



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Sept 18 - 24, 2023**

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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 Foreign Ministers Meet in New York**



The Foreign Ministers of Quad countries: India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa met on the sidelines of the 78th United National General Assembly in New York. They reaffirmed their support for the United Nations Charter and a rule-based order. The four leaders also reiterate their commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific and seek further to deepen the Quad cooperation in the international system. In a [joint readout](#), they reiterated advancing the Quad leader's vision of establishing an Indo-Pacific region that is "peaceful and prosperous, stable and secure; free from intimidation and coercion, that opposes the use of force to change the status quo," held in [Hiroshima Summit](#) in May 2023. The F.M.s also showed their support for the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), which aims at social, economic, and environmental development for all countries and to achieve and implement the 2030 agenda.

Quad is a non-military grouping of four democracies-India, Japan, the U.S., and Australia, originally formed and collaborated for disaster relief assistance and management during the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004. The Quad countries have been working with a diverse, multidimensional, and practical approach to advancing the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. Quad's working groups are on climate, global health security, emerging technologies, cyber, space, and Infrastructure. The four leaders in the New York meeting said, "The Quad's practical action in the Indo-Pacific is advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs by delivering sustained economic and social value that is responsive to regional partners." Furthermore, they underscored the effectiveness of institutions and reaffirmed their support for regional architectures and organizations like ASEAN's unity and centrality, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). [Read More](#)

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## **ASEAN Holds its First-ever Joint Exercise**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations [held](#) its first joint naval exercise in Indonesia on Sept. 19, 2023. The joint exercise named ASEAN Solidarity Exercise includes joint maritime patrol operations, search and rescue operations, and humanitarian and disaster relief and aims to boost military ties with ASEAN countries and enhance interoperability. It is worth mentioning that China recently [released](#) its new map and demarcated the “ten-dash line” in the disputed territory of the South China Sea where Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines have their territorial claims. [Read More](#)

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## **Sri Lanka President Criticizes AUKUS**

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe criticized the AUKUS agreement. He was speaking at an event on the ‘Indo-Pacific Island’s Nations Dialogue’ held by Carnegie Endowment of Peace and Security and Sasakwa Peace Foundation, Tokyo, in New York city. He said that AUKUS is a ‘mistake’ and will backfire. He also disagreed with using the term Indo-Pacific, particularly the "Indo" part. [Read More](#)

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## **India-Canada Spat and Impact on Indo-Pacific Strategy**

India and Canada's relations are precarious after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [alleged](#) the killing of a Canadian citizen and Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in British Columbia in June 2023 by India's intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). On September 18, in his address to the Canadian Parliament, Trudeau [said](#), "Canada has declared its deep concerns to the top intelligence and security officials of the Indian government, and any involvement of a

foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty."

In retaliation, India vehemently denied the charges. It temporarily suspended all types of visas for Canada to deal with the situation, showing its deep concerns for the security in the country, particularly in its state of Punjab, a Sikh-majority region. Furthermore, both countries summoned each other's top diplomats and later asked them to leave the countries. It is yet to see how far the India-Canada diplomatic crisis reaches and its impacts on the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific strategy. [Read More](#)

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## **SIMBEX Exercise Starts in South China Sea**

India and Singapore navies start a week-long bilateral exercise in the South China Sea on September 21, 2023. In this joint drill [both navies will conduct](#) a series of naval serials in the air, surface, and underwater domains, including gunnery firing, air defense, anti-submarine, communication and maneuvering exercises. The SIMBEX exercise [initiated](#) in 1994.

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

In which country one-third of seats are reserved for women in the lower house of parliament and state legislatures?

- a. Japan
- b. India
- c. America
- d. Australia

Where is Nieu Island located?

- a. South China Sea
  - b. Indian Ocean
  - c. Pacific Ocean
  - d. Sea of Japan
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### **Consortium Highlights**

- ❖ Consortium Intern's Analysis- Migration Crisis in Tunisia: Regional Implications. [Read More...](#)
  - ❖ Blog Post- Quad Foreign Ministers Meet in New York, Aim to Deepen Quad Cooperation in the International System [Read More...](#)
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