

- Geopolitics is the study of the effects of Earth's geography (human and physical) on politics and international relations.
- geopolitics is the planning of the security policy of a country in terms of its geographical factors
- Geopolitics is a method of studying foreign policy to understand, explain and predict international political behavior through geographical variables. These include area studies, climate, topography, demography, natural resources
- Oceanography/ Oceanology: is the study of the physical and biological aspects of the Ocean. Since (about 71 % of Earth surface) of the earth is covered by water, called BLUE PLANET/WATERY PLANET.
- They contain 97.2 percent of the world's total water. Saltwater accounts for 97.5% of this amount. Fresh water accounts for only 2.5%.

#### Water on the Earth's surface

Reservoir	Volume (Millions Cubic km)	Percentage of the Total
Oceans	1370	97.25
Ice caps and Glaciers	29	2.05
Groundwater	9.5	0.68
Lakes	0.125	0.01
Soil Moisture	0.065	0.005
Atmosphere	0.013	0.0001
Streams & Rivers	0.0017	0.00001
Biosphere	0.0006	0.00004

The Oceans cover an area of about 361,059,000 sq. km. Nearly 61% of the area in Northern Hemisphere and 81 % in Southern Hemisphere are covered by water.

The overall distributional arrangement of the land and water on the globe is antipodal with the Arctic Ocean around the North Pole and the antarctica encircling the south pole.

Average depth 3800-4000m

#### Importance of Ocean in today's Geopolitics:

1. Oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustainable development
2. Oceans contribute to poverty eradication by providing opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and decent work.
3. Over 3 billion people depend on marine and coastal resources as a means of support. In addition, oceans play a crucial role in the achievement of global food security, as well as human health and well-being
4. They are the **primary regulator of the global climate**, function as an **important sink for greenhouse gases**, serve as the **host for huge reservoirs of biodiversity** and play a **major role in producing the oxygen** we breathe.

5. Oceans, seas and marine resources are increasingly threatened by human activities, including increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, climate change, marine pollution, unsustainable extraction of marine resources, and physical alterations and destruction of marine and coastal habitats.

6. the world's oceans are facing major simultaneous pressures, affecting them in such a way that the limits of their carrying capacity are being or have been reached, and that delays in implementing solutions to the identified problems threatening to degrade the world's oceans will incur, unnecessarily, greater environmental, social and economic costs.

7. The international community increasingly recognizes that developing an ocean-based economy—a 'blue' economy for current and future generations—requires the conservation of oceans and seas and their resources, and that they be managed and used in a sustainable manner, inclusive of all sectors and grounded in cooperation and coordinated efforts.

### Major Straits of the world:

A strait is a thin channel of a waterway that connects two large water bodies. The following are the main characteristics of a strait:

- Formed by natural processes
- Narrower than the seas it connects
- Navigable

### Interesting Facts about Straits of World:

**Longest strait** of world – Strait of Malacca which separates Malay peninsula from Sumatra island of Indonesia. It is 800 Km long.

1. **Widest strait** of world – Denmark strait (or Greenland strait) which separates Greenland from Iceland. It is 290 km wide at the narrowest point.
2. **Narrowest strait** of world – Bosphorus strait, at the narrowest point the width is 800 m.
3. **Shallowest strait** of world – Sunda strait, at the eastern part the depth decreases to about 20 mt making it very difficult for navigation.
4. Strait that separates Asia from America – Bering strait.
5. Strait that separates Australia from Tasmania – Bass strait
6. Strait that separates Europe from Africa – Gibraltar strait





**Strait of Hormuz** important waterways or chokepoints. It is the strategic link that connects the oil fields of Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. It is the only waterway which gives an outlet to the largest oil producing states of the Persian Gulf to an open ocean. On an average day, the Strait of Hormuz carries 3,000 vessels that include oil tankers plus fishing boats.

2. **Bab-el-Mandeb** is the third most busiest and important waterway after - Strait of Hormuz and Strait of Malacca. The strait of Bab-el-Mandeb connects the Indian Ocean with the **Red Sea by**

**way of Gulf of Aden.** This strait carries most of the European crude oil imports as it allows the tankers to carry oil from the Persian Gulf through the Suez Canal and then from a pipeline to Europe and United States of America.



Map 1: Geographic Location of Malacca Strait





**Strait of Malacca, apprx 800 km** is a strait that lies between Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. It connects the Indian Ocean with the **South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean**, this strait serves as the shortest route between the Persian Gulf and its markets in Asia. It remains one of the world's most important routes because of the fact that it allows almost 50,000 vessels to move through the passage every year

Strait	Contiguous Landmass	Joining Seas/Water Bodies
<b>Hormuz Strait</b>	Iran and Oman	The Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf
<b>Bab-el-Mandeb</b>	Djibouti, Yemen, and Eritrea of the Somali Peninsula	The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea
<b>Ten Degree Channel</b>	Car Nicobar Islands and Little Andaman	The Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal
<b>Sunda Strait</b>	Java island of Indonesia with its Sumatra island.	The Java Sea and the Indian Ocean
<b>Florida Strait</b>	Cuba and the USA	Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean
<b>Bering Strait</b>	Asia from America	The Arctic Ocean and East Pacific ocean
<b>Strait of Gibraltar</b>	Spain and Morocco	The Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea
<b>Korea Strait</b>	Japan and South Korea	The East China Sea and the Sea of Japan
<b>Strait of Malacca</b>	Malaysia and Sumatra	The Pacific Ocean to the east with the Indian Ocean to the west
<b>Bonifacio Strait</b>	Corsica island of France and Sardinia islands of Italy	The Tyrrhenian Sea and the Mediterranean Sea
<b>Palk Strait</b>	India and Sri Lanka	The Bay of Bengal in the northeast with the Palk Bay/Arabian Sea in the southwest
<b>Bosphorus Strait</b>	Divides Europe from Asia	The Black Sea to Sea of Marmara

### Genesis of India's Maritime Strategy

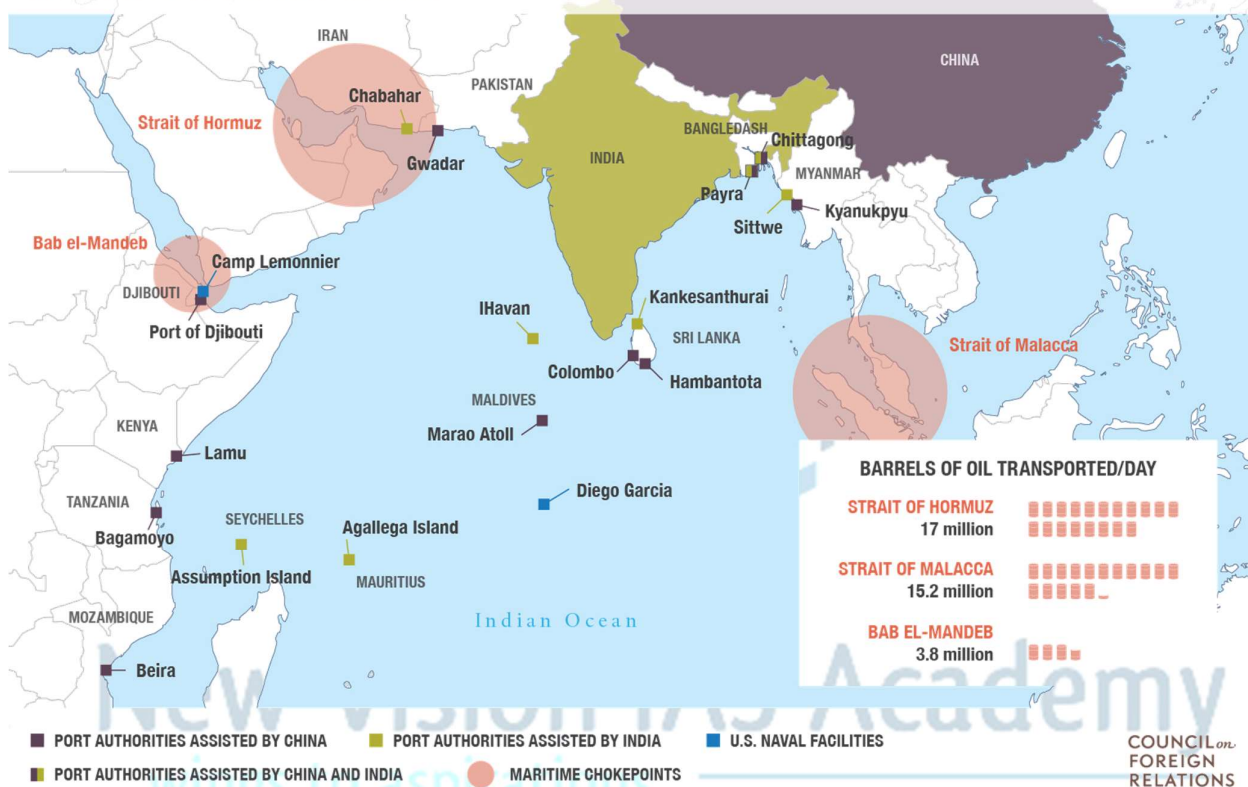
- The notion of maritime security confined to political security of a nation and security of its trade, investment and availability of resources, which are the basis of economic growth and prosperity.
- India's maritime strategy is largely centered around the Indian Ocean Region and its littoral states, which **contain a third of world's population, 25 percent of global land mass, and about 40 percent of world's oil and gas resources.**

India's maritime strategy is an integral part of India's changing foreign policy, India introduced far-reaching changes in her economic and foreign policies to adjust with the changing circumstances. India put in place a liberalized economic regime to facilitate greater external trade and investment in tune with the global economic developments.

### Challenges facing maritime security in the Indian Ocean region:

- Traditional threats include the military presence of belligerent powers and the consequent strategic rivalry
- terrorism, piracy, and illegal smuggling
- non-traditional threats include the challenges of climate change, such as increasing natural disasters and loss of traditional livelihoods
- A close partnership between these island nations and larger littoral countries thus becomes a practical necessity and plays a critical role in maintaining stability in the region.

## INDIAN OCEAN PORT DEVELOPMENT



## The Importance of Indian Ocean for India , Economic and Strategic importance.

**Introduction:** With global power dynamics shifting from West to East, regional powers, namely China and India, have shifted focus to an ocean-based approach in determining geostrategies and foreign relations ( Rimland )

two major reasons: of increasing significance IOR

1. their location, which makes them vital for establishing a regional naval presence,
2. their proximity to sea lines of communications (SLOCs), which facilitates patrolling in the region during times of peace and conflict

The presence of these major powers in the form of naval establishments, trade, and infrastructure development aid to the smaller island nations, legitimizes their role as a security provider, thereby also allowing greater influence in the Indian Ocean region.

**Body :** Indian occupies a central and strategic location in the Indian Ocean area. Its national and economic interests are inseparably linked up with Indian Ocean. Hence to keep the Indian Ocean as a zone of Peace free from superpower rivalry and increasing cooperation among littoral countries in the region has always been India's foreign Policy's

a privileged location at the crossroads of global trade, connecting the major engines of the international economy in the Northern Atlantic and Asia-Pacific which means that he who controls the Indian Ocean controls the trade of major economies of the world.( Rimland + Heartland)

### Features of IOR

Indian Ocean region connects 3 continents (Africa, Asia and Australia) and 2 Oceans (Atlantic and Pacific) with each other

- Indian Ocean covers almost **20 per cent** of the world's water
- Its total area is about 68.556 million square kilo meter and it is almost 5.5 times larger than the United States.
- **40 countries in its rim area and world 40 % pop, approx**
- Home to nearly 2.7 billion people,
- Apart from this Indian Ocean has an important role to play in keeping the moderate climate of the Southern India. Along with strategic importance. Indian Ocean is the only fishing ground for coastal fisherman is India. Due to huge marine recourses it spreads prosperity in coastal plains of India.
- **play imp for Indian Monsoon, for india climate and biodiversity.**
- The ocean total area includes Andaman Sea, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Flores Sea, Great Australian Bight, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, Java Sea, Mozambique Channel, Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Savu Sea, Strait of Malacca, Timor Sea, and other tributary water bodies
- . It also has several small island nations such as the Madagascar, The Seychelles, Reunion Island, Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka
- It has remained an important area throughout the realms of history due to its unique strategic location and bulk of natural resources. However, in recent periods more with the spread of globalization the significance of Indian Ocean both politically as well as economically has been rapidly increased.
- Although continental Shelf of Mumbai High, Gulf of Khambat and Krishna-Godavari basin are rich in petroleum and natural gas. In spite of this India's economic security demands that all the sea lanes leading to the Indian Ocean, particularly the Suez Canal and the Straits of Malacca be kept open at all the times
- Following are the vital global shipping routes and choke points of Indian Ocean discussed individually in detail: **1. Strait of Hormuz 2. Strait of Malacca 3. Bab-el-Mandeb 4. The Sunda and Lombok straits 5. Mozambique Channel 6. Ten Degree and Six Degree Channels**

1. **The OIL angle:** Majority of crude oil is imported from the gulf countries. The route of this oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz into the Arabian sea and subsequently into the Indian Ocean. So, it is safe to say that majority of oil is transferred to their destination through Indian Ocean region which makes it the flash point of geopolitics as these oil vessels if obstructed will obstruct the growth engine of the country which it belongs to. This is the sole reason of China trying to find an alternative route though China-Pakistan Economic corridor (CPEC) because 70% of its oil is transferred though Indian Ocean where Indian Navy has a strong presence.

2. **Large Drainage Basin:** The Ocean's vast drainage basin is important in its own right, home to some two billion people. This creates opportunities, especially given the high rates of economic growth around the Indian Ocean rim, including in India, Bangladesh, Southeast Asia, and Eastern and Southern Africa.

3. **Natural Resources:** Finally, the Indian Ocean is rich in natural resources. Forty per cent of the world's offshore oil production takes place in the Indian Ocean basin. This region is rich in Fishing and other Aquaculture activities. Mineral resources are equally important, with nodules containing nickel, cobalt, and iron, and massive sulfide deposits of manganese, copper, iron, zinc, silver, and gold present in sizable quantities on the sea bed. Indian Ocean coastal sediments are also important sources of titanium, zirconium, tin, zinc, and copper. Additionally, various rare earth elements are present, even if their extraction is not always commercially feasible.

PS: Indian Ocean is also home to many island countries like- Mauritius, Maldives, Seychelles, Madagascar etc. whose entire economy is dependent on the ecosystem of the waters near them.

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The **strait of Sunda and Lombok** are usually counted as the alternative routes in the event of closure of the Strait of Malacca. The Sunda strait lies between the two Indonesian Islands of Java and Sumatra while connecting the Java Sea with the Indian Ocean. However, the strait is very much shallow and narrow at certain points which make it less significant to be used for carrying heavy oil tankers. On the other hand there are other several problems for navigating in the strait such as the heavy tidal waves, the oil drilling platforms, volcanoes as well as the tiny islands.

**The Lombok strait** which is another alternative route to the Strait of Malacca lies between the two islands of Bali and Lombok. The strait is a safest route and welcomes supertankers because it is much wider, deeper and less congested than the Strait of Malacca. But, if this strait is used instead of Strait of Malacca then it shall add up 3.5 more days and approximately 16000 nautical miles which will definitely raise the transportation cost.

The **Mozambique Channel** Mozambique Channel is another waterway within the India Ocean that lies between the island nation of Madagascar and South east Africa. The waterway is almost 1600 km long while its width varies from 400-950 km. It is highly strategic waterway which carries almost 30 per cent of the world's oil trade and almost 100 per cent of the South Africa's maritime trade. Thus, one of the most serious concerns is the frequent attacks by Somali pirates in this part of the Indian Ocean. Although Mozambique borders this essential and second longest coastline after Somalia, it lacks resources to police the channel on its own. Therefore, the states like South Africa and France have a vital role in these regional waterways

**Ten Degree and Six Degree Channels** Ten Degree and Six Degree Channels are the two channels in Indian Ocean that are ten degrees and six degrees above from the equator respectively. Ten Degree Channel generally lies between the two Indian Islands of Andaman and Nicobar while the Six degree channel lies between the Indian Island of Nicobar and Indonesian Island of Sumatra. As these two channels are close to Indian territories in the Indian Ocean, their significance to India is of great deal. All these waterways and choke points or in other words the strategic Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) are important for the concerned states within Asia, Europe and Americas. For the South Asian states three themes that dominate Indian Ocean and its SLOCs revolve around China, India and Economics. Often these chokepoints are considered as the resources whose importance may vary according to the degree of its demand and use.

**( Mineral Resources) Conclusively it can be said that geo-political significance of IO would rise and strengthen because , its littoral states possess more than two thirds of the world's oil reserve, and roughly 35 per cent of the world's gas reserves, 60 per cent of uranium, 40 per cent of gold and 80 per cent of all diamond deposits. It has served as a catalyst for many nations. Japan imports almost 90 per cent of its oil from the IOR, Italy 85 per cent, Britain and Germany 60 per cent and France almost 50 per cent.** Indian Ocean is also important because of the industrial raw materials it possesses. These include lithium, beryllium, zirconium, thorium, coal, iron, copper, manganese, tin, bauxite, chromite, nickel, cobalt, vanadium and phosphates (Michel, Fuller & Dolan, 2012). Although it serves an immensely significant strategic location, no nation in the world had ever tried to virtually dominate it until the United Kingdom's policy of controlling most of Ocean's surrounding parts in the 1880s.

New Delhi's Indian Ocean policy, enshrined in "SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region," articulates India's vision for building a secured regional architecture, which includes "safeguarding mainland and islands, strengthening capacities of maritime neighbors and advancing peace and security" in the Indian Ocean Region.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are positioned close to the Strait of Malacca and are less than 90 nautical miles from Aceh in Indonesia. This enables India to closely observe military and economic activities in and around the Strait of Malacca and also overlook the maritime entry point of western Pacific countries in the

Indian Ocean. To its west, India enjoys rights over nearly 400,000 square kilometers of exclusive economic zone (EEZ) due to the Lakshadweep islands.

While Socotra is strategically located at the opening of Gulf of Aden, which connects the Suez Canal with Indian Ocean, the maritime zones of Madagascar, Mauritius, the Maldives, and Seychelles span over 1 million sq km, which allows them greater rights in ocean waters

Indian assistance will be provided for infrastructure development of Agalega Island in Mauritius that will inherently increase the defense capabilities of the island state and will also safeguard Indian interests in the region. 50 percent of the country's population being of Indian origin. Development assistance to Mauritius, also called as "Little India," as well as joint mechanisms to ensure a stable Indian Ocean region, thus, are mutually beneficial to both countries. Assumption Islands:in Seychelles.

### Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA),

- The IORA was formed in 7March 1997. Hq [Ebene, Mauritius](#)
- The idea for the IORA was formed by India and South Africa
- involving 23 members to work toward security, governance, promotion of blue economy, and cultural tourism.
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Comoros
- France for Réunion as overseas French territories
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mauritius
- Pakistan and China is not member.
- Mozambique
- Oman
- Seychelles
- Singapore
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

### Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) – Objectives

- Promoting balanced development and sustainable growth in the regions of the Member States.
- Considering areas that provide maximum opportunities for development through economic cooperation.
- Other objectives to help member countries achieve an enhanced flow of goods, services, investment, and technology include:
  - Promoting liberalisation
  - Removing impediments
  - Lowering barriers

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORfA) has identified six priority areas, namely:

1. maritime security,
2. trade and investment facilitation,
3. fisheries management,
4. disaster risk reduction,
5. academic and scientific cooperation and
6. tourism promotion and cultural exchanges.

In addition to these, two focus areas are also identified by IORA, namely Blue Economy and Women's Economic Empowerment

In March 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited three small but significant Indian Ocean island states — Seychelles, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka. During this tour, he unveiled India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean: Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).



**Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**

It is a maritime initiative which gives priority to Indian Ocean region for ensuring peace, stability and prosperity of India in Indian Ocean region.

*The goal is to seek*

- A climate of trust and transparency
- Respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries
- Sensitivity to each other's interests
- Peaceful resolution of maritime issues
- Increase in maritime cooperation

**It is in line with the principles of Indian Ocean Rim Association.**

**Blue Economy: Dr. Gunter Pauli Book**

The Blue Economy: 10 years – 100 innovations – 100 million jobs is a book by Gunter Pauli.

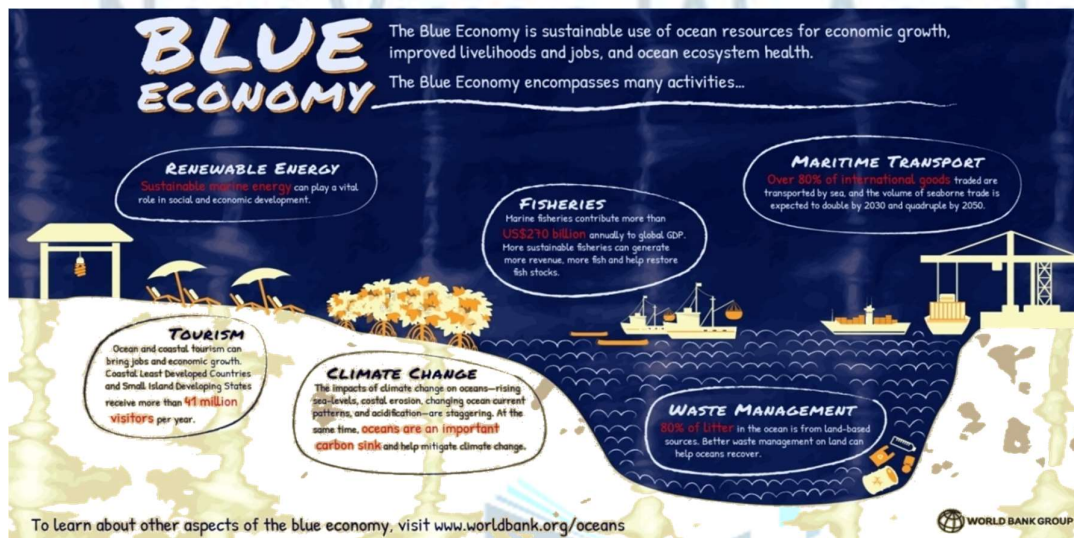
BE is envisaged as the integration of ocean Economy development with the principles of Environmental sustainability and innovative dynamic business models

**Blue Economy:**

**Que 1: Discuss prospects of Blue economy in IOR**

**Que 2: Discuss the emerging perspective of Blue Economy.**

**Que 3: Blue economy shows great optimism towards achievement of SDG, Discuss**



**Blue Economy has emerged as a commonly acceptable development paradigm which has effectively blended Economic growth with Sustainable Development.**

This Concept has been accepted and promoted by both developing and developed countries as new dev Model for littoral countries, LDC, Small island developing States.

This developmental Model Started with basic premise that Ocean and Ocean related activities are important for economic and social development of Coastal nations .

**Activities Related to Blue Economy**

- Maritime Fishing, Shipping, Aquaculture, Maritime Trade
- Offshore, Deep Sea Mining, Ocean Energy
- activities spread into core sectors include Agri/Minerals/ Construction, Energy, Manufacturing Services etc.

So Blue Economy sectors are comprehensive nature combine both good and services activities generated within each sectors.

**Importance of Blue Economy:**

- **Food Security**
- **demand for protein**
- **rising coastal tourism**
- **Increase of seaborne trade**
- **demand for alternative source of energy**
- **managing coastal urbanisation**
- **improving ocean health**
- **provide marine governance and new ocean technologies**

#### **Conclusion:**

BE is a new source of economic goal and developmental objectives and stresses upon optimum and efficient globalisation marine resources without comprising the sustainability aspects like environment and ecological sustainability and in this way BE shows great optimism towards achievement of sustainable development goals.

#### **Blue Economy: a sustainable ocean economic development**

- the Blue Economy paradigm is a natural next step in the overall conceptualization and realization of sustainable human development. It mirrors our long-accepted definition of sustainable development as one that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- two elements for the Blue Economy. The first is the necessity of protecting – and restoring where needed – the existing ocean resource base that already supplies food and livelihoods to billions of people.
- The other side of the Blue Economy is where opportunities may exist for enhanced or new sustainable economic activity derived from the ocean. Progress and prospects for ocean-related energy, such as offshore wind and tidal energy, appear promising
- Jakarta Declaration 2017 on Blue Economy of the Indian Ocean Rim Association on the Blue Economy in the Indian Ocean Region
- Barbados is an island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, in the Caribbean region of North America
- The United Nations Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, popularly referred to as the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA), is a policy document that both: comprehensively addresses the economic, environmental, and social developmental vulnerabilities facing islands; and outlines a strategy that seeks to mitigate those vulnerabilities. It remains the only internationally approved programme specific to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which has been collectively and unanimously endorsed by SIDS.
- Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway)

#### **SAMOA Pathway is concerned with which of the following?**

- Promotion of development of environmental friendly sports facilities
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Small Island Developing States
- Sustainable Pastoralism

Ans: C

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#### **Mausam: Maritime Routes and Cultural Landscapes**

**Project ‘Mausam’** is a Ministry of Culture project to be implemented by **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)**, New Delhi as the nodal coordinating agency with support of **Archeological Survey of India and National Museum** as associate bodies.

## Project Launch

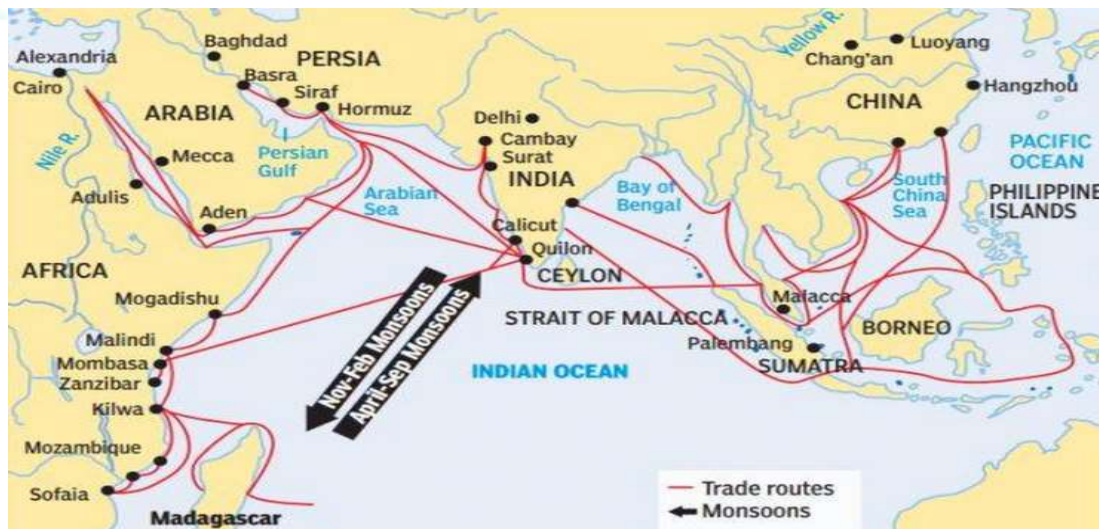
The unique idea of this project to showcase a **Transnational Mixed Route** (including Natural and Cultural Heritage) on the World Heritage List has been well appreciated during the Project Launch by India at the **38th World Heritage Session at Doha, Qatar** on 20th June, 2014. The Director General UNESCO appreciated India's initiative in launching this unique project and ambassadors of several countries including China, UAE, Qatar, Iran, Myanmar, and Vietnam expressed great interest in this multifaceted cultural project.

## About the Project

Focusing on monsoon patterns, cultural routes and maritime landscapes, Project 'Mausam' is examining key processes and phenomena that link different parts of the Indian Ocean littoral as well as those that connect the coastal centres to their hinterlands. Broadly, Project 'Mausam' aims to understand how the knowledge and manipulation of the monsoon winds has shaped interactions across the Indian Ocean and led to the spread of shared knowledge systems, traditions, technologies and ideas along maritime routes. These exchanges were facilitated by different coastal centres and their surrounding environs in their respective chronological and spatial contexts, and simultaneously had an effect on them.

The endeavour of Project 'Mausam' is to position itself at two levels:

- At the macro level, it aims to re-connect and re-establish communications between countries of the Indian Ocean world, which would lead to an enhanced understanding of cultural values and concerns;
- At the micro level, the focus is on understanding national cultures in their regional maritime milieu.
- The Project scope falls under several themes to be explored through various UNESCO Culture Conventions to which the Government of India is a signatory with the Ministry of Culture and ASI as nodal agency.



- **Goals: Reviving lost linkages with nations** Countries along the Indian Ocean have shared links with each other for millennia. Project Mausam seeks to transcend present-day national and ethnic boundaries, documenting and celebrating the common cultural values and economic ties of the Indian Ocean world. This will not only strengthen current ties between countries across the Ocean, but also set a precedent for new bridges of co-operation and continued relations and interactions. Creating links to existing World Heritage sites Providing a platform to connect discrete Cultural and Natural World Heritage sites across the Indian Ocean world by providing a cross-cultural, transnational narrative. Redefining Cultural Landscapes Identifying gaps in listing of sites and filling in lacuna by providing a holistic, multi-layered perspective and drawing relationships between the existing categories of Natural and Cultural Heritage. This would redefine the concept of Cultural Landscapes, and allow for a fresh, multi-faceted approach to understanding past and present-day relationships. Achieving transnational nomination under World Heritage Advocating for Indian Ocean Maritime Routes to attain transnational nomination under World Heritage, increasing scope for visibility, research, sustainable tourism, heritage development and promoting other Cultural Conventions across the Indian Ocean region.



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**Benefits 39 Indian Ocean countries identified under Project Mausam:**

- Project 'Mausam' is an project which has benefits in multiple dimensions for the member states, it also restarts the lost ties and routes between Indian ocean states.
- This project will help in forging new avenues of cooperation and exchange of knowledge.
- The project will enable a significant step in recording and celebrating this important phase of world history from the African, Arab and Asian world perspectives.
- The project purpose is to develop the Indian Ocean world which will expand between East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka to the Southeast Asian archipelago. Some believe it as an effective counter to the Chinese maritime silk route.

### Anxiety over Land Border created a path For Maritime Domain. Ocean Diplomacy

- ❖ The core of such a strategy is about building India's own naval strength and expanding its maritime partnerships with other countries through bilateral, trilateral and multilateral means.
- ❖ India's ocean diplomacy needs a strong domestic foundation, built on more rapid naval modernisation, the expansion of civilian maritime infrastructure, development of island territories, capacity to undertake projects in other countries across the littoral and more vigorous naval assistance to other countries.
- ❖ There is a perceived threat from China, not just on the LAC and international border, but also in the Indian **Ocean**. This has been confirmed by the Defence Ministry in a report.
- ❖ The Red Dragon focus Myanmar and Pakistan to get in focus IOR.
- ❖ China is extending its line of access towards IO through Myanmar and Pakistan. Its Footprint In India immediate neighbourhood has been increasing as a result of its proactive diplomacy.
- ❖ steady presence of China's navy in IOR which initially started as anti piracy effort but more recently Chinese nuclear submarine presence in IOR, increase anxiety too in IOR
- ❖ China military expenditure rising year by year.
- ❖ India's consolidate its position in IOR by focusing on Islands countries : Economic Engagement.

#### **New Focus of Struggle Between China and India**

**Islands** become important if they provide support and sustenance to extra regional powers. Hormuz and Malacca strait are two chokepoints - imp for oil economy for china.

Cause of Worry: China Nuclear Submarine in IOR.

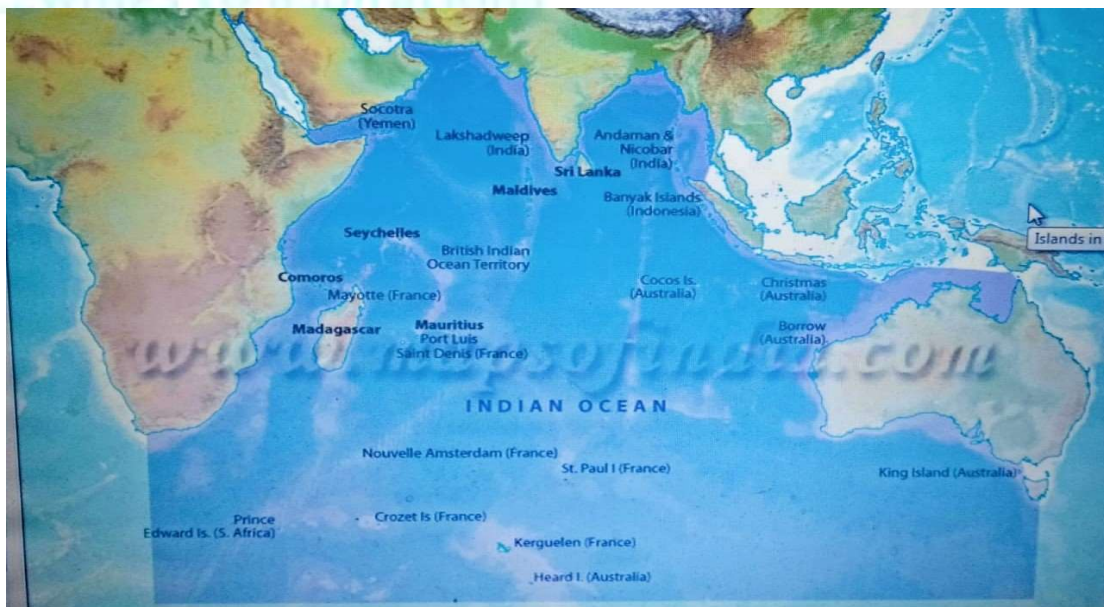
two reason for China expansion:

1. this Small islands are answers for China Malacca Dilemma, and Strengthening its energy security and want to reduce dependence on Malacca Strait. (China 80 % Oil imported through this area)
2. Increasing Presence in IOR and strengthening Beijing role as key actor in emerging security architecture in the Indo Pacific Region
3. String of Pearls in 2005 by which they are planning to some ports which has dual use facilities, civil and Naval/military component. and projecting as resident Power in IOR.

**What is "The String of Pearls" Project?**

“The String of Pearls” is a geopolitical theory related to potential Chinese intentions in the Indian Ocean region. It refers to the network of Chinese military and commercial facilities and relationships along its sea lines of communication, which extend from the Chinese mainland to Sudan Port.

Note : The term (String of Pearls) has never been used by official Chinese government sources, but it is often used in Indian media.



- ❖ India is keen to shore up its profile in Small Island countries. On the political front, India needs much better political relations with its maritime neighbours like Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius, which are being wooed by China with great vigour today.
- ❖ India needs to deepen its military security cooperation in the Indian Ocean with the US and France and initiate a maritime security dialogue with China
- ❖ India’s approach to its neighbourhood through “Neighbourhood First” foreign policy doctrine exerts more resources and influences for greater priority on small island nations such as the Maldives and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ India’s strategic vision for ‘Sagar Doctrine’ (Security And Growth for All in the Region) provides more reasons for Eastern Indian Ocean island nations to deepen commercial and security linkages

with India.

- ❖ India can expand its maritime multilateralism through such initiatives as the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium.

**Note:**

**Indian Ocean Naval Symposium**

- initiated and launched by India in February 2008
- is a security construct for the Indian Ocean region
- It is a voluntary initiative among the navies and maritime security agencies of the member nations The 24 member nations of the IONS are grouped into four sub-regions
- eight states with observer status China, Germany Italy Japan Madagascar Netherlands Russia Spain.

**Members**

Sub region	Member	Accession
South Asian	<u>Bangladesh</u>	
	<u>India</u>	February 2008
	<u>Maldives</u>	
	<u>Pakistan</u>	March 2014
	<u>Seychelles</u>	
	<u>Sri Lanka</u>	
West Asian	<u>Iran</u>	
	<u>Oman</u>	
	<u>Saudi Arabia</u>	
	<u>UAE</u>	
East African	<u>France</u>	
	<u>Kenya</u>	
	<u>Mauritius</u>	
	<u>Mozambique</u>	
	<u>South Africa</u>	
	<u>Tanzania</u>	
	<u>Eritrea</u>	
South East Asian and Australian	<u>Australia</u>	
	<u>Indonesia</u>	
	<u>Malaysia</u>	
	<u>Myanmar</u>	
	<u>Singapore</u>	
	<u>Thailand</u>	
	<u>Timor Leste</u>	

Naval analyst Zhang Ming recently proclaimed that the Islands of India's Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago could be used as a 'metal chain' to block Chinese access to the Straits of Malacca. China has gone further to claim that India is building an 'Iron Curtain' in the Indian Ocean, which is debatable.

India is presently exchanging dialogues with Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh to identify the areas of investments in these countries. In Myanmar, it is developing the Sittwe port. The *Tripartite Technical Expert Group (TTEG)* consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore that administers the Malacca Straits has recently received substantial monetary aid from India. By the virtue of which the group has involved India's naval expertise to survey shipwrecks in the area that has left China fuming for obvious reasons.

Militarily too India has expanded its presence in the IOR by setting up listening posts in Seychelles, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Mauritius. Recently India has also gained berthing rights in Oman and Vietnam,



Que

Horn of Africa.

sabang port indonesia

reunion islands

**Indian Ocean is lifeline of International Trade and Transport.**

**IO rim countries?**

**each country is different in terms of their capacity, development, eco dev, and economies, society and culture, population, mineral content EEZ, etc.**

**India set up**

Necklace of Diamonds Strategy

In a counter-action to China's 'String of Pearls' strategy, India has started working on the 'Necklace of Diamonds' strategy. This strategy aims at garlanding China or in simple words, the counter encirclement strategy. India is expanding its naval bases and is also improving relations with strategically placed countries to counter China's strategies.

**India also signed a Port Development Project with Indonesia and agreed to develop civilian and military facilities in the Sabang Port, Indonesia.**

What are the starting and endpoints of 'Double Fish Hook' strategy?

The First Hook Starting From Andaman And Nicobar Islands, Extending To Sabang Port (Indonesia), Coco Islands (Australia), And Ending At Diego Garcia, The US Military Base In Chagos Islands. The Second Hook Starts From Duqm Port (Oman), Extending To French Territories (Reunion Islands), Mauritius And If A Connecting Line Is Drawn, The Fish Hook Will Again End At Diego Garcia.

The above-mentioned agreements act as India's 'Double Fish Hook' strategy with **the first hook starting from Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, extending to **Sabang port (Indonesia), Coco Islands (Australia)**, and ending at **Diego Garcia**, the US military base in Chagos Islands.



**The second hook starts from Duqm Port (Oman), extending to French territories (Reunion Islands), Mauritius and if a connecting line is drawn, the fish hook will again end at Diego Garcia.**



Image: Necklace of Diamonds Strategy

Thus, India's **'Double Fish Hook' strategy would depend much on the development of facilities at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.** The Chief of Defence staff has already stated that it will be a joint command of the three services and also it will be a rendezvous point for the forces of the Quad nations.

Some of the important actions that are undertaken by India to counter the Chinese Navy and its influence in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region are listed below.

### Coastal Radar Networks

1. Bangladesh – India has recently signed an agreement with Bangladesh to install 20 Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems along the coastline of Bangladesh. This will help India to monitor Chinese Warships which have been frequently visiting the Bay of Bengal.
2. The Maldives – India will install 10 Coastal Radar Systems in the Maldives. These radars will relay live images, videos, location information of Ships moving in the Indian Ocean Region. The project is implemented by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). As of 2019, 7 are completed, there were small hiccups in the project due to the Government of Maldives. Once a Government that is favourable to India came to power, the project is moving with full speed.
3. Sri Lanka – 6 Coastal Surveillance Radars (CSR) have been installed in Sri Lanka. As per some reports, India is planning to set up at least 10 more CSR in Sri Lanka. There are constant ongoing efforts by the Governments of India and Sri Lanka to solidify India- Sri Lanka ties.
4. Mauritius – 8 Coastal Surveillance Radars have been installed in Mauritius.
5. Seychelles – 1 Coastal Surveillance Radar (CSR) have been Installed in Seychelles. The 1st Coastal Surveillance Radar in Seychelles became operational in 2015. It was commissioned on the main island of Mahe. More Coastal Surveillance Radar will be installed in the small islands of Astove, Assumption and Farquhar. There are plans for 32 more Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems in Seychelles.
6. India – BEL had set up 46 Coastal Radar stations and 16 command and control systems in 2015 in India. In the next phase, 38 more Coastal Radar stations and 5 command and control systems will be set up.

India also set up the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) that will share real-time maritime information with friendly nations, which will be based out of Gurgaon. All the Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems are connected to provide a comprehensive real-time picture to Indian Defence Establishment regarding Chinese presence in the region.

### Building & Accessing Ports

1. Iran – India is involved in building Chabahar Port in Iran. It is strategically located close to Chinese Gwadar Port in Pakistan and is close to Strait of Hormuz.
2. Indonesia – India is building a deep-sea Port in Indonesia, a place named Sabang. It has strategic significance as it is close to the Strait of Malacca and India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
3. Myanmar – India built a deep water port in Sittwe in 2016.
4. Bangladesh – India would help Bangladesh modernize Sea Port in Mongla. India can also use the Chittagong port in Bangladesh.
5. Oman – India has signed agreements to access strategically located Naval facilities of Oman. This facility is close to the Strait of Hormuz. More than 30% of oil exports pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

6. Singapore – India has signed an agreement to access Changi Naval Base of Singapore, which is strategically located close to the Strait of Malacca.

Building ports in collaboration and signing bilateral agreements with countries is usually to improve trade ties with the respective countries and open different trade routes for India. It helps India to counter the Chinese influence in these countries.

A number of these counter-terrorism and anti-piracy efforts have been conducted in coordination with American forces, though Indian officials have traditionally restricted joint military exercises to common interest initiatives, often those under United Nations sanctions.

#### Impact on India:

1. **Strategic impact:** Strings of pearls will lead to China surrounding India. China, which doesn't have any openings in Indian Ocean, will be able to dominate it. Strategic clout of India which it enjoys today in Indian Ocean will be reduced. Countries which today consider India as a partner in response to China may end up in the lap of China.
2. **Economic impact:** Indian resources will be diverted towards defence and security. Thus, the economy will not reach its potential hampering economic growth. This may further lead to instability in India and the whole East and South East region.
3. **Maritime security:** China's presence will pose a threat to India's security through water. China is developing more firepower with more submarines, destroyers, vessels and ships. This endangers Indian maritime security.

#### Steps taken by India to counter string of pearls:

1. **Act East Policy:** India's Act East Policy, which was launched as an effort to integrate India's economy with South East Asian nations. It has been used to make important military and strategic agreements with Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore helping India to counter China.
2. **Military relationships:** India has developed strategic naval relationship with Myanmar to upgrade and train its navy which gives India an increased footprint in the area. India has also made strategic agreements for military cooperation in the region with Japan, Australia and the USA. The four countries carry out joint military exercises in the IOR region and are known as the 'Quad'.
3. **Chabahar port:** India is developing Chabahar port in Iran, opening a new land sea route to Central Asian countries by-passing Pakistan. Chabahar gives India a strategic position since it overlooks the Gulf of Oman, a very strategic oil supply route.
4. **Strategic pact with France:** India and France recently signed a strategic pact opening up their naval bases to each other's warships across the Indian Ocean. It grants the Indian navy access to strategically important French ports including one in Djibouti, home to China's single overseas military base.
5. **Surrounding China in the north:** India has invested a lot diplomatically in countries like Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, all surrounding China.
6. **Naval bases and airfields:** India finalised an agreement for a new base in the Seychelles and negotiated military access to naval facilities at Oman's port and airfields. A pact allowing deployments from each other's naval facilities was signed with Singapore in 2017. With expanded bases on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the end of the Malacca Strait, India is raising the stakes in the fight over the waters of Southeast Asia.