



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail May 12-18, 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.

India and Japan Strengthen Defense Cooperation



Figure 1: Japanese Defense Minister Mr. Gen Nakatani met Indian Defense Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh in Delhi / Image /Press Information Bureau, Govt. of India

India and Japan seek to expand the defense cooperation. The Defense Ministers of Japan Mr. Gen. Nakatani visited Delhi and [held bilateral talks](#) with his Indian counterpart Mr. Rajnath Singh. Both sides reviewed the defense security pillars of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

Further, both leaders welcomed the increasing diversity and frequency of defense exercises and exchanges between them. They agreed to expand the scope and complexity of these engagements. The leaders also concurred in introducing new dimensions to the strong maritime cooperation between India and Japan.

The ministers agreed on the importance of creating [a large synergy in the Indo-Pacific region](#). The defense minister Nakatani proposed to proceed the collaboration as “Japan India (India Japan) Defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region (JIDIP/ IJDIP)” from now on. Both countries collaborate to continue expanding and deepening exercises to protect sea line communication and strengthen India-Japan bilateral relations in Southeast Asia.

Japanese Defense Minister also condemned the heinous act of terrorism in Kashmir on April 22 and extended his sincere condolences to the victims and their families.

India and Japan have established a longstanding partnership that has gained significant momentum since their collaboration as a Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2014.

It is worth mentioning that India and Japan are Quad members with the U.S. and Australia. The Quad group aims to promote and establish a free and open Indo-Pacific and to prevent the change in the status quo through coercion and force. Japan has disputes with China in the East China Sea, and India has a long history of border disputes with China at its Eastern flank. In 2020, India and China had a non-combatant face-off that killed 40 Indian soldiers.

India and Japan's strengthening defense relations are crucial during this period of uncertainty.

U.S. and South Korea Conduct Maritime Counter-Special Operation

The United States (U.S.) Navy and the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy conducted a maritime counter-special operations exercise to enhance interoperability and share combat readiness capabilities at sea. During the operations, the vessels and aircraft engaged in training focused on anti-submarine and mine warfare. They also completed training in maritime communications and conducted exercises in dynamic coordinated maneuvering.

As per press note, The U.S. Navy frequently collaborates with the allies in the Indo-Pacific region to demonstrate our mutual commitment to upholding international law. These bilateral operations offer valuable opportunities to train, participate in exercises, and develop tactical interoperability among allied navies in the Indo-Pacific.

The U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet that operates with allies and partners, ensuring the free and open Indo-Pacific region. [Read More](#)

Bangladesh Interim Govt. Bans Main Opposition Party

The interim government of Bangladesh announced that it would ban all activities of the Awami League, the political party of the country's ousted leader, Sheikh Hasina. The Awami League party is the oldest party in Bangladesh headed by the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted last year in a mass protest.

The interim Cabinet, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, decided to ban the party's activities online and elsewhere under the country's Anti-Terrorism Act. Observers and analysts state that the Interim government takes the move to prevent the Awami League party from participating in the next general elections in the country. [Read More](#)

ASEAN and Republic of Korea Pledge to Enhance Cooperation

The representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Countries and South Korea met in Bangkok and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Both sides have made significant progress in the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action (POA) 2021-2025,

covering political and security cooperation, trade and investment, digital transformation, tourism, energy, environment, disaster management, youth, and people-to-people exchanges. Furthermore, both sides look forward to working on the next POA for the term 2026–2030 and reiterate their commitment to cooperate in various domains. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Who was the leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 1956

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| a. Bo Gu | c. Hua Guofeng |
| b. Deng Xiaoping | d. Mao Zedong |

In which country are the Ryūkyū Islands located?

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| a. Australia | c. China |
| b. Japan | d. Taiwan |

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Podcast: **North Korea's Missile Program and Security in the Korean Peninsula**, May 14, 6:30 PM EDT. [Listen Here](#)
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for May 11 Newsletter Quiz

Q. What is the name of India's military operation 2025 against terrorism

b. Operation Sindoor

Q. Which country has America suspended its tariff for 90 days?

c. China

Contributions: Indu Saxena