

India-Mauritius Ties - From Partnership to Family

September 12, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



India-Mauritius Ties Latest News

- India announced a **special economic package worth \$680 million for Mauritius**, combining infrastructure, healthcare, defence preparedness, and maritime security.
- The announcement came after a **bilateral meeting** between the Prime Minister (PM) of India and Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam in **Varanasi**, further **strengthening India-Mauritius ties**.

Key Developments in the India-Mauritius Ties

\$680 MN ECONOMIC PACKAGE

GRANT-BASED PROJECTS (USD 215 million)

- Construction of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital
- Establishment of AYUSH Centre of Excellence
- Setting up of a veterinary School and animal hospital
- Provision of helicopters

GRANT-CUM-LOC PROJECTS (USD 440 million)

- Completion of the Air Traffic Control tower at SSR International Airport
- Development of the Motorway M4
- Expansion of the Ring Road (Phase II)
- Procurement of port-related equipment

\$25 MN BUDGETARY ASSISTANCE TO MAURITIUS

STRATEGIC COOPERATION

- Redevelopment and restructuring of the Mauritius port
- Development and surveillance of Chagos Marine Protected Area

MoUs INKED: 7

From cooperation in the field of science and technology to cooperation in power sector. The two countries also signed an MoU Cooperation for Establishment of Telemetry, Tracking, and Telecommunications Station for Satellites and Launch Vehicles, and for cooperation in the fields of space research, science and application.

Significance of These Developments in the India-Mauritius Ties

- **Soft power diplomacy:**
- **Academic collaborations:** IIT Madras and Indian Institute of Plantation Management signed agreements with University of Mauritius.
- **Mission Karmayogi training modules:** To be launched in Mauritius for civil service capacity building.
- **Healthcare:** 500-bed Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital, AYUSH Centre of Excellence, Veterinary School and Animal Hospital. **First** Jan Aushadhi Kendra outside India inaugurated in Mauritius.
- **Financial connectivity:** Building on last year's launch of **UPI and RuPay** services in Mauritius. Both nations to work towards **trade in local currencies**.
- **Strategic and maritime security dimension:**
 - **Hydrography agreement:** Joint surveys, navigation charts, and hydrographic data collection for Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone (**EEZ**) over the next five years.
 - **Maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean:** India to assist Mauritius in maritime surveillance, resource exploitation, and capacity building.
 - **Chagos archipelago significance:** Agreements for development and surveillance of the Chagos Marine Protected Area and expanded EEZ after sovereignty treaty with the UK.
- **Geopolitical significance:**
 - **India backed Mauritius' sovereignty over Chagos**, aligning with its anti-colonial stance.

- The UK retains Diego Garcia for US-UK military operations, but **India's role ensures strategic leverage in the Indian Ocean.**
- **Symbolic and cultural aspects:**
- **From partnership to family:** The Indian PM emphasised that India and Mauritius are “not just partners but a family”.
- **Historical linkages:** Indian culture and traditions became part of Mauritian daily life centuries ago.
- **Symbolic spiritual connect:** The Mauritius PM witnessed the Ganga Aarti, and he is scheduled to offer prayers at Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham before leaving for Ayodhya.

Broader Strategic Context

- Mauritius views **India as a preferred partner** for safeguarding maritime interests, reaffirming its position as a –
 - **Net security provider** in the Indian Ocean.
- **Champion of South-South cooperation.**
- Supports the vision of a **free, open, secure, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.**
- **Reinforces India's influence** amidst rising China's presence in the region.

India-Mauritius Ties and Emerging Contours in the Region



- **India as a first responder:** As Mauritius is one of the closest African nations to India, India has consistently supported Mauritius during crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the Wakashio oil spill in 2020, etc.
- **Economic ties:**
 - Mauritius is a major economic partner, ranking as the **second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in India after Singapore.
 - The two countries signed the **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement in 2021**, India's first trade deal with an African nation.
- **Development assistance:** India has provided **nearly \$1.1 billion in development assistance to Mauritius** over the last decade, including \$729 million in lines of credit and \$427 million in grants.
- **Diaspora:** Around 70% of the island's 1.3 million residents are of Indian descent.
- **Emerging geopolitical contours in the western Indian Ocean:**
 - **China**, Russia, Iran, Turkey, and Gulf nations are increasing their presence in the region.
 - **Europe** is seeking to reassert influence in the Indian Ocean.
 - Mauritius has balanced its global partnerships while maintaining **strategic autonomy**.

Conclusion

- India's package for Mauritius marks a blend of hard (**maritime security** cooperation) and soft power (**development diplomacy**) diplomacy.
- Strengthening Mauritius' EEZ surveillance will not only secure its resources but also **expand India's strategic reach in the Indian Ocean**.
- With the Chagos Agreement strengthening Mauritius' sovereignty, India stands to gain a **trusted ally in a geopolitically sensitive region**.
- The partnership reinforces India's **Neighbourhood First** and **Vision Mahasagar**, while advancing its role as a **key maritime power in the Indo-Pacific**.

Source: **TH** | **ToI** | **IE**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/india-mauritius-ties-from-partnership-to-family/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.