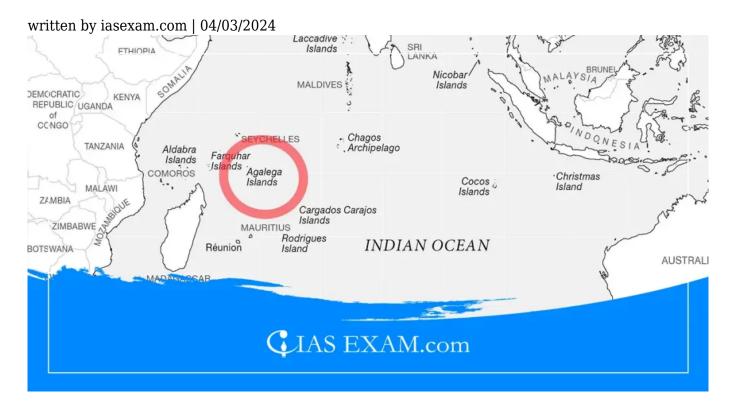
# **Agalega Islands & Its Significance**



#### **Context**

Prime Minister of India and his Mauritius counterpart virtually inaugurated an air strip and a jetty to ensure maritime security and connectivity to Mauritius' **Agalega islands**.

#### **About**

- PM Modi said the two countries are operating actively toward making sure security, prosperity and stability in the Indian Ocean location.
- These tasks will "decorate the island's capacity and abilities in marine surveillance and security, even as also meeting development objectives".
- Since 2003, several tries have been made to improve the air strip, however nothing concrete materialised.
- The move to develop and build the brand new airstrip and the jetty got here after PM Modi's visit to the island country in March 2015.
- PM Modi flagged concerns over challenges in the Indian Ocean place and said India and Mauritius are "natural partners" in the maritime area to cope with them.

## **About Agalega Islands**

- Agalega island lies about 650 nautical miles (1,050 km) north of Mauritius.
- It is a set of islands with a total region of 26 square km and a native population of approximately 300 people.

#### **Significance of Agalega Islands**

- The improvement of the Agalega Islands is inside the socio-monetary and countrywide security hobby of Mauritius, and also aligns with India's maritime imaginative and prescient.
- The islands, a dependency of Mauritius, were now not advanced for many years.
- The sustainability and nicely-being of the islands' population presented a mission, as even the most basic needs required referral to Mauritius.
- The near absence of any professional authorities or safety presence was a critical vulnerability.
- This vulnerability may be transformed to electricity via developing the islands and growing facilities that would operate ships and aircraft.
- Building a jetty and an airstrip turned into therefore considered vital by the government of Mauritius.
- They chose India as their preferred development partner.

## Why Did Mauritians Choose India?

- Ties between India and Mauritius pass again to 1948, twenty years before the country's independence from Britain.
- Seventy according to cent of the inhabitants of Mauritius are of Indian foundation, and the two countries proportion deep historic, social, and cultural bonds.
- The regular feature within the records of bilateral relations has been friendship and trust at all degrees the political management, the diplomatic and military communities, in addition to among the peoples of the two countries.
- The development of those strategically located islands required consideration greater than something else. Hence, India was the obvious choice.

## **Significance for India**

- The goodwill and trust between the two nations may be similarly improved.
- India will welcome possibilities to in addition broaden these islands in collaboration with Mauritius because the latter deems suitable.
- The joint development of Agalega underscores India's commitment to the vision of **Security and Growth for All inside the Region (SAGAR)**.
- It will indicate to other maritime neighbours that India is a benign and pleasant country. That respects the sovereignty of impartial countries.
- India would love to emerge as the favored improvement and security companion in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

**Source: The Indian Express** 

**UPSC Mains Practice Question** 

Q.Analyse India's maritime security. How the development of Agaléga figures in India's vision for its maritime neighbourhood? (150 words)