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## **Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail April 28-May 4, 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.

### **Ishiba Visits Vietnam and Philippines**



Figure 1: Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio and Prime Minister of Vietnam Pham Minh Chinh

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba travels to Vietnam and the Philippines for a four-day trip to strengthen trade and security ties with the Southeast Asian countries. This visit takes place during tariff tensions between the U.S. and its allies while China courts the countries in the region with its massive infrastructure project of Belt and Road Initiative.

It is important to note that [Chinese President Xi Jinping recently concluded his 3-nation tour](#)- Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia, aiming to gather support against U.S. tariffs from the Southeast Asian countries.

Given the uncertainty in the global economy, Ishiba met with top leaders in Hanoi and emphasized strengthening the supply chain. He stressed the need for public-private collaboration in industrial advancement, human resource development, decarbonization, AI technology, and energy under the Japan-Vietnam “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.” He stated Vietnam is a key partner for a free and open Indo-Pacific and discussed the East China Sea and South China Sea situations.

On his Manila visit, [Ishiba met with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.](#) of the Philippines and the two leaders talked about various issues in trade and economy. They acknowledged the impact of the current situation due to U.S. tariff measures and China’s retaliatory actions on the global economy and multilateral trading system.

Furthermore, both sides emphasized security cooperation between the two countries and to maintain free and open Indo-Pacific with the rule of law.

They also oppose any unilateral change in the status quo in the region by force or coercion. Both leaders agreed to enhance security cooperation bilaterally and with the U.S.-Japan-Philippines trilateral cooperation.

Vietnam and Philippines are among ASEAN countries who have dispute with China regarding maritime claim in the South China Sea. Japan also shares concerns about Japan's uninhabited Senkaku island claimed by China.

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## **India and Pakistan are on the Brink of War- continued**

The Pahalgam terror attack on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, that killed 26 tourists in Indian Kashmir, could be a reason for the fifth war between India and Pakistan, as the situation is fragile between two nuclear-armed states. The constant threat of conflict and the warnings issued by both sides create immense fear among border communities, and their daily life is overshadowed by the potential for violence and displacement. In some areas close to the Line of Control (LOC), residents aim to safety in the construction of bunkers. It highlights the level of fear and the anticipation of potential shelling.

Despite the early condemnation of the terror attack by U.S. top leaders and officials, in his recent remarks, Vice President J D Vance urged India to avoid "wider regional conflict."

Amid growing fear of conflict with Pakistan, [India and France have signed](#) an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for the procurement of 26

Rafale Aircraft (22 Single-Seater and four Twin-Seater) for the Indian Navy. It is important to mention that Indian forces have been exercising in Arabian Sea, Western Indian Ocean. On the other side, Pakistani military claim to test-fire a ballistic missile.

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## **Liberals Comeback in Canada and Australia**

Liberal parties have secured the majority in Canada and Australia despite poll deficit in early months of the year. In Canada, the Liberal Party led by Mark Carney won the election amid tensions from U.S. President Trump's announcement to annex Canada and impose heavy tariffs. Carney's party got 169 seats in comparison with the Conservatives 144 seats. As per [reports](#), Carney will meet Trump for trade talks.

In Australia the federal elections were held on May 1, and the incumbent Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party have secured the landslide victory and seeks second three-year term. The Labor Party secured 86 seats, while the Opposition, the Liberal National Party (LNP) led by Peter Dutton, obtained 39 seats. In his victory speech Albanese said, "The Australian people have voted for Australian values: for fairness, aspiration and opportunity for all; for the strength to show courage in adversity and kindness to those in need." U.S. Secretary Rubio congratulated Prime Minister Albanese, expressing that the United States aims to strengthen its relationship with

Australia to further mutual interests and promote freedom and stability in the Indo-Pacific and globally. [Read More](#)

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## Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country has elected Mark Joseph Carney as its new Prime Minister?

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. Australia | c. Canada      |
| b. Singapore | d. South Korea |

Which country owns Norfolk Island?

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| a. Australia | c. U.K.        |
| b. Japan     | d. New Zealand |

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## Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Upcoming Webinar: **The Possibility of War Between India and Pakistan and Its Regional Implications** May 9, 9:00 AM EDT.
  - ❖ Upcoming Podcast: Podcast: **North Korea's Missile Program and Security in the Korean Peninsula**, May 14, 6:30 PM EDT.
  - ❖ [Watch Recording](#): **U.S.-Japan Alliance: Strengthening Defense and Security in the Indo-Pacific**, April 30<sup>th</sup>. 9:00 AM EDT/ 10:00 PM JST.
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## Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for April 27 Newsletter Quiz

Q. In which year did India and Pakistan sign the Indus Waters Treaty?

c. 1960

Q. Which country will hold its federal election on May 3, 2025?

a. Australia

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