



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Ferry services between India and Sri Lanka

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Why is in news? PM addresses launch of ferry services between Nagapattinam, India and Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka

Enhanced connectivity was bringing people of India and Sri Lanka closer, Prime Minister said at the launch of an international, high-speed passenger ferry service **between Nagapattinam on the eastern coast of Tamil Nadand Kankesanthurai in the northern province of Sri Lanka.**

This service marks the resumption of the service **after a gap of nearly four decades.**

“Connectivity is not only about bringing two cities closer. It also brings our countries closer, our people closer and our hearts closer,” said by the Prime Minister, emphasising the role of trade, tourism and people-to-people ties in promoting new opportunities for growth for the young people of both countries.

In his remarks, he highlighted the rich history of maritime trade linked to Nagapattinam and nearby towns.

The **high-speed craft (HSC) Cheriyaapani** embarked on its journey around 8.15 a.m. with 50 passengers and 12 crew members headed by Captain BijGeorge.

The Shipping Corporation of India has roped in a private agency to sell tickets.

In video messages, Indian Prime Minister and Sri Lankan President hailed this diplomatic effort and highlighted the importance of launching the ferry service between the two nations. The service was agreed upon during the latter’s India visit last July.

Calling it a **new chapter in diplomatic and economic ties** between India and Sri Lanka, the ferry service will help strengthen cultural, commercial, and civilizational ties between the two nations.

Connectivity was the central theme of the joint vision of the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership, that India would **take steps to resume the operation** of the ferry service **between Rameswaram and Talaimannar as well.**

The operation of the ferry service will strengthen cultural ties between Tamil Nadand the northern province of Sri Lanka, that given the proximity of Nagapattinam to various places of religious significance, including Thirunallar, Nagore, and Velankanni, it would ease the travel of pilgrims from the island nation.

The launch affirmed the **“neighbourhood first” policy of India.** Further, it would help improve cooperation in disaster management, maritime security, and ease of business between the two nations.

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Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**

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India to Sri Lanka in just 2 hours!!

MoPSW proudly launches Passenger Ferry Service from Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu, India to Kankesanthurai Port, Sri Lanka! This service ensures swift & efficient passenger travel and improve relationship between the two countries

@MFA_SriLanka



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