



## India-Mauritius Relations

**For Prelims:** [Agalega Island](#), [Chagos Archipelago](#), [Colombo Security Conclave](#), [IORA](#), [Indian Ocean Conference](#), [Dandi March](#), [SAGAR \(Security and Growth for All in the Region\)](#), [Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation \(ITEC\) Program](#), [National Centre for Good Governance \(NCGG\)](#).

**For Mains:** Significance of Mauritius as international partner, India-Mauritius relations.

**Source:** [HT](#)

### Why in News?

During the **Prime Minister (PM)** of India's visit to Mauritius, both nations signed multiple agreements on **trade, maritime security, and defense**, emphasizing regional cooperation and elevating their ties to an **enhanced strategic partnership**.

- PM also received the highest national award of Mauritius, the '**Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean.**'

### What are the Key Outcomes of India's PM Visit to Mauritius?

- **Enhanced Strategic Partnership:** Both elevated their ties to an **Enhanced Strategic Partnership**, strengthening security, trade in local currencies, and development while reaffirming their commitment to a **free and secure** Indian Ocean.
  - Both countries agreed to ratify the **protocol** amending the **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)** to align with **international treaty standards**.
- **'Mahasagar' Vision:** India introduced the **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)** initiative for the Global South.
  - The MAHASAGAR **vision builds on SAGAR**, enhancing engagement with the Global South through **technology sharing, concessional loans, grants, trade, and mutual security cooperation**.
- **Security Cooperation:** India and Mauritius agreed to enhance the use of [Agalega Island's](#) **new runway and jetty**, developed by India.
  - India also reaffirmed support for Mauritius's sovereignty over the [Chagos Archipelago](#).
  - Cooperation will be strengthened in **white shipping, blue economy, and hydrography**.
- **Developmental Support:** India announced its **first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit** to support Mauritius in replacing its water pipelines.
  - India will help Mauritius establish a **police academy and a maritime information-sharing center**.
  - The Mauritius President inaugurated the **Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation**, a health center, and 20 Indian-funded community projects.
- **New Parliament Building:** India will construct a new Parliament building for Mauritius, which

India described as a **gift from the “Mother of Democracy”**.

- **Multilateral Engagements:** India reaffirmed its commitment to working with Mauritius in regional and international forums like the [Colombo Security Conclave](#), [IORA](#), and the [Indian Ocean Conference](#).

## Historical Connection Between India and Mauritius

- **Pre-Independence of India:** The first Indians in Mauritius arrived during **French colonial rule** (1700s) as **artisans and masons** from Puducherry (Mauritius was once a **French colony**, before being taken over by the **British**).
  - Under **British rule**, about **500,000 Indian indentured workers** migrated between **1834 and the early 1900s**, with **two-thirds settling in Mauritius**.
  - **Mahatma Gandhi** visited Mauritius in **1901**, advocating **education and political empowerment** for the Indian community.
  - As a tribute to Gandhi, Mauritius celebrates its **National Day on 12th March**, marking the [Dandi March](#).
- **Post-Independence of India:** India and Mauritius established **diplomatic ties in 1948**, two decades before Mauritius gained independence (1968).
  - Mauritius' first Prime Minister, **Seewoosagur Ramgoolam**, was closely associated with Indian leaders like **Gandhiji, JL Nehru, and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose**.

## Why are India and Mauritius Important for Each Other?

### Importance of Mauritius for India

- **Maritime Significance:** Mauritius' strategic location in the **western Indian Ocean** makes it a **key maritime partner** under India's [SAGAR \(Security and Growth for All in the Region\)](#) initiative (now **MAHASAGAR**).

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- **Countering China's Presence:** With China's expanding presence in the Indian Ocean, India's strong ties with Mauritius help **safeguard** securing Sea lines of communication (SLOC) and India's **strategic interests**.
- **Economic Relations:** Mauritius is a **gateway for India's trade and investment in Africa**, being part of the [African Continental Free Trade Area \(AfCFTA\)](#).
  - India is one of Mauritius's **largest trading partners**, and Mauritius is the **2nd-largest FDI source** into India (FY 2023-24) after Singapore.
- **Cultural Links:** About **70%** of Mauritius population are of Indian origin that help promote **Indian culture, language, and heritage**.
  - Mauritius shares strong cultural ties with India, with grand **Maha Shivratri** celebrations and **Ganga Talao** as a revered Hindu pilgrimage site.

### Importance of India for Mauritius

- **Leading Development Partner:** India has been Mauritius's **key development partner** since its independence (1968), providing **USD 1.1 billion** in the last decade alone.
  - India has supported Mauritius in implementing key infrastructure projects, including the **Metro Express, Supreme Court Building, Hospitals, etc.**
- **Maritime Security Assistance:** India is Mauritius's key security partner, supporting [EEZ](#) protection through **naval patrols, joint maritime surveillance, and hydrographic surveys**.
- **Disaster Assistance:** India has been Mauritius's first responder in crises, providing aid during [Cyclone Chido \(2024\)](#), the [Wakashio Oil Spill \(2020\)](#), and the [Covid-19 pandemic](#).

- **Capacity Building:** Mauritius is a key beneficiary of India's [Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation \(ITEC\) program](#), with 4,940 Mauritians trained since 2002.
  - India also offers customized training to **civil servants** of Mauritius through [National Centre for Good Governance \(NCGG\)](#).

**Click Here to Read:**

- [What are the Key Facts Regarding the Chagos Archipelago?](#)
- [What is Agelega Project?](#)

## Conclusion

India and Mauritius have **reinforced their strategic partnership** through agreements in trade, security, and development. India's "**Mahasagar**" vision and infrastructural support strengthen regional cooperation, counter external influences, and enhance economic ties. Their shared **history, cultural bonds, and geopolitical alignment** make this partnership crucial for regional stability and prosperity.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

How does India's strategic partnership with Mauritius contribute to its maritime security and regional influence in the Indian Ocean?

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Prelims**

**Q. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (2015)**

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

**Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. A great deal of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to India comes from Mauritius than from many major and mature economies like UK and France. Why? (2010)**

- (a) India has preference for certain countries as regards receiving FDI
- (b) India has double taxation avoidance agreement with Mauritius
- (c) Most citizens of Mauritius have ethnic identity with India and so they feel secure to invest in India
- (d) Impending dangers of global climatic change prompt Mauritius to make huge investments in India.

**Ans: (b)**

**Mains**

**Q.** Why indentured labour was taken by British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? (2018)

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