



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 1-June 7, 2026

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

India's Myanmar Calculus: North Eastern Region Stability and Countering China



Figure 1: The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project connects Kolkata by sea to Sittwe port, then via the Kaladan river to Paletwa, then by road through Zorinpui border crossing into Aizawl in Mizoram — giving India's landlocked northeast a direct corridor to the sea bypassing Bangladesh. Image /Wikipedia/

New Delhi rolled out the red carpet for the military-backed political leader, Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing. Modi and Hlaing both underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation, including trade and economic ties, defense and security, border management, development assistance and cultural exchanges. The strategic calculus of Delhi is to reinforce its “Act East Policy” and to seek continued stabilization in its Northeastern states.

India’s Northeast region has a long history of ethnic violence and separatist movements; however, it is comparatively peaceful now. The peace in Manipur remains fragile. These eight states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura) have been agitated by ethnic protests, regionalism, and rebel groups that claimed to have support from Myanmar and other neighboring countries.

The Rohingya refugee crisis is also a central issue. India has long struggled with infiltration across its border via Myanmar. This renewed diplomatic engagement raises several questions, even though both leaders perceive different opportunities in it.

What India wants

India wants a stronger strategic partnership with Myanmar, and at the very least, expects the border area to be stable so that its Northeast is not impacted or agitated by ethnic conflict. Secondly, India seeks to counter

China's influence in its eastern neighborhood, given China's claims over Eastern state [Arunachal Pradesh](#) and its construction of a surveillance facility on Myanmar's Coco Islands, located nearly 50 km away from India's [Andaman Islands](#).

What Myanmar wants

Myanmar sees this diplomatic engagement as a way to legitimize its government, which has military backing and a history of allegations regarding fraud in the January 2026 elections. Since the 2021 Hlaing-led military coup, which overturned the democratically elected government, it has been isolated, except for China and Russia. Hlaing's first foreign visit to India tells a lot about Myanmar's inclusion in the legitimized international system rather than being led by a military coup ruler. However, ethnic rebels still control a vast swath of its territory that is 42 %.

Although Myanmar is an ally of China and is heavily invested in by China in its East and North through bridges and infrastructure, that region is hugely impacted by the violence of Myanmar's ethnic rebels. Myanmar's representative has also joined the ASEAN summit in Manila for the first time since 2021 and now seeks to expand its economic footprint beyond China.

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Dy. Sec. Landau Participates in Asia Future Forum

Putting American interests first and reinforcing its diplomatic engagement, Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau is embarking on a trip to three Southeast Asian countries: Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Landau's visit speaks volumes in enhancing economic cooperation, technology, and traditional security arrangements with these countries. In Vietnam he will deliver remarks at the ASEAN Future Forum.

It is important to note that President Trump visited China last month, where the two superpowers didn't reach any signed deal; furthermore, China welcomed President Putin just a week later. Additionally, China and Russia have deepened cooperation.

As per the release, the visit underscores the U.S. commitment to supporting regional prosperity and security and expanding economic and strategic partnerships across Southeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific more broadly. [Read More](#)

Exercise Southern Jackaroo 2026 Kicks Off

US with allies Australia and Japan begin military exercise Southern Jackaroo. This exercise focuses on interoperability advancement and provides a training field for cohesive, multi-national force capable of operating seamlessly across the Indo-Pacific's complex environments. Participating forces

will execute a demanding progression of training, including force-on-force offensive and defensive operations, mounted machine-gun gunnery, and mortar employment. "Exercise Southern Jackaroo enhances our collective capability by integrating U.S. Marines alongside our allies in realistic, demanding scenarios. By practicing how we communicate and work together on the ground, we ensure that our combined forces maintain a high state of combat readiness and a decisive tactical edge," said Lt. Col. Mark Saville, commanding officer of 1st Bn., 5th Marines. [Read More](#)

Indonesian Foreign Minister Visits India

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Mr. Sugiono met Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. Both leaders held Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and reviewed the comprehensive strategic partnership between two countries. Both leaders held discussions to deepen cooperation in defense, security, maritime, trade, investment, critical mineral, and energy sectors. India's Ministry of External affairs statement reaffirmed Indonesia's centrality to India's foreign policy architecture, noting that "Indonesia is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy," and that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries - rooted in deep civilizational ties - "continues to grow from strength to strength across established and new areas of cooperation." [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which South Asian country has the largest measles outbreak?

- a. Pakistan
- b. Bangladesh
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. India

Where was the youth protest held on June 6, 2026, under the banner of Cockroach Janta Party?

- a. India
 - b. Japan
 - c. South Korea
 - d. Nepal
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ [Commentary](#): What Operation EPIC FURY Taught about Access, Basing, and Overflight
 - ❖ [Commentary](#): Tehran to Taiwan: How will the Two Superpowers Negotiate
 - ❖ [Blogpost](#): How the Iran War is Reorienting the Indo-Pacific Security Arrangements
 - ❖ [Feature](#): America's 21st Century Raiders: Punitive Expeditions and Counter Terrorism Doctrine Reformed, By Grant T. Willis.
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for May 31, 2026, Newsletter Quiz

Q. In which year Russia Invaded Afghanistan?

c. 1979

Q. What is Southern Jackaroo?

b. military exercise

Contributions: Indu Saxena