

1. Modi's visit to the Maldives: Bilateral ties are older than history, says Narendra Modi.

- How did the relations between India and Maldives evolve over past few years?
- What is the strategic importance of Maldives for India?
- What are the concern areas that need to be improved between India and Maldives ?



GS paper 2 (Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and or affecting India's interests)

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



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Meera Srinivasan. (2019,June , 10). India, Maldives sign six key agreements. The Hindu. Retrieved from <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-maldives-sign-six-key-agreements/article27698918.ece>

What is the context about?

Modi's visit to the Maldives, his first state visit abroad since being re-elected to office, was marked by the signing of six key agreements, and substantive bilateral level talks, reaffirming cooperation between the two countries.

PM Modi sought to deepen India's ties with the Maldives stressing New Delhi's commitment to assisting the atoll nation in its development and security goals as the two countries signed a slew of agreements in areas ranging from defence, health and connectivity strengthen their bilateral partnership.



How did the relations between India and Maldives evolve over past few years?



- The friendship between India and Maldives has reached new heights since Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the swearing in of President Solih.
- The Indian government had announced a 1.4 billion US dollars assistance to Maldives and details of projects are being formulated.
- Maldives requested for assistance in construction of a cricket stadium during the recent visit to Male of External affairs minister.
- Mr. Shahid said that his government's promise for people-oriented projects like water and sewage facilities, are being implemented with generous assistance from the Government of India.

What is the strategic 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.

—● India-Maldives “ties are built on a very strong foundation” the contours of which are defined by shared strategic, security, economic and developmental goals.

What are the concern areas that need to be improved between India and Maldives ?



- **No FTA with India:** Maldives and India do not have a Free Trade Agreement. However Maldives and China entered into Free Trade Agreement.
- **Maldives growing “closeness” with China:** Both China and Pakistan stepping up their strategic inroads into the Maldives.
- **Religious radicalization:** The Maldives is being radicalized by the Saudi funds and influence.
- **ISIS threat:** Growing Islamic radicalisation in the tiny island-nation of about four lakh people once known for its tolerant practices has many foreign governments, including India, deeply concerned.