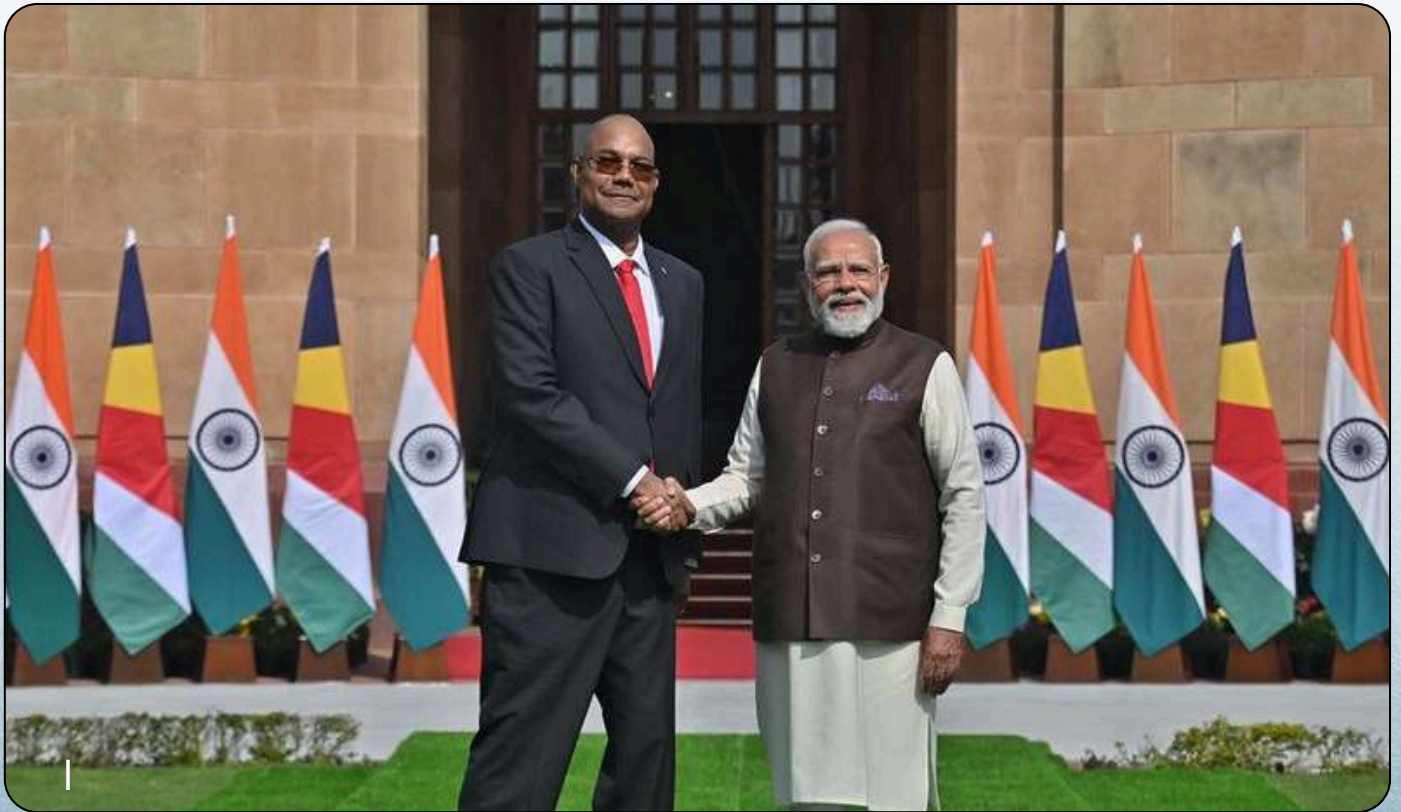


INDIAN OCEAN REGION.



FEBRUARY 2026



INDIA-SEYCHELLES ANNOUNCE JOINT VISION 'SESEL'

India and Seychelles unveiled the SESEL Joint Vision to enhance sustainability, economic growth, and maritime security cooperation. During President Patrick Herminie's state visit, both countries expanded collaboration in development assistance, digital transformation, climate action, hydrography, and defence. India also announced a USD 175 million assistance package supporting Seychelles' development priorities.



INDIA ENGAGES ASEAN NAVAL CHIEFS AT MILAN 2026

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met naval chiefs from nine ASEAN countries during MILAN 2026 in Visakhapatnam, reaffirming ASEAN's central role in India's Indo-Pacific strategy. Discussions focused on maritime security cooperation, defence technology partnerships, and joint naval exercises, highlighting India's commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.



INDIAN NAVY TAKES COMMAND OF MULTINATIONAL TASK FORCE CTF 154

The Indian Navy assumed command of Combined Task Force 154, a multinational training unit under the Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain. Led by Commodore Milind Mokashi, the task force will enhance maritime security training, capacity building, and operational coordination among 47 member nations to address regional threats including piracy and illegal trafficking.



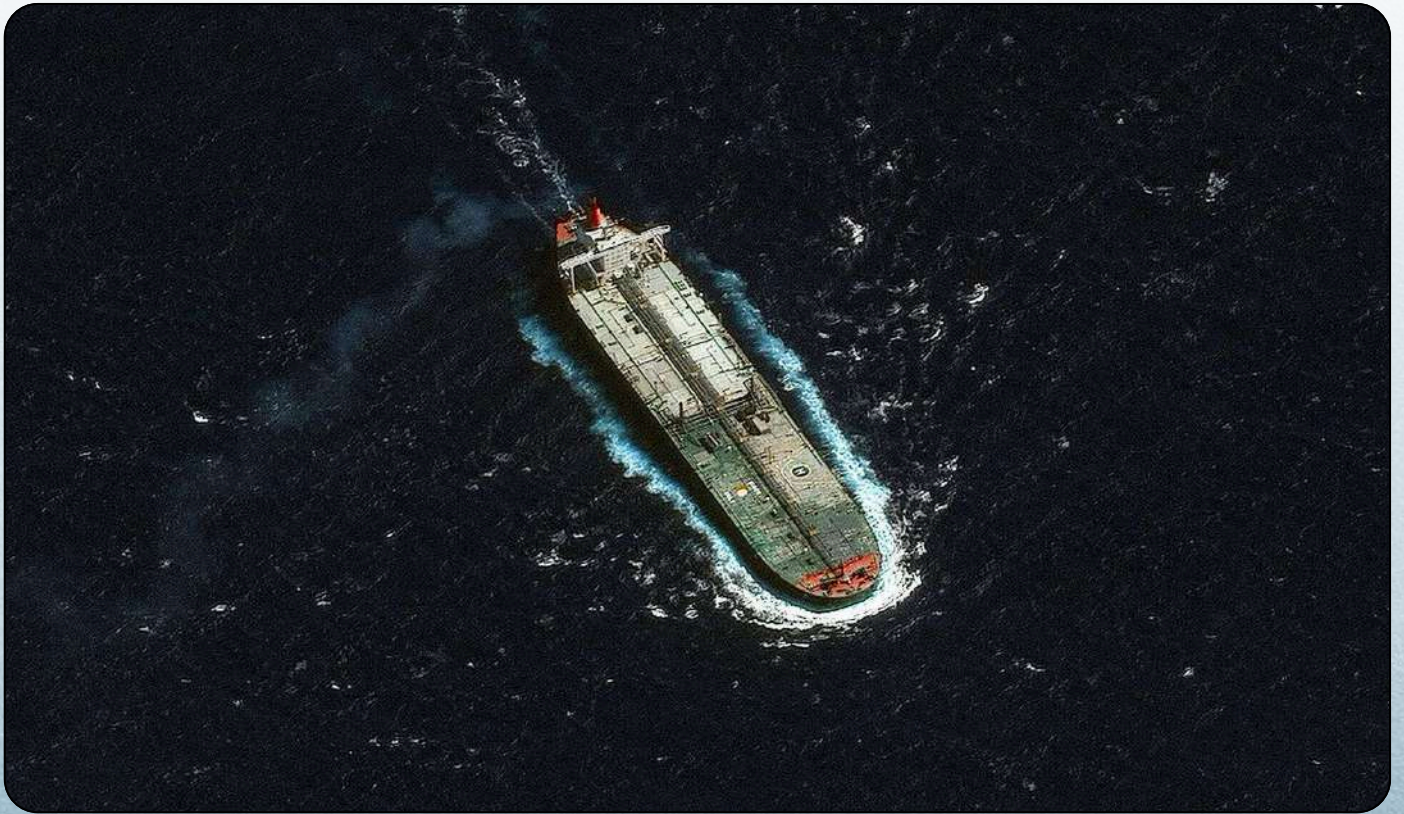
TRUMP CLAIMS U.S. RECEIVED VENEZUELAN OIL AFTER SEIZING THIRD TANKER

U.S. President Donald Trump stated that the United States has obtained 80 million barrels of Venezuelan oil following the seizure of a third tanker. The move forms part of Washington's broader pressure campaign against Venezuela, raising tensions over sanctions enforcement and energy geopolitics.



INDIA AND THAILAND CONDUCT JOINT AIR COMBAT EXERCISE

India and Thailand carried out a joint air combat exercise aimed at strengthening defence cooperation and enhancing operational interoperability. The drills highlight growing strategic coordination between the two countries and reflect shared commitments to maintaining stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.



INDIA SEIZES IRAN-LINKED TANKERS AMID TIGHTENED MARITIME SURVEILLANCE

Indian authorities seized vessels linked to Iran that were reportedly under U.S. sanctions, reflecting heightened maritime surveillance efforts. The move underscores India's increasing vigilance over shipping activities in its waters amid rising geopolitical tensions in the Indian Ocean and global energy trade routes.



BRITAIN ORDERS REMOVAL OF MIGRANTS WHO LANDED ON CHAGOS ATOLL

The UK government issued removal orders for four migrants who arrived on the Chagos Archipelago. The incident highlights the sensitive geopolitical and legal complexities surrounding the British-administered territory, particularly amid ongoing disputes over sovereignty involving Mauritius.



TROPICAL CYCLONE GEZANI STRIKES MADAGASCAR

Tropical Cyclone Gezani struck Madagascar, killing at least nine people and causing widespread destruction. The cyclone triggered flooding, infrastructure damage, and displacement of communities, highlighting the vulnerability of Indian Ocean island nations to increasingly severe climate-related disasters.



INDIA ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP OF INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM

India assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) during the 9th Conclave in Visakhapatnam, marking its return to leadership after 16 years. The Indian Navy outlined initiatives including maritime exercises, information-sharing platforms, and humanitarian cooperation to strengthen regional maritime security and collaboration among Indian Ocean nations.



IRAN AND RUSSIA CONDUCT JOINT NAVAL DRILLS IN THE GULF OF OMAN

Iran and Russia conducted joint naval exercises in the Gulf of Oman and northern Indian Ocean. The drills are viewed as a demonstration of growing defence cooperation between the two countries amid rising geopolitical tensions with the United States and its regional allies.



TRUMP URGES UK TO RETAIN CONTROL OF DIEGO GARCIA AMID IRAN TENSIONS

U.S. President Donald Trump urged the United Kingdom not to transfer control of the Diego Garcia military base to Mauritius. The request reflects Washington's strategic concerns regarding the base's importance for regional security operations amid escalating tensions involving Iran.



PM MODI HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH MAURITIAN PM ON BILATERAL COOPERATION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held discussions with Mauritian Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, focusing on strengthening bilateral cooperation. Talks covered maritime security, economic collaboration, and development partnerships, reinforcing the long-standing strategic relationship between India and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.



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