



# Islamic Republic of Mauritania

## Why in News

- Recently, a boat capsized near Mauritania's coast. Between 2005 and 2010, thousands have died off Mauritania's coast in attempts to reach the Canary Islands (Spain). [//](#)



- Mauritania is located on the **Atlantic coast of Africa** and is bounded to the northwest by Western Sahara, to the northeast by Algeria, to the east and southeast by Mali and to the southwest by Senegal.
- It is the **eleventh largest country of the continent** and consists of **desert largely**.
- The capital is **Nouakchott** and it got **independence from France on 28 November 1960**.
- It has **Arab-Berber population to the north** and **black Africans to the south** and **Arabic and French** are the prominent languages.
- It is a member of the [United Nations](#) and the [African Union](#).
- In the [Human Development Index 2018](#), it was at rank 159.
- The most prominent feature of this region is the **Guelb er Richat**, also known as **the Eye of the Sahara**, which is a deeply eroded dome consisting of a variety of intrusive and extrusive igneous rocks.



[Source: TH](#)

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