



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 reply button for your feedback and comments.

Quad's Malabar Meet up 2023



Royal Australian Navy Photo

Quad countries-the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia kick off its wargame naval exercise Malabar from August 11-22. This is the first time that Australia is [hosting](#) this exercise after rejoining in 2020. The Malabar exercise started in 1992 between India and the U.S navies and enhanced by joining Japan, Singapore, and Australia in 2007. However, Australia [withdrew](#) from it in 2008.

On the occasion Australia's Deputy Prime Minister, Richard Marles [said](#), "amid the current strategic circumstances, it is more important than ever we partner with our neighbors and deepen our defense partnerships and it is an honor to host Exercise Malabar for the first time here in Australia." The four Indo-Pacific navies jointly focus on strengthening military interoperability through air defense and anti-submarine exercises, aviation, communications, and replenishment at sea between ships. The participating navy ships, which [include](#) are -the Royal Australian Navy Ships HMAS Brisbane and HMAS Choules with F-3, Hawk-127, and Poseidon aircraft from Royal Australian Air Force; India's destroyer INS Kolkata and frigate INS Sahyadri are deployed and docked at the Port of Papua New Guinea (PNG) a week before the commencement of the exercise; Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) deploys destroyer JS Shiranui; and the U.S.'s USS Rafael Peralta, USNS Rappahannock, a submarine with Poseidon aircraft.

The word 'Malabar' represents the coastal region in Southeastern India, whilst the region has historical and cultural bonding with foreign traders and travelers over the centuries. The Malabar exercise holds strategic significance amidst rising tensions between the U.S. and China. At the same time, other Indo-Pacific partners are anxious and

concerned about the rapidly changing security environment in the region. The Quad and other like-minded countries are committed to ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Pakistan Dissolves Parliament for New Elections

On August 9, 2023, Pakistan's President dissolved the lower house of parliament based on the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, causing uncertainty and chaos in the country. The decision was made following the conviction of former Prime Minister Imran Khan on corruption charges and his subsequent sentencing to three years in prison. The upcoming elections will be overseen by the newly [appointed](#) caretaker, PM Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. According to the Pakistani constitution, it is mandatory to hold the elections within 90 days of the dissolution of the lower house of parliament. [Read More](#)

China's FM Wang Yi Visits Southeast Asian Countries

From August 10-13, 2023, Wang Yi of China is embarking on a tour of Singapore, Malaysia, and Cambodia to enhance economic partnerships and reinforce "strategic communication" with the ASEAN nations. Notably, Cambodia has recently appointed its new Prime Minister Hun Manet, the son of Hun Sen. It is worth noting that during Hun Sen's reign, Cambodia has become a strong ally of China. However, Malaysia,

the Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia hold varying perspectives on China's South China Sea islands ownership. [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka seeks to join RCEP

Sri Lanka aspires to join Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to boost its economic connectivity and to revive from the economic crisis in the country. President Ranil Wickremesinghe urges the need for Sri Lanka's economic focus to shift towards the East, citing the region's rapid growth and development during the 56th anniversary of ASEAN at the Indonesian embassy in Colombo. The RCEP is a free trade agreement comprising 15 members, including the ASEAN states and their free trade partners- Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

In which year did the Malabar exercise initially start?

- a. 1990
- b. 1992
- c. 2000
- d. 2007

Which two countries are celebrating their 77th Independence Day?

- a. India & Pakistan
- b. India & Bangladesh

c. Pakistan &
Bangladesh

d. India & Sri Lanka

Consortium highlights

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