



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail September 8-14, 2025**

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Greetings Colleagues,

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

### **US Urges EU to Impose 100% Tariff on China and India Amid Escalating Putin Offensives**



Figure 1: US President Trump and Russian President Putin for the peace talk over Ukraine

The United States [calls on the European Union to impose a 100 % tariff](#) on China and India for buying Russian Oil if they want to stop Putin's aggression, and only then the US can impose sanctions on Russia. Last week, Moscow's intrusion into Poland's airspace and advancing assertiveness toward Eastern Europe brought "the entire region closer to conflict than at any time in recent years." Poland and 40 allies' countries, including the US, Canada, and Japan, have signed a statement.

India, an important pillar of the US Indo-Pacific Strategy and a prominent member of the Quad, has already been bearing the pain of a 50 % US tariff for purchasing Russian oil. While no official statement has come from India, China's foreign minister [criticized the proposal of a 100 % tariff](#) and asked the EU to make a wise decision. Wang Yi stated, "China does not participate in or plan wars, and what China does is to encourage peace talks and promote political settlement of hotspot issues through dialogue."

It is important to note that 18 EU countries are part of China's massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project, and China has hugely invested in Europe through its. More recently, a direct [freight train from Warsaw to China](#) has started, carrying goods from several European countries for the first time. Poland's rail freight operator views it as an opportunity to establish new trade links and boost economic growth.

US and India trade talks may resume this week after being cancelled from August 25-29, but it remains unclear whether an agreement will be reached soon. US official, Howard Lutnick, states that, if India stops buying oil

from Russia, the trade deal will “sort out”. In the recent development, Modi and Trump exchanged their remarks via social media and have shown optimism for trade negotiations and the forward trajectory of US and India relations. [Read More](#)

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## **India and Mauritius Expand Ties**

Reiterating the enhanced strategic partnership and to strengthen the bilateral relations Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi hosted the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Delhi on State Visit to India. Both leaders discussed the shared interest and seek to enhance ties. India and Mauritius two Indian Ocean countries are bonded with geography, culture, and history. Indian Prime Minister Modi stated that India and Mauritius are not just partners but a family

India pledges to provide economic and financial support to Mauritius in the critical sector of infrastructure and healthcare. Both leaders discussed the deep partnership in trade, energy, maritime security, space and technology. Further, India will provide support in redevelopment and restructuring of Port in Mauritius; and assistance in development and surveillance of Chagos Marine Protected Area. It is important to note that Chagos Island where Mauritius has its sovereign rights and regain ownership from the United Kingdom. India views Mauritius is an important pillar of India's “Neighborhood First policy” and “Vision Mahasagar”. Mauritius’s strategic location in the Western Indian Ocean

is crucial to play in the Indo-Pacific and to counterbalance China's influence in the Indian Ocean region. [Read More](#)

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## **US Conduct Joint Operation in the South China Sea**

The US Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted bilateral operations in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific in the Philippine Sea. As per US Navy news media, this operation builds on numerous other engagements, such as Pacific Vanguard 2025, through which the US Navy and JMSDF have continued to strengthen an alliance that has long been a cornerstone of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Bilateral operations such as this one provides valuable opportunities to train, exercise and develop tactical interoperability and improve combined readiness across allied navies in the Indo-Pacific.

"The joint operation included the U.S. Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76), JMSDF Hyūga-class helicopter destroyer JS Ise (DDH 182) and JMSDF Takanami-class destroyer JS Suzunami (DD 114).

The US Cmdr. Jordan R. White, commanding officer of the Higgins, emphasized that bilateral operations between the US and Japan significantly strengthen our combined forces. These collaborations not only enhance our

warfighting capabilities but also foster improved interoperability, ultimately leading to a more effective partnership. [Read More](#)

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## **Nepal Appoints Interim Prime Minister after Zen Z's Protest**

The Himalayan Nation Nepal has set to appoint interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki due to the resignation of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. Last week, [Nepal was under fire due to the protest](#) of Zen Z regarding corruption and unemployment charges of the ruling government headed by Oli. The student protest turned violent, burnt government buildings and parliament, and blocked streets and markets. The clash between the police and the protesters killed nearly 72 people and injured several. The protest was triggered after the Social Media ban in the country.

Mr. Oli was leading the coalition government with the support of the Nepali Congress party and took office in July 2024. Since 2015, when Nepal adopted its modern constitution, 8 Prime Ministers have been appointed, almost changing every year except 2018-2020. The growing instability in the mountainous Nepal is certainly a cause for concern due to the geopolitical tension in the Indo-Pacific, particularly when Nepal is wedged between India and China, two archrivals.

Ms. Karki, a former Chief Justice, will be the first female Prime Minister of Nepal, who is widely known for her clean image and is supported by student protest groups. The interim government will have the difficult responsibility to

maintain peace and to address the needs of students. Further, in six months, the interim government will conduct the election in the country. [Read More](#)

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## Indo-Pacific Quiz

What anniversary of the terrorist attack on the US does September 11, 2025, mark?

- a. 20
- b. 18
- c. 21
- d. 24

Which U.S. city is set to host the G-20 Summit in 2026?

- a. Miami
  - b. Chicago
  - c. Los Angeles
  - d. Boston
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## Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Event Highlight: CIPR hosted the Report Discussion Event for the project, ***U.S.-Japan Alliance: Strengthening Defense and Security in the Indo-Pacific***, in Washington D.C., on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. [Watch Video Here.](#)
- ❖ VIP Podcast Episode 39: The Status of women in Afghanistan after Four Years of Taliban Rule. [Listen Here](#)

- ❖ Upcoming Roundtable Discussion: South Asia Quagmire, Sept. 19, 9:00  
A.M. EST [Zoom Link](#)
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## Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for Sept.7 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which country has changed the name of its Department of Defense to the Department of War?

a. USA

Q. Anutin Charnvirakul has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?

b. Thailand

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