



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail November 23-30, 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.

Putin's Upcoming visit to Delhi amid the chaos of the Ukraine War. What to Expect?



Figure 1 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi /Image/Reuters

Russian President Vladimir Putin will be visiting New Delhi at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister Modi. Putin has been visiting India after four years, and he will attend the 23rd India-Russia annual summit. Both leaders met at the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China,

This visit occurs at a time when US President Trump is making rigorous efforts to end the war in Ukraine, with several rounds of talks having taken place from Geneva to Florida. Amid the diplomatic flurry, Trump's 28-point peace plan has gathered momentum but still needs more work, according to Secretary Rubio.

Over two days, Modi and Putin will review their cooperation across sectors, including defense, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, space, technology, and trade. A key focus is expected to be on next-generation air defense systems, particularly discussions surrounding Russia's S-500 platform. Notably, the Russian S-400 was utilized to protect India from drone attacks launched by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor in May 2025.

As Modi and Putin are expected to share warm hugs and handshakes, several business agreements are expected to be signed along with a joint statement from the leaders.

On the other hand, US-India relations have been going through a tough time due to trade tensions. Moreover, President Trump put pressure on India to stop buying Russian oil, as he says it fuels Russia's war machine in Ukraine.

Indian Prime Minister Modi has been popular due to his remarks that it is not the era of war. It is yet to be seen whether Modi and Putin can advance the peace and development agenda and shape global peace and diplomacy. [Read More](#)

India and Indonesia Deepen Defense Cooperation

Indonesian Defense Minister Mr. Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin visited Delhi and co-chaired the third India–Indonesia Defense Ministers’ Dialogue with India’s defense minister Rajnath Singh. The two leaders engaged in discussions on regional security and multilateral matters, and explored opportunities to further enhance bilateral defense cooperation, including the possibility of a BrahMos missile agreement.

It is noteworthy that earlier this year, President Prabowo Subianto visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. During his visit, he engaged in productive discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which advanced the two countries' Comprehensive Strategic partnership.

India and Indonesia reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open, peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, guided by international law and respect for sovereignty. Noting that the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India’s Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative share relevant fundamental principles, Indonesia reiterated that India remains a key partner in promoting

peace and cooperation in the region. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation through multilateral frameworks such as Indian Ocean Rim Association under India's chairmanship. Both countries committed to enhancing practical cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber resilience, and joint operational readiness.

Both Ministers welcomed the Dialogue's results and agreed to maintain high-level contacts, practical cooperation, and structured management in defense and security to support Indo-Pacific peace and stability. [Read More](#)

The 4th EU-Indo-Pacific Foreign Ministerial Forum Held in Brussels

The 4th IPMF, which has as its theme 'Building together a resilient, prosperous and secure future', has been convened in Brussels. The 4th IPMF assembles around 70 participants from the EU institutions and Member States, Indo-Pacific countries, and regional organizations from across the Indo-Pacific region from the East coast of Africa to the Pacific island states. The forum is an important milestone in advancing strategic cooperation between the EU and the Indo-Pacific.

The EU High Representative Kaja Kallas said in her opening remarks, "Europe and our partners in the Indo-Pacific are at a critical juncture.

Both Europe and the Indo-Pacific are also facing the challenges of modern mercantilism and strategic competition. Moreover, the resilience of our countries in both regions is being tested by climate change, terrorism, global and regional crises.” She also mentioned that China has been supporting Russia's war in Ukraine through dual-use exports. Furthermore, Russia and China plan to reshape the global economic and security order. And the EU and Indo-Pacific need each other more than ever. [Read More](#)

Taiwan Announces \$40 billion Budget for Buying US Weapons

Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te on Wednesday announced a special \$40 billion budget for arms purchases, including to build a Taiwan Dome, an air defense system with high-level detection and interception capabilities, as the U.S. pressures the island to increase its defense spending.

According to the AP news the budget will be allocated over eight years, from 2026 to 2033, and comes after Lai already pledged to raise defense spending to 5% of the island's GDP, as part of his strategy amid China's threats of invasion.

China’s threats to Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region are escalating,” Lai said. He stated that military intrusions, maritime grey zones, and disinformation campaigns have been happening in Japan, the Philippines, and around the Taiwan Strait, creating concern throughout the region.

Lai also commented on the escalating row between China and Japan after the remarks of Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi that China's aggression against Taiwan is an existential threat to Japan. Lai said Takaichi's comments appeared to be focused largely on the stability of the region.

Indo-Pacific Quiz

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

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| a. Thailand | c. Afghanistan |
| b. Myanmar | d. Vietnam |

How many islands are in the Pacific Ocean?

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. approx.10,000 | c. approx.15,000 |
| b. approx. 20,000 | d. approx. 25,000 |
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Book-Talk: Is Taiwan a Dangerous Flashpoint? December 2, 2025, 8:00 AM EST. Zoom Link
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for November 23 Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which country boycotted G-20 South Africa Summit?

b. USA

Q. How many provinces does China have?

c. 22

Contributions: Indu Saxena