



SIOS NEWS BRIEF (15-19 July)

PM to visit UK next week to sign trade pact, 1st trip to Maldives after standoff (July 19)

The Prime Minister of India is set to embark on a two-nation tour to the UK and Maldives from July 23-26, focusing on boosting ties with both countries. Narendra Modi will try to seal the India-UK FTA in the UK, something both the countries have been working on for three years. This development will create favourable trading environment and enhance market access for both the nations. Following this, on July 25-26, the Prime Minister will visit Maldives, where he will serve as the Chief Guest at the 60th National Day celebrations. The visit is seen as an opportunity to foster mutual cooperation, address lingering concerns, and reaffirm India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy in the IOR.

URL: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/pm-modi-to-visit-uk-maldives-from-july-23-to-26-trade-pact-boosting-bilateral-ties-in-focus-2758116-2025-07-19>

F-15EX visit offers first look at Indo-Pacific airpower evolution (July 18)

The US is deploying its F-15EX Eagle advanced air fighter, at the Kadena Air base in Japan for familiarization and integration training with joint partners and local units. The 18th Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. John Gallemore said, "By operating this next-generation platform in its future environment, we're laying the groundwork for seamless integration, sustained readiness and a decisive edge in a rapidly evolving security landscape." The presence of F-15EX in the Pacific reflects the direction of future airpower capabilities.

URL: <https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4249161/f-15ex-visit-offers-first-look-at-indo-pacific-airpower-evolution/>

U.S., the Philippines conduct maritime cooperative activity (July 17)

The U.S. Navy, the AFP (Armed forces of the Philippines), PCG (Philippine Coast Guard), conducted a bilateral MCA (Maritime Cooperative Activity) within the Philippines' EEZ. The commander of the U.S. 7th fleet, Vice Adm. Fred Kacher said, "through these maritime efforts, we are building a stronger, more capable, and more unified force ready to address shared challenges in the region." The U.S. 7th fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest deployed numbered fleet and operates with partners and allies preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

URL: <https://www.pacom.mil/Media/NEWS/News-Article-View/Article/4248830/us-the-philippines-conduct-maritime-cooperative-activity/>