

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- International relations- India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Navigating Diplomatic Complexities: India-Maldives Relations Amidst Geopolitical Tensions

Introduction: Unraveling the Dynamics of India-Maldives Relations

This analysis delves into the current diplomatic tensions between India and the Maldives, exploring the underlying factors contributing to the strained relationship. From derogatory remarks to concerns over Chinese research vessels, the complexities demand a comprehensive understanding of key issues and India's strategic responses.

Key Issues Shaping India-Maldives Relations

1. **Regional Power Struggle:**

- At the heart of tensions lies a regional power struggle between India and China. The Maldives grapples with the challenge of balancing relations with these influential nations.

2. **Sovereignty and Economic Security:**

- The Maldives is confronted with pressing concerns related to safeguarding its sovereignty and ensuring economic security in the face of evolving geopolitical dynamics.

India's Strategic Response to Emerging Challenges

1. **Diplomatic Engagement:**

- Despite ongoing tensions, India showcases a commitment to diplomatic solutions. High-level meetings, including those between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Muizzu, underscore India's persistent engagement.

2. **Neighbourhood First Policy:**

- India's actions align with the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, reflecting the significance of fostering strong regional relationships. This approach forms the cornerstone of India's efforts to address geopolitical challenges while nurturing neighborly ties.

3. **Strategic Meetings:**

- The recent meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Maldivian counterpart exemplifies India's dedication to continuous diplomatic dialogue, a crucial aspect of conflict resolution.

Charting the Course Ahead: A Diplomatic Blueprint

1. **Sustaining Diplomatic Engagement:**

- The path forward necessitates sustained diplomatic efforts, fostering an environment conducive to dialogue and resolution. Recent high-level meetings serve as a testament to the commitment of both nations.

2. **Neighbourhood-First Policy Implementation:**

- India's adherence to the 'Neighbourhood First' policy underscores a commitment to addressing the economic needs of the Maldives. Emphasizing mutual benefits becomes pivotal for long-term stability.

3. **Cautious Diplomacy with China:**

- India's concern over the Chinese research vessel prompts a cautious approach. Balancing diplomatic relations while safeguarding regional interests is imperative for fostering stable bilateral ties.

Conclusion: Nurturing Stability Amidst Geopolitical Dynamics

In conclusion, the India-Maldives relationship stands at a crossroads, marked by diplomatic intricacies and geopolitical challenges. By prioritizing sustained diplomatic engagement, aligning with the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, and approaching regional power dynamics with caution, both nations can pave the way for stable and constructive bilateral relations. As India and the Maldives navigate this delicate terrain, a diplomatic blueprint remains essential for nurturing stability in the face of evolving geopolitical dynamics.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS Paper 2 Social Justice – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population.

On the Jal Jeevan Mission – Providing clean water to all

The Jal Jeevan Mission, launched in 2019, aims to provide piped water to every rural household in India. It has achieved significant milestones, such as providing tap water to 73% of rural households and establishing water and sanitation committees. The mission addressed challenges by considering regional needs, ensuring transparency, and implementing proactive water quality management.

The positive impacts of the Jal Jeevan Mission go beyond clean water provision:

1. **Preventing Infant Mortality:** Access to safe water can reduce infant deaths by nearly 30%, potentially preventing 25% of under-five deaths in India, amounting to 136,000 child deaths annually.
2. **Preventing Diarrhoeal Deaths:** Providing tap water in every household can avert 400,000 diarrhoeal deaths, according to a WHO study.
3. **Economic Savings:** The mission can lead to economic savings of up to \$101 billion or ₹8.37 lakh crore, attributed to reduced health-related expenditures.
4. **Community-Building:** The mission contributes to strengthening the socio-economic fabric of rural communities by fostering a sense of community.
5. **Skill Building:** Initiatives like Nal Jal Mitra empower villagers with skills for minor repairs and maintenance of piped water supply, contributing to skill development.
6. **Employment Generation:** The mission has substantial employment generation potential during construction, maintenance, and operation phases, contributing to economic development.

The Jal Jeevan Mission aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 6, emphasizing clean water and sanitation for all.

UPSC Syllabus Topic : GS paper2- governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

Issues related to naming of drugs in India

The issue in India involves drugs having identical or similar brand names, leading to confusion and potential health risks. The problems include the use of identical or similar names for drugs with different purposes, as well as phonetic and visual similarity in drug names.

Issues Related to Drug Naming:

1. **Use of Identical or Similar Names:** Drugs with distinct purposes often share identical or similar names, causing confusion among consumers. For example, 'Linamac' and 'Medzole' are used for drugs treating different conditions.
2. **Phonetic and Visual Similarity:** Similar-sounding drug names, such as 'Medpol', 'Medrol', and 'Metrozole', contribute to confusion and potential medication errors.

Reasons Behind These Issues:

1. **Lack of Prescription Error Data:** India lacks comprehensive data on prescription errors, hindering the assessment of the problem's extent and the implementation of effective solutions.
2. **Challenges in Pharmacy Regulation:** Inadequate regulation of pharmacies in India, where drugs are often dispensed without proper prescriptions, increases the risk of dispensing wrong medications due to name confusion.
3. **Language Barrier:** Drug packaging predominantly uses English, which is spoken by less than 10% of the Indian population, complicating matters for many patients.

Initiatives Taken to Overcome These Issues:

1. **Judicial Initiatives:**

- **Supreme Court Ruling (2001):** In the Cadila Health Care Ltd. vs Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. case, the Supreme Court emphasized the need for distinct drug names, urging the Ministry of Health to implement measures to prevent confusion.
- **Delhi High Court's Involvement (2019):** Justice Pratibha M. Singh's involvement in a pharmaceutical trademark infringement case raised awareness and pressured regulatory bodies to address the issue.

2. **Legal and Regulatory Measures:**

- **Drugs and Cosmetics (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2019:** Introduced a system requiring pharmaceutical companies to provide an "undertaking" that their drug's brand name would not cause market confusion.

Recommendations: To address drug name confusion, the following steps are recommended:

1. Establish a centralized database for drug names in India.
2. Enforce naming regulations strictly.
3. Provide better training for pharmacists.
4. Improve pharmacy regulation to ensure compliance with prescription laws.
5. Employ trained pharmacists to reduce medication errors associated with similar drug names.