

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 531
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

IMPACT OF CHINA'S MARITIME EXPANSION

531 SHRI SANJAY RAUT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the strategic implications of China's expanding ownership, financing and operational control of ports in neighbouring countries and the Indian Ocean Region on India's national security, maritime interests and geopolitical influence;
- (b) whether Government has identified risks to India's sea lines of communication, trade energy security and strategic interests arising therefrom;
- (c) whether any inter-ministerial review or White Paper has been prepared on China's maritime footprint; and
- (d) the diplomatic, strategic and economic measures taken during the last five years to safeguard India's interests and leadership in the Indian Ocean Region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to d) "Government closely monitors all developments in the Indian Ocean Region having a bearing on India's security and economic interests and takes appropriate measures to safeguard India's interests.

The Government is aware of China's actions including development of ports and other infrastructure facilities in the littoral countries in the Indian Ocean Region. China also has naval and maritime presence in the Indian Ocean Region including through anti-piracy escort missions, port calls and deployment of research and survey vessels.

Government closely monitors all developments in the Indian Ocean Region impinging on India's security and economic interests and takes appropriate measures to safeguard India's interests.

India's relations with countries in the Indian Ocean Region are comprehensive and long-standing, based on their own merit and are independent of their relations with any third countries. Neighbours including Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles occupy a central place in India's 'Neighbourhood First' Policy and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision.

India's political relations with countries of the region are robust; trade and investment ties are being augmented; development projects and infrastructural cooperation are progressing; and there is broad-based engagement across all sectors."
