

Weekly Update

1. Will Success in Agalega Compensate for India's Assumption Island Debacle?

Mauritius plays an important role for Delhi in the Indian Ocean region amid the dispute with Maldives. The boost to developmental ties between India and Mauritius sends a strong message to the Maldives about New Delhi's alternatives in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Source: The Diplomat

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/03/will-success-in-agalega-compensate-for-indias-assumption-island-debacle/>

2. Sudha Murty nominated to Rajya Sabha, announces PM Modi

Indian President Draupadi Murmu nominated Sudha Murthy to the Rajya Sabha (Council of State, upper house of the Indian Parliament). Sudha Murthy is a writer and is married to businessman Narayana Murthy. He is the co-founder of Infosys, an IT company that develops software for e-commerce and telecommunication businesses.

Source: Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/president-droupadi-murmu-nominates-sudha-murty-to-rajya-sabha-101709883433032.html>

3. India-Iran-Armenia Trade Corridor On The Cards: The Importance

Armenia's Deputy Minister of Economy said, pilot cargo transportation has already been launched on the India-Armenia-Iran trade route. This route will be fully launched by May 4, 2024.

Source: Armenia News

<https://news.am/eng/news/812295.html>

4. Russia, China and Iran Finish Drills in Gulf of Oman

Ships of the Russian Navy, Chinese and Iranian navies began to carry out the actions of the international naval exercises "Maritime Security Belt 2024" in the Gulf of Oman.

Source: U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE

<https://news.usni.org/2024/03/14/russia-china-and-iran-finish-drills-in-gulf-of-oman>

5. The Rise of Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and the Next Generation of International Rules Governing Cross-Border Data Flows and Digital Trade

The free trade agreement between Ecuador and China will begin to enter into force on May 1, 2024. There is enthusiasm about it in Ecuador's productive and business sectors.

Source: **White & Case**

<https://www.whitecase.com/insight-our-thinking/rise-artificial-intelligence-big-data-next-generation-international-rules>

6. The fourth visit, Mekdad meets bin Farhan in Riyadh

Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers meeting in Riyadh. Syrian Foreign Minister "Faisal Miqdad" met and held talks with his Saudi counterpart "Faisal bin Farhan" at the Saudi Foreign Ministry in Riyadh.

Source: **Enab Baladi**

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2024/03/the-fourth-visit-mekdad-meets-bin-farhan-in-riyadh/>

7. Saudi Arabia has sent oil to Tel Aviv amid the genocide in Gaza

An international oil research institute announced that Saudi Arabia had sold oil to Tel Aviv during the days when the Zionist regime was engaged in genocide of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Source: **Webangah**

<https://en.webangah.ir/2024-03-16/news=79942/>

8. India Announces 6-Week General Elections Starting April 19, Modi's BJP Tops Surveys

The Election Commission of India has revealed that voting to elect the 543 members of the Lok Sabha will be held in seven phases starting from April 19 and ending on June 1. The results are expected to be issued on 4 June.

Source: **TIME**

<https://time.com/6957662/india-general-elections-april-modi-bjp/>

9. "Will the US Give Citizenship To Palestinians?" Harish Salve On CAA Remarks

The Biden administration is "concerned" about CAA notification in India. The new Indian law has a provision to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities - Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus and Parsis - who came to India before 2014 from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Source: **NDTV**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/will-they-offer-open-citizenship-harish-salve-on-us-caa-remarks-5251744>

10. Taliban welcome extension of UN mission mandate in Afghanistan

Zabihullah Mujahid noted the mission's potential in strengthening the movement's ties with other countries. He called on UNAMA to report on what is really happening in Afghanistan, highlight the Taliban's achievements and address the concerns of some countries, ensure that its realities are taken into account, and support Afghans and Act as a bridge between the United Nations.

***Source:* The Express Tribune**

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2459621/taliban-welcome-extension-of-un-mission-mandate-in-afghanistan>