

4

Location of Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island situated in the Indian Ocean to the south of India. It belongs to the continent of Asia, the largest continent in the world. Sri Lanka is separated from India by a narrow strip of sea. This strip of sea is 32 km in width and it is called the Palk Strait.

The main objective of this chapter is to provide an understanding of the location of Sri Lanka and the various influences caused due to its location.

Sri Lanka consists of its typical climatic, economic and cultural features due to its separate location in proximity to India. (Map 4.1)



Map 4.1
Location of Sri Lanka as an island close to India

How the location of Sri Lanka influences the climate

- Due to its location as an island, Sri Lanka receives rainfall throughout the year and the temperature is moderated as a result of the wind blowing across the Indian Ocean.
- Increase of temperature in the northern part of Sri Lanka is due to the influence of the dry winds that blow from the Indian sub-continent.
- Occurrence of rainfall due to the influence of monsoons.

How the location of Sri Lanka influences the economy

- Development as a centre in the East-West naval route since ancient times.
- Importance of the harbours of Sri Lanka in international trade.
- Development of the tourist industry due to the location of attractive places.
- Emergence of new economic patterns with the arrival of western nations.

How the location of Sri Lanka influences the culture

- Presence of various languages, religions and ethnic groups due to the mixture of different groups of people. For example, from India and Arabia.
- With the arrival of western nations, various cultural features of them were added to the society.

Activities

Study the map 4.3 and fill in the blanks with the correct words selected from brackets.

(Bengal, Indian, Mannar, Palk, Asian)

1. Sri Lanka belongs to the continent, the largest continent in the world.

2. Bay of is located between Sri Lanka and India.
3. Sri Lanka is separated from India bystrait.
4. Sri Lanka is located in the Ocean.
5. The sea area located in the North-East of Sri Lanka is called the bay of

Relative location of Sri Lanka

Identification of a country in relation to the location of surrounding countries, continents, seas and oceans is called the relative location.

Accordingly, Sri Lanka is located,

- to the South of the Asian continent.
- towards the North of the Indian ocean.
- to the West of South-East Asia and
- to the East of the African continent. (refer map 4.2)



Map 4.2
Relative Location of Sri Lanka

Activity

Observe the above facts with the help of the globe in your school and also with the reference to an Atlas.



Map 4.3
Location of Sri Lanka in the world map

Activity

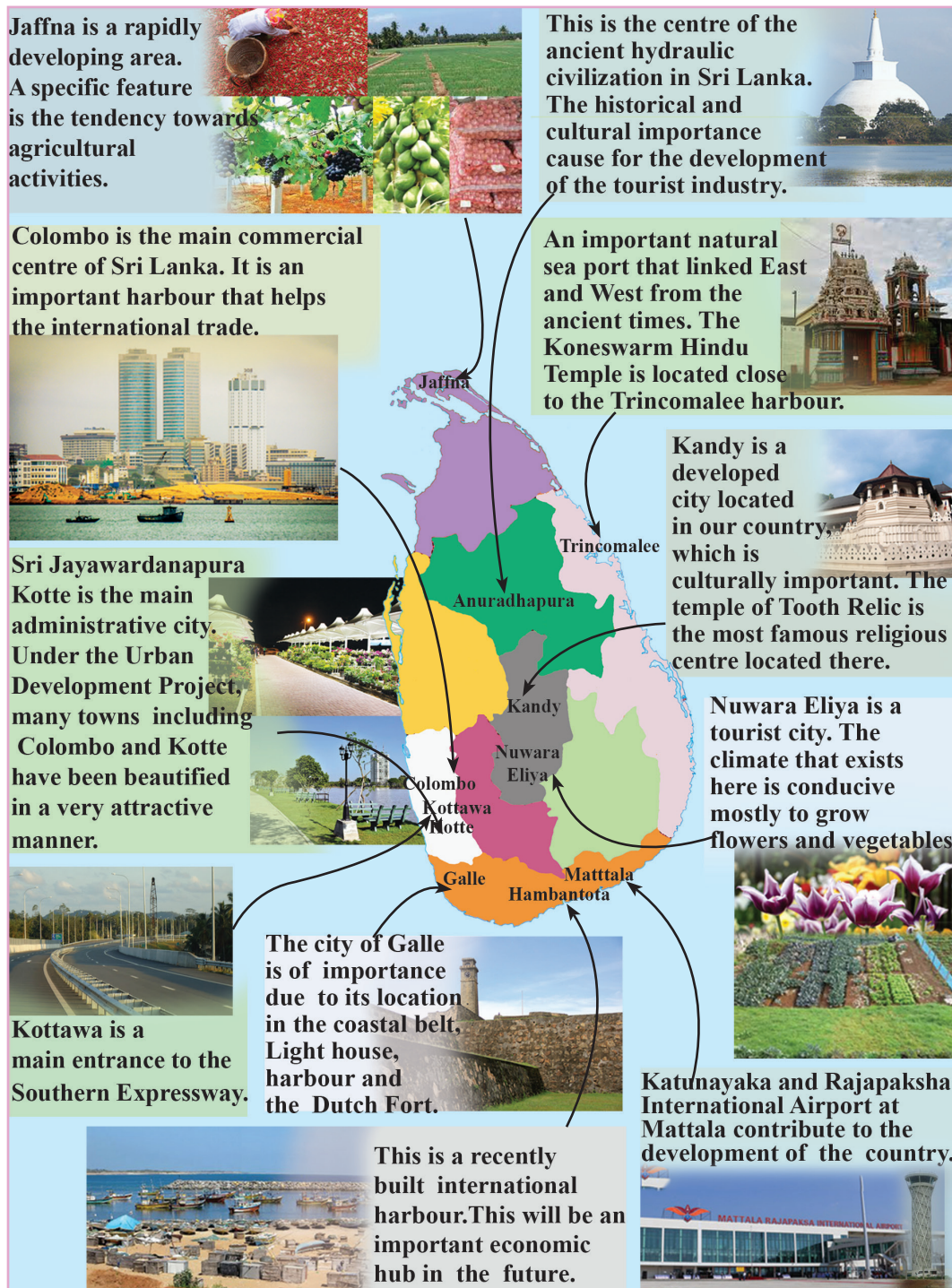
Mention the changes that occurred in the society due to the location of Sri Lanka in close proximity to India.

Important Places Located in Sri Lanka

At present, Sri Lanka is a rapidly developing country in South Asia. The progress of the social and economic sectors is the reason for this. Some outstanding development projects have contributed towards this progress.

- Building new harbours, new airports and expressways
- Urban development

The following map indicates a few economically, socially and culturally important places of Sri Lanka.



Map 4.4
Important places in Sri Lanka

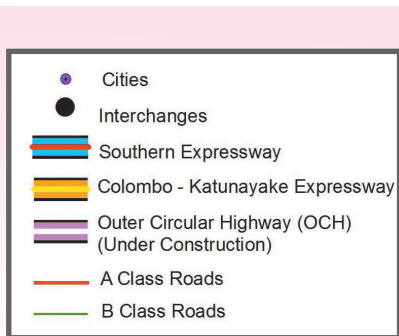
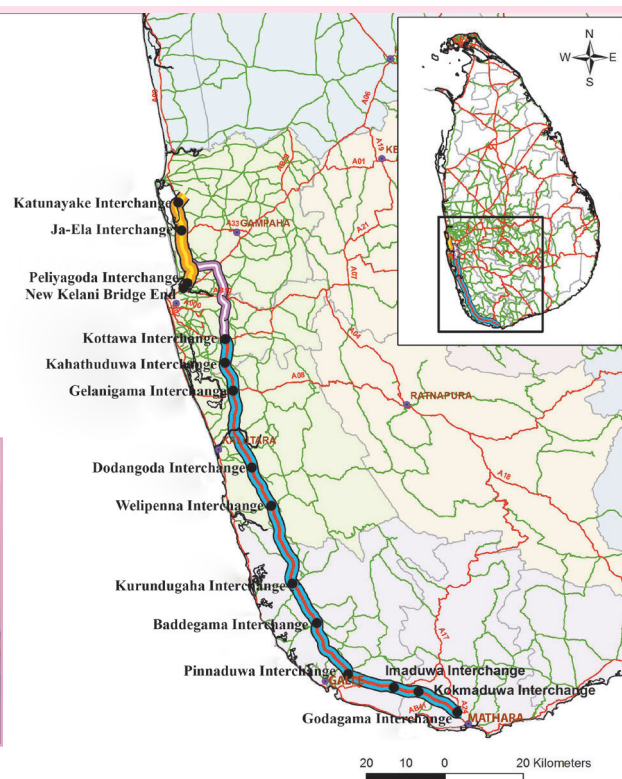


Figure 4.1
Southern expressway



Map 4.5
Colombo - Matara, Colombo - Katunayake expressways

Source - Road Development Authority 07/02/2014

Activities

1. Mark and name the following places on an outline map of Sri Lanka.
 - The international airports at Katunayaka and Mattala .
 - The harbours at Colombo, Trincomalee, Galle and Hambantota.
 - The cities; Galle, Badulla, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Jaffna, Kandy and Colombo.
2. Write a short description on the topic “Rapidly Developing Sri Lanka”.

Other Islands in the World

There are many islands located in the world with various extents of land. Map 4.6 indicates a few such islands and the land area.



Source - <http://en.wikipedia.org> /21/07/2014

Map 4.6
Several islands in the world and their land area

Activities

1. Identify the main islands by observing the map in 4.6 and mark and label them on a world map.
2. Sequence the islands according to the extent of the land area. Mention the area of land in front of each island.

Assignment

Complete the following table with the help of the Textbook and an Atlas.

Name of the island	The ocean in which it is located
Japan	
New Zealand	
Maldives	
Iceland	
United Kingdom	
Seychelles	

Glossary

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| • Island | - දූපත | - தீவு |
| • Relative location | - සාපේක්ෂ පිහිටීම | - சார்பமைவிடம் |
| • Strait | - සමුද්‍ර සන්ධිය | - நீரிணை |
| • Monsoon winds | - මෝසම් සුළං | - பருவக்காற்றுக்கள் |
| • Sub Continent | - උප මහද්වීපය | - துணைக் கண்டம் |
| • Migration | - සංක්‍රමණ | - இடப்பெயர்வு |
| • Globe | - ආදර්ශ ගෝලය | - பூகோளம் |
| • Express ways | - අධිවේගී මාර්ග | - அதிவேகப்பாதைகள் |
| • Centre | - කේන්ද්‍රස්ථානය | - மையம் |
| • Hydraulic civilization- | වාරි ශිෂ්ටාචාරය | - நீரியல் நாகரிகம் |
| • Commercial centre | - වාණිජ මධ්‍යස්ථානය | - வர்த்தக மையம் |
| • Economic centre | - ආර්ථික මධ්‍යස්ථානය | - பொருளாதார மையம் |
| • International harbour- | ජාත්‍යන්තර වරාය | - சர்வதேச துறைமுகம் |
| • Lighthouse | - ප්‍රදීපාගාරය | - வெளிச்ச வீடு |