



[Consortium of Indo-Pacific
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Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail August 11-17, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

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

Trump-Putin Summit Concludes in Alaska



Figure 1: US President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, Aug. 15, 2025, Image [/whitehouse.gov/](https://whitehouse.gov/)

US President Donald Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, in an effort to reach a peace deal between Russia and Ukraine. Everyone was watching this highly anticipated historic meeting between the leaders of two superpowers, hoping for a positive outcome regarding the war in Eastern Europe. Trump approached the meeting with warmth and a cheerful spirit, expressing optimism for a possible truce in Ukraine. However, no deal was reached. In an interview with Fox News, Trump described the meeting as 'productive' and rated it 10/10.

It has been more than three years since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, resulting in the [reported casualties](#) of over 1 million Russian soldiers and 400,000 Ukrainian soldiers. Since Trump assumed office on January 20, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has had multiple phone calls and in-person meetings with him to seek support in ending the war and establish a path toward permanent peace. Additionally, European leaders and the NATO Secretary General have also met with Trump to put pressure and sanction Putin to stop the war.

Since the election campaign, President Trump claimed that the war would not have happened if he had been the President and that he would end the war very soon after taking office. Unfortunately, Putin does not have the same intentions as Trump. In Anchorage, Putin highlighted Russia's contributions during World War II, emphasizing the sacrifices made by Russian soldiers, akin to those of Americans. He also recalled the Russian soldiers who

sacrificed their lives in Alaska. He was attempting to equate Russia with America and warns European countries not to “torpedo the progress” of ongoing talks.

The path toward a lasting peace in the Ukraine-Russia conflict remains a challenging and complex. Now the next step in pursuing peace is the upcoming meeting between President Trump and President Zelensky. Expressing his concern for the permanent peace, Zelensky said, “Ukraine wants lasting peace, not another pause in the war.” It remains to be seen what the next steps of President Trump’s effort will be to bring peace to Ukraine, and on what territories of Ukraine, Russia will ask to agree to a peace deal.

Now the questions arise for the Indo-Pacific, what are the cost of peace agreements if a big power invades smaller country? How China and its neighboring countries read the ongoing talks of Russia-Ukraine war and the prospects of cessation of territories in exchange of peace in Ukraine? Will it embolden China’s assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific? However, President Trump said that China won’t invade Taiwan while he is in office. [Read More](#)

Taiwan Foreign Minister Confirms Japan Visit

Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung visited Japan last month. Lin's visit got China's backlash as China views Taiwan as its breakaway province. China protested the visit and postponed a Japan-China agricultural ministers' meeting that was scheduled in Tokyo.

Chinese officials/spokespersons always show resentment if Taiwan intends to expand its relationship with other countries in the world since Taiwan has no diplomatic relations with other countries, so the visits of Taiwanese officials are rarely disclosed. [Read More](#)

US Deploys Warships in the South China Sea

The United States deployed two warships in the South China Sea (SCS) amid an alarming situation when two Chinese Navy vessels collided chasing a Filipino boat near Scarborough Shoal. The deployment happened after the US ambassador to Manila, MaryKay Carlson, condemned the incident and said, "the latest reckless action by China directed against a Philippine vessel" in Scarborough. China and the Philippines both claim Scarborough Shoal. Further, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Taiwan are also the claimants in the SCS. As competition between the US and China intensifies, freedom of navigation and overflight is increasingly challenged. The South China Sea is a vital global trade route and is rich in fisheries that provide livelihoods and food security. [Read More](#)

India and China Inches Closer amid Tariff tension

India and China seek to improve relations to reduce the heat of US tariffs. India and China received 25% and 30% tariffs on the products exported to the US. India has to pay 25 % additional tariffs to buy oil from China. Furthermore, the

next round of trade talks between India and the US has been called off. However, China received respite from the next level of tariffs for 90 days.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang's upcoming visit to India signals a willingness to work on the confidence-building measures. Both countries seek to improve relations after the deadly clash in Galwan Valley in 2020. India and China have a disputed border along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Himalayas, and both countries still maintain 50,000-60,000 troops at the border. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

India celebrates its Independence Day on August 15. Which country's Independence Day is on August 14?

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. Bangladesh | c. Nepal |
| b. Pakistan | d. Maldives |

Where is the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson located?

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. America | c. Denmark |
| b. Russia | d. Ukraine |
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Event: US-Japan Alliance, August 22, 9:30 A.M. EST
 - ❖ Upcoming Roundtable Discussion: South Asia Quagmire, Sept. 19, 9:00 A.M. EST
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for August 10 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which anniversary commemorates the dropping of the atomic bomb in Japan?

a. 80th

Q. Where will Trump-Putin Summit take place on August 15?

d. Alaska

Contributions: Indu Saxena