



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (23-27 March)

Chinese ships halt attempt to exit Hormuz despite Iran safe passage assurances (March 27)

According to Chinese crew members near the Hormuz Strait and ship tracker Marine Traffic, two container vessels belonging to China's state-owned Cosco Shipping were turned back from crossing the Strait. About 20 miles from the port of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran, two ships- CSCL Indian Ocean and CSCL Arctic Ocean- made U-turns on last Friday. While this was the first crossing attempted since the start of the war, and the incident showed "safe passage could not be guaranteed". Last Wednesday, Tehran's Foreign Minister Abbas Aragchi in a Tweet said, Iran "permitted passage through the Strait of Hormuz for friendly nations including China, Russia, India, Iraq, and Pakistan.

URL: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinese-ships-halt-attempt-exit-hormuz-despite-iran-safe-passage-assurances-2026-03-27/>

Dragon in the water: Chinese survey ships step up operations near India as world focuses on Hormuz (March 25)

China is expanding its surveillance operations and undersea mapping across the Indian, Pacific, and even Arctic oceans. China's latest ship, the Shi Yan 6, sailed into the Indian Ocean via the Sunda Strait, has declared its designation as Malè, which has become a regular port of call for Chinese vessels. China is taking advantage of the fact that the world's attention is fixed on tensions around the Strait of Hormuz and has, stepped up its presence in the Indian Ocean. On paper, these ships are engaged in scientific work, and the areas being surveyed lie close to India's submarine operating routes.

URL: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/dragon-in-the-water-chinese-survey-ships-step-up-operations-near-india-as-world-focuses-on-hormuz/cid/2153054>

India 'indispensable' for peace in Indo-Pacific: Trump administration (March 24)

Amidst the war in West Asia, the official, U.S. Assistant Secretary in the Department of War, Elbridge Colby, visited Delhi and said, India's role is indispensable to ensure a "favourable" balance of power in Asia. In an address at the Ananta Centre he said, "The United States believes that India will play a central role in ensuring a favourable balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. In this context, a strong, confident India is not only good for the Indian people. It is good for Americans as well".

URL: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-indispensable-for-peace-in-indo-pacific-trump-administration/articleshow/129780879.cms?from=mdr>