

## **SUMMARY of “Maldives and its neighbours,” Jawed Naqvi, Dawn, October 3rd, 2023**

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President Biden was engaging with leaders of Pacific Island nations while the Maldives, situated in the Indian Ocean, was experiencing an electoral run-off. The meeting highlighted the strategic importance of lands along sea-lanes frequented by China and Russia. Despite the electoral victory of Mohamed Muizzu, who is described as anti-India and pro-China, it's unclear how India stands to lose from this outcome. This situation raises questions about India's diplomatic relationships in South Asia, where countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and even Bhutan are pursuing diverse foreign policies. The article suggests that India's foreign policy may need reevaluation, and the obsession with global recognition should not overshadow pragmatic diplomacy.

### **Easy/Short SUMMARY:**

While President Biden was focusing on Pacific Island nations, the Maldives held an election that brought Mohamed Muizzu to power, described as pro-China and anti-India. This outcome raises questions about India's diplomatic relations in South Asia, where countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and even Bhutan are pursuing diverse foreign policies. The article suggests that India should reconsider its foreign policy priorities and focus on pragmatic diplomacy.

### **SOLUTIONS of The Problem:**

#### **Reevaluate Foreign Policy:**

- India should reassess its foreign policy priorities and adapt to the changing dynamics in the region.



- Focus on pragmatic diplomacy that prioritizes relationships closer to home and addresses regional concerns.
- Engage in dialogue and cooperation with neighboring countries to build trust and stability.

### **Promote Economic Cooperation:**

- India can enhance economic cooperation with neighboring countries through trade agreements, joint ventures, and investment partnerships.
- Encourage regional economic integration and development projects that benefit all parties involved.

### **Cultural Exchange and People-to-People Diplomacy:**

- Promote cultural exchange programs and people-to-people diplomacy to strengthen ties with neighboring nations.
- Foster mutual understanding, respect, and goodwill through cultural events, educational exchanges, and tourism.

### **Conflict Resolution and Mediation:**

- Act as a neutral mediator in regional conflicts to promote peace and stability.
- Offer diplomatic support and facilitation to resolve disputes and build trust among neighboring countries.

### **Environmental Cooperation:**

- Collaborate on environmental issues, such as climate change, conservation, and sustainable development, to address common challenges in the region.
- Implement joint initiatives to protect shared natural resources.

### **Humanitarian Assistance:**

- Provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to neighboring countries during times of crisis.
- Show solidarity and support in times of need to build goodwill and strengthen diplomatic relations.

## **Regional Forums and Multilateral Diplomacy:**

- Actively participate in regional forums and multilateral organizations to address shared concerns.
- Collaborate with regional partners to find solutions to regional problems, such as security, trade, and development.

## **Balanced Engagement:**

- Pursue a balanced and inclusive foreign policy approach that respects the sovereignty and interests of neighboring countries.
- Avoid taking sides in regional disputes and prioritize mutual cooperation.

## **Capacity Building:**

- Offer technical and financial support for capacity building in neighboring countries to enhance their infrastructure, education, and healthcare systems.
- Strengthen regional institutions to address common challenges effectively.

These solutions aim to promote regional stability, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence, which can contribute to a more balanced and effective foreign policy for India in its neighboring region.

## **IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the article:**

- President Biden engaged with leaders of Pacific Island nations.
- Mohamed Muizzu won the Maldives election, sparking discussions about India's foreign policy.
- India's diplomatic relationships with neighboring countries are facing challenges.
- India has been pursuing global recognition, which may overshadow pragmatic diplomacy in the region.
- The article mentions India's past diplomatic approaches under different prime ministers.
- The need for India to adapt to changing regional dynamics is highlighted.

## MCQs from the Article:

1. **What recent event in the Maldives prompted discussions about India's foreign policy?**

- A. President Biden's meeting with Pacific Island leaders
- B. An electoral run-off
- C. India's participation in the G20 summit
- D. China's presence in Sri Lanka

**Answer: B. An electoral run-off**

2. **How is Mohamed Muizzu, the newly elected leader of the Maldives, described in the article?**

- A. Pro-India and anti-China
- B. Pro-China and anti-India
- C. Pro-West and anti-East
- D. Neutral in foreign relations

**Answer: B. Pro-China and anti-India**

3. **What does the article suggest India should focus on in its foreign policy?**

- A. Global recognition
- B. Pragmatic diplomacy and regional relationships
- C. Dominance in the Pacific region
- D. Expanding military presence

**Answer: B. Pragmatic diplomacy and regional relationships**

4. **Which prime minister is mentioned as pursuing a pragmatic foreign policy in the article?**

- A. Indira Gandhi
- B. Inder Gujral
- C. Manmohan Singh
- D. Narendra Modi

**Answer: B. Inder Gujral**

## VOCABULARY:

1. **Assiduously** (adverb) (އަސިދުޅެކެއް): With great care, attention, and dedication.
2. **Evict** (verb) (އިވިކްތެއް ފެންނަން): To force someone to leave a property or place.
3. **Strategic** (adjective) (ސްޓްރެޓިޖިކް ފެންނަން): Relating to the identification of long-term goals and the means of achieving them.
4. **Coveted** (adjective) (ކޮވެޓެއް ފެންނަން): Desired or wished for by many.
5. **Archipelago** (noun) (އާރޕިލެގަވޮ ފެންނަން): A group or chain of islands.
6. **Inroads** (noun) (އިންރޯޑްސް ފެންނަން): Advances or progress made, especially into new territory or areas.
7. **Rap on the knuckles** (idiom) (ރެޕް އޮން ކްނަޅުކަލް ފެންނަން): A mild punishment or criticism.
8. **Delinquent** (adjective) (ޔެލިންކްޝަން ފެންނަން): Showing a tendency to commit crimes, particularly minor ones.
9. **Discourse** (noun) (ޔިސްކޯސް): A discussion or conversation on a particular topic.
10. **Bloc** (noun) (ބްލޮކް): A group of countries with shared interests or goals, often forming alliances or partnerships.
11. **Nurtured** (verb) (ނަޔްރެޓްކެއް ފެންނަން): To care for and encourage the growth or development of something.



12. **Mitty-esque** (adjective) (މިޓީއެސްކް): Resembling or characteristic of Walter Mitty, a fictional character known for his daydreams and fantasies.
13. **Vishwaguru** (noun) (ވިޝްވަގޫރު): A title referring to a spiritual or temporal leader of the world.
14. **Berserk** (adjective) (ބަރސަރުކް): Out of control with anger or excitement; wild.
15. **Summit** (noun) (ސުމިޓް): A meeting or conference of top-level officials or leaders.
16. **Rumblings** (noun) (ރުމްބަލިންގް): Low, indistinct, continuous sounds or noises.
17. **Vacate** (verb) (ވާކޭޓް): To leave a place or position, especially formally.
18. **Admonished** (verb) (އެދުމަންޖެހިލުވާ): Warned or reprimanded someone firmly.
19. **Ransacked** (verb) (ރަންސާކެޑް): Searched a place thoroughly and aggressively, often causing damage.
20. **Puritan** (noun) (ޕޫރިޓަން): A person who adheres to strict moral and religious principles, often characterized by a strict or austere lifestyle.

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