



Society for Indian Ocean Studies

SIOS NEWS BRIEF: 3-8 June

PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony: Signals to India's neighbourhood and IOR

Invitations to heads of state and government from Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Maldives to the swearing in ceremony of the next Narendra Modi Government reflects the significance on the IOR, where India has been the first responder during crises and a security provider for decades. The other three main overseas guests are leaders of Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal, bolstering India's push to counterbalance Chinese influence in the neighbourhood area.

URL: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/pm-modis-swearing-in-ceremony-signals-to-indias-neighbourhood-and-indian-ocean-region-9381202/>

SpaceX's most powerful rocket star ship makes 'soft landing' in the Indian Ocean

SpaceX's Star ship rocket deemed as a prototype system that may one day send humans to Mars achieved its first ever splashdown during a test flight. The rocket blasted off from the company's Start base in Texas and then entered the orbit, soaring halfway across the globe. Meanwhile, SpaceX Elon Musk posted, "Splashdown confirmed! Congratulations to the entire SapceX team on an exciting fourth flight test of Starship!" and "Despite loss of many tiles and a damaged flap, Starship made it all the way to a soft landing in the ocean!"

URL: <https://www.rte.ie/news/2024/0606/1453386-space-x/>

Indian Ocean has suddenly become 'Indo-Pacific' due to geopolitics, says Sri Lanka President

Sri Lankan President before flying down to India to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony, spoke about the influence of global rivalries and geopolitics that has turned the IOR into the "Indo-Pacific". While delivering a video address at a discussion on 'Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean Outlook' he said, "Now the maps are drawn not according to geography, but according to geopolitics. For a long time, we belonged to a region known as the Indian Ocean and all of a sudden it became the Indo-Pacific. This is [the result of] geopolitical cartography".

URL: <https://theprint.in/diplomacy/indian-ocean-has-suddenly-become-indo-pacific-due-to-geopolitics-says-sri-lanka-president/2123845/#:~:text=New%20Delhi%3A%20Before%20flying%20down,the%20%20%20Indo%20Pacific>".