



Society for Indian Ocean Studies

SIOS NEWS BRIEF: 1st August-5th August

Japan's Engagement in Indian Ocean

The Foreign Minister of Japan Hayashi Yoshimasa's recent six nation tour and visit to Maldives and Sri Lanka convey the commitment of Japan's greater engagement in the IOR region. This also points to the hidden goal of preventing Maldives and Sri Lanka from being drawn into China's influence.

Naval Chief's Visit to Duqm (Oman)

The visit of Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar to the port of Duqm which is strategically situated on southeastern seaboard of Oman, overlooking Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean highlights the role of India to strengthen its effort in combating piracy and increasing its presence in the IOR. The visit is aimed at strengthening defence relations between the two nations. During his visit he interacted with the INS Trikand which is deployed for anti-piracy operations in the IOR.

French President's Visit to Sri Lanka

The first ever historic trip by a French President to the small island nation of Sri Lanka marks the strong partnership and 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between both nations. Both sides also had discussions on an open and inclusive IOR and after visiting Oceania French leader concluded his Indo-Pacific outreach trip.

Australia and India's Cooperation the IOR region

Several aircraft from India's air force and navy made a visit to Cocos islands of Australia. The visit highlights the increasing access both nations are granting each other to their military facilities in the IOR. For instance, visits by Indian P-8I maritime patrol aircraft in 2022 to Darwin and visits by Australian P-8A aircraft to Tamil Nadu and Goa highlights the facilities utilized by both sides. This access leads to increased and coordinated operations in Southeast Asia, Arabian Sea, and the Bay of Bengal. The recent visit enhances the military operability and strategic reach between India and Australia. This move also aims to reduce dependence on US capability as it builds an Indian Ocean coalition that aligns with the interests of U.S.