



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (30 June- 4 July)

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates First Ever ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue in Chennai (June 30)

The first-ever ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue was inaugurated by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, the union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways. The meet was hosted by India and is being attended by all the member nations of ASEAN. The Dialogue aims to enhance cruise connectivity, strengthen maritime cooperation, and promote sustainable tourism across the Indo-Pacific region. The Union Minister, at the inauguration said, “India is committed to work closely with ASEAN member nations to cooperate and co-promote new cruise circuits connecting our vibrant coastal cities and cultural destinations. This dialogue is likely to explore the region to become the hub of cruise tourism of the Global South. Together, we can establish an integrated cruise network linking India with ASEAN countries, through modern ports, efficient tracking systems and robust support mechanisms.”

URL: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2140940>

US, Indo-Pacific partners agree to strengthen maritime, critical minerals cooperation (July 2)

The foreign ministers of Australia, India, Japan, and US met in Washington on July 1 as Washington seeks to increase its influence in the Indo-Pacific. The Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a joint meeting with his three colleagues said the Quad must be a “vehicle for action” and stressed that trade and commerce will be crucial to ensuring the group’s relevance in the future. The four announced in a statement the creation of “Quad Critical Minerals Initiative” to “strengthen economic security and collective resilience by collaborating on securing and diversifying critical mineral supply chains.”

URL: <https://apnews.com/article/us-australia-india-japanff2f90407d22d6e9cfab0c2dc60e57f2>

Indian envoy meets Japanese Defence Minister, discusses Indo-Pacific cooperation (July 4)

The Japan’s Ministry of Defence posted on X that, “On July 4, Defence Minister Nakatani received a courtesy visit from the Indian Ambassador to Japan. The two exchanged views on advancing Japan-India Defence Cooperation (JIDIP) in the Indo-Pacific region. We will continue to work closely with India.” Minister Nakatani suggested proceeding with the collaboration as ‘JIDIP’ between both defence authorities. As a response, the Indian Defence Minister welcomed the suggestion and said he will hold further discussions on the matter.

URL: <https://www.thehansindia.com/news/international/indian-envoy-meets-japanese-defence-minister-discusses-indo-pacific-cooperation-985210>