



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press reply button for your feedback and comments.

Top Diplomats from the United States and China meet in Bangkok



Figure 1: U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and China's Foreign Minister Yang Yi/Image/ AP news

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [met](#) with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Bangkok on January 26-27, 2024. This is a follow-up and build-up meeting on maintaining an open line of communication between the United States and China as their presidents met in California on the sidelines of the APEC meeting last year. Both sides discussed the possible areas of cooperation with the next step and recognized the importance of resuming the military-to-military talks between the two countries.

Furthermore, they welcomed the progress on the counternarcotics issue and will launch the U.S.-China Counternarcotics Working Group on January 30. Also, both countries look forward to holding a U.S.-China dialogue on A.I. in the spring.

Notably, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for China, Taiwan, and Mongolia, Michael S. Chage, met with China's army Maj. Gen. Song Yanchao, at the Pentagon for the [17th U.S.-PRC Defense Policy Coordination Talks](#) from January 8-9, 2024. Chase emphasized open communication channels between military forces to prevent conflict escalation. He highlighted the need for operational safety in the Indo-Pacific. He [reaffirmed](#) that the U.S. will continue to operate responsibly, follow international law, and remain committed to its allies in the region and around the world. The U.S. delegates also restated their dedication to the long-standing "One China" policy, which is guided by the Taiwan Relations Act, the three US-China Joint Communiques, and the Six Assurances.

Following a period of uncertainty in 2023, the United States and China have resumed constructive talks aimed at strengthening their relations. Both countries have expressed a desire to foster healthy competition between their economies while also taking steps to avoid any potential conflicts. The resumption of these talks is a positive development that highlights the importance of diplomacy and communication in resolving complex international issues. However, it

has been [reported](#) that China has been putting military pressure on Taiwan by sending more than 30 warplanes and navy ships around Taiwan. Additionally, China has accused the U.S. of "abusing international law" after the [USS John Fin, a destroyer from the 7th fleet](#), transited the Taiwan Strait.

As the United States and China engage in talks, the future of their relations and the risk of potential conflict in the Indo-Pacific region remain uncertain. There are several factors that could impact the outcome of these talks, including trade negotiations, military tensions, and disagreements over territorial disputes. The United States has voiced concerns over China's increasingly assertive behavior in the South China Sea, which has led to heightened tensions in the region. At the same time, China has accused the United States of interfering in its internal affairs and attempting to contain its rise as a global power. The outcome of these talks will have far-reaching implications for the future of the Indo-Pacific region and the global balance of power. [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka's Adopts New Internet law to Regulate Online Content

Sri Lanka Parliament Passed a Bill that will regulate online content. The new [Online Safety Bill](#) which aims to "establish the Online Safety Commission; to make provisions to prohibit online communication of certain statements of fact in Sri Lanka; to prevent the use of online accounts and inauthentic online accounts for prohibited purposes." The critics and right groups opposed the legislation and [stated](#) that the bill suppresses the freedom of expression and "draconian system to stifle dissent" and will hamper the" growth of Sri Lanka's digital economy." [Read More](#)

Assistant Secretary of State Lu visits India and Maldives

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu travels to India and Maldives from Jan. 26-31. The delegates aim to enhance opportunities for partnership between the United States and India and U.S.-Maldives with the interaction at different level of govt., academia, and civil society groups. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country has celebrated its 75th Republic Day on January 26?

- a. Singapore
- b. India
- c. China
- d. Republic of Korea

Which country does the SLIM Moon Lander belong to?

- a. Japan
 - b. India
 - c. China
 - d. U.S.A
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Consortium Highlights

❖ CIPR Webinar, **Bangladesh Elections 2024: A Geo-Political Analysis**, a discussion with Brig Gen (R) Dr. M. Sakhawat Hussain, Prof. Ali Riaz & Prof. Sreeradha Datta. [Watch Here](#)

❖ CIPR Podcast, **Taiwan Strait Relations - Background and Analysis**, A conversation with Chris L Kolakowski, Jose Custodio, Brendan H. J. Donnelly & Grant T. Willis. [Listen Here](#)

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