



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (16-21 December)

Slinex-24:India Enhances Maritime Security with Joint Exercises in IOR (Dec 17)

The Indian Navy participated in a bilateral naval exercise from December 17 to 20, with the Sri Lankan Navy in Visakhapatnam. The SLINEX-24 exercise aims to bolster maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. The timing of the exercise is notable as Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake visited India and made a statement that Sri Lanka's territory will not be used for anti-India activities. This reflects India's commitment to foster closer ties with maritime neighbours and secure vital sea lanes.

[URL:https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-slinex-24-india-enhances-maritime-security-with-joint-exercises-in-indian-ocean-region-3693924/](https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-slinex-24-india-enhances-maritime-security-with-joint-exercises-in-indian-ocean-region-3693924/)

IOR's survey ship INS Nirdeshak commissioned at Visakhapatnam Naval Dockyard (Dec 18)

The second ship of Survey Vessel project, INS Nirdeshak, was commissioned at Visakhapatnam, in a ceremony presided by Union MoS for Defence Sanjay Seth. The ship is designed to aid in navigation, to conduct hydrographic surveys, and support maritime operations. The ship will strengthen the SAGAR initiative and will contribute to the IOR's environmental health and security, scientific exploration, strengthening India's leadership in regional collaboration, and peacekeeping missions.

[URL:https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/indian-ocean-regions-survey-ship-ins-nirdeshak-commissioned-at-visakhapatnam-naval-dockyard/article69000753.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/indian-ocean-regions-survey-ship-ins-nirdeshak-commissioned-at-visakhapatnam-naval-dockyard/article69000753.ece)

Sri Lanka Navy rescues over 100 Rohingya adrift in the Indian Ocean (Dec 20)

The Sri Lankan navy rescued more than 100 Rohingya refugees, including 25 children. The spokesman said, "Medical checks have to be done before they are allowed to disembark". The navy spokesman further said that language barrier had made it hard to understand where they were headed, suggesting "recent cyclonic weather" may have pushed them off course.

[URL:https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/12/20/sri-lanka-navy-rescues-over-100-rohingya-adrift-in-the-indian-ocean](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/12/20/sri-lanka-navy-rescues-over-100-rohingya-adrift-in-the-indian-ocean)