



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail Feb.10–16, 2025**

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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.

### **Modi in Washington, Echoes with Trump-Make India Great Again**



*Figure 1: U.S. President Donald J Trump and the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a joint press conference in the White House, February 13, 2025*

U.S. President Donald Trump met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House on February 13. Both leaders reaffirmed strengthening bilateral relations underlying the Global Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Showing the personal warmth of relations, the two leaders who met for the fifth time since 2017 agreed to expand cooperation on trade deals, immigration, defense partnership, science, and technology.

Modi shared India's vision of "Viksit (Developed) Bharat 2047" and highlighted its similarities with the "Make America Great Again" initiative. He praised President Trump's commitment to prioritizing America's national interests. He stated that India and the United States will progress at double speed. Mr. Modi affirmed that India and the U.S. are rather  $1+1=11$  and will work for the welfare of humanity.

Both leaders agreed to sign a mutually convenient trade deal that would bring prosperity and growth to both countries. The U.S. President signed the Reciprocal Trade Act before meeting with Mr. Modi and gave a strong signal to India to reduce "high tariffs" on American goods. Mr. Trump made it clear that India and other countries should have a "level playing field" for business with each other. He further said, "Whatever they charge us, we're charging them. So, it works out very well. It's a beautiful, simple system, and we don't have to worry about charging too much or too little."

In defense sector, the U.S. will increase military sales to India starting with military equipment like F-35, apache stealth jets. Both countries will

invest hugely and expand their business in various sectors like energy, nuclear energy, and education. Both leaders concurred that both countries have "tremendous future." The U.S. and India will work robustly on countering terrorism and announce the extradition of the Mumbai terror attack accused to India and bring it to justice.

Furthermore, both leaders demonstrated their commitment to enhancing the Quad and working for peace and resilience in the Indo-Pacific. They also reiterated that the Quad would work to uphold peace. Both leaders demonstrated their commitment to enhancing the Quad and working for peace and resilience in the Indo-Pacific.

Additionally, U.S. President Trump and Indian Prime Minister Modi displayed similar warmth and positivity as in 2017, referring to each other as friends. They praised each other. They affectionately recalled the events of *Howdy Modi* and *Namaste Trump*. Trump said Modi is a "great leader" and he did a "fantastic job." "We have so much in common, and our Relationship with India has never been better." [Read More](#)

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## **U.S. and Indo-Pacific Partners Meet on the Sidelines of Munich Secretary Conference**

U.S. Secretary of State met with his counterparts, Foreign Minister of Japan Iwaya Takeshi and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Cho Tae-yul on

February 15 in Munich to reaffirm the unwavering trilateral partnership between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Three leaders discussed their shared commitment to the security, safety, and prosperity of the three countries and the challenges in the broader Indo-Pacific. In a joint statement, three countries reaffirmed their desire to advance their military capabilities and undertake joint exercises to bolster defense and deterrence. Furthermore, the leaders reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait and opposed any unilateral attempts to change the status quo. North Korea's missile program, malicious cyber activities, cryptocurrency thefts, and increasing military cooperation with Russia were also discussed between these leaders. The leaders emphasized enhancing economic, energy, and technological cooperation.

The Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, also met with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and expressed his commitment to expand the U.S.-PH partnership in the Indo-Pacific region. [Read More](#)

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## **Turkish President Visits Pakistan**

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shabaz Sherrif during his visit to Islamabad. The two leaders signed agreements to enhance economic and defense ties, aiming to boost trade to USD 5 billion from the current USD 1.4 billion. Both leaders expressed their

solidarity with the Palestinians and condemned Israel for using lethal force and violating the ceasefire. Erdogan reiterated his opposition to U.S. President Trump's plan to relocate the Palestinians from Gaza. Additionally, the two sides emphasize resolving the dispute between India and Pakistan, mainly the Jammu Kashmir issue.

It is worth mentioning that Erdogan also visited Malaysia, and Indonesia to strengthen the bilateral relations. [Read More](#)

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### **Indian Ocean Conference Schedules in Jordan**

The 8th edition of the IOC is taking place in Muscat, Oman, on February 16-17, 2025, under the theme "Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership." This edition will highlight the importance of inclusivity and building new partnerships in the maritime sector. It aims to strengthen collaboration among nations and institutions to address shared challenges, enhance connectivity, and promote sustainable development in the region. The event is expected to host participants from over 60 countries and international organizations, reflecting the region's strategic importance and the need for collaborative solutions. [Read More](#)

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### **Indo-Pacific Quiz**

Which country is hosting APEC 2025?

a. South Korea

c. Malaysia

b. Australia

d. Japan

In which country is the port city Otaru located?

a. Japan

c. South Korea

b. China

d. Mexico

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## Consortium Highlights

❖ **U.S.-India Convergence on Deficit, Defense, and Deterrence, [Read Here](#).**

❖ **Sudan and Russia: What the conflict and the relationship means for the Indo-Pacific Theater, [Read Here](#)**

❖ **NATO and Indo-Pacific: A Review. [Read Here](#)**

❖ **Upcoming Event: Podcast Leyte Island, February 19, 2025**

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