



TATHASTU
Institute of Civil Services

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



2nd March, 2024

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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	INDIA-MAURITIUS RELATIONS
2.	PRELIMS POINTERS

INDIA-MAURITIUS RELATIONS

SOURCE: [THE INDIAN EXPRESS](#)

TAG: GS Paper II- **India and its neighbourhood-relations**

Practice Question:

Mains

Q. Increasing interest of India in Mauritius has its pro and cons. Critically Examine. [250 Words]

WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ Recently, Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Pravind Jugnauth together opened an airstrip and the St James Jetty on North Agalega Island in the Indian Ocean.

SIGNIFICANCE OF MAURITIUS FOR INDIA

- ❖ India and Mauritius have a close and lasting relationship because of their shared history, demographics, and culture. The strong bond is strengthened by the large Indian-origin population in Mauritius (70% of population).

NATURE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND MAURITIUS

❖ HISTORICAL RELATIONS:

- Indians came to Mauritius in the 1730s as workers brought by the French. Many labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh shaped Mauritian society (1834-1920s), sharing a colonial history under French and British rule.

❖ CULTURAL RELATIONS:

- Mauritius hosts the World Hindi Secretariat, built with Indian funding.
- Mauritius hosts a Bhojpuri Mahotsav.
- To boost Indian tourism, Mauritius implemented visa-free entry for Indian tourists.
- The Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture in Phoenix is a major ICCR centre promoting Indian cultural activities in Mauritius since March 2000.

❖ POLITICAL RELATIONS:

- India recognized and supported Mauritius' sovereignty by establishing diplomatic relations in 1948, predating Mauritius' independence.
- The historical struggle for freedom in both the countries highlights how both share and uphold democratic values.
- In 2014, Mauritius PM Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam was the only non-SAARC guest at India's government swearing-in.

❖ COMMERCIAL RELATIONS:

- Mauritius is a major FDI source for India, often channelling investments through the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).
- Mauritius is a key trading partner for India. (Trade balance favours India significantly)
- The India-Mauritius CECTA marks India's first trade agreement with an African nation.



❖ **DEFENCE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION:**

- **India and Mauritius** engage in **joint military exercises**, including the biennial naval exercise called "PRABAL DOSTYK."
- **India and Mauritius** signed **security agreements** relating to:
 - **Leasing a Dornier aircraft and a Dhruv helicopter** to help monitor Mauritius' maritime zone.
 - **\$100 million Line of Credit for Mauritius** to acquire defense equipment.
- **India** delivered **100,000 Covishield vaccines** to Mauritius.

CHALLENGES IN INDIA-MAURITIUS RELATIONS

- ❖ **TRADE IMBALANCE:** The **trade relationship** between India and Mauritius is **imbalanced**, with India often having a **trade surplus**, which can strain economic ties.
- ❖ **CHINESE INFLUENCE:** Increased Chinese interest in the Indian Ocean region may pose challenges.
- ❖ **SECURITY CONCERNS:** Shared **security concerns**, including maritime security and privacy, may demand collaborative efforts, but disagreements on strategies could be challenging.
- ❖ **IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE:** Mauritius, being an island nation, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. This may require collaborative efforts to deal with the impact of Climate change.

WAY TO FORWARD

- ❖ India launched **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All)** in **Mauritius**, advocating **increased economic and security collaboration** with neighbouring maritime nations.
- ❖ The **enduring strategic ties** between **India and Mauritius** are rooted in **strong emotional connections of kinship and culture**, with **expanding areas of cooperation** such as the Blue Economy and joint efforts in Africa.
- ❖ **Strengthening India-Mauritius** relations is crucial, aligning with **India's priority on prioritizing its neighbouring countries**.



PRELIMS POINTERS:

2nd March, 2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p>VIKRAMADITYA VEDIC CLOCK</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ PM Modi inaugurated Vikramaditya Vedic Clock in Ujjain, reviving ancient Indian timekeeping. Symbolizes cultural heritage, precision in astronomical calculations, and historical global time influence. <p>ABOUT THE VIKRAMADITYA VEDIC CLOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ World's first 'Vedic Clock' displays time using ancient Indian Panchang. ❖ Mounted on 85-foot tower at Jantar Mantar, reviving ancient Indian timekeeping. ❖ Reflects India's cultural heritage and highlights accuracy in astronomical calculations. ❖ Located at Government Jiwaji Observatory, provides planetary positions and astrological data. ❖ Represents India's role in determining global standard time. ❖ Offers Indian Standard Time (IST), Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and moon positions, and eclipse prediction. ❖ Aims to restore Indian time calculation tradition with precision. ❖ Divides time between two sunrises into 30 parts, each 48 minutes, based on Indian theories. ❖ Developed by Lucknow-based Sanstha Arohan, with digital features accessible via mobile app. 
<p>PLACES IN NEWS- AGALÉGA ISLAND</p>	<p>WHY IN NEWS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated multiple development projects by India on Agalega Island in Mauritius today through a video conference. <p>About Agalega Islands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Agalega comprises two islands, combined area of 26 square kilometres, and is inhabited by around 300 people. ❖ Positioned approximately 650 nautical miles (1,050 km) north of Mauritius, the islands are part of the larger island nation, located in the Indian ocean. <p>SIGNIFICANCE OF MAURITIUS FOR INDIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ India and Mauritius enjoy strong bonds based on a shared history, ancestry, culture, and language. ❖ Approximately 68% of Mauritius's population (around 1.2 million), consists of individuals with Indian origin. 



BUXA TIGER RESERVE

❖ **Maritime security:**

- ☛ Mauritius holds a crucial role as a **development partner** for India within the **Indian Ocean region**.
- ☛ The collaborative development of Agalega highlights India's dedication to the **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision**.

❖ **Trade and commerce:**

- ☛ Mauritius has a significant **trade relationship** with India, and the **bilateral trade** between the **two countries** amounted to **\$1.2 billion** in the **year 2020**.

WHY IN NEWS?

Asian elephants in eastern Himalayan floodplains bury calves 'legs upright'. Elephant herds avoid paths with buried carcasses. Conducted near Buxa Tiger Reserve.

ABOUT BUXA TIGER RESERVE:

- ❖ Located in northern Bengal landscape, covering fragmented forests, tea estates, and agricultural lands.
- ❖ Adjacent to **Gorumara Wildlife Division**, it forms a crucial part of the region's biodiversity.
- ❖ Home to **diverse flora and fauna**, including **Bengal tigers, elephants, Indian gaur, leopards, and various bird species**.
- ❖ Conservation efforts aim to **protect endangered species and maintain ecological balance in the region**.
- ❖ Buxa Tiger Reserve serves as a **vital habitat for wildlife**, contributing to the overall **biodiversity of the Eastern Himalayas**.



Characteristic	African Elephant	Asian Elephant
Geographic Location	Sahara Desert	South and Southeast Asia
Size	Large	Small
Tusk Shape	Both males and females have tusks	Only males have tusks, while females have small, undeveloped tusks
IUCN Status	Critically Endangered	Endangered





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