

Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)

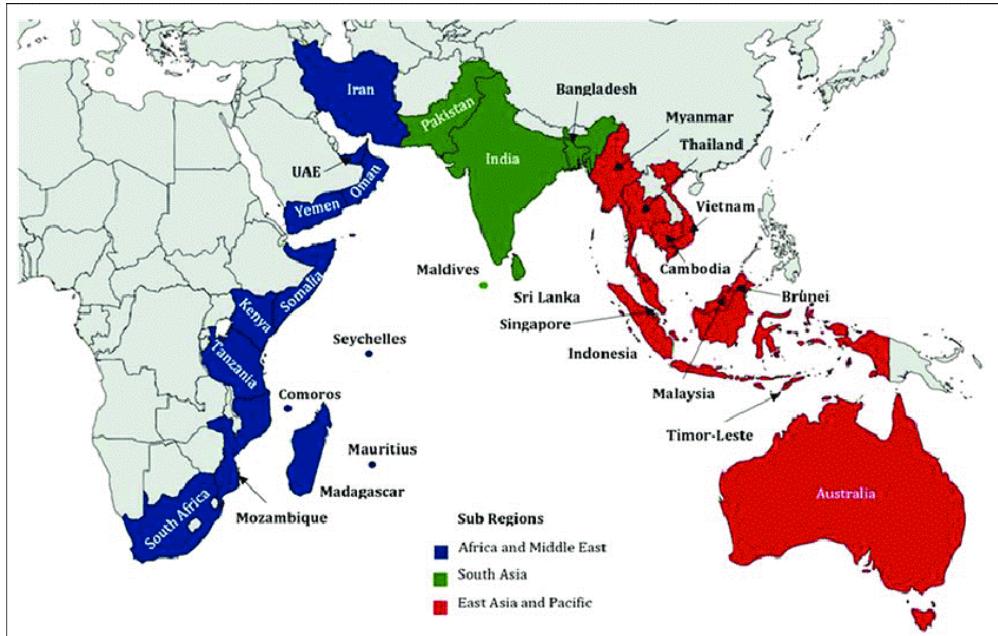
Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Government policies and interventions*

Why in News?

Recently, India and Seychelles launched the Joint Vision SESEL, aligned with India's MAHASAGAR maritime vision.

- It is the **Indian Navy's high-level outreach initiative, conducted biannually as virtual interactions.**
- **Launched in** - 2023
- **Evolution** - The Mahasagar vision **builds on the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) of 2015.**
 - **Shift** - Indian Ocean Region (IOR)-centric to Global maritime outreach (Global South).
- **Key Pillars** -
 - Trade for Development
 - Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth
 - Mutual Security for Shared Future
- **Objectives - Partnerships** - Consolidate strategic maritime partnerships with Africa and littoral states.
- **Security Role** - Position India as a **preferred security partner and first responder.**
- **Containment** - Counter China's growing maritime influence and String of Pearls strategy.
- **Integration** - Link maritime security with trade, energy security, and supply chains.
- **Influence** - Enhance India's diplomatic, technological, and infrastructural footprint in the maritime domain.
- **Associated Projects - AIKEYME Exercise** - Improved interoperability with 10 African countries through the **AIKEYME Exercise (Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement).**
 - **Participants** - India and 10 African nations, namely, Tanzania (co-host), Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, and South Africa.
- **IOS Sagar** - The deployment of INS Suyana as the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar aids
 - Strengthening surveillance in Southwest IOR chokepoints.
 - And, enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).

- **Agalega Airstrip** - Joint India-Mauritius developed airstrip, which acts as a key Indian Navy outpost in the Western Indian Ocean.
- Enhanced India's image as a responsible regional partner (disaster response, oil spills, pandemics).
- Boosted defence cooperation, info sharing, and naval exercises.



References

1. [PIB | Vision MAHASAGAR](#)
2. [MAHASAGAR | Indian Navy](#)
3. [PIB | 3RD edition of MAHASAGAR](#)