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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.

‘Historic Dawn of a New Middle East,’ says President Trump



Figure 1: World Leaders from thirty countries gather in Egypt for the Peace Summit

US President Donald Trump and world leaders met in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, to sign the historic Peace Summit to end the war in Gaza. The United States initiated a 20-point peace plan for the Middle East that has been effective since today, as Hamas released all 20 living hostages. Israel freed nearly 2000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. For a while, the moment of joy occurred to both sides as the separated reunited with their families and loved ones. The aid truck starts moving in Gaza. As per the peace plan, Israel won't annex Gaza and will withdraw its forces in three phases. Israel and Hamas have been engaged in conflict since October 7, 2023, following an attack by Hamas-led militants on southern Israel, resulting in approximately 1,200 fatalities and the abduction of 251 individuals.

President Trump has [signed a peace deal](#) with the leaders of Egypt, Qatar, and Turkey. Leaders from the broader region expressed appreciation for President Trump's efforts in facilitating dialogue between Israel and Arab states, which contributed to the recent peace agreement. This pivotal development has positioned the United States as a significant and influential player in the region.

From the Indo-Pacific region, Australia and New Zealand welcomed the deal as a “step toward peace” and a “watershed” moment, while India and Japan commended President Trump’s leadership, with Japan pledging to help rebuild Gaza. Indian Prime Minister Modi said, President Trump’s comprehensive plan provides a viable pathway to long-term and sustainable

peace, security and development for the Palestinian and Israeli people, as also for the larger West Asian region.”

China called for a “lasting and comprehensive” ceasefire to ease the humanitarian crisis. Indonesia and Malaysia characterized the agreement as a “significant development” and a source of optimism, while Pakistan referred to it as a “historic opportunity.” Bangladesh and Nepal have both offered to contribute peacekeepers and advocated for the release of hostages, including Nepali national Bipin Joshi.

While everyone hopes for lasting peace, the next phases of the peace deal will not be easy. It remains to be seen whether both sides will demonstrate the patience and commitment needed to follow the path to peace. [Read More](#)

North Korea Envisions of ‘Socialist Paradise’ as it Celebrates the Foundation Day

North Korea marks its 80th anniversary of the ruling party with a celebration and display of power, featuring friendly countries such as Chinese Premier Li Qiang, Russia's former President Dmitry Medvedev, Vietnam's Communist Party Chief To Lam, and Laos's President Thongloun Sisoulith.

In his address, North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un stated that North Korea is coping with the economic front and developing its military by advancing its missile program to counter the "growing nuclear war threats by U.S. imperialists.” He [pledged to establish North Korea](#) “the best Socialist

paradise in the world.” During the Foundation Day military parade, Kim showcased his power by displaying long-range and new intercontinental ballistic missiles, asserting that they can strike the U.S. mainland.

It is important to note that North Korea has strengthened its relations with Russia and China in recent years. North Korea's support for Russia in the Ukraine war is significant and demonstrates a close partnership between the two countries. North Korea sent its troops to Kursk region to support Russia. Further, it is reported that Russia transfers its submarine technology to North Korea. Additionally, North Korea has enhanced its relationship with China, marked by three high-level meetings within a month. This includes a recent summit in Beijing where Xi Jinping hosted Kim Jong Un at the Victory Day parade. Following that North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui visited Beijing to meet with Foreign Minister Wang Yi. [Read More](#)

India Boosts Ties with Taliban

Taliban's foreign ministers' visit to New Delhi signifies the changing security dynamics in South Asia. Both countries seek to extend their diplomatic relations with India, and India is to reopen its embassy in Kabul after four years of Taliban rule. This is the first significant step in the bilateral relations between the two countries since the hijacking of an Air India plane in 1999. India has provided \$3 billion to the war-torn country's reconstruction and capacity-building of the Afghan people since 2021.

The dynamics of South Asia have changed rapidly since the Pahalgam terror attack on April 14, 2025, which prompted India and Pakistan to engage in a four-day war. Taliban condemned the terror attack and views Kashmir as a bilateral issue of India and Pakistan. India's approach to work closely with the Taliban is a strategic move to counter terrorism and infiltration across its border, and the Afghan leader assures India that “it will not allow any group or individual to use the territory of Afghanistan against India.”

Recently, Afghanistan and Pakistan have [faced a border confrontation](#) that has strained relations between the two neighboring countries. Furthermore, the recent recalibration of US-Pakistan relations and President Trump's intention to maintain control over the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan are causing concern among the Taliban. [Read More](#)

Australia and India Strengthen Defense Cooperation

Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense, the Hon Richard Marles MP, hosted India's Defense Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, to Australia for the inaugural Australia-India Defense Ministers' Dialogue. Both leaders discussed a Joint Maritime Security Collaboration and signed Australia-India Implementing Arrangement on Mutual Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation.

The leaders expressed mutual appreciation for the participation of their respective military forces in Exercise Talisman Saber and Tarang Shakti.

Australia conveyed its gratitude to India for the offer to provide maintenance, repair, and overhaul services for Royal Australian Navy vessels at Indian shipyards during their deployment in the Indian Ocean Region. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

US President Donald Trump threatens to impose a 100% tariff on which country starting Nov. 1?

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| a. South Korea | c. Japan |
| b. China | d. India |

Where is Sharm-El Sheikh located?

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a. Saudi Arabia | c. Indonesia |
| b. France | d. Egypt |

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Webinar: Examining U.S. Grand Strategy and Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, Oct. 27, 2025 @10:30 AM EST
 - ❖ Upcoming Podcast: South Korea's Leadership in APEC: Navigating Regional Diplomacy Amid Great Power Rivalry
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for October 5 Newsletter Quiz

Q. In which Asian country is a female leader set to be the Prime Minister?

c. Japan

Q. Which European nation held Brunei Darussalam as a protectorate until 1984?

a. Britain

Contributions: Indu Saxena