



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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Greetings Indu,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press reply button for your feedback and comments.

India Elects its Prime Minister, Modi @ 3.0



Figure 1: PM Modi takes oath for the third consecutive term

Modi's re-election for a third consecutive term as the Prime Minister, a historic feat, is a testament to his enduring popularity. However, it's important to note that his party's victory is not a standalone achievement but reliance on coalition partners to run the government successfully for the next five years.

The successful completion of the seven-phase election, a colossal democratic undertaking that spanned 543 seats of the Lok Sabha and engaged a staggering 965 million voters, is a striking demonstration of the robustness and scale of India's democratic process, with 2600 political parties and 8000 candidates.

Three Crucial Playouts in 2024 Elections

The *first* playout is securing the third consecutive term for Modi-led Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) is a historic moment in India's parliamentary elections. Modi is sworn in as India's Prime Minister for the third consecutive term. This is a historic moment for the BJP, as they have equaled the Grand Old Party Congress by securing a third term after [India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru](#). Nehru became the first Prime Minister after the British Raj in 1952. He won elections in 1957 and again in 1962. There is a comparison and contrast between the two historical moments in India's election, with Modi's re-election marking a continuation of his leadership and a potential shift in India's political landscape.

The *second* playout is that the mandate has been unrelated to religious politics. It was expected that voters from Hindi speaking majority states (Northern States) would cast their votes in favor of BJP. On the contrary, except Madhya Pradesh, Modi's party suffered a setback. The surprising result was from the prominent Hindi speaking state of Uttar Pradesh, where the biggest Hindu temple is built in Ayodhya. Modi inaugurated the *Ram Temple* in January 2024 during a global event. There was widespread belief that the BJP would secure the most seats in the state. However, [Modi's party lost not only the Ayodhya \(Faizabad\) seat](#) but won just 33 out of 80 seats. However, The BJP emerged as the single largest party with 240 seats out of 543 seats.

The voters' rejection of religion-based politics in this election holds great significance, and it seems a case study for the international media and researchers who undoubtedly write about politics and Hindu Nationalism in India, contributing to a global understanding of the Indian political landscape. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework Ministerial Meeting Held in Singapore

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial meeting was [hosted by Singapore](#). As per the reports, significant new achievements were announced related to the IPEF Agreement. These

achievements are linked to Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II), a Clean Economy (Pillar III), and a Fair Economy (Pillar IV), as well as the overarching Agreement on IPEF. Furthermore, the partner countries acknowledged the unique opportunities available for deeper economic collaboration through IPEF. [Read More](#)

U.S. Secretary of Defense Visits Cambodia

The Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin [visited](#) Cambodia. He met with Prime Minister Hun Manet and his counterpart Defense Minister Tea Seiha. As per reports in their deliberations, the officials explored opportunities to bolster the bilateral defense relationship between the United States and Cambodia to further regional peace and security. These involved deliberations concerning the reinstatement of military training exchanges focused on disaster assistance and United Nations Peacekeeping, as well as the facilitation of training and exchanges related to de-mining and the clearance of unexploded ordnance. Additionally, they affirmed their support for ongoing dialogues on these matters between their respective defense establishments.

It is of utmost importance to mention that China's increasing influence in Cambodia has raised significant concerns for the United States. The embrace of a Free Trade Agreement with China in 2020, [Chinese warships docked](#) at Cambodia's Ream Naval Base, and

the recent conclusion of the Golden Dragon military exercise between China and Cambodia are clear indications of this influence. These developments underscore the need for us to remain vigilant and proactive in competing its interest with China in the Indo-Pacific. [Read More](#)

Pakistan Seeks to Strengthen Bi-lateral Relations with China

Pakistan Prime Minister [Shahbaz Sharif met Chinese President Xi Jinping](#) in Beijing. As per reports both leaders pledge to upgrade the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a major project of China's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). China is Pakistan's most important strategic ally in the region. This is PM Shahbaz's first meeting with President Xi since the March 2024 Pakistan elections. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country is Jeremiah Manele the New prime minister?

- a. Papua New Guinea
- b. Vanuatu
- c. Solomon Islands
- d. Fiji

Which city in China is Tiananmen Square located?

a. Beijing

c. Hongkong

b. Guangzhou

d. Chengdu

Consortium Highlights

❖ A Commentary titled, **India Elects its Prime Minister, Modi @ 3.0: Explained.** [Read Here](#)

Contributions: Indu Saxena