

## India and France - Indian Ocean Region

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- With recent bilateral diplomatic meets, India and France have decided to strengthen cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

\n

- In the context of the developing Indo-Pacific quadrilateral grouping of India, US, Japan and Australia, it is essential for India and France to take forward the bilateral relationship with a new vigour.

\n

\n\n



\n\n

### How influential is France in the IOR?

\n\n

\n

- France is one of the notable countries with maritime traditions that shaped the contemporary Indo-Pacific power relations.

\n

- With a colonial inheritance, it has a considerable influence through overseas territories in the Western Indian Ocean and South Pacific.

\n

- Its military facilities in the Indo-Pacific include those in the Reunion Island, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates.

\n

\n\n



\n\n

\n

- France also has a variety of coordination mechanisms in the Pacific with the United States, Japan, Australia, Britain and New Zealand.

\n

- In addition, it plays a lead role in the Indian Ocean Commission.  
\n
- It is an intergovernmental organization that brings together the island states of Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros and the French territory of Reunion.  
\n

\n\n

## **What lies before India?**

\n\n

- \n
- India and France have long held partnerships in traditional areas of high-technology and defence cooperation and recently, climate change.  
\n
- The overall geopolitical scenario is changing with the rise of China, renewed tensions between Russia and Europe, uncertainty in the US political trajectory and loosening of the old alliances.  
\n
- It becomes essential in this context that India and France started offering a strong regional dimension to their strategic partnership.  
\n
- India and France have a potential scope to work together in the IOR, especially in the Western Indian Ocean.  
\n
- With Indo-Pacific quadrilateral grouping in the developmental stage, it is in India's interests to build its bilateral security cooperation.  
\n
- This should include both the members of the quad as well as other partners in the Indo-Pacific including France.  
\n
- India needs to intensify the exchange of maritime intelligence, negotiate agreements to share naval infrastructure facilities and put in place logistical support arrangements.  
\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: Indian Express**

\n



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*