



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.

Putin's Visit to Beijing: What It Means for the Indo-Pacific



Figure 1: Russian President Vladimir Putin with China's President Xi Jinping

Russian President Putin's two-day [visit to China](#) carries significant diplomatic weight, underscoring the deepening bilateral relations between the two nations. He stated that these relations are not directed at any other countries. However, he indirectly suggested that both Russia and China will oppose the powers that control global affairs.

The timing of the Putin-Xi summit is of particular significance, occurring amidst a backdrop of escalating tension between the United States and China. This tension is exemplified by the U.S.'s [recent imposition of \\$17 billion tariffs](#) on a wide range of Chinese goods, accusing the Chinese government of unfair trade practices. The new tariffs cover a diverse array of products, including steel, aluminum, semiconductors, electric vehicles, batteries, critical minerals, solar cells, ship-to-shore cranes, and medical products.

The U.S. is actively bolstering its relations with the Indo-Pacific countries, forging alliances, and partnerships through the Quad, AUKUS, and trilaterals. However, the increasing proximity between Russia and China, coupled with Russia's favorable relations with North Korea, is a source of concern for the U.S. and its allies, potentially reshaping global power dynamics. Reports indicate that China has repeatedly confronted Philippine vessels in the South China Sea, posing a significant threat to operational safety. The United States Assistant Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Dr. Ely Ratner, [talked](#) to China's military cooperation Director and expressed his concerns about

the People's Republic of China's support for Russia's defense industry, which enables Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

The strategic alliance between Russia and China, known as the "No Limits Partnership," remains steadfast in its efforts to challenge and diminish U.S. influence in the Indo-Pacific region and other global arenas. [Read More](#)

India-Iran Sign Chabahar Port Deal

India and Iran have officially entered into a 10-year agreement aimed at developing and operating the Iranian Chabahar port. This significant deal strengthens the bilateral relations between the two countries and underscores their commitment to fostering robust connectivity initiatives in the region. India's Union Minister of Port and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, [said](#), "The contract will further strengthen ties between the two nations and highlights the importance of Chabahar as a gateway for trade with Afghanistan and broader Central Asian countries." India is making efforts to enhance its strategic and economic presence in Central Asia by opting to avoid using the Karachi and Gwadar ports in Pakistan. This decision comes with significant concerns due to the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel in the Middle East, as well as the [continued imposition of sanctions](#) on Iran by the United States. [Read More](#)

U.S. Assistant Secretary Visits Philippines

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel J. Kritenbrink will [participate](#) in the sixth Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF) in Manila. IPBF brings together government and business leaders from the Indo-Pacific region. The IPBF will also include a trilateral event involving the United States, Japan, and the Philippines. The event aims to advance the region's first Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment corridor, known as the Luzon Economic Corridor-announced in trilateral summit in April in Washington. [Read More](#)

World's Largest Democracy on Ballot-Phase 4

The [fourth phase of voting](#) for India's parliamentary election took place on May 13, 2024. A record of about 68 % voter turnout in 96 Lok Sabha constituencies across 10 states and union territories was recorded in this phase. In this election cycle, the future of prominent leaders hangs in the balance. The political discourse is characterized by intense campaigning, with discussions centering around complex issues such as [Hindu-Muslim politics](#), caste dynamics, corruption, and dynastic politics, with leaders from both alliances (NDA, led by PM Modi, and the INDIA Alliance, informally led by Rahul Gandhi) actively engaging in these debates. This election carries immense significance for shaping India's domestic and global reputation. It is taking place in a highly

polarized environment, further complicated by the influence of AI and the prevalence of deepfake technology. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Where is Mount Kinabalu located?

- a. Indonesia
- b. Malaysia
- c. Brunei
- d. Papua New Guinea

Who has been sworn in as Singapore's new Prime Minister?

- a. Gan Kim Yong
- b. Lee Hsien Loong
- c. Lawrence Wong
- d. HENG Swee Keat

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming roundtable discussion: **India Elections 2024: Analyzing the Geopolitical Dynamics in South Asia**, May 27th 2024 @ 9:00 AM EST [Zoom Link](#)
 - ❖ A Roundtable Discussion on ***Environmental Security in the Indo-Pacific: Collective Solutions for Sustainable Future***, May 15, 2024, at 9:00AM EST. [YouTube Link](#).
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