



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (19-23 May)

U.S. Seized Iran-Linked Oil Tanker in the Indian Ocean (May 19)

According to the U.S. officials, the U.S. seized an Iran-linked oil tanker in the IO overnight, as U.S. President Trump threatens to resume strikes on Iran. The tanker, Skywave, was sanctioned by the US for transporting Iranian oil in March and was loaded with more than a million barrels of crude at Iran's Kharg Island.

URL: <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/u-s-seized-iran-linked-oil-tanker-in-the-indian-ocean-704f5f3c>

PM Modi's Italy visit highlights: India-Italy upgrade ties to 'Special Strategic Partnership', seal defence roadmap (May 21)

India and Italy upgraded their ties to a special strategic partnership, and vowed to increase annual trade to Euro 20 billion by 2029, as Giorgia Meloni and PM Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks to enhance bilateral ties in the face of growing geopolitical upheavals. The two leaders, expressed "deep concern" over the situation in Hormuz Strait and its impact on the world, with PM Modi calling for the resolution off the conflict via diplomacy and dialogue.

URL: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-rome-five-nation-tour-live-updates/article71000674.ece>

INS Sunayna wraps up Indian Ocean Mission (May 21)

Ministry of Defence flagged off INS Sunayna as part of the IOS (Indian Ocean Ship) Sagar mission to promote collective security and maritime cooperation. The multinational deployment had 38 crew members from 16 partner nations on board, which reflected India's emergence as the preferred security partner in the IOR and its commitment towards strengthening maritime interoperability and collaboration.

URL: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2026/May/21/ins-sunayna-wraps-up-indian-ocean-mission>

Rubio touts US energy on India trip meant to repair ties (May 23)

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed energy and trade with Indian PM Modi on a visit aimed at improving relations battered by Washington's engagement with India's rivals China and Pakistan and the tariffs. According to a U.S. summary of the meeting, Rubio discussed with the Indian PM and said, "U.S. energy products have the potential to diversify India's energy supply".

URL: <https://theprint.in/world/rubio-touts-us-energy-on-india-trip-meant-to-repair-ties/2939676/>