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India-Mauritius Relations

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Nearly 70% of Mauritius's people trace their roots to India. No other country outside India has a higher share. That single fact shapes almost everything about how the two deal with each other. This page covers the ancestry, the ocean policy and the recent meetings.

Keep three questions in mind. Why is Mauritius so close to India? What is its role in India's ocean policy? And what did the 2025 and 2026 meetings add?

> **1948.** Diplomatic ties
> **2015.** SAGAR announced
> **Feb 2021.** CECPA signed
> **Mar 2025.** MAHASAGAR launched

CECPA: Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement.

SAGAR: Security and Growth for All in the Region.

MAHASAGAR: Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

Indentured labour: Workers bound by contract, brought by the British.

1 Why is Mauritius so close to India?

Walk through Port Louis and you will hear Bhojpuri songs and see temples. The reason is history.

From 1834, the British brought Indian indentured labourers to work on Mauritius's sugar plantations. Their descendants make up nearly 70% of the island's people.

India and Mauritius set up diplomatic relations in 1948. That was twenty years before Mauritius became independent in 1968.

Mauritius also hosts the World Hindi Secretariat, in place since 2008.

> **Think it through:** Why is the tie called civilisational, not just transactional?
>
> Shared ancestry, language and religion run deep. Trade deals can change, but family links last.

- Indian-origin share: nearly **70%**.
- Indentured labour from **1834**.
- Diplomatic ties: **1948**; independence: **1968**.

> **Quick check 1.** India and Mauritius set up diplomatic ties in 1968. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

2 What role does Mauritius play in India's ocean policy?

Modi first spoke of SAGAR in Mauritius in 2015. It stands for Security and Growth for All in the Region.

In March 2025, he launched a bigger idea there: Vision MAHASAGAR. It stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions. (Source: MEA)

Do not mix them up. SAGAR is from 2015. MAHASAGAR is from 2025.

India is also developing Agalega Island, part of Mauritius. Better connectivity there helped speed aid after Cyclone Chido.

India backs Mauritius's sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

- SAGAR: **2015**, announced in Mauritius.
- MAHASAGAR: **March 2025**.
- Island project: **Agalega**.
- India backs Mauritius on **Chagos**.

> **Quick check 2.** SAGAR and MAHASAGAR are different visions, ten years apart. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

3 What did trade and the 2025 visit add?

The CECPA was signed on 22 February 2021. It was India's first trade agreement with any African country. It was not India's first trade agreement overall.

Modi made a State Visit on 11–12 March 2025, as Chief Guest at Mauritius's National Day. The two sides raised ties to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership. (Source: MEA)

Several agreements were signed. They covered local-currency settlement, a credit facility for water projects, training and blue economy. India also offered to help build a new Parliament building as a gift from the "Mother of Democracy".

Modi received the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean. He was the first Indian to get it. (Source: DD News)

- CECPA: **22 February 2021**, first with **Africa**.
- Visit: **11–12 March 2025**.
- Honour: **Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean**.

> **Quick check 3.** The CECPA was India's first trade agreement with any country. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

4 What happened in June 2026?

On 28 June 2026, Modi met Mauritian PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Victoria, Seychelles. They met on the sidelines of Seychelles' Golden Jubilee National Day. (Source: IANS)

It was their fourth meeting since Ramgoolam took office in November 2024.

They reviewed India's Special Economic Package. It touches healthcare, connectivity, sustainable development and the blue economy. (Source: PMO India)

- Meeting: **28 June 2026**, Victoria, Seychelles.
- Fourth meeting since **November 2024**.
- Framework: **MAHASAGAR** and **Neighbourhood First**.

> **Quick check 4.** The June 2026 meeting took place in Seychelles. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

5 What are the exam traps?

- **1948** ties; **1968** independence.
- **SAGAR 2015** vs **MAHASAGAR 2025**.
- CECPA = first with **Africa**, not overall.
- Indian-origin share = nearly **70%**.
- 2015 SAGAR announcement was in **Mauritius**.

Practice MCQs

1. In what year did India and Mauritius establish diplomatic relations?

A. 1948

B. 1957

C. 1968

D. 1975

See answer ↓

2. Roughly what share of Mauritius's population is of Indian origin?

A. Over 90%

B. Around 50%

C. Around 30%

D. Nearly 70%

See answer ↓

3. The India-Mauritius CECPA, signed on 22 February 2021, was significant for which reason?

A. It replaced an older 1968 trade treaty

B. It was Mauritius's first FTA with any country

C. It was India's largest-ever FTA by trade volume

D. It was India's first trade agreement with any African country

See answer ↓

4. PM Modi first announced India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region) during a 2015 visit to which country?

A. Seychelles

B. Mauritius

C. Sri Lanka

D. Maldives

See answer ↓

5. During PM Modi's March 2025 visit to Mauritius, what did India commit to building as a gift from "the Mother of Democracy"?

A. A new naval base

B. Mauritius's new Parliament building

C. A new national stadium

D. A new international airport

See answer ↓

6. PM Modi's June 2026 visit to Seychelles was described through which vision framework?

A. SAGAR

B. Neighbourhood First

C. Act East Policy

D. Vision MAHASAGAR

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.** India and Mauritius established diplomatic relations in 1948. ↑ Q1
2. **D.** Roughly 70% of Mauritius's population is of Indian origin. ↑ Q2
3. **D.** The India-Mauritius CECPA, signed on 22 February 2021, was significant as India's first trade agreement with any African country. ↑ Q3
4. **B.** PM Modi first announced India's SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region) during a 2015 visit to Mauritius. ↑ Q4
5. **B.** During PM Modi's March 2025 visit to Mauritius, India committed to building Mauritius's new Parliament building as a gift from "the Mother of Democracy." ↑ Q5
6. **D.** PM Modi's June 2026 visit to Seychelles was described through the Vision MAHASAGAR framework. ↑ Q6

Quick-check answers

1. **False.** ↑ 1
2. **True.** ↑ 2
3. **False.** ↑ 3
4. **True.** ↑ 4

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