



Society for Indian Ocean Studies

SIOS NEWS BRIEF: 15-20 April

Maldives now a concern for India in the IOR

The IOR has become more challenging for India with President Mohamed Muizzu's sweeping parliamentary elections. The voters in Maldives backed the President's tilt towards China and away from traditional benefactor India. Besides being a holiday destination for tourists Maldives has become a geopolitical hotspot in the IOR as global shipping lanes pass the archipelago. China has been leveraging its dominance to consolidate its influence over the island nation.

[URL:https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/world/story/muizzus-win-to-increase-indias-anxiety-on-chinese-influence-in-the-indian-ocean-region-426321-2024-04-22](https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/world/story/muizzus-win-to-increase-indias-anxiety-on-chinese-influence-in-the-indian-ocean-region-426321-2024-04-22)

Ships transiting the Western Indian Ocean, Gulf should stay alert: Ambrey

The British security firm Ambrey said that vessels transiting the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf were advised to stay alert in case of increased UAV (Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle) activity in the region. The security firm said that it had received information that indicated an "Israeli military strike" was conducted on Isfahan, Iran.

[URL:https://www.reuters.com/world/ambrey-ships-transiting-gulf-western-indian-ocean-should-stay-alert-2024-04-19/](https://www.reuters.com/world/ambrey-ships-transiting-gulf-western-indian-ocean-should-stay-alert-2024-04-19/)

U.S. deploys midrange missile system in the Indo-Pacific

The U.S. Army has deployed new typhon midrange ground-based missile launcher to the Indo-Pacific region for joint military exercises in the northern Philippines. The Statement of U.S. Army said, "In a historic first, the 1st Multi-Domain Task Force successfully deployed the Mid-Range Capability (MRC) missile system to Northern Luzon, Philippines, on April 11, 2024, as part of Exercise Salaknib 24", and "This landmark deployment marks a significant milestone for the new capability while enhancing interoperability, readiness, and defense capabilities in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines".

[URL:https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/04/16/asia-pacific/politics/us-midrange-missiles-philippines-china/](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/04/16/asia-pacific/politics/us-midrange-missiles-philippines-china/)