

Agalega Islands & Its Significance

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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)

