



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 28-July 5, 2026**

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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.

### **America at 250, Superpower Role and a Strategic Inflection Point**



Figure 1: America celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Fireworks on Hudson River /IMAGE/ New York Daily News/

This July 4 is more important than ever in American history, as America rejoices in its semi-quincentennial of signing of the declaration of Independence. Two realities define the moment: America is still the most powerful country on earth, and the most pressing challenges lie ahead.

America has revisited the history of its audacity and courage multiple times. The Father of America, George Washington, crossed the freezing Delaware River and won that battle — a victory that boosted the spirit of its army at its most desperate hour and set the republic on its improbable path to greatness.

The Founding Fathers of America sowed the seed of “free world” and wrote a constitution that opened with three words of eternal consequence: "We the People." We the people, have since contributed to science, technology, innovation, and artificial intelligence — translating the founding promise of self-governance into the most consequential engine of human progress the world has ever known.

While at 250 America has more reasons to celebrate, it must be equally cautious moving forward with the superpower title. Preeminence is not inherited — it is earned, defended, and at times bled for, in every generation.

The United States has been maintaining its tough competition with China across the domains that matter most — defense, weapons, manufacturing and production, and rare earth materials. Each of these

contests is not merely economic; each is a structural dimension of the rivalry that will determine which vision of world order prevails in the century ahead.

The cooperation of China with Russia, North Korea, and Iran will sustain a formidable and enduring challenge to the free world that America established. This axis of revisionist powers does not share a common ideology so much as a common purpose: the erosion of the American-led international order and the rules and institutions that underpin it.

The rule of the sea and outer space has been challenged, and a force of expansionism is still on the rise. From Ukraine to Taiwan to the Strait of Hormuz, America has to face its enemies on multiple fronts — a simultaneous stress test of American resolve, resources, and strategic coherence unlike any since the Second World War.

Meanwhile, the allies in Europe are divided on defense procurement and strategic priorities, even as Europe has been facing a brutal war with Russia for the last four years, fighting alongside Ukraine in the most consequential land war on the continent since 1945.

George Washington [crossed the Delaware river](#) in the dead of winter because retreat was no longer a viable option. At 250, America faces a different but equally defining crossing — not of a river in a snowstorm, but of a strategic inflection point in the history of the free world. The question this anniversary raises is not whether America is still powerful. It is whether America still has the will that made it so. [Read More](#)

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## **India and Japan: Strategic Convergence for an Uncertain Indo-Pacific Region**

Japan Prime Minister Sane Takaichi's official visit to Delhi marks a bolstering of the strategic partnership between the two leading democracies in the Indo-Pacific. The two countries [signed 129 MOUs and a Memorandum of Cooperation \(MoC\)](#) to boost cooperation in trade, pharmaceuticals, artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, clean energy, supply chain resilience, critical technologies, and people-to-people exchange.

India and Japan are the quintessential anchors of the Indo-Pacific that have been facing the challenge of assertive China in their neighborhood. Indian India and Japan have elevated their relationship since Japanese Prime Minister and Indo-Pacific champion Shinzo Abe. Abe had long advocated strong relations with India to counterweight Beijing's increasing assertiveness. India and Japan are both prominent members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) alongside Australia and the USA. As US President Donald Trump has been managing relations with China and engaged with Iran and the Western Hemisphere, the Quad leaders' summit has been delayed since 2025. There is still uncertainty regarding the timing and details of the next Quad summit.

In the joint statement, both leaders reiterate their shared responsibility to shape and uphold an international order which is free, open and based on

the rule of law. Minister Modi welcomed Takaichi's vision of the updated "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."

On the bond between the two, Modi and Takaichi have a great deal of admiration and mutual respect, and Modi fondly addressed the Japanese Premier as "young sister," while she referred to him as "brother." [Read More](#)

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## **Canada and Philippines Elevate Partnership**

Canada and the Philippines elevate their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in Vancouver and [signed agreements](#) on security, trade, energy, technology, and investment. Marcos. Jr. described the partnership as the beginning of a new phase of strategic cooperation and yielded US\$2.5 billion in investment commitments from Canadian companies.

Both countries reaffirmed the strategic importance of the Indo-Pacific region and agreed to work together on shared regional priorities. President Marcos. Jr. thanked Canada for its continued support for the rules-based international order in the South China Sea.

President Marcos said: "I convey the hope that as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Arbitral Award, Canada will continue to be one of the leading voices in upholding the award as an unassailable part of the corpus of international law." [Read More](#)

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## Australia Signs Ocean of Peace Treaty with Fiji

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in Suva and has signed a major new defense treaty- the "Ocean of Peace Alliance." The mutual defense treaty would be backed by Australian government spending of more than \$1 billion over a decade for regional security and prosperity— committing Australia and Fiji to come to the other's aid at times of greatest need. Albanese said that the treaty is open to other Pacific nations joining the alliance if they are "in a position to further the purposes and principles of this treaty and to contribute to the security of the Pacific". Prime Minister Albanese is on a tour of Pacific nations; after Fiji, he will travel to the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Papua New Guinea (PNG). [Read More](#)

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## Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country was Guam a territory of before becoming part of the United States?

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| a. Japan | c. Britain  |
| b. Spain | d. Portugal |

What country was the first to sign a bilateral treaty with the United States?

a. France

c. Britain

b. Morocco

d. Spain

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## Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Webinar: Deterrence to Dealmaking: Assessing America's China Strategy, July 6, 9:00 AM EST / 10:00 PM Tokyo Time
  - ❖ [New Read](#): Operation Desert Fox 1998 & The Age of American Air Power Diplomacy
  - ❖ Commentary: Pentagon's Renaming Gambit: Does Indo-Pacom's Demise Diminish India? [Read More](#)
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## Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for June 28, 2026, Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which U.S. President was the only one unanimously elected by the Electoral College?

a. George Washington

Q. What is Valiant Shield?

c. A military exercise

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