WHAT MALDIVES MEANS TO THE CHINESE

Aniruddh

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- Crucial for china's <u>String of Pearls</u> agenda

Possible Infiltration ways and how it was tackled

- 1. Infiltration across LoC was cut down by a major way in 1990's
 - India created a formidable LoC fence and installed flood lights
 - This helped crucial infiltration and inflow of arms, ammunition by 70-80%
- 2. Indo Nepal Border
 - Nepalese govt co-operated, route was <u>largely plugged</u>
- 3. Bangladesh border
 - Border <u>fenced</u>
- 4. Hit us via sea
- Post 2008 attacks Indian govt was forced to ramp up coastal defense too

Thus the only option back then was Maldives

In 2010, then Vice-Admiral Sanjeev Bhasin had <u>warned of possible infiltration</u> via Maldives - Andaman route

China has been showing interest in Maldives via its Belt And Road initiative by increasing investments in the region