



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail March 10-16, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific.

Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

G-7 Foreign Ministers Reaffirm to Uphold Free and Open Indo-Pacific in Charlevoix



Figure 1: G-7 countries Foreign Affairs Ministers gather in Canada, March 13, 2025

Foreign Ministers (FMs) of G-7 countries, Japan, Canada, the U.K., Germany, France, Italy, and the Chief Diplomat of the European Union (EU) met in Charlevoix, Canada, this week. In the [joint statement](#), the FMs reiterate their commitment to maintaining a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific. They expressed their concern about the volatile situation in the East China Sea and the South China Sea and opposed any unilateral attempt to alter the status quo. G-7 Ministers emphasize respecting the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and warn China not to restrict the freedom of navigation and overflight in the region by any means. The leaders also underscore the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and support Taiwan's substantive participation in international organizations.

It is important to highlight that there have been continuous increasing intimidating actions and maneuvers of firing water cannons from Chinese coast guard ships towards the Philippines and Vietnamese patrol vessels in the South China Sea. Furthermore, last month, the Chinese Navy conducted a live-fire drill in the Talisman Sea near the Australian coast, which worried Australia and New Zealand. Both country's leaders expressed their concerns about the strategic penetration of China in their backyard without ample prior notice by China. New Zealand Defense Minister Judith Collins described it as a "wake-up call" and called for more defense investment to counter China's power display in the region. Again, it is noted that from the Munich Security Conference to the G-7 Foreign Ministers meeting, U.S. cabinet officials have been using strong language against China. The U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, held

bilateral and trilateral meetings with his counterparts on the sidelines of this pivotal platform to reiterate the commitment to rule-based order in the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, Marco Rubio hosted the Quad foreign ministers meeting just after President Trump's inauguration day, underscoring the Indo-Pacific priorities.

Modi Visits Mauritius, Aim to Strengthen Ties amid Competition with China in Western Indian Ocean

Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi's visit to Mauritius aims to strengthen bilateral relations and strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean. Mr. Modi attended the Mauritius National Day as a Chief Guest. Both countries share historical and cultural ties and agreed to elevate the India-Mauritius partnership to an 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership.' India will provide financial assistance for building a new Parliament building in Mauritius.

India intends to strengthen strategic partnerships and maritime security in the Indian Ocean, viewing China's growing influence in the region. Mr. Modi said in his speech, "Defence Cooperation and Maritime Security are key pillars of our strategic partnership. Free, open, secure, and safe Indian Ocean is our common priority. We are committed to providing our full support for the security of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mauritius." [Read More](#)

U.S. and South Korea Commence Joint Military Exercise

U.S. and the Republic of Korea begin the annual Freedom Shield 2025 exercise. As per reports, Freedom Shield is an 11-day exercise conducted by the Republic of Korea and the United States consisting of training to reflect the Korean Theater of Operations — a combined, joint, multi-domain, and interagency operating environment. These multi-domain training exercises strengthen interoperability, reinforce the alliance’s combined defense posture, and increase combat readiness and lethality. Unfortunately, the drill was paused after the South Korean jets mistakenly bombed a civilian area. The exercise will restart after a thorough investigation.

North Korea condemned the joint drill and issued a statement calling the exercise a “dangerous provocative act” and fired several missiles in response to the U.S.-South Korea military exercise. [Read More](#)

Myanmar Military Ruler Announces Elections

Myanmar’s military Junta [announced](#) holding elections within the next 10 months after four years of a military coup. The military ruler, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, announced during his foreign trip to Belarus that the elections in Myanmar will take place in December 2025 or January 2026.

In Myanmar, the military toppled the elected government in a coup in February 2021, claiming that the elections were rigged. Myanmar’s military junta heavily relies on; and influenced by Russia and China. China and Russia

have provided their economic and weaponry support to military Junta. As Myanmar's geographical location connects it to the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean, and its rich natural and marine resources make it Indo-Pacific's fulcrum.

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which is the top manufacturing country in the Indo-Pacific?

- a. China
- b. India
- c. Australia
- d. Japan

Which country's officials are sanctioned by the U.S. in response to the deportation of Uyghurs to China?

- a. Myanmar
 - b. Vietnam
 - c. Thailand
 - d. China
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Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Podcast on **India - Japan cooperation and Security in the Indo-Pacific**, March 10th, 2025, 6:00 PM EST. [Listen Here](#)
- ❖ CIPR welcomes interns from Korea University, Seoul and the Asia Pacific University, Japan

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for the March 9th Newsletter Quiz

In which country is Kadena Air Base located?

d. Japan

In which country is Mark Carney a candidate for Prime Minister?

b. Canada

Contributions: Indu Saxena