



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Feb. 12 - 18, 2024**

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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.

### **India's Army Chief Visits U.S, Boosting Indo-U.S. Defense Ties**



*Figure 1: General Pandey inspected guard of honor on arrival at Fort Myers/ /photos/ 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment*

Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pandey [embarked on a visit to the U.S.](#) from February 13 - 16. During this visit, General Pandey met with his counterpart, General Randy George, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. The visit started with a warm welcome as General Pandey inspected the guard of honor in Arlington, Virginia. General Pandey had “high level professional discussions” with General George and other senior military leaders. And their discussions were aimed at aspects of bilateral importance and further enhancing mutual commitment towards global peace & security.

During his visit, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Pandey received a comprehensive briefing on the capabilities of the Stryker Unit, Multi-Domain Task Force, and the Special Forces Group at the Headquarters of 1 Corps of the U.S. Army. In addition to his visit to 1 Corps, General Pande also went to the U.S. Army Geospatial Centre (ASG) at Fort Belvoir and interacted with Vice President National Defence University during his visit to the Fort McNair. The COAS also visited the Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) in San Francisco and the California National Guard. The DIU is responsible for identifying and accelerating the adoption of commercial technologies in the U.S. military. An Indian Army post on [social media](#) states, “The visit by #COAS epitomizes shared values & interests that underpin the partnership between India and the United States, aimed at further enhancing bilateral cooperation & development in defense & security domains.”

It's important to note that the visit of the COAS aims to build on the momentum created by top security and defense officials from both India and the U.S. during the [first-ever investor strategy session](#) of the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X). This session was held on the sidelines of the fifth U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi in November 2023.

On a momentous occasion in Washington, D.C., in June 2023, two countries [jointly launched Indus-X](#), a comprehensive roadmap for strategic partnership and technological collaboration. This initiative focuses on key

areas of intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, undersea domain awareness, air combat and support, munitions systems, and mobility. Moreover, the INDUS-X collaboration has the potential to invigorate the defense industry and drive advancements in technology and manufacturing.

Furthermore, the U.S. State Department has [recently approved](#) a \$ 3.99 billion deal for SkyGuardian predator drones to India. The deal includes 31 SkyGuardian drones, 170 Hellfire missiles, 310 small-diameter bombs, and related support material.

Henceforth, this visit underscores the significance of greater strategic partnerships and mutually beneficial initiatives between U.S. and India aim at enhancing the security and stability in the broader Indo-Pacific region. Also, as mentioned in U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, United States supports India's role as regional leader through bi-lateral and multilateral forums. As the continued course of forging a stronger relation between two countries leaders have been [meeting](#) at the [Munich Security Conference](#) and [other levels](#). [Read More](#)

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## **Indonesia Holds Presidential Election**

Indonesia, the third largest democracy in the world, held its presidential election on Feb. 14. The former army general Prabowo Subianto claimed victory in an unofficial result that shows nearly 60 % of votes are received by his party. Prabowo had a [controversial past of human rights abuses](#) during the Suharto government 25 years ago. This has led to questions about his commitment to upholding the democratic values of Indonesia and its people. Many observers and analysts have expressed their worries about the future of Indonesia's democratic institutions under Prabowo's leadership. They fear that his past actions may not be a one-off occurrence and that his election could lead to the erosion of

democratic values in the country. As a result, it is crucial to monitor his actions and the decisions he makes as the future president of Indonesia. [Read More](#)

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## **Top Diplomats of U.S. and China meet in Munich**

U.S. Secretary of State Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met at the margins of the Munich Security Conference in Germany. According to reports, the talks were described as "candid and constructive" and covered topics such as Taiwan, Russia's war in Ukraine, and the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. The meeting between the two leaders was significant, as it marks the first high-level dialogue between the two countries since the Biden-Xi summit held in California last year. During the meeting, Secretary Blinken emphasized the importance of building on the collaborations between the two countries, including military-military talks and counternarcotics efforts. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which is the largest bay in the world?

- a. Gulf of Guinea
- b. Persian Gulf
- c. Bay of Bengal
- d. Hudson Bay

How many provinces are in Indonesia?

a. 40

b. 39

c. 38

d. 37

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## **Consortium Highlights**

- ❖ CIPR podcast on **Red Sea Crisis**, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 8:00 PM EST. [Tune In](#)

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