

### **Abstract**

India and Sri Lanka ruled under the British government till they obtained independence in 1947 and 1948 respectively. These two countries share mutual beliefs and governance system and also followed similar non-aligned foreign policy during the period of cold war. There are various reasons effects on their bi-lateral relations. Tamil Nadu politics that twisted with the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka and is the most critical internal factor that influences the state performance on each other. There were problems of domestic politics that played a vital role in deteriorating bilateral relationship in between Sri Lanka and India. There are variations in the bilateral relationship. Even the fisherman issue has become the burning dispute now. Sri Lanka should handle Indian relationship tactfully. There is a tendency that India's relationship become waterloo of Sri Lanka even though the Sri Lanka wanted to keep friendly relationship with India. India and Sri Lanka relationship became more aggressive during the civil war conflict due to Indian intervention. Even though India's active engagement and unique financial assistance, the Sri Lankan government has failed to make improvement on pressing post-war challenges. Thus, the main purpose of this study was to critically analyze Sri Lanka's strategy towards India and challenges faced by these two countries, failures and success stories since 1980 – 2009. Moreover, it is identified the proper method to deal with India, taking in to consideration past and present dealings to achieve prosperity in future without making any hassle to the region and to the world. The qualitative study has been carried out for this research study. In this research study, it was revealed that there were various problems troubling for Indo – Sri Lanka relationships. Thus, Sri Lanka should not be inclined to this giant and should maintain neutral position to lead the nation for development.

Keywords – Fishermen issue, Geo-strategic dimensions, Indo – Sri Lanka relations, Kachchatiuv issue, Tamil-Nadu politics,