



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

Modi calls on Mauritian President, discusses ties

Published On: 12-03-2025

Context

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be bestowed with the **topmost honour of Mauritius**, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam announced on Tuesday.

Mr. Modi is on a two-day state visit to the country. He will also be the chief guest at the National Day celebrations in Mauritius on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, **Mr. Modi is the first Indian to receive the honour**. It is the 21st international honour bestowed upon Mr. Modi by a foreign country.

He also gifted **Sangam water from Maha Kumbh** in a brass and copper pot, and **Makhana** to Mr. Gokhool.

The Prime Minister presented a **Banarasi silk sari from Varanasi** in an intricately inlaid **Sadeli box from Gujarat** to the First Lady.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifting water from Maha Kumbh to Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool on Tuesday. ANI

India – Mauritius Relations

Historical and Cultural Connections:

Mauritius is a **former British and French colony** that gained independence from British rule in 1968.

Both countries share a historical connection dating back to the 19th century when **Indian indentured labourers were brought to the island under British rule.**

Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Mauritius (Oct 29 – Nov 15, 1901): Advocated **education, political empowerment, and ties with India.**

Today, nearly **70% of Mauritius's population traces its roots to India**, and this cultural affinity has remained a cornerstone of bilateral relations.

Institutions like the **Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the World Hindi Secretariat** further nurture these cultural connections.

India's cultural influence is evident in Mauritius's language, cuisine, festivals, and traditions.

Political and Diplomatic Engagement:

Diplomatic relation was established in 1948.

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Mauritius has consistently **supported India's position in international forums**, including at the United Nations (UN) and the Commonwealth.

India, in return, has backed Mauritius's territorial claim over the Chagos Archipelago, a matter of dispute with the United Kingdom.

Economic and Trade Relations:

Trade: It has **grown in the last 18 years**, from USD 206.76 million in 2005-06 to USD 851.13 million in 2023-24.

Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA): The first such agreement between India and an African nation, **granting preferential market access**.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): **Mauritius was the second largest source of FDI into India for FY 2023-24, after Singapore.**

India is developing infrastructure on the Agalega Islands, improving air and naval connectivity

Mauritius is a member of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, an initiative led by India to promote solar energy adoption.

