



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 the reply button for your feedback and comments.

United Nations General Assembly at 80: Divided and Discredited



Figure 1: UN Secretary-General António Guterres) addresses the Assembly at 80th session /UN News/

The 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has begun this week, with leaders from around the world in attendance in New York, USA. The purpose of the UN Assembly is to bring world leaders together to address pressing challenges, resolve issues, and make a pledge to a better world for future generations. On the contrary, leaders showed their frustration, anger, and despair in addressing the United Nations and their opponents.

In his speech, US President Trump addressed logistic issues regarding building and also questioned the purpose of the UN. He stated that the United Nations is expected to uphold the Charter to promote peace and prevent conflict. Trump noted that he stopped seven wars in the first seven months of his presidency, in lieu of the UN. He also criticized the foundational approach of the globalist UN regarding immigration, warning EU countries that their nations could become chaotic if they don't stop illegal migration. Furthermore, he claimed that climate change is a hoax and asserted that there is no concrete evidence for it.

However, before President Trump's speech, Brazilian President Lula supported Multilateralism and respect for all countries in his address to the UN. Notably, Brazil is the Key player of BRICS, the grouping that has garnered a lot of criticism from Trump, as the introduction of BRICS currency could potentially undermine the US dollar.

Ukrainian President Zelensky criticized the United Nations for merely making statements without taking meaningful actions to halt Russia's aggression. He has called on the UN and world leaders to take decisive steps to

stop Russia's aggression. Despite his efforts, President Trump is unable to halt the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. However, he seems frustrated with Russia's actions, urges Ukraine and European nations to respond, and asserts that Ukraine can reclaim its territories.

The second battlefield, the Middle East, was a big shadow on the house, as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has asserted that Israel is accountable for acts of genocide in Gaza. Simultaneously, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu warned Hamas from the UN Podium to return the hostages "now." He warns the countries that recognize the Palestinian state, such as the UK, Australia, Canada, France, and Portugal, against rewarding Hamas. He stated, "Your disgraceful decision will encourage terrorism against Jews and against innocent people everywhere."

Chinese Premier Li Qiang [pointed](#) toward the West particularly the US, of promoting "Unilateralism" and a "Cold War mentality" that has been eroding the world order. He emphasized Multilateralism, the very notion of the UN Foundation to bring peace and global development and criticized protectionism and trade barriers.

Notably, the US and China are at the helm of great power competition in the Indo-Pacific, the priority theatre for the United States. Simultaneously, China has been challenging US dominance in Africa, Latin America, and its "[No Limit](#)" partnership with Russia, which is fueling the war in Ukraine and poses a threat to European Security.

Europe and Indo-Pacific Partners Meet in New York

European countries (Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Poland) and Indo-Pacific countries (Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand) met in New York at the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session.

The leaders discussed security concerns across Europe and the Indo-Pacific, emphasizing the interconnectedness of these regions. Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iwaya, noted that given current challenges to the international order, exchanging views among countries with shared values and principles in both areas is highly valuable. He highlighted the importance of economic security cooperation, stressing the need to uphold an international economic framework founded on free and fair rules, and expressed his expectation that participating states will pursue effective initiatives according to their unique perspectives. [Read More](#)

Singapore Hosts Multinational Exercise

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) commence Exercise Pacific Reach, (PACREACH), a multinational Submarine Escape and Rescue (SMER) exercise. Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 aims to develop regional SMER capabilities, strengthen interoperability in submarine rescue operations, and enhance the safety of submariners at sea. The exercise will see the participation of 17 countries with approximately 600 participants, comprising Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, the

Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 consists of a shore phase and a sea phase. The shore phase comprises a medical symposium, national submarine rescue system conference, as well as a mass evacuation exercise (MASSEVEX) that simulates the evacuation and medical treatment of personnel from a distressed submarine. Serials during the sea phase will test the procedures and interoperability of participating in submarine rescue as well as strengthen understanding and confidence on a common set of rescue procedures. [Read More](#)

US and Pakistan Reset Bilateral Ties

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with President Trump in the [Oval Office](#). Mr. Sharif is the first PM to visit the US in six years since 2019.

Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir, who has made three visits to the US in the last four months, was also present at the meeting at the Oval Office.

Pakistan has reached trade, crypto, and rare earth materials deals with the US. Pakistani PM expressed gratitude to President Trump for his involvement in the recent India-Pakistan conflict, calling him a "man of peace." Pakistan has already nominated Trump's name for the Nobel Peace Prize. India disagrees with this view, asserting that the conflict ended bilaterally without any mediation.

Interestingly, Pakistan has significantly influenced the geopolitics of South Asia and the Middle East by signing a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA) with Saudi Arabia, which binds both countries in a contract to protect each other from any aggression against either country. No doubt, the deal has come into existence in the wake of Israel's continued military operation in Gaza and beyond. However, it is yet to be seen how the White House plays out in the new security scenario with its allies, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, given President Trump's unwavering support for Israel.

Indo-Pacific Quiz

The United States has paused military aid to which country?

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. South Korea | c. Australia |
| b. Taiwan | d. Philippines |

Which was the last Dynasty of Vietnam?

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a. Nguyễn Dynasty | c. Trần Dynasty |
| b. Ngô Dynasty | d. Later Lê Dynasty |
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Consortium Highlights

❖ Roundtable Discussion: South Asia Quagmire: Striving for Peace [Watch Video Here](#)

❖ CIPR Welcomes Fall 2025 Interns

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for Sept. 21 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which US allies recognized the Palestinian State this week?

b. UK, Australia, Canada

Q. US President Trump aims to regain control of Bagram Air Base, which is located in country?

c. Afghanistan

Contributions: Indu Saxena