Issue of Kachchatheevu?

- One of the major reasons complicating the issue is of Kachchatheevu Island.
- India ceded the uninhabited island to its southern neighbour in 1974 under a conditional accord.
- In fact, initially the 1974 border agreement did not affect fishing on either sides of the border.
- In 1976, through an exchange of letter, both India and Sri Lanka agreed to stop fishing in each other’s waters.
- In 2009, the Sri Lankan government declared Kachchatheevu Island as sacred land owing to a Catholic shrine’s presence on the piece of land.
- The issue arises more out of a domestic tussle rather than the India-Sri Lanka view on the issue.
- The Central government of India, according to the 1974 accord, recognises Sri Lanka’s sovereignty over Kachchatheevu.
- Tamil fishermen believe that Kachchatheevu is traditionally their territory and so they have a right to fish there.
- The Sri Lankan authorities believe that this endangers the livelihood of Sri Lankan fishermen.