



## Operation Sanjeevani

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### Why in News

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Recently, **India supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines to Maldives**, under **Operation Sanjeevani** as assistance in the fight against **COVID 19**.

### Key Points

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- The medicines were delivered by an **Hercules C-130J-30 aircraft of Indian Air Force**.
- The medicines **include influenza vaccines, antiviral drugs such as lopinavir and ritonavir** among others as well as consumables such as catheters, nebulisers, urine bags and infant feeding tubes.
  - Lopinavir and ritonavir have been used to treat patients with COVID-19 in some countries.
- In March India also dispatched a **14-member Army medical team to Maldives to set up a viral testing lab** there and **gifted 5.5 tonne of essential medicines**.

### Previous India's Assistance to Maldives

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- **1988:** Under **Operation Cactus** the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the **neutralization of the coup attempt**.
- **2004:** India has helped Maldives **after the tsunami**.
- **2014:** Under '**Operation Neer**' India supplied drinking water to Maldives to deal with the drinking water crisis.
- The two Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) given by India to the Maldivian armed forces have been used in saving Maldivian lives.
  - The Advanced Light Helicopter is a multi-role, new generation helicopter in the 5.5-ton weight class, indigenously designed and developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

## Relations Between the Two Countries



- **History:** India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links. India was **among the first to recognize Maldives** after its independence in 1965 and later established its mission at Male in 1972.
- **Defence:** India provides the largest number of training opportunities for Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF), meeting around 70% of their **defence training requirements**.  
**'Ekuverin'** is a joint military exercise between India and Maldives.
- **Disaster Management:** The Government of India has provided large-scale assistance to Maldives in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and during the 2014 Male water crisis.
- **Trade and Tourism:** India is Maldives' 4<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner after UAE, China and Singapore. In 2018, India was the 5<sup>th</sup> largest source of tourist arrivals in Maldives.  
The Maldivian economy is heavily dependent on its tourism sector, which is the major source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenue.

**Source: TH**