



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

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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.

Pacific Island Leaders' Summit in Palau amid Climate and Taiwan Row

55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting



Figure 1: Pacific Island leaders gather in Palau/Image/ [https://pacific community/](https://pacificcommunity/)

The 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting is underway in Koror, Palau, convening under the theme of "Building Economies: Life. Action. Unity." The agenda of the annual meeting is anchored on four pressing priorities — climate resilience, energy security, economic development concerns, and the mounting threat of transnational crime across the Pacific island region.

Geopolitical competition has unavoidably come to dominate this crucial and consequential summit of the Indo-Pacific's prominent regional Forum. The United States and China are both formally designated dialogue partners of the Forum. China has expanded its strategic foothold across the Pacific through infrastructure investment, development agreements, and deepening security arrangements, most notably through its landmark security relationship with the Solomon Islands, which raised alarms among the US and its allies when it was concluded in 2022. Australia and the United States have responded by increasing aid commitments, deepening defense cooperation frameworks, and intensifying diplomatic engagement across the Pacific.

Additionally, China's conduct of a missile test in the South Pacific in July has generated legitimate concern among Pacific island nations, turning a historically peaceful region into a theater of heightening strategic confrontation and great-power military posturing.

The issue that China consistently opposes is Taiwan's participation in the Forum's proceedings. Taiwan's Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung will attend the summit-related meeting with his delegation, under the designation of Taiwan / Republic of China, noting that Taiwan has been participating as “development partner” since 1993. Out of 18 member countries, including Palau, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, three of Taiwan's diplomatic allies.

The U.S. State Department said it strongly [supports Taiwan's continued participation](#) in the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF). US Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau will be attending the PIF summit.

The forum has 18 members: Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. American Samoa and Guam are associate members. [Read More](#)

Glacier Collapse at Nepal-Tibet Border, Risking thousands of Lives

A devastating and catastrophic tragedy has struck the Nepal-Tibet border region as the Langtang Lirung Peak glacier collapsed, unleashing a deadly and unstoppable torrent of water and mud that swept through several storied communities and villages in its destructive path. The catastrophic flood wiped

out the entire affected area, displacing and endangering more than 95,000 people, with 600 confirmed dead and over 3,000 individuals reported missing as of the fifth day, according to the latest official reports.

Nearly 250 tourists from 23 countries are missing, including people from the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. Nepal's military rescue operations are continuing with determined urgency, and survivors have been evacuated and transported to safe locations by ground and aerial rescue teams operating in extraordinarily challenging terrain. extent of destruction from the Chinese side of the Nepal-Tibet border has not yet been officially revealed.

Amid the climate concerns and a possible cause of this dreadful event, Nepal's foreign minister called for a global effort to deal with climate change. Nepal is a landlocked country located between India to the east, south, and west and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north. [Read More](#)

India's Strategic Outreach to Moscow, Beijing, and Tokyo

India's top officials, including the External Affairs Minister, National Security Advisor, and Industry Minister, have simultaneously visited Russia, China, and Japan — India's three most strategically consequential bilateral partners. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar engaged directly with Russian President Putin and his counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, in a high-stakes diplomatic meeting against the pressing backdrop of India's mounting vulnerability in oil and gas supplies amid the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

Compounding India's energy predicament, US President Trump's sweeping new economic sanctions against Iran, designated an "Economic Outcast" — have barred three Indian companies from engaging in commercial transactions with Tehran. Following the bilateral meeting, [Putin assured India of an uninterrupted and steady supply of energy and fertilizers](#). The Moscow engagement was also interpreted as a primer for the upcoming SCO and BRICS summit scheduled for September — multilateral forums in which India and Russia are foundational member states.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval conducted the [25th round of border talks with the Chinese delegation in Beijing](#), which reflects the enduring complexity and strategic sensitivity of the India-China boundary dispute along the Line of Actual Control.

Commerce and Industry Minister [Piyush Goyal undertook a mission to Japan](#) to attract Japanese investors to India's and reinforcing Japanese support for the country's expanding manufacturing, infrastructure, technology, and financial ecosystem.

India's outreach to these three pivotal nations is timely and charged with strategic urgency to navigate the uncertainty in international affairs while simultaneously preventing an inflation crisis at home, where a restive citizenry is expressing anger over rising prices of fuel, fertilizers, sugar, onion, and other essential commodities of daily necessity.

The Fall Break up: US-Canada Trade War Hits a Boiling Point

The United States and Canada share a border but have grown deeply apart in their diplomatic relationship, at least for now. Trade negotiations between the two countries have collapsed and failed to produce any agreement. President Trump has imposed sweeping 50% tariffs on a wide range of Canadian goods including dairy, appliances, and steel, damaged the trillion-dollar bilateral trade relationship and is sending shockwaves through the broader global economy. In response, Canadian Prime Minister Carney announced “dollar-for-dollar” retaliatory tariffs set to begin on September 8.

The war of words between President Trump and the Canadian side — including Prime Minister Carney and Ontario Premier Doug Ford — reached a new and remarkable low when Lake Ontario was provocatively renamed Lake America. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where is Pacific Island summit 2026 held?

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| a. Fiji | c. Palau |
| b. Tonga | d. Kiribati |

Why was Langtang Lirung Peak in Himalayan region in news recently?

a. Glasier Collapse

c. Buddhist summit

b. Nepal-China border talks

d. Mountaineering expedition

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Commentary: [Beyond Bilateralism: How Reviving SAARC Can Reset Bangladesh-India Relations](#)
 - ❖ New Read: [Japan's Strategic Shift: From Pacifist to Provider](#)
 - ❖ [Podcast Recording](#): Saudi-Türkiye-Pakistan Defense Pact and regional Implications
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for August 27, 2026, Newsletter Quiz

Q. Which country has the United States recently imposed a 50 percent tariff on?

a. Canada

Q. In which Ocean Tatar Strait is located?

a. Pacific Ocean

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