



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (2-6 February)

Iran, China, and Russia to hold Joint Naval Exercise (Feb 2)

Amid increasing tensions between Iran and US, units from the naval forces from Russia and China, the IRGC (Islamic Revolution Guard Corps) Navy, and Iranian Navy will conduct a joint naval exercise in the northern Indian Ocean. The exercise named “Maritime Security Belt”, aims to strengthen cooperation and enhance maritime security among the participant countries. The Iranian Navy first launched this exercise in 2019, and has been conducted seven times till date, highlighting military coordination between Beijing, Tehran, and Moscow in regional and international waters.

URL: <https://orinocotribune.com/iran-china-and-russia-to-hold-joint-naval-exercise/>

U.S. Fighter Jet Shoots Down Iranian Drone Amid heightened Tensions (Feb 3)

A US military spokesman said, an Iranian drone was shot as it “aggressively approached” an American aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea. US Central Command spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said, an F-35C fighter jet which took off from the USS Abraham Lincoln warship shot down the drone “in self-defence” to protect the aircraft carrier. It comes amid heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington, as the U.S. military builds up forces for a possible confrontation with Iran.

URL: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/03/us/politics/us-iran-drone-downing.html>

Trump backs Chagos handover deal, says No 10 (Feb 6)

The US has backed the UK’s deal and signalled his approval describing, Sir Keir Starmer’s agreement as the “best he could make”. It comes after weeks when the US president branded the handover of the Chagos islands to Mauritius as an “act of great stupidity”. In a post on social media, Trump wrote that his discussions with Sir Keir had been “very productive”. He added, “However, if the lease deal, sometimes in the future, ever falls apart, or anyone threatens or endangers US operations and forces at our base, I retain the right to militarily secure and reinforce the American presence in Diego Garcia”.

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yx1wedww2o>