



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (13-17 July)

Trump says US will become ‘guardian’ of Strait of Hormuz and collect tolls (July 13)

US President Trump claimed that the United States would restart its naval blockade of Iran and “become the guardian” of the Hormuz Strait. The US President stated, “as a matter of FAIRNESS, will be reimbursed, at the rate of 20 % on all cargo shipped, for any and all costs necessary to do the job of providing safety and security to this very volatile section of the world”. The announcement drew immediate opposition from the UN's International Maritime Organisation (IMO), which stated, “we have always been consistent on our stance on fees- IMO stands firmly against charging fees for passage through straits used for international navigation”.

[URL:https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/13/trump-says-us-will-become-guardian-of-strait-of-hormuz-and-collect-tolls](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/13/trump-says-us-will-become-guardian-of-strait-of-hormuz-and-collect-tolls)

India condemns deadly Iranian strike on commercial ship (July 14)

An Indian seafarer was killed, and six other Indian crew members were wounded when two UAE-flagged oil tankers, *Mombasa* and *Al Bahyah*, were struck by Iranian cruise missiles while transiting Omani territorial waters in the southern shipping lane of the Strait of Hormuz. The strikes inflicted material damage before being contained. Following the attack, India’s Ministry of External Affairs summoned Iran’s deputy chief of mission in New Delhi to lodge a diplomatic protest over the recurring threats to civilian Indian merchant mariners operating along critical Indian Ocean trade corridors.

[URL:https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/14/world/middleeast/iran-killed-indian-sailors.html?eafs_enabled=false](https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/14/world/middleeast/iran-killed-indian-sailors.html?eafs_enabled=false)

Over 25 nations to join Indian Navy-led maritime exercise in Kochi from July 20 (July 16)

The Indian Navy announced it will host *Operation Southern Readiness 26-2*, a major multinational maritime security exercise at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi starting July 20. The exercise brings together naval contingents from over 25 countries, including Australia, Japan, the UAE, Oman, Seychelles, the UK, and the US and will be conducted under the aegis of the navy-led CTF 154 (Combined Task Force). The focus areas are on anti-piracy tactics, maritime interdiction, counter-narcotics, and maritime domain awareness across crucial trade lanes in the Indian Ocean.

[URL:https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/over-25-nations-to-join-indian-navy-led-maritime-exercise-in-kochi-from-july-20/article71230784.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/over-25-nations-to-join-indian-navy-led-maritime-exercise-in-kochi-from-july-20/article71230784.ece)

One more U.S. made anti-submarine helicopter delivered to the Indian Navy (July 17)

The Indian Navy received another MH-60R Seahawk multi-role naval helicopter from the United States in Kochi, bringing the total number of platforms delivered to 21 out of 24 ordered under a 2020 Foreign Military Sales deal. Two additional helicopters are scheduled to arrive shortly. On social media, the U.S. Embassy while announcing the delivery said the induction reflects the increasing India-U.S. defense partnership.

[URL: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/one-more-us-made-anti-submarine-helicopter-delivered-to-the-indian-navy/article71235170.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/one-more-us-made-anti-submarine-helicopter-delivered-to-the-indian-navy/article71235170.ece)