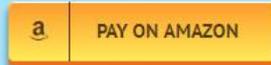


## November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

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## 1. The Maldives' new regime is an opportunity for India to regain its lost ground

- ❑ What is the importance of Maldives for India?
- ❑ How did China influence the Indo-Maldivian relationship?
- ❑ What were the implications of deteriorating relations between India and Maldives?

GS paper 2 (India and its bilateral relations)

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

Rezaul Hasan Laskar . ( 2018, November , 21). Why have ties between India and Maldives plummeted to an all-time low?. Hindustan Times. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/why-have-ties-between-india-and-maldives-plummeted-to-an-all-time-low/story-E5PW05nLx1aghfoMwuS3DM.html>

### **What is the context about?**

- ❑ The new government headed by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih assumed office in Male, Maldives.
- ❑ Mr Solih's swearing-in was immediately followed by a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the only head of state or government to be invited to the ceremony.
- ❑ Now, Maldives and India appear to have struck all the right chords for a much-needed reset of the bilateral relationship.
- ❑ Mr Modi assured him that the Indian government was prepared to help the archipelago in "every possible way".

### **What is the importance of Maldives for India?**

- ❑ The Maldives, long a popular tourist destination, has grown in strategic importance in recent years as China

and India to establish their influence in the region, and as Beijing pushes ahead with its global trade and infrastructure plan.

- ❑ Spread over nearly 1,200 islands spanning more than 90,000 sq km, key shipping lanes where Beijing and New Delhi compete to pursue their often-conflicting maritime strategies pass through this tiny Indian Ocean nation.
- ❑ Though small, the Maldives is India's important neighbour. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the Maldives "a valued partner in the Indian Ocean neighbourhood".
- ❑ India-Maldives "ties are built on a very strong foundation" the contours of which are defined by shared strategic, security, economic and developmental goals. However, the bilateral ties are not without irritants, which can be seen in two broad areas: political and strategic.

### **How did China influence the Indo-Maldivian relationship?**

- ❑ Maldives watchers think, one of the key reasons Yameen has ignored the world community is because, he strongly believes Beijing has his back, thanks to the burgeoning growth in ties and investments from China.
- ❑ In 2011, Yameen signed the Maldives' first bilateral free trade agreement with China.
- ❑ China had already secured the Maldives' backing for its Maritime Silk Route, which aims to connect the Chinese coast with Europe via the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- ❑ Beijing has also poured in millions of dollars for big ticket projects, including a bridge linking the capital

and the main airport, called the “China-Maldives friendship bridge”.

- ❑ Clearly, India will be glad to regain some of the space it had been forced to cede in the Maldives because of Mr Yameen’s pro-China stance.

### **What were the implications of deteriorating relations between India and Maldives?**

Impact of the deteriorating relations:

- ❑ Maldives moving from its 'India first' policy towards China and Saudi Arabia
- ❑ Maldives cancelled work permits of many Indians.
- ❑ Maldives asked India to take back one of the two Dhruv helicopters, which India had gifted earlier.
- ❑ Many fear , Maldives is falling into a debt trap by China, and thus may affect stability and security of Indian Ocean region.