

Mauritius holds significance for India's role in the Indian Ocean. Discuss

The Indian Ocean is third largest water body of the world that has vital sea lanes of communication crisscrossing it and which feeds Asia's largest economies

Around 50% of the world's sea-borne oil trade passes through the choke points of this ocean and therefore it literally connects the east to the west

Delhi has viewed Mauritius in the prism of diaspora. It is time for India to look at it as a thriving economic hub and an attractive strategic location

Mauritius provides with a number of possibilities

1. Mauritius can be the fulcrum for India's own African economic outreach

2. ~~Delhi~~ Mauritius can be the Delhi's island policy

3. Mauritius pivot can facilitate a number of Indian commercial activities in the south western Indian Ocean

4. India can contribute to the evolution of Mauritius as a regional centre for technological innovation
5. Climate change, sustainable development and the blue economy are existing challenges for Mauritius. Mauritius will be the right partner in promoting Indian initiatives in these areas
6. Mauritius is the natural node security <sup>co-</sup>operation in South Western Indian Ocean

All this is possible, only when Delhi looks Mauritius in a larger perspective. Sooner, the better to have an early Indian summit with leaders of the Vanilla islands