and their families in Tamil Nadu.

2. Maritime and Ecological Concerns: Fishing across maritime boundaries creates legal disputes. The use of bottom trawlers can also damage marine ecosystems and intensify competition over fishery resources.

3. Bilateral Relations: Repeated incidents generate public concern and require diplomatic intervention to prevent tensions from escalating.

Way Forward

India and Sri Lanka should strengthen bilateral dialogue, establish effective communication and early-warning mechanisms, and ensure timely consular assistance and humane treatment of detained fishermen. Both countries should promote sustainable fishing, support the transition to deep-sea fishing where feasible, and encourage fishermen-level negotiations.

Conclusion

A balanced approach combining humanitarian concerns, maritime cooperation and sustainable fisheries is essential to protect livelihoods while maintaining cordial India–Sri Lanka relations.

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