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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(17 March 2025)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- PM MODI'S VISIT TO MAURITIUS



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PM MODI'S VISIT TO MAURITIUS



- **Date of Visit:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mauritius on **March 11, 2025** for a **two-day state visit**.
- This is his **2nd visit to the island nation** since 2015.
- **Chief Guest:** He was the **Chief Guest** at the **57th National Day** celebrations on **March 12, 2025**.

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WHY MAURITIUS IS IMPORTANT TO INDIA?



- **Strategic Location:**

- Mauritius is a strategically located island nation in the **western Indian Ocean**, making it crucial for regional security and maritime trade routes.
- It holds **significant importance for India's maritime security interests** in the Indian Ocean.

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- **Indian-Origin Population:**

- About **70% of Mauritius' population (1.2 million)** is of Indian descent, primarily originating from the **Puducherry** region.
- This strong Indian-origin population forms a vital cultural and diplomatic bridge between the two countries.

- **Historical Ties:**

- **French and British Colonial Rule:** Mauritius was once a French colony and later a British colony.
- **Indian Workers:** During British rule, about **500,000 Indian indentured laborers** were brought to Mauritius between **1834 and the early 1900s**. These workers settled and played a key role in shaping the country's culture and society.
- **National Day Connection:** **Mahatma Gandhi** visited Mauritius in **1901** and gave three transformative messages to the Indian workers: the importance of **education, political empowerment, and remaining connected with India**. In tribute to Gandhi, Mauritius celebrates its National Day on **March 12**, the date of his **Dandi March** in 1930.

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POLITICAL HISTORY OF INDIA MAURITIUS RELATIONS

- **First Diplomatic Relations:** Mauritius was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with independent India in **1948**.
- **Political Leadership:**
 - Mauritius has been primarily led by two political families: the **Ramgoolams** (Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and his son Navin) and the **Jugnauths** (Anerood Jugnauth and his son Pravind).
 - **Seewoosagur Ramgoolam**, the first Prime Minister of Mauritius, was deeply connected to Indian freedom fighters, including **Mahatma Gandhi**, **Jawaharlal Nehru**, and **Subhas Chandra Bose**.
 - **Navin Ramgoolam** has served as PM multiple times (1995–2000, 2005–2014).

CURRENT STATUS OF RELATIONSHIP

- **Defense and Strategic Cooperation:**
 - **Agaléga Island:**
 - In **March 2015**, PM Modi's visit led to a **Memorandum of Understanding** to improve **transportation** on **Agaléga Island** (1,100 km from Mauritius).

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- India assisted in building infrastructure, including a **new airstrip** and a **jetty**, which were jointly inaugurated in **February 2024**.
- India's assistance on Agaléga island strengthens Mauritius' defense capabilities and enhances maritime security. Mauritius has confirmed that it retains full sovereignty over Agaléga.



- **Economic Ties:**

- **FDI:** Mauritius is India's **second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** after **Singapore** for the fiscal year **2023–24**.

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- **Trade Relations:** India is the **largest trading partner** of Mauritius. Both countries signed the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)** on **February 22, 2021**, after **15 years of negotiations**.

This is India's first trade agreement with an African country.

- **India-Assisted Projects:** India has provided nearly **\$1.1 billion** in development assistance to Mauritius over the last decade. This includes about **\$729 million** through **lines of credit** and **\$427 million** as **grant assistance**.

- **Maritime Security:**

- **White-Ships Data Sharing:** India and Mauritius are expected to sign a **technical agreement to share real-time maritime security data** between India's Navy and Mauritius' maritime authorities. This will help enhance security in the Indian Ocean and safeguard sea routes vital for trade.

- **Disaster Relief:**

- India has been Mauritius' **first responder** during natural disasters. For example, during **Cyclone Chido (2024)** and the **Wakashio oil spill (2020)**, India mobilized its resources to provide relief and assistance.

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- **Space Cooperation:**

- **Space Agreement:** India and Mauritius signed an agreement in **1986** to establish a **Telemetry, Tracking, and Telecommand (TTC) Station** for satellite and launch vehicle cooperation.
- In **November 2023**, **ISRO** and the **Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC)** signed an MoU to develop a **joint satellite** for both countries.

- **Education and Capacity Building:**

- **ITEC Program:** Mauritius is one of the largest beneficiaries of India's **Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** program. India has trained about **4,940 Mauritians** under this program since 2002.
- **Indian Students:** Around **2,300 Indian students** are currently studying in Mauritius in fields such as medicine, hotel management, and business studies.

- **Cultural and Religious Ties:**

- **Maha Shivratri:** Mauritius celebrates **Maha Shivratri**, a Hindu festival, which is also celebrated in India.
- **Ganga Talao:** This sacred **pilgrimage site** in Mauritius draws parallels with the Ganga in India and is important to both countries' shared Hindu cultural heritage.

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PM MODI'S ADDRESS TO INDIAN DIASPORA



Key Highlights:

- **Recognition and Honor:**
 - **Prime Minister Ramgoolam's Announcement:**
 - PM **Navinchandra Ramgoolam** announced that Mauritius would confer its **highest civilian award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.C.S.K)**, on PM **Narendra Modi** during the National Day celebrations.
 - PM Modi expressed his **gratitude** for this exceptional honor.

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- **Strengthening India-Mauritius Ties:**

- **Prime Minister Modi's Gratitude:** PM Modi thanked PM Ramgoolam for his warmth, friendship, and efforts to strengthen the **special relationship** between the two countries.
- **Recognition of Mauritius Leaders:** PM Modi paid tribute to historical figures like **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and Manilal Doctor**, who played pivotal roles in Mauritius' **independence struggle**.

- **People-to-People Ties:**

- **Cultural and Familial Connections:**
 - PM Modi highlighted the **shared heritage** and **familial ties** that form the foundation of the close relationship between India and Mauritius.
 - He appreciated how the **Indian-origin community** in Mauritius has preserved and nurtured its cultural roots.
- **Special Provision for OCI Cards:**
 - A special provision has been made to issue **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** cards to the **seventh generation** of the people of Indian origin in Mauritius.
 - This gesture further strengthens cultural and familial bonds.

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- **Support for Girmitiya Legacy:** PM Modi emphasized India's support for initiatives that honor the **Girmitiya legacy**, which refers to the Indian indentured laborers who were brought to Mauritius and other colonies.
- **India-Mauritius as Development Partners:**
 - **SAGAR Vision:** PM Modi noted that the **India-Mauritius relationship** plays a significant role in India's **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)** Vision, which focuses on regional cooperation and development.
 - **Engagement with Global South:** He highlighted India's commitment to working with countries in the **Global South**, where Mauritius is a key partner.
- **Addressing Climate Change:**
 - PM Modi acknowledged the **shared challenge** of **climate change** and appreciated Mauritius's cooperation in global environmental initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance** and the **Global Biofuels Alliance**.
 - **Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam (Plant4Mother):** PM Modi also participated in the **Plant4Mother** initiative by planting a sapling at the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanic Garden**, emphasizing environmental sustainability.

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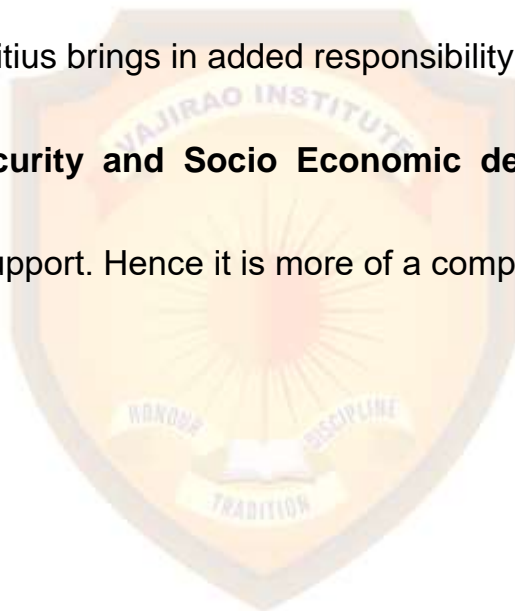


CONCLUSION

Mauritius as a country holds immense importance for India. This is due to multiple factors like **increasing India's presence in the IOR** vis-a-vis China, bringing in **FDI** in India or **securing trade routes for India**.

The **Indian diaspora** in Mauritius brings in added responsibility for India.

Climate Change, Food Security and Socio Economic development are areas where Mauritius is seeking India's support. Hence it is more of a complementary relation.



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