



This time for Male

Maldives and India have an opportunity to work for changing power structures at the UN.

Highlights:

1. The election of Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid as the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which begins in September 2021-22, is a major boost for the island nation's international profile.
2. The Maldives also sees it as a win for the 52-member Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are battling climate change vulnerability and other developmental challenges.
3. For India too, that helped Maldives canvass support, the outcome is welcome, because of its close ties with Male.

The focus now shifts to his tenure and South Asian issues such as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and equitable access to vaccines. Above all, it is hoped that India in the UNSC and the Maldivian President of the General Assembly will work in tandem as New Delhi pursues its goals for multilateral reform, and re-energises the dormant process of effecting change in the old power structures in the global body.