

Due to its strategic location in Indian Ocean, Maldives holds water as important candidate in Indian foreign policy. Since 'pro-India' party is in power, its better time for India to strengthen ties with Maldives.

India and Maldives share multiple interests

for years now such as

- ① peace and security

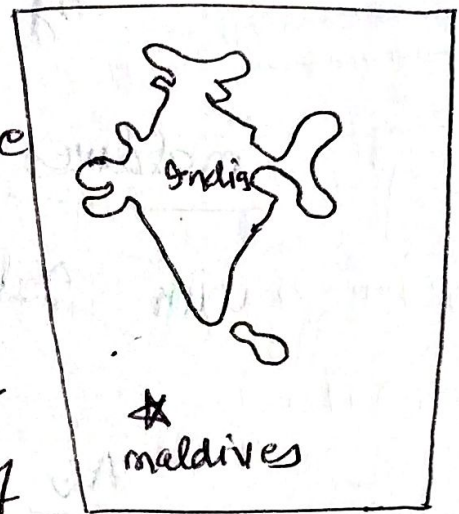
in the region specially Indian Ocean

- ② Enhancing and balancing trade

which is miniscule about \$ 290mn strongly in Indian favour

- ③ people to people ties via tourism
connectivity and cultural relations.

Maldives saw India as a friendly country who remain supportive



during

↳ military coup by operation cactus (1908)

↳ water crisis in maldives & Tsunami

↳ operation saujivnee during covid

by providing health equipments

maldives 'India first' policy coincides with India's 'Neighbour first' policy.

As the dominance of china is growing in the region via — Iran-china

Pakistan-china & Sri Lanka-china ties,

India can't afford to lose any bit

with its neighbours.

Chinese predatory foreign

policy is a threat to peace

in Andian region. China supports and get support from 'pro-china' opposition party and groups in maldives.

And India is building strong ties through projects in maldives such as :-

(i) Integrated community development project and funding infrastructure for example maldives island → Greater maldivian connectivity project

(ii) India provides inner line of credit and financial grants for such development

(iii) India provide Tourism (8th largest) to maldives → vital for its economy.

way forward

There has been voices of 'India out' India should be sensitive to such response but also be open and transparent with its funding to gain public confidence. It should engage for P2P connectivity through cultural ties.