



# BENEVOLENT IAS ACADEMY

#25, Sri Nagar, Hope College, Peelamedu (PO), Coimbatore – 641004.  
Phone: +91422-4521607, Cell: +91-9787731607/9787701067.  
Web:www.benevolentacademy.com, E-Mail:benevolentacademy@gmail.com

Dated 13.08.2024

## TODAY'S IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS



UPSC-IAS|IPS|IFS (PRELIMS+MAINS FOCUS)

### In News:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar concluded a crucial visit to Maldives, assuring the country's top leadership that the Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region.

**Exam Point of View:** (GS2) - India and its Neighboring Countries

### What is the Primary Fact?

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the meeting is the importance of the Maldives, India's maritime neighbour, as a key partner in the 'Neighbourhood First' policy and India's Vision 'SAGAR' i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- ❖ Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. The visit reaffirmed the continued commitment of both countries to strengthening their multi-dimensional bilateral relationship and deepening their close people-to-people ties," it said.



Source: the Hindu, PIB, wikipedia

## What about SAGAR?

On 12 March 2015 the Prime Minister of India had first taken reference to SAGAR in an address in Mauritius. PM Modi said, "Our goal is to seek a climate of trust and transparency; respect for international maritime rules and norms by all countries; sensitivity to each other's interests; peaceful resolution of maritime issues; and increase in maritime cooperation.



Vision Sagar aims to enhance India's marine research, surveillance, disaster response, and maritime connectivity capabilities. It is crucial in advancing India's strategic interests, promoting regional cooperation, and ensuring maritime security in the Indian Ocean.

## What is the Issue?

India's relationship with the Maldives came under severe strain since Mr. Muizzu took charge as the President late last year. Within hours of his oath, he had demanded the withdrawal of Indian military personnel manning three aviation platforms gifted by India to the Maldives.

After talks between the two countries, the Indian military personnel were replaced by civilians.

## Minutes of the Meeting

- ❖ At the President's Office, Mr. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Zameer jointly inaugurated, in the presence of President Muizzu, India's Line of Credit (LoC)-assisted project of water and sewerage network in 28 islands of Maldives.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to the introduction of UPI in Maldives.
- ❖ Six High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) under grant assistance by India in the areas of mental health, special education, speech therapy and street lighting were jointly inaugurated.
- ❖ Indian EAM planted a sapling at the Lonuziyaaraiy Park as part of Prime Minister Modi's 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' initiative and President Muizzu's 5 Million Tree Project.
- ❖ The visit signifies a "significant milestone" in India-Maldives relations, especially with President Mohamed Muizzu, seen as pro-China.

- ❖ India and Maldives renewed the MOU for the capacity building of 1000 Maldives Civil Services Officers during the period from 2024 – 2029

**Note :** An MoU was signed on 8th June 2019, between the National Centre of Good Governance (NCGG, India) and the Maldives Civil Service Commission for training 1,000 Maldivian civil servants.

### India's Significance for Maldives:

- India is a crucial supplier of everyday essentials, including rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, and medicines. India also aids in building Maldivian infrastructure by providing materials like cement and rock boulders.
- India serves as the primary education provider for Maldivian students who pursue higher education in Indian institutions, including scholarships for deserving students.
- India has been a consistent source of aid during crises, such as tsunamis and drinking water shortages and also Covid-19
- Defence cooperation extends to the areas of Joint Exercises - “Ekuverin”, “Dosti”, “Ekatha” and “Operation Shield” (begun in 2021).

### In detail about Ekuverin Military Exercise with Maldives:-

The Ekuverin military exercise symbolizes the strong defense cooperation between India and the Maldives. Launched in 2009, this annual exercise involves the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force. It is hosted alternately by India and the Maldives since 2009.

### Findings:-

Despite the political and military disagreements, economic and social ties between the two nations **remain strong**, with India being a **major source of tourists** to the Maldives.

- This visit could further bolster these ties, ensuring continued cooperation in areas like trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.
- **The National Centre of Good Governance (NCGG), under the Ministry of External Affairs, has conducted capacity-building programs for civil servants from multiple countries including Bangladesh, Tanzania, Gambia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia.**

Warm Regards by,  
Mrs & Mr. raji thomas...