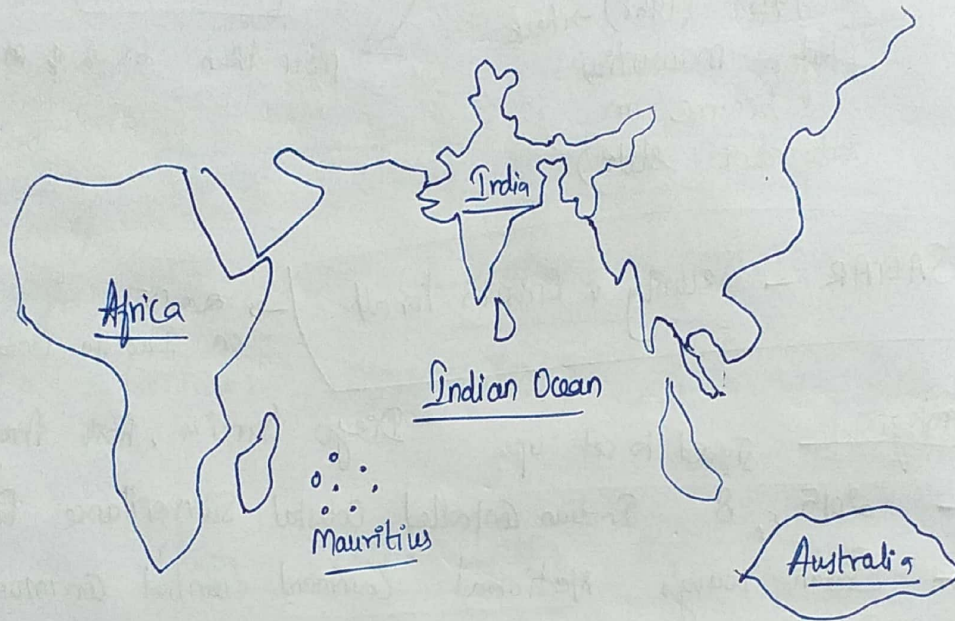


Q3) Answer:

India and Mauritius share a historical ties with strong cultural, economic and political connections. Located at the Indian Ocean, this tiny nation holds a lot of significance to India.



Significance of Mauritius:

- It has an attractive strategic location.
- It is pivotal for India's African Outreach.
- Largest source of FDI to India.
- Indian Controlled Coastal Surveillance Radar.
- SAGAR Initiative of Security and Growth for all in Indian Ocean.
- Has ~~the~~ ^{many} largest Indian Diaspora, Around 80%.
- India's export market.

- It is a banking gateway and a thriving economic hub.
- Can serve as a tourist destination.
- Helps in combatting terrorism and piracy.

Challenges:

- Perception that Mauritius is an extension of India.
- Climate change and its effects.
- American military base Diego Garcia
- Chinese increasing presence.

Way Forward:

- Using the country to maintain peace and stability in the region.
- Promoting maritime scientific research.

Being in the backyard of the India in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius holds both opportunities and threats in the region. It becomes significant for India to maintain smooth relationship to ensure peace and stability and use the potential economic opportunity.