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INDIAN OCEAN REGION.

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IR NEWS



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Malaysia Tightens Nuclear Controls Under Amended Law

Malaysian authorities revised the Atomic Energy Licensing Act to impose stricter regulations on the handling of nuclear and radioactive substances, which in turn would help to develop a safety and regulatory scheme that would make the country nuclear energy's role in the future power supply more certain through a thorough evaluation.



MH370 Search to Resume in Southern Indian Ocean

Malaysia announced that the search for Flight MH370 will start again in the southern Indian Ocean on 30th December. The operation, which will be under the leadership of Ocean Infinity, will employ new deep-sea technology to find the airplane that went missing in 2014.



Sri Lanka Begins Cleanup After Cyclone Ditwah

Sri Lanka began large-scale cleanup efforts after Cyclone Ditwah, with residents and emergency crews clearing mud and debris left by flooding and landslides. The work continues alongside grim searches for victims as the nation copes with the storm's deadly impact.



Floods in Indonesia's Aceh Revive Tsunami Memories

Indonesia's Aceh province was heavily deluged with floods resulting in the death of many, the forced migration of thousands, and the hard-pressed condition of the communities that were already fighting for their recovery.



Iran Holds Missile Drills in the Gulf

Iran conducted ballistic and cruise missile launches in the Gulf as a part of naval drills. One of the purposes of these activities at the Strait of Hormuz was to demonstrate the military's preparedness and to counter the perceived threats in the area.



New Zealand Navy Encountered Taiwanese Warship During Strait Transit

New Zealand's warship had an unplanned meeting with a Taiwanese vessel, right in the middle of the Taiwan Strait. This short-lived encounter underlines the increase in naval activity and the tension in the area.



ADB Upgrades Growth Outlook for Developing Asia

The Asian Development Bank increased its growth prediction for developing Asia on 10th December 2025. The region's economic outlook was positively enhanced by vigorous demand for technology and the performance of India.



Climate Change Intensified November–December Storms

New study claims the recent Asian storms were significantly intensified by the changing climate. The storms were already causing heavy rains and strong winds due to the combination of warm seas and moisture-filled air, which severely affected the populations.



US Forces Seize Vessel in Indian Ocean

On December 12, 2025, the United States military captured a vessel in the Indian Ocean that was transporting military-related goods. The ship was captured near Sri Lanka, and afterward, it was permitted to go on its voyage.



Subsea Cable Project Expands Indo-Pacific Digital Connectivity

A subsea cable, which will be connected in Papua New Guinea to the Indo-Pacific network, is going to be ready on December 12, 2025. The project for which the cable has been laid will benefit the whole area in terms of better quality and faster internet services.



Deadly Bondi Beach Mass Shooting in Sydney

The Bondi Beach mass shooting claimed 15 lives in a Hanukkah event. The police informed that the shooting was done by a father and son, which resulted in deep sorrow across the nation and advocates for tougher gun regulations.



Sri Lanka Forecasts 5% Growth in 2026

On December 17, 2025, Sri Lanka gave a prediction of 5% growth for the year 2026. The economy is likely to be driven by rebuilding activities following the recent cyclones.



India and Oman Sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

A significant trade pact was signed between India and Oman on December 18, 2025. It will reduce duties and promote grants and commerce between the two nations.



India and New Zealand Conclude Free Trade Agreement

The free trade agreement between India and New Zealand was signed on December 22, 2025. It will lead to the reduction of tariffs, the widening of market access, and the multiplying of trade and investment activities.



India Announces \$450 Million Cyclone Relief for Sri Lanka

India made a declaration with a relief package of \$450 million aimed at assisting Sri Lanka in its recovery process post Cyclone Ditwah. The aid will be directed towards the restoration of the infrastructure and the community development of the storm affected areas.



India Reiterates Commitment to Open, Rules-Based Oceans

India made a commitment to open oceans with rules on December 25, 2025, a day when the country once more proclaimed its support for such oceans. The nation spoke of free passage and an international law based maritime order that would be secure.



China Conducts Record Military Drills Around Taiwan

The China's largest live-fire exercises, conducted on December 28, 2025, took place around Taiwan. Military activities included simulating air-sea operations and blockades, which indicated a clear warning to Taiwan and other nations.



Operational Deployment for Renewed MH370 Search Begins

The southern Indian Ocean saw the official start of a renewed search for MH370. The operation employs cutting-edge deep-sea technology in an attempt to find the Malaysia Airlines aircraft which has been missing for a long time.

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