



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (27-30 January)

India, EU ink mega defence and security pact; to focus on boosting cooperation in Indo-Pacific (Jan 27)

At the India-EU summit talks between EU leaders European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen concluded an agreement. Both the sides sealed an ambitious defence agreement that will provide for deeper engagement in the Indo-Pacific, counter-terror cooperation and joint development of military hardware. The Indian PM said, “Defence and security are a foundation for any strong partnership. Today, we are making this official through a security and defence partnership”. He added, “Our cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region will grow, and our defence companies will gain new opportunities to work together on co-development and co-production”.

URL: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-eu-ink-mega-defence-and-security-pact-to-focus-on-boosting-cooperation-in-indo-pacific/articleshow/127639035.cms?from=mdr>

US aircraft carrier arrives in Middle East as Iran tensions rise (Jan 27)

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and three warships arrived in the Middle East to lead any American military response to Iran’s crackdown on nationwide protests. While the US president has stepped back from military action against Iran, but he insisted that all options remain on the table. In a post on X, US Central Command said, “The strike group is currently deployed to the Middle East to promote regional security and stability”.

URL: <https://gulfnews.com/world/americas/us-aircraft-carrier-arrives-in-middle-east-as-iran-tensions-rise-1.500421665>

Starmer invites Japan PM to UK after Tokyo talks (Jan 30)

Sir Keir Starmer invited Japan’s PM Sanae Takaichi to visit the UK following talks in Tokyo, stressing the relationship between both sides was the “strongest” it has been “in decades”. The leaders of both sides said they discussed their “joint values” and set out plans to strengthen security and trade ties, and boosting defence and partnerships across the Indo-Pacific region. For Sir Keir, his East Asia’s trip was about resettling relations with Beijing, while reassuring Japan and other allies that Britain remains clear-eyed about the risks China poses and is committed to regional security.

URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c78egr5v5gmo>