



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 the reply button for your feedback and comments.

Vietnam and the Philippines Conduct Joint Military Exercise



Figure 1: Vietnam Coast Guard Ship in Manila / IMAGE/ Voice of America

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Vietnamese Coast Guard (VCG) [have begun joint exercises](#) as the two countries confront tension with China over territorial claims in the South China Sea. Both the Philippines and Vietnam, as key players in the regional relationship between the United States and China, have voiced their concerns about China's actions in the disputed waters, a vital global trade and security route. The two Southeast Asian countries that border the sea passage, including Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan, have conflicting territorial claims in the area, adding to the tension. Vietnamese Coast Guard's Chief Col. Hoang Quoc Dat [said](#), "This will promote and enhance the efficiency of information sharing and the coordination in maritime law enforcement, in accordance with international law," he said and added such friendly collaboration contributes to "the preservation and protection of the region's maritime security and safety."

In response to Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea and its claim on the Second Thomas Shoal, the Philippines has significantly strengthened its security partnership with the United States and Japan, a move that carries significant geopolitical implications. [Read More](#)

After Long March to Dhaka, Bangladesh is in Army's Control

A month-long nationwide violent protest ended Sheikh Hasina's 15-year reign in Bangladesh. Thousands of protesters stormed her residence and forced her to flee the country for a safer place. [As per media news](#), she has taken shelter in India. Earlier protesters asked the public to join the "Long March to Dhaka" to fulfill their demand and restore fairness and justice in the country. Students initiated a protest against the quota in civil services jobs, which later developed into a broader anti-government uprising, demanding Hasina's resignation. The loss of nearly 300 lives and the injury of several individuals occurred as authorities intervened to control the protests.

It is worth mentioning that Ms. Hasina won the election for a consecutive fourth term in January this year despite the allegations of rigged and fraudulent elections that came to power in 2009. According to the report, the Bangladesh Army General has been talking to opposition parties and civil society leaders to form the interim government. [Read More](#)

Delhi-Hanoi Boost Strategic Ties, Vow to Work for Free & Open Indo-Pacific

Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi hosted Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh in New Delhi. The visit aimed to enhance strategic ties and expand the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

Both countries will [work together](#) in peace-keeping operations, hydrography, cybersecurity, information sharing, strategic research, maritime security, maritime safety, search and rescue operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster management, and emergency response and relief.

Vietnam is a crucial player in India's 'Act East' policy and an important partner in its Indo-Pacific vision. Amid escalating tensions in the South China Sea due to China's assertiveness, both leaders have firmly advocated for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and substantive negotiations for the timely conclusion of a robust Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) in accordance with international law, particularly UNCLOS. On the occasion Mr. Modi [said](#), "We support evolution, not expansionism and will continue our cooperation for a free, open, rules-based and prosperous Indo-Pacific." [Read More](#)

Military Junta Extends State of Emergency in Myanmar

The military Junta in Myanmar has [recently extended the state of emergency](#) for an additional six months. This marks the sixth extension of the state of emergency since the military coup took place in February 2021. As a result of this extension, the general election in the country has been further delayed. However, the military junta is facing a significant challenge from the ethnic and pro-democracy resistance

alliance, which has seized a large territory from the junta. The U.S. State Department media [states](#) that “The military’s actions have only prolonged the crisis, which has internally displaced over three million people, with thousands more seeking protection in neighboring countries, and plunged millions into poverty.” Furthermore, it urges the military leader to involve all parties for a peaceful and stable Burma.

India-China Holds Talk to Resolve the Border Issue

The 29th round of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held in New Delhi. [The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on how to achieve complete disengagement and resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control \(LAC\) in the Western Sector of India-China border areas.](#) Both sides agreed to maintain regular contact through diplomatic and military channels and on the need to uphold peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and protocols. Last week India’s Foreign Minister Jaishankar met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the sidelines of ASEAN FM’s meeting in Laos.

It is important to note that India and China have a long history of disputed borders in the Himalayan region, and the tension between the two countries simmered after the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020, where twenty Indian soldiers died in non-combatant warfare. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

In which Country Grand Comore Island is located?

- a. Mauritius
- b. Madagascar
- c. Comoros
- d. Coco Islands

Which Country has selected the Vice Chair of supply chain council under Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)?

- a. Japan
- b. South Korea
- c. USA
- d. India

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