



Diego Garcia

Published On: 22-01-2026

Context: US President Trump criticised the potential return of **Diego Garcia** by the **UK to Mauritius**, as the island hosts a **strategically important US military base**.

About Diego Garcia

1 Location:

o Coral atoll in the **central Indian Ocean**

o Part of the **Chagos Archipelago**

2 History:

o Chagos Archipelago was administered as the **British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)** from **1965**

o In **May 2025**, the **UK and Mauritius** signed an agreement:

§ Mauritius recognized as **sovereign** over the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia

§ **UK retains a 99-year lease** on Diego Garcia

3 Military Significance:

o Hosts a **joint UK-US military base**

o Key strategic location for **Indian Ocean security, maritime surveillance, and force projection**

Strategic Importance

1 Central position in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**

2 Supports **US and UK naval and air operations**

3 Critical for monitoring **sea lanes and regional security**

