



Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail December 1-7, 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.

Outcome of India-Russia Summit and Implications for the Indo-Pacific



Figure 1 A grand ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi /Image/ mygovindia/

Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a significant moment in India-Russia relations amid chaotic world politics. Putin's grand welcome in India demonstrates further expansion of the "time-tested" and "privileged strategic partnership" between the two countries. Modi and Putin signed a [joint statement](#) and reaffirmed their commitment to enhance cooperation in trade, defense, energy, transport, space, science and technology, civil nuclear initiative, cultural, tourism, and people-to-people exchange.

The highlights of Putin's visit to India included setting the bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030. Russia's assistance in helping India achieve a nuclear power capacity of 100 GW by 2014 would be highly significant. Additionally, India will import fertilizers from Russia, while Russia will source Indian pharmaceuticals and agricultural products. In his speech, Putin stated that Russia intends to supply "uninterrupted oil" to India. However, it remains uncertain whether India will increase its oil purchases. Conversely, India has decreased its oil imports following pressure from US President Trump.

Over the past two decades, the United States' strategic rebalancing toward Asia—embodied in its "pivot to Asia" and "Indo-Pacific strategy"—has significantly transformed India-US relations. India is recognized as a major defense partner, a natural ally, and participates in a [comprehensive global strategic partnership](#) with the United States. Additionally, India is a key member of the U.S.-led Quad grouping, which seeks to counterbalance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. This raises the question of how India can

balance its relationship with Russia while remaining a key member of the Indo-Pacific and Quad partnership.

When the Ukraine war started in early 2022, many strategic thinkers, particularly from the West (US and Europe), observed that the Russia-India partnership is linked with India's reliance on Russian military equipment, which constitutes of its 70 % of arsenal. And it would gradually diminish as India started diversifying its arms supply from the US, France, and Israel, and India's domestic production "Make in India" program. That didn't hold, India still has about 80 billion USD in defense imports from Russia. Additionally, India's key focus may now be on [the procurement of next-generation](#), Russian air defense systems, the S-500 platform.

Furthermore, the [US National Security Strategy \(NSS\) 2026](#), rooted in the "America First" principle, recognizes India as a significant partner in the Indo-Pacific region. The NSS states, "We must continue to improve commercial (and other) relations with India to encourage New Delhi to contribute to Indo-Pacific security, including through continued quadrilateral cooperation with Australia, Japan, and the United States ("the Quad"). The United States seeks to expand commercial and other forms of engagement with India to further enhance the US-India relationship.

India has to walk on a tight rope to sustain cordiality in India-US relations. India's sovereignty and strategic autonomy provide it with the capacity to pursue a multi-aligned approach. However, as India expands its relations with Russia, it is important to exercise caution and maintain a

delicate balance, particularly in managing its broader interests with the United States in the Indo-Pacific region. It is conceivable that Modi and Trump may serve as each other's guests in 2026, with the United States hosting the G-20 summit and New Delhi presiding over the Quad summit.

French President Macron Visits China

French President Macron visited China on a state visit to improve bilateral relations between the two countries. Macron and Xi Jinping discussed trade, economy, multilateralism, the Ukraine war, and the Palestine issue. Mentioning the trade imbalances with China, the French President urges China to reduce the deficit that constitutes 46 percent of the total trade deficit. Macron said the trip was a sign of mutual trust and a desire to "act together" at a time when international tensions are rising, and trade imbalances are widening to China's advantage.

The French leader urged Beijing to pressure Russia towards a ceasefire with Ukraine after a recent flurry of diplomacy around a US-led peace proposal. "We are facing the risk of the disintegration of the international order that brought peace to the world for decades, and in this context, the dialogue between China and France is even more essential than ever," he said.

The two countries signed an agreement to bring two pandas from China to France by 2027, with the purpose of the Panda conservation effort. [Read More](#)

Quad Countries Hold Counterterrorism meeting

The Quad countries India, Japan, Australia, and the United States of America Counterterrorism meeting Working Group (CTWG) meeting in New Delhi.

Ambassador Sibi George, Secretary (West), delivered the keynote address, underscoring the need for forging a common resolve within the Quad to combat the scourge of terrorism, and urged all Quad members to take the necessary steps to make the Quad CTWG a more resilient, robust, and action-oriented Working Group. He thanked Quad member countries for showing solidarity and extending support to India following the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack.

Quad partners unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They also expressed their condolences for the heinous terror attack on 10 November 2025 near the Red Fort in Delhi. They called for the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice and urged all UN Member States to cooperate in doing so.

During the meeting, the Quad member countries exchanged assessments on the terrorism threat landscape, including developments in the Indo-Pacific region. They discussed the full spectrum of counterterrorism cooperation and measures that could be used to address the existing and emerging challenges. They underscored the importance of ensuring that the Indo-Pacific remains open and free from the threats of terrorism.

Quad partners reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in multilateral fora. They also emphasized the value of continued information sharing on terrorists, terrorist organizations, and their proxies. [Read More](#)

US Defense Bill 2026 Targets Countering China

The US Congress approves \$900 billion defense bill that is heavily focused on countering China. The [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) for Fiscal Year 2026 authorizes funding for the Department of Defense, with an emphasis on advancing the military-industrial base and extending the Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) to enhance the US posture in the Indo-Pacific region.

The new defense bill increases funding for innovative new technologies needed to deter the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), including hypersonic, artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous systems, cyber, mobile micronuclear reactors, and high-energy lasers.

It also includes cooperation on Taiwan security and authorizes funding for US forces to continue training Taiwan and other partner nations in resisting China's aggression and malign influence. Additionally, it requires the DoD to provide Congress with recommendations to help Taiwan counter grey zone coercion by China.

It is worth noting that recently, tension on the Taiwan issue has been escalating, followed by the remarks of Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi that China's aggression against Taiwan is an existential threat to Japan. Recently,

the Taiwan President announced a special \$40 billion budget for arms purchases, including building a Taiwan Dome, an air defense system.

Indo-Pacific Quiz

What is the Nanking Massacre associated with?

- a. WW1
- c. WW2
- b. Vietnam War
- d. Korea War

Where is Dujiangyan City located?

- a. China
- c. Vietnam
- b. Taiwan
- d. Singapore

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Book-Talk: Is Taiwan a Dangerous Flashpoint? December 2, 2025, 8:00 AM EST. [Recording Link](#)
- ❖ Consortium of Indo-Pacific Researchers (CIPR) partners with the New Mexico Military Museum Military History team members, Brendan Donnelly & Grant T Willis participated in a Lecture titled “Lost Sky: The Grounded Airmen of the Provisional Air Corps Regiment.”

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for November 30 Newsletter Quiz

Q. US has ended the temporary protected status (TPS) for which country?

b. Myanmar

Q. How many islands are in the Pacific Ocean?

c. approx. 25,000

Contributions: Indu Saxena