



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (12-17 January)

East, NE India key trade nodes, says US consul general in Kolkata (Jan 17)

An event titled ‘US Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific: North Eastern Dialogue-Kolkata Chapter’, was organised by ORF (Observer Research Foundation) with the US consulate general Kolkata. Discussions focused on increasing India-US cooperation under the Quad grouping, the US consul general Kathy Giles-Diaz said, “The US remains firmly committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific-one where trade flows freely, sovereignty is respected and no country can coerce another through force or economic pressure”. Officials said the session highlighted the significance of improved connectivity through railways, digital corridors, ports, and inland waterways to better integrate north-eastern and eastern India with global markets.

URL: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/east-ne-india-key-trade-nodes-says-us-consul-general-in-kolkata/articleshow/126590925.cms>

PM Modi, German Chancellor Merz condemn Pahalgam attack, Delhi blast; call for open and free Indo-Pacific (Jan 12)

To increase the bilateral ties among the two nations Merz had arrived in India for a two-day visit . In a joint statement, both the leaders called for a “free and open” Indo-Pacific, while announcing Indo-Pacific consultation mechanism. The joint statement said, “They committed to strengthen co-operation against terrorists and terrorist entities, including those listed in the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee”. The statement added, “The Leaders welcomed the ratification of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty and noted the progress under the Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism”.

URL: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/pm-modi-german-chancellor-friedrich-merz-condemn-pahalgam-attack-delhi-blast-call-for-open-and-free-indo-pacific-2026-01-12-1025537>

Zimbabwe monitors Cyclone Dudzai progression amid fears of disaster (Jan 16)

The MSD (Meteorological Services Department) has intensified its vigilance amid increased regional concern, as it monitors the movement and development of Tropical Cyclone Dudzai in the South-West Indian Ocean. The spokesperson of MSD Mr James Ngoma confirmed that the department is analysing oceanic data, satellite imagery and atmospheric nodes to determine the possible intensity and trajectory of the cyclone. He said, “Based on current projections, it is expected that Dudzai will not reach Madagascar, let alone the mainland of Africa, and is therefore not anticipated to affect Zimbabwe”.

URL:<https://www.heraldonline.co.zw/zimbabwe-monitors-cyclone-dudzai-progression-amid-fears-of-disaster/>