



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail August 31-September 6, 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.

SCO at 25: Bishkek Navigates Geopolitical Uncertainty



Figure 1: SCO Member Countries at the 26th meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan/Image/ [https:// eng.sectscsco.org/](https://eng.sectscsco.org/)

The SCO countries met in Bishkek amid the geopolitical uncertainty that has come to define the international system in 2026. The summit was chaired by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov under the theme "25 Years of the SCO: Together for Sustainable Peace, Development and Prosperity" — a theme that simultaneously celebrates a quarter-century of institutional survival and implicitly acknowledges that peace, development, and prosperity remain works in progress across the SCO's vast and turbulent geographic footprint.

SCO leaders signed the Bishkek Declaration on the 25th Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, along with 27 further documents covering security, counter-narcotics, artificial intelligence, biodiversity, energy and climate cooperation, nuclear security, and regional logistics, among other areas. The summit also approved a 2026–2030 roadmap for ports and logistics centers. Japarov again highlighted the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway as a major practical project, while Tokayev proposed an SCO transport-connectivity strategy through 2035 and a single digital transit platform.

The SCO declaration condemned strikes against Iran and stressed maintaining peace through a diplomatic approach. It also backed Iran's sovereignty and offered condolences over the death of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei — provisions that place the SCO firmly on the opposite side of the US-Iran conflict and deepen its identity as an institutional counterweight to Western-led security architecture.

Modi called upon unity against terrorism and stated that “Terrorism can't be a strategic asset”. He emphasized that stability in Afghanistan was closely connected to security across Eurasia. In his summit address, he also demanded an end to double standards on terrorism and said connectivity projects must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity — a pointed challenge to CPEC's (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) passage through Kashmir.

While Ukraine was missing from the declaration, the strongest public statement on the war came from Modi's bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Every day spent on war pushes humanity backwards, whereas every step taken towards peace fills humanity with new hope and enthusiasm," Modi said. "We need to move from endless war to an end to the war, to a cessation of hostilities."

The SCO organization has 10 members- China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are the founding members, whereas India, Pakistan, Belarus, and Iran were added later. [Read More](#)

G-20 Finance Ministers Gather in North Carolina

Finance Ministers of world's 20 biggest economies were gathered in Nashville, North Carolina, USA. The leaders discussed encouraging faster economic growth, ensuring the efficient and smooth functioning of key value chains, such as energy, food, fertilizer, and critical minerals, is essential to supporting global growth multiple shocks, including ongoing wars and conflicts.

The leaders expressed their concern about continued disruptions to energy trade and stress that the free, safe, and predictable navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and worldwide. US pushed greater restrictions on Iran and alarm the countries who business with Iranian companies in accordance with putting the squeeze on the economy of Iran.

Additionally, all countries except China, agreed to eliminate "non-market policies" that exacerbate imbalances.

In geopolitical friction, Russia's Finance Minister attended the G-20 meeting in person; however, European countries reacted negatively due to Russia's war in Ukraine, and the representative was excluded from the family photo. [Read more](#)

US and Allies Kick off Super Garuda Shield 2026

US with Indonesia and 13 partners countries began military exercise Super Garuda Shield in Bandung, Indonesia. The multinational exercise with approx. 5,000 combined armed forces personnel focused on strengthening relationships, interoperability and readiness. The U.S. Pacific Command-sponsored exercise demonstrates the shared purpose of participating nations while enhancing interoperability and providing realistic training in a variety of climates, terrains, and environments.

As per news [U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps personnel](#) will train Indonesian hosts and regional allies and partners to sharpen tactical readiness, test joint command-and-control systems and strengthen their ability to operate together. By training together, participating forces build the collective trust and interoperability necessary to respond to shared challenges and uphold their shared interest in a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The participating nations include Australia, Japan, Singapore, Canada, Brazil, India, France, Germany, New Zealand and the Netherlands. [Read more](#)

Xi Jinping Visits Egypt Seeking Deeper Influence in the Region

Chinese President Xi Jinping undertook a state visit to Egypt and met his counterpart, President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, in Cairo. Both leaders celebrated the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic ties. China seeks to expand cooperation in energy and infrastructure — two domains that suits Egypt's developmental strategy and China's geoeconomic statecraft.

Egypt signed China's Belt and Road Initiative in 2023, and both countries now maintain an annual bilateral trade volume of approximately \$20 billion. China has invested in a business hub and an electric rail line in the capital city, Cairo — tangible and highly visible symbols of Chinese infrastructure diplomacy at the heart of the Arab world. Egypt's Suez Canal is

an alternative strategic passage that can be purposefully leveraged amid the Strait of Hormuz crisis.

China is the United States' foremost global competitor and is actively and deliberately seeking to build a regional consensus that prevents the further isolation of Iran. The US-Iran conflict has been deepening in intensity since it began on February 28, 2026.

China also urged regional countries to participate extensively in efforts toward peace and stability in the region and has conspicuously demonstrated its willingness to serve as a mediator — positioning Beijing as the peacemaker that Washington, consumed by its military offensive, cannot credibly claim to be. China's strategic ambition to strengthen its partnership with Egypt can effectively advance its broader aspiration to establish a strong, well-integrated presence across the Middle East and Africa. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where will the BRICS summit be held next week?

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| a. China | c. India |
| b. Brazil | d. South Africa |

What is the official written language of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

a. Russian

c. Chinese

b. Russian & Chinese

d. Kyrgyz

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Webinar: BRICS Summit and Regional Implications
 - ❖ Commentary: [Beyond Bilateralism: How Reviving SAARC Can Reset Bangladesh-India Relations](#)
 - ❖ New Read: [Japan's Strategic Shift: From Pacifist to Provider](#)
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for August 30, 2026, Newsletter Quiz

Q. Where is Pacific Island summit 2026 held?

c. Palau

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

a. Glacier Collapse

Contributions: Indu Saxena