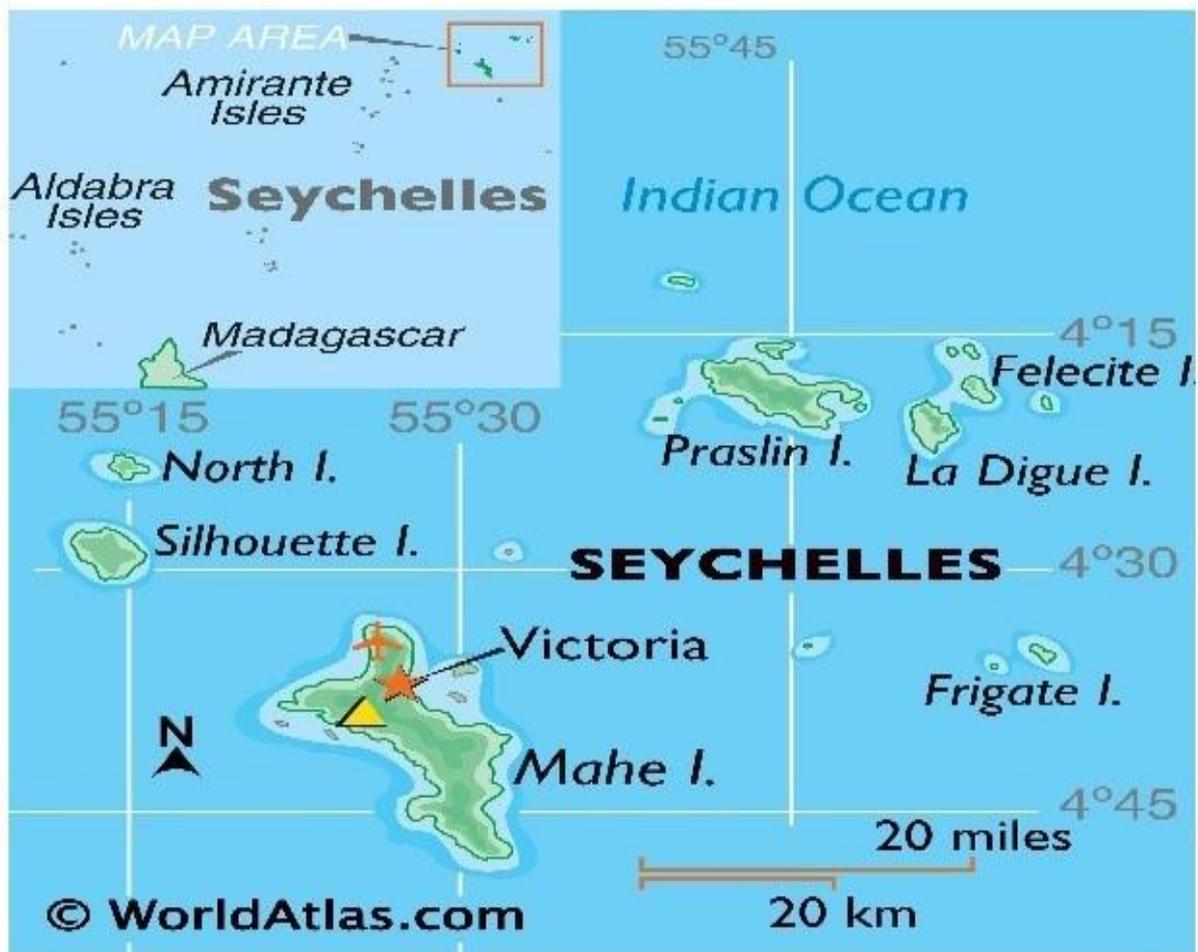




Place in News - Seychelles

Context: The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron, comprising INS Tir, INS Shardul, and ICGS Sarathi, has docked at Port Victoria, Seychelles, for an extensive training deployment, thereby enhancing maritime relations between India and Seychelles.



About Seychelles:

- A small island nation and archipelagic state located in the Indian Ocean.
- Renowned for its rich cultural diversity and high levels of human development within Africa.

Location:



- Situated to the northeast of Madagascar and approximately 1,500 km east of the African mainland.
- Positioned in the Southwest Indian Ocean Region, strategically near vital sea routes.

Capital: Victoria, recognized as one of the smallest capitals globally.

Neighbours:

- Adjacent island nations and territories include the Maldives, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, and French territories such as Réunion and Mayotte.

Key Features:

- **Geography** – Comprises an archipelago of 115 islands, with only a limited number being inhabited.
- **Society** – A multicultural society (French, British, Indian, African, Chinese) is evident in the Creole language, festivals, cuisine, and architectural styles.

Significance for India:

- **Maritime Security** – Its strategic position in the Indian Ocean makes it a crucial partner in promoting freedom of navigation and combating piracy.
- **Defence Partnership** – India extends capacity-building initiatives, naval training, and equipment assistance to the Defence Forces of Seychelles.