



Society for Indian Ocean Studies
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Maldives election and the Geopolitical shift in the IOR

The elections of Maldives are important not just for the domestic politics but also for the larger regional impact in the IOR. Maldives strategic position as a toll gate on the one of the busiest trade routes increases its significance. The strategically crucial archipelago with 1200 islands is significant for securing the maritime interest of India in the IOR. The election results and victory of Mohamed Muizzu the pro-China candidate, is seen as an important development that has the potential to influence the Indian Ocean geopolitics. The president had run his agenda of “India Out” campaign and has said that the Indian military forces cannot stay in the Maldives and his party has an anti-India stance this might impact not just India but also the countries who wants a rule-based order in the region. Henceforth, the domestic politics of the Indian Ocean countries has emerged as the key battlegrounds for the strategic competition between India and China.

URL: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/columnists/maldives-poll-alters-indian-ocean-geopolitics.html>

Sri Lanka assumes chair of IORA

The IORA (India Ocean Rim Association) is an intergovernmental organization of states on the rim of India Ocean established in 1997. Sri Lanka assumes the leadership as Chair of IORA and is set to host the Ministers meeting from 11th October in Colombo. The IORA has identified six priority areas and the ministers will deliberate on ways to cooperate on blue economy, trade and investment, disaster risk management, maritime safety and security, and fisheries management, among others.

URL: <https://news.lk/news/political-current-affairs/item/35762-sri-lanka-assumes-leadership-as-chair-of-indian-ocean-rim-association>