

INDIA'S DEFENCE AID AND FDI RELATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

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Abstract

This paper proposes to throw lights in India's mutual tie-up with Mauritius in FDI and defence relation. India looks Mauritius as 'Little India' concept, the largest FDI partner and friendly nation over a long period. Mauritius has seen India as 'Big Brother' idea for up-gradation resources such as science and technology; defence security, military exercise and training; and radar system for sea observation. For the development of Mauritius, India supplies defence equipment such as CGV, Do-228 aircraft, Advance Light Helicopter Dhruv, Offshore Patrol Vessel to Mauritius Police Forces to deter illegal piracy; trafficking in persons, drugs, weapons and illegal fishing; and disaster relief. Also, Mauritius wants India support and open high pitch voice to withdraw colonial administration an island Diego Garcia by UK.

Keywords: CGS Guardian, Barracuda and Vivek; Little India; Big Brother; SAGAR; Diego Garcia; BIOT.

INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Mauritius comprises a group of an island country in the Indian Ocean around 2000 km off the southeast coast of the African mainland; around 900 kilometres east of Madagascar; about 1796 km from Kanniyakumari the southern tip of the mainland of India. 'The first settlement of Mauritius, under Dutch rule counts between 1638 to 1710 A.D. Beginning in 1715 A.D., the French extended their rule over Mauritius, which they named Isle de France'.¹ In 1810 A.D., the British successfully conquered the island of 'Isle de France' from India and ending almost a century of French rule then the island remanded as Mauritius. Action is taken for abolition of slavery by the British Empire in 1834 A.D.,² and from 1834 to 1912 it is estimated that around 4,53,063 Indian indentured labourers began to bring to Mauritius on sugarcane plantations.³ Subsequently, Indian descendants constituted the majority of the island's population. When Mahatma Gandhi en-route to India from South Africa made a brief stopover (29th October to 15th November 1901) in Mauritius and he acquainted the local condition.⁴ By the suggestion of Gandhiji, Barrister Manilal a Doctor, who came to Mauritius in 1907 A.D. and helped the Mauritian Indian community to organise themselves and laid the foundation for their struggle for political and social rights. Both nation diplomatic began with 1948 A.D.⁵ After a long battle, Mauritius got independence from the British on 12th March 1968. Around 70 per cent of the populace of Mauritius is on Indian origin.⁶ As friendly nation, the Republic of Mauritius enjoys close political, economic, cultural and defence relations with India. India signed a defence agreement in 1974, Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) in 1982⁷ and implemented Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) liberalisation in with Mauritius. Regarding emerging 'India's Defence Aid and FDI Relation with the Republic of Mauritius', we discuss in succeeding paragraphs.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The key objectives of the study concentrated: -

- (a) To find of Mauritius FDI inflow into India.

- (b) To examine Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) mutual visits; personnel exchanges; High-Level Maritime interactions and cooperation etc.
- (c) To validate India's Supply of Defence Equipment into Mauritius.
- (d) To find Maritime Security and Exercises with Mauritius.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The understudy paper focused both systematic and analytical. By the approach of research methodology, essential evidence collected. For this research, mostly sources like Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs Annual Reports and Reserve Bank of India Annual Report online information were incorporated. Also, secondary sources like published research papers and books have included. The collected data tabulated and utilised persuasively for the study. Similarly, the scrutiny of literature provides in solid base with India's Defence Aid and FDI Relation with the Republic of Mauritius.

FDI FROM MAURITIUS

India has entered an arrangement of additional of FDI inflow liberalisation during the year 1991-92. Following years so many countries joined FDI into India.⁸ Mauritius is a single major country invested in FDI into India. Mauritius has seen in the direction of India for up-gradation collaboration in the ground of Science & Technology, Information & Communication Technology, and defence & security cooperation's and supply & setting up of Radar System for Seaside Observation.⁹ According to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion references, India has received 43.14 billion US\$ FDI from Mauritius during the period 2000 to August 2009¹⁰ and it increased 140.83 billion US\$ in 2019-2020.¹¹ India's FDI inflow from Mauritius and rest of world details from April 2000 to December 2019¹² given as per table 1.

Table No.1: India's FDI Inflows from Mauritius

Ser No	Year	Mauritius Cumulative FDI Equity into India	India's Cumulative FDI Equity inflow	Ser No	Year	Mauritius Cumulative FDI Equity inflow	Worldwide India's Cumulative FDI Equity inflow
		(In US\$ Million)				(In US\$ Million)	
1	2000-01	843	4,029	11	2010-11	5,616	34,847
2	2001-02	1,863	6,130	12	2011-12	8,142	46,556
3	2002-03	534	5,035	13	2012-13	8,059	34,298
4	2003-04	381	4,322	14	2013-14	3,695	36,046
5	2004-05	820	6,051	15	2014-15	5,878	45,148
6	2005-06	1,363	8,961	16	2015-16	7,452	55,559
7	2006-07	3,780	22,826	17	2016-17	13,383	60,220
8	2007-08	9,518	34,843	18	2017-18	15,941	60,974
9	2008-09	10,165	41,873	19	2018-19(P)	8,084	62,001
10	2009-10	9,801	37,745	20	2019-20(P)	7,456	51,429
FDI EQUITY INFLOWS FROM APRIL 2000 TO DEC 2019						1,41,925	4,56,911

According to the table No.1, the FDI inflow from Mauritius to India shows healthy growth for the year 2002-03 to 2008-09; 2011-12 to 2012-13; 2014-15 to 2017-18. But at the same time, sudden

irregular falls seen for the year 2009-10 to 2010-11, 2013-14, 2018-19. However, as per last one-decade data analysis from 2011-10 to 2019-20; it has shown that years 2013-14 came a sudden fall amounting 3,695 million US\$ as compare to the year 2012-13 amounting 8,059 million US\$. Subsequent India's FDI inflow from Mauritius was an increase from 2014-15 to 2017-18. Finally, Mauritius FDI inflow reached an all-time high for the period of 2017-18 amounting 15,951 million US\$. Due to the amendment policy of the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention in 2017, FDI inflow from Mauritius also decreased the value of 8,084 million US\$; it shows nearly half as compared to 2017-18 investment. During the period from 2000-01 to 2019-20, India has received a total sum of 1,41,925 million US\$ cumulative FDI equality inflow from the Republic Mauritius, which is fall around 31.1 per cent of the cumulative FDI equality inflow of India.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

During the modern period, international relations generally maintained by diplomatic ideologies. Each national have some requirement; they will depend on other nations to a fascinating destination. So every government has its diplomacy. As diplomacy plays a significant role in their political relations with other countries, we must know diplomacy. Defence cooperation has emerged as an essential element of India's diplomacy and has served to strengthen bands with friendly foreign countries as well as advance our foreign policy objectives. Defence cooperation covers a wide range of activities and initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Defence, Armed Forces and Coast Guard for enhancing mutual trust and understanding with counterparts in foreign countries. These initiatives include high-level visits, training and capability building exchanges, military-to-military cooperation, joint exercises, defence industry collaboration as well as research and development tie-ups.¹³

ORIGIN OF DEFENCE COLLABORATION WITH MAURITIUS

India always wants a friendly relation with her neighbours and also around the world. She has a vast maritime broader, Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) plays an important role and joint operations more than 200 national and friendly nations. 'To boost up communal understanding, India has frequently conducted mutual Port Visits; Personnel Exchanges; Staff Talks and Interactions; Exercises with Foreign Navies; Maritime Assistance; Operational Interactions and High-Level Maritime Strategic Interactions, cooperation, and inter-operability'¹⁴ with friendly countries. India engaged a strategic interest and higher economic concentration in the India Ocean Region (IOR) with the littoral states of Maldives, Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Mauritius. India's vision for the Indian Ocean Region has uttered SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.¹⁵ An IOR, Mauritius has no military forces. But it's all air, sea and land security administration duties are performed by 'Mauritius National Police Force (MPF) which have around 12,500 active police forces under Home affairs division. The Commissioners and MPF in various grades are empowered effective security control of nation'.¹⁶ In 1974, Mauritius signed a defence agreement with India and provided Indian Navy leadership to the Mauritius Coast Guard and transferred naval vessels with equipment to Mauritius.¹⁷

INS SUPPLY TO MAURITIUS

In 1974, INS (Indian Naval Ship) Amar, an Abhay Class patrol vessel, was gifted by the Government of India to the Mauritius Government. The ship was commissioned by the as Mauritian Naval Ship (MNS) Amar on 3rd April 1974 and later re-commissioned into service as Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Amar on 24th July 1987. Mandovi class vessels were inducted on 24th July 1987 subsequently Coast Guard Vessels (CGV) Barracuda, CGV Marlin, CGV Polaris, CGV Castor and CGV Sirius

commissioned to Marine wing of Mauritius. In 1993, CGS Guardian, a Seaward Defence Boat (SDB) delivered by India. The ship has medium-range weaponry, navigation, communication sensors facilities including Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, anti-smuggling, search and rescue, anti-piracy patrol and outer island support. The Interceptor boat christened CGS Observer was transferred on free lease to the Government of Mauritius from the Government of India in 2001.¹⁸

INDIA AIR FORCE SHOW IN MAURITIUS

On 4th October 2004 in the presence of the Mauritius Prime Minister, other ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and over one lakh public, the Indian Air Force in collaboration with helicopters, aircraft from the Mauritius Coast Guard and the Mauritian Special Mobile Force aircraft took part in an Air Show over the Mon Choisy beach of Mauritius.¹⁹

REPAIR MAINTENANCE OF CGS GUARDIAN

When Mauritian Coast Guard Ship 'CGS Guardian' found repair. It was repaired in Mumbai dockyard and delivered back to Mauritius in April 2006 by the Indian Naval Ship, INS Suvarna, which towed the Mauritian vessel from Mumbai to Port Louis. Later, the Indian Coast Guard ship 'Sarang' paid a goodwill visit to Mauritius from 14th to 18th June 2006 and carried out combined training exercises with the Mauritius Coast Guard.²⁰

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY ASSISTANCE

In June 2007, Indian Army team undertook field visits to Mauritius, advise construction of small arms and Close Quarter Battlefield Range. The Indian Naval hydrographic ship Sarveshak took hydrographic surveys off Mauritius three sites. The Land-Based Oceanic Industry survey conducted during the period from 10th March to 12th April 2007 and the hydrographic charts and data handover to the Mauritian Government in September 2007. The Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Samar' goodwill visited Mauritius from 26th to 29th August 2007.²¹

NAVAL EXERCISE AND INDIAN NAVAL HIGHER COMMAND COURSE VISIT

INS Sharda visited Mauritius from 20th to 23rd April 2005, INS Delhi with INS Trishul also visited Mauritius from 21st to 24th June 2005.²² A team of 33 Naval Higher Command Course members visited Mauritius from 27th April to 1st May 2008. An Indian Naval Training Team conducted Marine Commando course and Ships Diver Refresher course in Mauritius for the Mauritian Coast Guard from 19th May to 6th June 2008. On the en-route participation in the India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime Exercise (IBSMAR), INS Mumbai and INS Karmuk visited Mauritius from 16th to 19th April 2008. Also, the 1st Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, INS Tir, INS Krishna and CGS Vivek visited Mauritius from 24th to 28th September 2008 and participated exercises with the Mauritian Coast Guard.²³ The prestigious International Fleet Review (IFR) was held at Visakhapatnam from 4th to 8th February 2016. In this event, more than 30 nations naval/coast guard fleets have participated. Mauritius represented by 'CGS Barracuda' for this event.²⁴ Western Fleet (WF) ships comprising IN ships Mumbai and Trikand were deployed for WF overseas deployment to Southern Indian Ocean Region countries of Seychelles, Mauritius, Reunion, Madagascar and Comoros from 15th April to 23rd May 2018. During the deployment, the ships, along with P8I aircraft, participated in Phase III of EX-VARUNA, at/off Reunion Island.²⁵

SPECIAL TRAINING TO MAURITIUS

Mauritius NCG and Special Mobile Force personnel take Ship Divers Qualifying course from 4th January to 27th February 2016 in Kochi; Shipwright Artificer Apprentice Qualifying course from

22nd February to 26th March 2016 in Vishakapatnam; and Engineer JCO/NCO Foreman Earthmoving Plant course from 18th January to 5th March 2016) in Pune.²⁶ Indian Navy has deputed as Mobile Training Teams (MTS) to Sri Lanka, Oman, Myanmar, Kenya, Vietnam, Mauritius, Bangladesh and Nigeria. This MTS conduct customised training courses overseas and effectively increase India's training footprint across the world. Indian Personnel were deputed for diving training to Mauritius from 25th April to 15th May 2018.²⁷

SUPPLY OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT

An India-Mauritius Inter-Governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 27th February 2009 for the supply of a Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) to Mauritius²⁸ and India distributed Mauritius the Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv on 3rd November 2009.²⁹ India also presented a Survey Motor Boat to the Government of Mauritius by the Chief of the Naval Staff on 6th February 2013 at Port Louis, Mauritius.³⁰ Mauritius Coast Guard (MCG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Barracuda, was constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata. It has delivered to Government of Mauritius (GoM) on 20th December 2014 and the ship was commissioned in Port Louis, Mauritius on 12th March 2015 by the Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerod Jugnauth in the presence of Prime Minister of India.³¹ Eleven, Fast Interceptor Boats (FIB) also delivered to GoM in 2016-17.³² These FIB's were commissioned National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius on 12th March 2016.³³ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has exported during the year 2016-17 one Do-228 aircraft to Mauritius Police Force (third Do-228 aircraft), one Chetak helicopter³⁴ and Repair & Overhaul of Turbomeca 2B2 engine of Mauritius Government.³⁵ India has supplied two Waterjet Fast Patrol Vessels (WFPV) to Mauritius Coast Guard. The vessels named WCG Valiant and Victory were constructed at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) under Indian Navy's supervision. Indian Naval ships towed both the ships to Mauritius where they were commissioned into Mauritius Coast Guard on 10th December 2016³⁶ and 16th August 2017, respectively.³⁷ The second 50m FPV for Mauritius was launched on 2nd February 2017 by Smt. Ella Mital and Mrs. K. Napaul, the Consul and Head of Consulate of Mauritius at Mumbai.³⁸ Interceptor Boat C-139 transferred to Government of Mauritius on 7th March 2017 permanently as a goodwill gesture as part of ongoing defence cooperation.³⁹ During the year 2018-19, GSL has delivered Guarantee overhaul of a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) for Mauritius.⁴⁰ GRSE, a Mini Ratna Category-I Company, under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence, the first Export Warship, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) to Mauritius by multi-facility armed with high-tech infrastructure.⁴¹ Bharat Electronics Limited has achieved an export sale of 26.3 million US\$ during 2017-18⁴² and 21.6 million US\$ during 2018-19 to various countries including Mauritius. BEL major Exported Products are Advanced Composite Communication System (ACCS); Compact Airborne Surveillance System; Passive Night Sight; Bharti Radio; Shelters; Coastal Surveillance System; Data Link II; Sleeve; Spares for TRS 2215 Radar & VHF/UHF Radio; and Sub Systems of Radar & Electronics warfare Systems.⁴³ Development partnership is a crucial instrument in India's foreign policy. Extension of Lines of Credit of 100 million US\$ extended to the Government of Mauritius for procurement of defence equipment.⁴⁴ The main aim of defence equipment procurement by Mauritius to build nation capability to maintain law and order of island nation, to deter illicit activity such piracy, trafficking in persons, drugs and weapons and illegal fishing.

NCC FOREIGN CRUISES

Indian National Cadet Corps, cadets Over Seas Deployment (OSD) of 1st Training Squadron, Kochi onboard IN Ships conducted twice in a year to various foreign ports. For the year 2018-19, two OSD were conducted. A total of twenty National Cadet Corps, Senior Division cadets and two

supervisory staff each visited Port Louis (Mauritius), Port Victoria (Seychelles) and Dar-Es-Salaam (Tanzania) from 14th February to 3rd April 2018.⁴⁵

MAURITIUS DEMAND AND INDIA'S SUPPORT

Diego Garcia (Chagos Archipelago), strategically situated in the middle of the Indian+ Ocean.⁴⁶ It was detached from Mauritius on 8th November 1965 and took under control of the British and called as British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). In 30th December 1966, between UK and United States of America (USA) signed a bilateral agreement to use of BIOT for defence purpose for another 50 years. So far, the island of Diego Garcia has been used by the US as a military base, which has acted as a naval 'prepositioning' port and 'bomber forward operating location' for all USA missions against Iraq and Afghanistan from 1990 to 2006⁴⁷ and as a ground station for hydro-acoustic/electronic/satellite surveillance.⁴⁸ Further, the 1966 Agreement was extended for 20 years, until 30th December 2036.⁴⁹ Since 1968, all post-independence governments Mauritius government contested sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.⁵⁰ India has expressed her support of the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago.⁵¹ Control over the land by the USA is part of power projection in the Indian Ocean Region.⁵² India voting in favour of Mauritius in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) demanding the UK withdraw the colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago in 2019.

CONCLUSION

IN and ICG frequently visited and IOR littoral states and refreshed their multilateral contacts with India. She boosted up Indian relationship with IOR and extended India efficiency into International forum. In IOR, the relation between India and Mauritius merely interdependent. Because India has implemented FDI liberalisation and signed Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) with Mauritius in 1982. So, India got massive FDI inflows from Mauritius until 2017-18. But, by using DTAC, Mauritian FDI companies neither paid Taxes in India nor Mauritius. Therefore, India has implemented General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) with effect from April 2017. By the result, FDI inflow from Mauritius to India surged nearly to half of its flow accounting 8.04 billion US\$ in 2018-19 as compared to 15.9 billion US\$ in 2017-18. Subsequently, Mauritius FDI inflow during the period April 2019 to December 2019 only 7.45 billion US\$. It is also nearly the same status as the previous year. Trade between the two countries grew steadily, and India is now the third-largest supplier of goods to Mauritius, including defence equipment. 'Indian Prime Minister visited Mauritius in 2015 and initiated SAGAR maritime cooperation with Mauritius. 'Indian President also visited Mauritian Golden Jubilee of Independence Anniversary in 12th March 2018'.⁵³ Continuously, Mauritius Prime Minister visited in India on 31st May 2019. By the name of the friendly nation over a long period, India has gifted defence goods such as petrol vessels; assisted hydrographic survey; and provided Naval/Airforce related various training for MCG and NCG, which is more bond with India's relation with Little India (Mauritius). Also, Indian made Coast Guard Vessels Barracuda, Marlin, Polaris, Castor and Sirius to the marine wing of Mauritius; SDB, Interceptor boats, OPV, FPV, Do-228 aircraft and Chetak helicopter delivered. By procurement of security related equipment's from India. So, Mauritius prevent stress from disaster, reduced considerable amount illegal piracy; trafficking in persons, drugs, weapons and illegal fishing. In the case of Mauritius, vital defence equipment procurement through other nations such as China, European Union, USA and Russia may upsurge the cost of the equipment due too extensive transportation expenses as compared to India. FDI inflow outpouring may be a reflection of India's defence relation with Mauritius. Here, Mauritians FDI inflow into India and assistance to Mauritius by exporting critical equipment's including defence goods is an interdependent factor. With the support of India, Mauritius need is fulfilling;

hence Mauritius has seen India as 'Big Brother' Concept. Therefore, there is an instantaneous third eye monitoring along with an extraordinary policy should be essential to encounter the challenges of Mauritian FDI inflows into India and expand opportunities of Defence goods export upliftment.

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