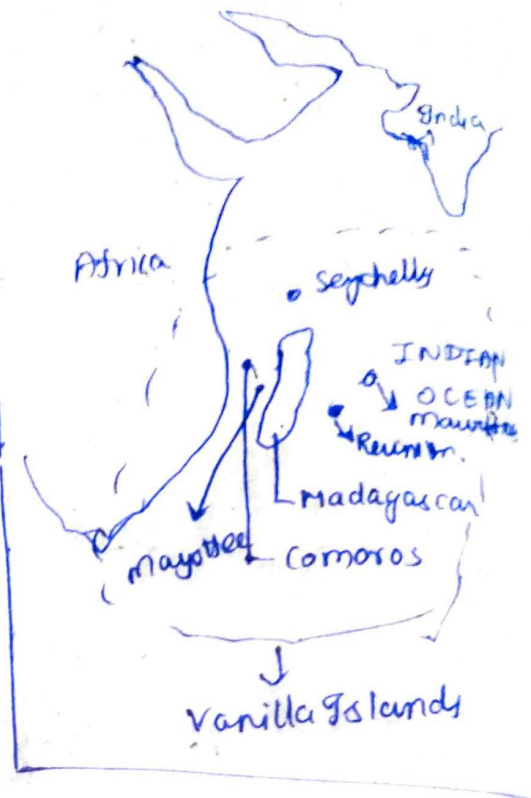


Vanilla Islands are a group of exotic islands named as such because of their vanilla flavour production industries. They include - Mauritius, Madagascar, Mayotte, Seychelles, Reunion, Comoros - located in South Western Indian Ocean.



India has already made good diplomatic connections with a few nations in this group for example

- Through International Solar Alliance where few of them are members
- Diaspora link with Mauritius and Madagascar
- Infrastructure link and strategic asset building in Assumption Is. (Seychelles) and Agalega Is (Mauritius)

However India has not seen them yet as a single strategic space.

Vanilla Islands as a single group:-

- They are spearheading climate championship because of rising sea level

- Called as 'Ocean states' because of extensive Exclusive Economic zones (EEZ)
- Renewed salience in SLOC (Sea Line of communication) with respect to the race among India, China and Japan for investing in Africa.
- Geo strategic positioning in South western Indian ocean.

So India need to see them as a single group to counter balance China's string of Pearl initiative. More diplomatic and economic engagement ^{of} ~~with~~ mutual benefits with Vanilla Islands is the need of the time for prosperity in Blue economy, disaster preparedness, military preparedness and anti-piracy initiative in Indian ocean.