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# PM Modi Visits Seychelles for Its Golden Jubilee National Day

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

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# PM Modi Visits Seychelles for Its Golden Jubilee National Day

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## WHY IN NEWS

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a three-day State Visit to Seychelles from June 27 to 29, 2026, as the Guest of Honour at the island nation's 50th (Golden Jubilee) National Day celebrations. The visit, his first since 2015, also marked 50 years of India-Seychelles diplomatic relations established in 1976.*

The visit anchored India's deepening engagement with the small island states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and was framed within New Delhi's new maritime doctrine, Vision MAHASAGAR. Modi held talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie in the capital, Victoria, on defence, maritime security, development cooperation and regional issues.

## A DOUBLE GOLDEN JUBILEE

The year 2026 carries a twin significance for the partnership. Seychelles, an [archipelago](https://ujjyari.com/vocabulary/archipelago/) of 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean, completed 50 years of independence (which it gained in 1976), and India-Seychelles diplomatic ties also turned 50 in the same year. Modi's presence as the chief guest at the National Day signalled the priority India accords to the relationship.

## The \$175 Million Special Economic Package

The centrepiece of the development cooperation was a \$175 million Special Economic Package, the largest recent financial commitment by India to Seychelles. It is structured as follows.

COMPONENT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Line of Credit (rupee-denominated)	\$125 million	Free Daily Current Affairs for UPSC & State PCS Infrastructure and development projects
Grant assistance	\$50 million	Direct, non-repayable support
<b>Total package</b>	<b>\$175 million</b>	Health, renewables, education, housing, e-mobility, maritime security

The package targets priority sectors including health, renewable energy, education, housing, electric mobility and maritime security, aligning with Seychelles’ development needs as a high-income but climate-vulnerable small island developing state.

## Defence and Maritime Handovers

Reinforcing India’s role as the “net security provider” and “first responder” in the IOR, Prime Minister Modi handed over a Made-in-India Fast Patrol Vessel, **PS LESPWAR**, built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**. The handover also included six ambulances, ten utility vehicles and five patrol boats to bolster surveillance of Seychelles’ vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

ASSET HANDED OVER	QUANTITY	ROLE
Fast Patrol Vessel PS LESPWAR (GSL-built)	1	EEZ surveillance, maritime patrol
Patrol / laser radial boats	5	Coastal and near-shore policing
Ambulances	6	Health and emergency response
Utility vehicles	10	Logistics and administration

## FROM SAGAR TO MAHASAGAR

The visit was situated within India’s evolving Indian Ocean strategy. The earlier **SAGAR doctrine** (<https://ujiyari.com/terms/sagar-doctrine/>) (**Security and Growth for All in the Region**), articulated by PM Modi in Mauritius in 2015, has now been succeeded by **Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic** (<https://ujiyari.com/vocab/holistic/>) **Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions**). MAHASAGAR widens the canvas from the immediate neighbourhood to the broader Global South, layering trade, capacity building, technology sharing and **sustainable development** (<https://ujiyari.com/terms/sustainable-development/>) on top of the original maritime-security focus.

For India, Seychelles sits at a strategic crossroads of sea lanes in the western Indian Ocean. Strengthening the partnership serves to keep these lanes secure and offers a constructive Indian presence in a region that has seen growing Chinese maritime and economic activity.

## ANALYSIS AND WAY FORWARD

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India's outreach to Seychelles reflects a **calibrated** (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/calibrated/>) **small-island-state** diplomacy that combines development finance with hard maritime capability. The rupee-denominated Line of Credit also advances the internationalisation of the rupee while keeping debt sustainable for a small economy.

Going forward, India can deepen cooperation on the **blue economy** (<https://ujivari.com/terms/blue-economy/>), hydrography, disaster response and climate adaptation, areas where Seychelles is highly vulnerable.

Sustained, project-completion-focused delivery, rather than headline announcements, will be the true test of the partnership. India must continue to position itself as a transparent, demand-driven and reliable partner, in contrast to opaque infrastructure financing models, thereby cementing trust across the IOR.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

**GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** India and its neighbourhood; bilateral (<https://ujivari.com/vocab/bilateral/>) and regional groupings involving India; India's strategy in the Indian Ocean Region.

### Prelims pointers:

- Seychelles capital: Victoria; an archipelago in the western Indian Ocean; ties established 1976.
- \$175 million package = \$125 million Line of Credit + \$50 million grant.
- PS LESPWAR built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- SAGAR (2015, Mauritius) to Vision MAHASAGAR (current doctrine).
- India is the “net security provider” / “first responder” in the IOR.

**Mains question:** “India's maritime diplomacy with small island states of the Indian Ocean Region has shifted from SAGAR to MAHASAGAR. Examine how this evolution strengthens India's role as a net security provider.” (15 marks, 250 words)

## FACTS CORNER

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### ★ FACTS CORNER, KNOWLEDGEEDIA

**Seychelles:** An archipelago nation of 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean; capital Victoria; gained independence in 1976.

**India-Seychelles ties:** Diplomatic relations established in 1976; 2026 marks their 50th anniversary, coinciding with Seychelles' Golden Jubilee National Day.

**PS LESPWAR:** Made-in-India Fast Patrol Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for EEZ surveillance.

**\$175 million package:** \$125 million Line of Credit + \$50 million grant, the largest recent Indian commitment to Seychelles.

**SAGAR:** Security and Growth for All in the Region, announced by PM Modi in Mauritius in 2015.

**MAHASAGAR:** Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, the successor maritime vision for the IOR and the Global South.

**India's IOR role:** "Net security provider" and "first responder" during regional crises.

**Sources:** *PM India* (<https://www.pmindia.gov.in/>), *PIB* (<https://www.pib.gov.in/>), *The Tribune* (<https://www.tribuneindia.com/>), *Business Standard* (<https://www.business-standard.com/>)

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## Bharat Choudhary

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[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari →](#)<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/06/28/pm-modi-seychelles-visit-golden-jubilee/>

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