



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail March 31-April 6, 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.

U.S. Enhances Military Interoperability through Joint Exercises



Figure 1: Soldier of the Philippine Army's and U.S. Army conduct live-fire training during *Salaknib* 2025, April 01, 2025. IMAGE / army.mil.

The United States army soldiers and Philippines army soldiers conduct artillery live-fire training during 'Salaknib 25' participated in the military drills to boost operational readiness and military interoperability in the Indo-Pacific region with ally and partner. As per a news report, Army artillery live-fire training involves firing artillery weapons under controlled conditions to prepare soldiers for real world scenarios. The training includes using various artillery systems, such as Howitzers and mortars, and focuses on key aspects such as targeting, coordination and safety procedures.



U.S. soldiers join its Indian counterparts for Tiger Triumph 2025 in Visakhapatnam, India

In addition, the United States and India kicked off [Tiger Triumph](#) in the Indian Ocean, in Visakhapatnam, India. This is the fourth iteration of bi-lateral joint amphibious exercise which started in 2019. The exercise will involve

approximately 3,000 personnel and at least four ships and seven aircraft from the two countries.

U.S. Navy's Rear Adm. Greg Newkirk said, "Tiger Triumph 25" represents the joint forces of two strategic partners enhancing our shared multi-domain awareness and ability to operate more effectively in those commonly understood domains. This is essential to prepare for any contingency that could emerge." The new elements of subject matters exchange and the space force have been added to Tiger Triumph 2025. It will include the first-ever subject matter expert exchange with U.S. and Indian industry partners, government representatives, and operators focused on applying cutting-edge autonomous capabilities to address critical warfighter needs. Also, U.S. Space Force representatives will work with Indian counterparts to incorporate satellite technology to enhance force awareness in operational planning and execution.

BIMSTEC Summit Concludes in Thailand

The BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group of South Asian and Southeast Asian countries held its 6th summit in Bangkok. The leaders adopted the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030, their first Vision Document, providing a comprehensive roadmap for future cooperation among member states to achieve "the vision of Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC." To enhance connectivity, BIMSTEC countries signed an agreement on maritime transport cooperation. These

countries engage in sectors of connectivity, environment, food and security, investment, and innovation. BIMSTEC comprises seven countries of the Bay of Bengal region: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It was founded in 1997. [Read More](#)

Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meet in Brussels

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Japanese Foreign Minister Iwama Takeshi, and Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul met on April 3 in Brussels to strengthen trilateral cooperation in advancing the safety, security, and prosperity of our three countries and the broader Indo-Pacific region. They highlighted the significance of NATO collaborating with Indo-Pacific partners to ensure a rapid response to security developments and challenges in both the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions. In the joint statement, the United States reiterated its ironclad commitments to defense of allies Japan and South Korea. The leaders strongly opposed unlawful maritime claims or any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the region. Further, they emphasized the significance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait as a crucial aspect of security and prosperity for the global community and supported Taiwan's involvement in international forums. [Read More](#)

India Inks Deals with Sri Lanka amid China's Growing Influence

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi traveled to Sri Lanka on a two-day state visit. Both countries signed agreements to boost cooperation in defense, energy, and infrastructure sectors. Besides the defense cooperation agreement, both countries also agreed to work together on the Colombo Security Conclave and Security Cooperation in the Indian Ocean. India will provide multi-sectoral grant assistance to the eastern region of Sri Lanka and launch a solar power project. In his speech, Modi commended Sri Lanka's ongoing efforts towards economic recovery and the resilience of its citizens in maintaining their democracy. India provided financial assistance of USD 4.5 billion during the financial crisis in Sri Lanka in 2022.

Modi stated that Sri Lanka is a "precious pearl in the Indian Ocean." And both countries have shared security interests. India observes China's significant investment in Sri Lankan ports and infrastructure projects as a potential security concern. [Read More](#)

Countries seek deals to reduce U.S. Tariff Impact

President Trump announced on April 2 the imposition of reciprocal tariffs aimed at addressing the persistent annual trade deficits in goods. President Trump has been urging other countries to take measures to rectify trade imbalances with the United States. New tariffs impact both allies and adversaries of the U.S. The Indo-Pacific countries seek negotiations to stabilize

the markets amid growing concern of recession. Here is the table of tariffs on Indo-Pacific countries.

Country	Percentage
China	36 %
India	26 %
Bangladesh	37 %
Brunei	24 %
Cambodia	49 %
Indonesia	32 %
Japan	24 %
Laos	48 %
Malaysia	24 %
Mauritius	40 %
Myanmar (Burma)	44 %
Pakistan	29 %
Philippines	17 %
South Korea	25 %
Sri Lanka	44 %
Taiwan	32 %
Thailand	36 %
Vanuatu	22 %
Vietnam	46 %

Indo-Pacific Quiz

How many members countries are in the BIMST-EC organization?

- a. Six
- b. Eight
- c. Seven
- d. Nine

What percent of taxes China put on U.S. as retaliation of Trump's reciprocal tariffs?

- a. 34 percent
- b. 35 percent
- c. 40 percent
- d. 26 percent

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Podcast: South China Sea and Importance of International Arbitration in Territorial Disputes, April 9, 2025 @7:00 PM EST
- ❖ Webinar: U.S.-Japan Alliance: Strengthening Defense and Security in the Indo-Pacific, April 30th. 9:00 AM EST

[REGISTER](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for the March 30th Newsletter Quiz

Q. Where is Palawan Island located?

b. Philippines

Q. What is 'Pituffik' referring to?

a. Space Force Base

Contributions: Indu Saxena