



Consortium of Indo-Pacific  
Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail May 27 - June 2, 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.

### **U.S. Secretary of Defense Visits Singapore and Cambodia**



*Figure 1: Secretary Austin speaks at security conference in Singapore /IMAGE/DoD*

The Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III, has been tirelessly engaging with the Indo-Pacific region, marking his [tenth visit](#) since he assumed office. His recent key speech at Asia's premier security summit, the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, underscored the convergence of shared values and a shared vision of sovereignty, freedom, and international law. His words, "This new convergence is about coming together, not splitting apart. It isn't about imposing one country's will. It's about summoning our sense of common purpose. It isn't about bullying or coercion. It's about the free choices of sovereign states. And it's about nations of goodwill uniting around the interests that we share and the values that we cherish," reflect the U.S. administration's unwavering dedication to fostering cooperation and partnership in the region.

On the sidelines of the summit, Secretary Austin [met with Singapore's Prime Minister](#) Lawrence Wong and Minister of Defense Ng Eng Hen. A significant event during their interaction was the signing ceremony for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the U.S. Defense Innovation Unit and the Singapore Ministry of Defence. This MoU, aiming to foster collaboration in defense innovation and the integration of emerging dual-use technologies, marks a significant step forward in defense innovation collaboration between the two nations.

Secretary [Austin also held a crucial meeting with Admiral Dong Jun, Minister of National Defense of the People's Republic of China \(PRC\)](#). During the meeting, he stressed the importance of maintaining

open lines of military-to-military communication between the U.S. and China. However, he also took a firm stance, strongly denouncing the recent provocative PLA activity around the Taiwan Strait and the PRC's role in supporting Russia's defense industrial base. This meeting provides valuable insight into the U.S. stance on China's military activities and defense support to Russia. [Read More](#)

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## **Japan, S. Korea, and China Held Trilateral Meeting**

Japan-China-ROK [Trilateral Summit](#) held in Seoul. The summit was attended by the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Kishida Fumio, the Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Qiang and chaired by the South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. The leaders reaffirmed to enhance the the trilateral cooperation in various areas and identified the six key areas: people-to-people exchanges; sustainable development including through climate change response; economic cooperation and trade; public health and ageing society; science and technology cooperation, digital transformation; and disaster relief and safety. Three leaders released a joint declaration and joint statement for the future collaboration and the roadmap of the next trilateral meeting. [Read More](#)

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## **World's Largest Democracy on Ballot-The Last Phase 7, Exit Polls & Results**

The [final phase](#) of India's election concluded on June 1, 2024, with voting taking place in 57 constituencies and a voter turnout of 59.5%. Exit polls conducted by various national news channels and organizations have consistently indicated that Modi will serve as Prime Minister for a third term. However, leaders of the opposition parties, collectively known as the *India Alliance*, have rejected the results of the exit polls and have requested to wait for the actual counting to begin in the next 24 hours, which will reveal the true outcome of the election. [Read More](#)

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## **Xi Jinping Hosts Arab Leaders**

Chinese President Xi addressed Arab leaders and top officials in Beijing amid mounting tension in the Israel-Gaza war. Speaking at the opening of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, he said, “Since last October, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has escalated drastically, throwing people into tremendous suffering.” He also called for an international peace conference for resolving the conflict and pledge humanitarian aid for Gaza. [Read More](#)

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## **Tiger Strike 2024 Begins in Malaysia**

The United States and Malaysia participates in bilateral military exercise Tiger Strike 24. As per reports the bilateral exercise provides an opportunity for Malaysia and the United States to enhance communication and build combined combat readiness to strengthen the shared commitment to security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. [Read More](#)

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## **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

What is the maximum number of terms a person can serve as the Prime Minister of India?

- a. 2
- b. 5
- c. 3
- d. No Limit

Which country's spacecraft *Chang'e 6* lands on Moon?

- a. Japan
  - b. China
  - c. India
  - d. USA
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## Consortium Highlights

Roundtable Discussion - ***India Elections 2024: Analyzing the Geopolitical Dynamics in South Asia.*** [YouTube Link](#)

Book Review: ***Why Bharat Matters.*** By Consortium Member Vineet Malik. [Read Here.](#)

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