

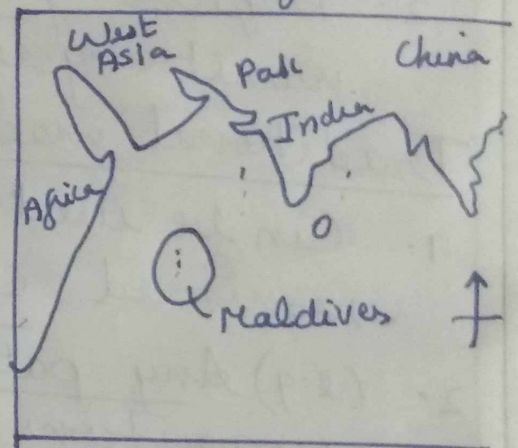
India can take respite in the strategic comfort of India's first policy of the newly elected Maldives government. Comment.

Recently, Ibrahim Solih's Maldives government has paved the way for bilateral co-operation with India which re-affirms the success of India's Neighbourhood first foreign policy. Using this India can use Maldives for joint co-operation for the issues that has common interest.

Need for respite with Maldives:

1. Last government - Abdulla Yameen pro - China and anti - India.
2. China tried Maldives in its String of Pearl theory.
3. Active Terrorist upsurge in Maldives has a concern for stability in peace in India.

Fig: India and its neighbours



Can Check piracy by joint co-operation:

1. Maldives - 70 Nm from Minicoy and 300 Nm from main land.
2. Piracy occurs most in the Indian Ocean Region between two countries.

3. Joint-co-operation can now be done to contain piracy against India's countries Chinese presence can be decreased:

1. Pro-Indian government in Maldives
 2. Failure of China to start naval base
 3. India can now dominate the Indian Ocean region for a healthy growth and security
- Threat of Terrorism, radicalisation - Check:

1. Maldives hotspot - Syria radicalisation
2. So India + Maldives => joint attack on Terrorism.
3. So, Indian people radicalisation can be decreased.

Indian diaspora:

1. Indian doctors, Engineers [5.6% of Maldivian population]
2. Thus pro-India government, India can now be stabilised with their safety.

Multilateral forum:

1. India, Maldives => SAARC members
2. Trade, economy, development - maintained

Future Prospects:

1. Should try to maintain ties with Abdulla Yameen
2. Line of credit => \$400bn requested by Maldives has to be given to main Pro-India Stalies
3. Soft diplomacy - through STEM courses