



Society for Indian Ocean Studies
NEWS BRIEF: 24TH JULY-28TH JULY

Joint Expedition to build Ocean Observation Capacity

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Ministry of Earth Sciences, under the framework of Colombo Security Conclave organized a joint expedition to build capacity in ocean observation which included scientists from India, Bangladesh, and Mauritius. Ocean Research Vessel Sagar Nidhi was unique as this was first expedition where the participants undertook collaborative measures such as modelling and measurement of ocean parameters which would benefit all in the IOR.

Western Indian Ocean Pollution Regional Exercise (WIOPOLREX)

A Three-day exercise was organized in Seychelles to strengthen regional response to the pollution disasters at the sea. The exercise was organized by the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre to test the existing regional contingency plan. Regional countries such as Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, France (Mayotte, Reunion) will link together for the exercise. The exercise will update the RCOC's standard operating procedure and will strengthen the regional coordination capacity of the RCOC to respond to oil pollution incidents in the region.

Deep Sea Mission

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research has sought global tenders for seabed surveys to delineate locations for sulphide deposits. To explore the mineral deposits specialized ship and underwater vehicles will dive deep into the Indian Ocean. This can be a massive breakthrough as it will help Indian scientists to narrow down mineralization zones or sulphide-ore bodies. The massive deposits have huge strategic and commercial value for the nation.

UK Defence Committee Visits Mumbai

To better understand and assess the current scenario in the IOR members of the Defence Select Committee of the UK visited Mumbai. The visit furthers the increasing cooperation between the two maritime nations for improving interoperability in several domains. This is a further push to the continual effort from both sides to strengthen maritime security and uphold rules-based order in the IOR.