



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail June 30-July 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.

Quad Foreign Ministers Meet in Washington



Figure 1: Quad FMs met in Washington /Image / US State Dept. / YouTube

The Secretary of State of the United States, Marco Rubio, and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, Wenny Pong, India, and S. Jaishankar, and Japan- Mr. IWAYA Takeshi met in Washington, D.C., for the 10th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. They acknowledged the recent and upcoming activities conducted by their four countries and the partners to promote a prosperous, free, and open Indo-Pacific.

Along with the key initiative of strengthening maritime and transnational security, the Quad Foreign Ministers announce the launch of the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative, aimed at enhancing economic security and resilience by securing and diversifying critical mineral supply chains. To enhance maritime and transnational security, the Quad countries launched the first-ever Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, which strengthens interoperability and knowledge sharing to address unlawful activities across the region.

This is the second meeting of Quad foreign ministers within six months, and since President Trump took office. Quad's top diplomats emphasized the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific region while assessing China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea, East China Sea, and the Taiwan Strait.

The Quad countries plan to launch the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership by hosting a transportation and logistics conference with Indo-Pacific partners in Mumbai, aiming to enhance understanding and facilitate the sharing of experiences in modern port logistics. This initiative is expected to

attract investments from both the government and private sectors for port infrastructure development.

In light of the volatile geopolitical landscape, the question is: How can the Quad countries best strategize to deter aggression and solidify their vision of a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific? [Read More](#)

Tibet: Dalai Lama's Succession and China's Role

Tibetan Spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, turns 90 years old and has announced that he will have a successor from the “free world” outside of China and [Tibet](#), with China having “no say” in this matter. The revered leader, who has been in exile in [Dharamshala](#), India, since 1959, fled after the Chinese takeover of Tibet. However, China has been putting pressure to name the next Dalai Lama according to its ritual and choice. Notably, six-year-old child Panchen Lama had disappeared in 1995 after a few days of his recognition as the next leader of Tibetans by the 14th Dalai Lama. As per reports, Panchen Lama and his family have been imprisoned by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). India states that it has “no position” position on Dalai Lama's succession.

China annexed Tibet in 1950, described the process as “peaceful liberation of Tibet,” and it is known as the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) within Chinese control. [Read More](#)

BRICS Summit Kicks off in Brazil

The emerging economies consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS), plus new members Iran, Egypt, UAE, Indonesia, and Ethiopia, gathers in Rio de Janeiro. Xi Jinping and Putin, leaders of China and Russia, skipped the summit. Indian Prime Minister Modi emphasized the need to reform global institutions to represent emerging economies and the Global South.

The group's declaration states serious concern about the humanitarian conditions in Gaza, criticizing the attack on Iran without mentioning the US and Israel. The group also criticized the high tariffs, which are inconsistent with the World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

It is worth noting that the deadline for Trump's tariffs has been approaching, as a 90-day pause on tariffs is set to end on July 9, and some countries are still seeking trade negotiations with US. Earlier, President Trump had threatened to impose 100% tariffs against the BRIC if they took any moves to undermine the US dollar. [Read More](#)

US and India Enhance Defense Cooperation

U.S. DEFSEC Pete Hegseth and India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met at the Pentagon. Both leaders discussed the deepening cooperation between US and India and seek to expand the defense sale and

military-industrial cooperation. Both countries have been working on the new announcement of procurement and co-production for Javelin anti-tank guided missiles and Stryker armored vehicles, and maritime patrol aircraft.

Hegseth stated, “we are building productive, pragmatic, and realistic relations,” which have been built on the foundation laid by the Trump-Modi meeting in February of this year. He further added that the US-India partnership has strengthened, with shared interests in fostering stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Furthermore, both leaders intend to sign a new 10-Year Defense Framework and the forthcoming launch of the Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance (ASIA). [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which region is known as "the roof of the world"?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. Nepal | c. Japan |
| b. China | d. Tibet |

What document did America sign on July 4, 1776?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. The Constitution | c. Bill of Rights |
| b. Declaration of Independence | d. Emancipation Declaration |
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Consortium Highlights

❖ Upcoming Event: US-Japan Alliance, August 22, 9:30 EST

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for June 29 Newsletter Quiz

Q. US has ended all trade talks with which country?

a. Canada

Q. Where will the next NATO Summit take place in 2026?

c. Türkiye

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