



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (20-25 January)

Trump calls U.K. Deal on Indian Ocean Islands ‘Great Stupidity’, in Blow to Starmer (Jan 20)

President Trump accused the U.K. of “great stupidity” over its decision to give up sovereignty of the Chagos Islands last year, an archipelago that is home to U.S.-U.K. military bases at Diego Garcia. He said that Britain’s decision to cede the islands to Mauritius is one of the reason for his desire to take over the semiautonomous territory of Greenland. In a post on Truth Social, President Trump said, “The UK giving away extremely important land is an act of GREAT STUPIDITY, and is another in a very long line of National Security reasons why Greenland has to be acquired”.

URL: <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/20/us/politics/trump-uk-chagos-islands-deal.html>

Spain joins Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, elevates ties with India to strategic level (Jan 21)

Spain formally joined the IPOI (Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative), the Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares handed the Declaration of Accession to EAM S. Jaishankar, announcing Spain would also strengthen its ties with India to a “strategic association”. In 2019, India launched the IPOI which aims to foster cooperation for a rules-based and free Indo-Pacific. The foreign Minister described India as a “reliable country”, stressing that in increasingly complex world, Spain looks at India as a trustworthy and stable partner.

URL: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2026/Jan/21/spain-joins-indo-pacific-oceans-initiative-elevates-ties-with-india-to-strategic-level>

Jaishankar hosts U.S. lawmakers, discusses security trade (Jan 25)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar discussed with a three member U.S. Congressional delegation, comprising Jimmy Patronis, Adam Smith and Mike Rogers about various aspects of India-U.S. relations, including trade and security. In a post on social media, Mr. Jaishankar said, “Discussed various aspects of India-US ties, Indo Pacific and Ukraine conflict. Congressional interactions have always been an important facet of our relationship”.

URL: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jaishankar-hosts-us-lawmakers-discusses-security-trade/article70549461.ece>