



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



INDO-PACIFIC MONITOR

JULY 2025

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INDO-PACIFIC MONITOR

This publication is a monthly analytical survey of developments and policy trends that impact India's interests and define its challenges across the extended Indo-Pacific maritime space, which has become the primary theatre of global geopolitical contestation. It is authored by Cmde. Lalit Kapur (Retd.), DPG Senior Fellow for Maritime Strategy, assisted by Ms. Divya Rai, based on open source reports and publications. Your comments and feedback may be addressed to the author at lalit@dpg.org.in. To subscribe, please [click here](#).

Cover Images:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the UK at the Chequers Estate in London, July 24, 2025. Source: MEA Photo Gallery

Quad Foreign Ministers Meet in Washington DC on July 01, 2025. Source: US Department of State
NISAR Satellite Launch Vehicle at its launch pad in Sriharikota, July 30, 2025. Source: ISRO

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INDO-PACIFIC MONITOR

July 2025

Abstract

Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook two international tours during the month. In the first, he visited Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil (for the BRICS Summit) and Namibia from July 2-9. In the second, he visited the UK and the Maldives from July 22-26. The second tour witnessed the signing of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, as well as the adoption of the India-UK Vision 2035 document, the roadmap for India-UK relations over the next decade.

Thailand's constitutional court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on July 01 pending a final decision on a case that seeks her dismissal over a controversial leaked phone call with Cambodia's Hun Sen in June 2025. Cambodian and Thai troops exchanged fire along their disputed border, resulting in multiple casualties over five days, before a ceasefire was brokered by Malaysia (the current ASEAN chair) and the US.

Houthi attacks on merchant shipping in the Red Sea recommenced on July 07, with two ships being hit. The Houthis said they would attack ships if they have ties with companies that work with Israeli ports.

Elections to Japan's House of Councillors on July 20 saw the ruling LDP-Komeito coalition being reduced to a minority in the upper house, with only 122 seats in the 248-member House. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba resisted calls for him to resign, citing the need to fulfil responsibilities and avoid a political drift.

The 10th Quad Ministerial Meeting was convened in Washington DC on July 01. The ministers announced a new agenda focused on four key areas: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technology, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response.



Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited China for the Annual Leaders' Summit from July 12-18. The visit focused on mutual economic benefit, with bilateral security issues not finding mention in public documents.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on July 11. Both sides described their discussions as constructive and pragmatic.

France and New Caledonia announced an agreement on July 12 that would make the French overseas territory a state within the French Republic. The agreement, which has to be approved by the French Parliament and the people of New Caledonia, gives the overseas territory greater autonomy but stops short of granting independence.

France published its revised Indo-Pacific strategy on July 22. The four part strategy comprises strengthening overseas communities; consolidating security and defence partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries; the economy and energy transition, and climate and health; and support for the European Union's strategy in the region.

Australia paid the second instalment of US \$ 525 million under AUKUS towards its contribution for bolstering the US submarine industrial base on July 23.

Australia's largest military Exercise Talisman Sabre commenced its 11th iteration on July 13. 19 partner countries, including India, are participating in the three-week exercise.

India's maritime capability was strengthened with the commissioning of INS Tamal on July 01 and INS Nistar on July 18.

Ships from India's Eastern Fleet deployed to Southeast Asia during the month, visiting Singapore, Da Nang (Vietnam) and Manila (the Philippines).

The NASA-ISRO dual Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite was launched from India's Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on July 30.



Prime Minister Modi Visits UK and Maldives

In his 91st international tour after assuming power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UK and Maldives from July 23-26, spending two days in each country¹. This was his fourth visit to the UK and third visit to the Maldives.

The headline event from the UK visit was signing of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in the presence of Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sir Kier Starmer². The agreement is expected to double trade by 2030 and increase investment and economic cooperation between India and the UK by lowering tariffs in key sectors, while strengthening innovation and technology collaboration. It has the Indian Cabinet's approval, but has still to be ratified by the parliament in UK before it can enter into force. The two sides also agreed to negotiate a Double Contribution Convention which will enter into force along with the free trade agreement and will facilitate professionals and service providers in both countries while reducing the cost of doing business.

The two Prime Ministers adopted the India-UK Vision 2035 document³, which will steer bilateral relations over the next decade. The document, which will be reviewed annually at the foreign minister level, commits both countries to deepening and diversifying their cooperation with time bound action, preparing them for a BRISK partnership for the future based on Business, Research, Innovation, Science and Technology and Knowledge. Under the Defence and Security pillar of this vision, the two countries agreed to promote strategic and defence industry collaboration through the adoption of a 10-year Defence Industrial Roadmap and a joint mechanism at senior official level to monitor its implementation and progress. They decided to deepen collaboration in advanced technologies through programs such as the Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership (EPCP) and Jet Engine Advanced Core Technologies (JEACT). They further decided to strengthen coordination on strategic and

¹ Visit of Prime Minister to the United Kingdom and Maldives (July 23-26, 2025), July 20, 2025, https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/39814/Visit_of_Prime_Minister_to_the_United_Kingdom_and_Maldives_July_23_26_2025

²For full text of agreement, see <https://www.commerce.gov.in/international-trade/trade-agreements/india-united-kingdom-comprehensive-economic-and-trade-agreement/>

³India-UK Vision 2035, July 24, 2025, https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/39846/INDIAUK_VISION_2035



operational defence matters by upgrading the existing the existing Foreign and Defence 2+2 senior official level dialogue (the second edition of which was held in December 2024) to the next higher level, and to enhance cooperation under the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI). They agreed to continue conducting military joint exercises and expand training opportunities across all three services; position military instructors at each other's training institutions; reaffirmed India as a regional hub for sustainment of logistics support to UK armed forces presence in the Indian Ocean Region; and strengthening of R&D on developing new capabilities, including in underwater systems and directed energy weapons.

The leaders discussed the deepening of the partnership between India and UK in the education sector and welcomed the opening in India of the campus of Southampton University in Gurugram. At least five more UK universities are going through the process of opening similar campuses in India.

The primary purpose of the PM's visit to the Maldives was to be the Guest of Honour at the country's 60th independence anniversary celebrations. The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations, which have evolved a long way since President Muizzu assumed office in 2023 on an anti-India, pro-China platform. India extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of Rs 4850 crores (rupee denominated) to the Maldives⁴, signed an agreement that reduces Maldives debt-repayment obligations to India from nearly \$ 51 million annually to about \$ 29 million, and launched the India Maldives Free Trade Agreement negotiations; apart from exchanging MoUs / Agreements in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture, meteorology, digital payment solutions and recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia.

The visit to UK delivered trade liberalisation, expanded investment and technology cooperation, opened new doors for Indian businesses and citizens, and saw the publication of a road map that promises mutual growth and stronger global standing. The defence industrial roadmap holds out the promise of production of advanced defence products and technologies, not just for domestic consumption but also for export to the global market. All in all, both visits can be deemed to have been successful.

⁴List of Outcomes: State Visit of Prime Minister to Maldives (25-26 July 2025), July 25, 2025, https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/39877/List_of_Outcomes_State_Visit_of_Prime_Minister_to_Maldives_25_26_July_2025



The Tenth Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The 10th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting was convened in Washington DC on July 01, 2025. It was the second time US Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted his Quad counterparts during the current year: the first meeting of the year, on January 21, 2025 was also the first international engagement he hosted hours after being sworn in as Secretary of State. This was the second Quad ministerial for Secretary Marco Rubio and Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, the sixth for Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and the tenth Quad ministerial for India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

In the first substantive joint statement on the Quad under the second Trump administration, the Foreign Ministers stuck to their by now familiar position of their steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific⁵. They underscored their intention of defending the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as commitment to a region where all countries are free from coercion, along with opposition to unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion. These words identified China as the focal area of their concerns even though the country was not named in their joint statement. In other China-directed words, the ministers expressed their serious concern about the situation in the East and South China Seas, about dangerous and provocative actions that include interference with offshore resource development, about the obstructions of the freedom of navigation and overflight, and about dangerous manoeuvres by military aircraft and coast guard and maritime militia vessels. They emphasised the importance of unimpeded commerce consistent with international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and affirmed that maritime disputes must be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law. In this regard, they reiterated that the award rendered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration on July 12, 2016 was a significant milestone and the basis of peacefully resolving disputes between parties.

The ministers condemned North Korea's destabilising launches using ballistic missile technology and its continued pursuit of nuclear weapons in violation of

⁵Joint Statement from the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Washington DC, July 01, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/joint-statement-from-the-quad-foreign-ministers-meeting-in-washington/>



multiple UN Security Council resolutions. They also expressed grave concern about North Korea's malicious cyber activity, including cryptocurrency theft and use of workers abroad to fund its unlawful WMD and ballistic missile programmes. They expressed deep concern about the worsening crisis in Myanmar and its impact on the region, and reaffirmed strong support for ASEAN efforts, including calling for full and effective implementation of the Five Point Consensus. In a special gesture towards India, the ministers unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025 and called for the perpetrators, organisers and financiers of this reprehensible attack to be brought to justice without delay, urging all UN member states to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard. India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar called for the world to display zero tolerance towards terrorism, to never equate the victim and the perpetrator. He noted that India has every right to defend its people against terrorism and will exercise that right⁶, expecting Quad partners to understand and appreciate that.

The ministers announced a new, ambitious and strong agenda focusing on four key areas: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technology, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response. Among ongoing Quad activities were in the maritime domain were the launch of the first ever Quad-at-sea Ship Observer Mission, the second maritime legal dialogue to advance efforts to uphold maritime order, continued implementation of the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness, and the conduct of the first Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI) workshop later this year⁷. In the field of economic prosperity and security, the Quad critical minerals Initiative launched by the ministers will strengthen cooperation on securing and diversifying reliable supply chains, electronic waste critical minerals recovery and reprocessing. The Quad Ports of the Future Partnership will be launched in Mumbai in October 2025. The US and India will host an undersea cables forum with participation from Quad partners to identify opportunities for digital infrastructure

⁶EAM's Remarks to the Press Before Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, July 01, 2025, https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/39730/EAMs_remarks_to_the_Press_before_the_Quad_Foreign_Ministers_meeting_July_01_2025

⁷Factsheet: 2025 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Washington DC, July 01, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/2025-quad-foreign-ministers-meeting/>



cooperation. In critical and emerging technology, the Quad will continue to promote digital infrastructure projects across the Indo-Pacific, taking forward the lessons learned from the ORAN deployment in Palau; deepen research to harness AI, robotics and sensing to transform agricultural approaches through the AI-ENGAGE Initiative, and continue with the Quad STEM fellowship. In the Humanitarian field, Quad countries contributed over \$ 30 million in assistance to the communities affected by the March 2025 Myanmar earthquake and convened a workshop on pandemic preparedness, hosted by India in Mach 2025.

Notable was the dropping of climate partnership from the agenda. Quad Foreign Ministers also reiterated their support for ASEAN unity and centrality, the Pacific Islands Forum and Pacific-led regional groupings, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

A new element was launch of the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative, intended to strengthen economic security and collective resilience by collaborating to secure and diversify critical minerals supply chains. This initiative is intended to address China's near monopoly of mining and processing of rare earth elements; a monopoly it has had no hesitation in exploiting. The ministers noted that reliance on any one country for processing and refining critical minerals and derivative goods exposed their industries to economic coercion, price manipulation and supply chain disruptions, harming economic and national security.

Unusually, there was no reaction from China to the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting or its joint statement.

The Quad remains vital to sustaining a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, even though it is not a military alliance. There are bilateral irritants, such as the threat of unilateral US tariffs including the possible imposition of punitive tariffs for purchasing oil from Russia, or the US relationship with Pakistan. Will the Quad's potential suffice to keep the US engaged, and interested in maintaining a good relationship with India? The situation will become clearer when the next Quad summit, to be hosted by India later this year, is held.



The Australia China Annual Leaders' Meeting

At the invitation of China's Premier Li Qiang, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese made an official visit to China from July 12-18 for the Annual Leaders' Meeting. His itinerary included visits to Shanghai, Beijing and Chengdu. In Beijing, he met President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Li Qiang and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Zhao Leji.

The leaders exchanged views on China-Australia relations as well as key regional and international issues, reaffirmed their support for the comprehensive strategic partnership and reiterated the importance of a mature, stable and constructive bilateral relationship⁸. They agreed to continue to grow their relationship, enhance exchanges and cooperation in areas of shared interest, uphold their respective national interests, and navigate their differences wisely. Focal areas for expansion of their engagement included political dialogue; bilateral trade; climate change, energy and environment; people-to-people links and border enforcement. They witnessed the signing of six Memorandums of Understanding and Protocols.

The visit was intended to stabilise relations between the two countries. This is part of a conscious policy adopted by the Albanese government after assuming office in 2022, and has resulted in restoration of the trading relationship and lifting of China's restrictions on imports from Australia that began during the previous Morrison Government after Australia tightened its foreign influence laws and sought a probe into the origins of COVID-19. A stable relationship, however, requires balancing of economic and security interests. Indeed, the Australian overview of the visit describes the visit as "an opportunity to continue advancing Australia's security and economic interests"⁹. There is no indication in any of the multiple visit-related documents, however, that security matters were addressed.

Yet it is in security and geopolitical matters where the two countries continue to have substantial differences. The two countries do not see eye-to-eye on Taiwan, where China has adopted an intimidatory approach and seems to be heading towards forcible reunification while Australia opposes the use of force.

⁸ Statement on Joint Outcomes of the China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting, July 15, 2025, <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/statement-joint-outcomes-china-australia-annual-leaders-meeting-15-july-2025>

⁹Media Release: Prime Ministers' Visit to China, July 18, 2025, <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/prime-ministers-visit-china>



In the East China Sea, China has adopted an assertive attitude towards Japan's Senkaku Islands, while Australia supports its quasi-ally. Beijing's aggression in the South China Sea, directed against the Philippines, continues unabated, while Australia has become part of the Security Quad (SQUAD) comprising the US, Japan, Australia and the Philippines. China's influence building in the Southern Pacific island states, particularly its pact to boost law enforcement and security cooperation with the Solomon Islands, impacts Australia's immediate neighbourhood. And in February 2025, a Chinese naval task force circumnavigated Australia and conducted firing exercises in the Tasman Sea without adequate warning, forcing commercial airlines to divert and sending an unmistakable signal regarding China's reach. There is no sign of retreat on China's part from any of these aggressive activities.

China's assertive actions in the region have resulted in Australia revising its security outlook to characterise the environment as the toughest security environment the country has encountered in the last 70 years¹⁰. Indeed, Canberra's past defence planning was based on a ten-year preparation window for any major war. Australia's 2023 Defence Strategic Review determined that this lead time has been significantly truncated, and that the Australian Defence Force was not fit for purpose. The AUKUS agreement is intended to enhance Australia's ability to deal with future maritime threats. A recapitalisation plan for the Australian Navy, and indeed, the entire defence force, has been launched. Clearly Australia is conscious that security can no longer be taken for granted. Yet, security concerns do not seem to have found place in bilateral discussions: at most, Australia has re-stated its position without obtaining any comforting indications from its interlocutor.

It must, therefore be concluded that economic benefit continues to occupy centre-stage and drive the bilateral relationship, with security concerns taking a back seat and being addressed through the alliance with the US. Under the circumstances, the US demand that Australia do more to address security concerns, including increasing its defence spending, appears understandable.

¹⁰The US-Australia Alliance: Aligning Priorities in the Indo-Pacific with Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles, July 12, 2022, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-australia-alliance-aligning-priorities-indo-pacific-deputy-prime-minister-richard>



Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025

by

Divya Rai

The 11th edition of the Australia and US led multinational military exercise, Talisman Sabre commenced on July 13, 2025, bringing together over 35,000 personnel from 19 nations¹¹. The three-week-long exercise is the largest-ever edition of this Australia-led multinational military exercise, involving participants from Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States. Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam are participating as observers. The presence of these nations sends a message that they are ready to band together to fight if needed for a stable, free and open Indo-Pacific. The 11th iteration marks a significant milestone for India, which is participating as a partner country for the first time, having previously attended the 10th edition in 2023 as an observer¹².

The exercise takes place across multiple Australian states and territories including Christmas Island and for the first time, extends to Papua New Guinea¹³. It seeks to foster effective coordination and operational readiness among trusted allies and like-minded nations through live-fire drills, amphibious landings, ground force manoeuvres, and integrated air and maritime operations. This expansion beyond Australian territory signals an evolving strategic approach aimed at strengthening defence ties with Pacific partners. A key highlight of the 2025 edition exercise is the participation from the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group and the Royal Navy's HMS Prince of Wales Carrier Strike Group, as well as other escort vessels from the U.S.,

¹¹ Department of Defence-Australia. "Talisman Sabre 2025". <https://www.defence.gov.au/defence-activities/exercises/talisman-sabre>.

¹² Department of Defence-Australia. "Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025", April 23, 2025. <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2025-04-23/exercise-talisman-sabre-2025>

¹³ Department of Defence-Australia. "International debut for Talisman Sabre". May 5, 2025. <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-05-05/international-debut-talisman-sabre>



UK, Australia, Norway, and Canada, showcasing coordinated dual carrier operations¹⁴.

Established in 2005 as a biennial joint exercise between the US and Australia, the exercise has grown significantly over the years. While the exercise's primary goal is to improve partner forces' interoperability, it has at the same time attracted scrutiny from Beijing. Recently, Australian officials have said that Chinese spy ships have been often sighted near the exercise areas¹⁵, continuing a pattern of surveillance from 2017.

India's participation in Talisman Sabre 2025 marks a significant step in its expanding military diplomacy and strategic outreach. Alongside its various bilateral and multinational exercises with Australia—including Austrahind (army), Ausindex (naval), Pitch Black (air), and Malabar—it is the first time India is participating in a multinational land forces exercise. This is expected to enhance warfighting capabilities and deepen its defence cooperation with key regional partners.

India and Australia's growing partnership has largely been influenced by a shared concern about China. India had excluded Australia from the Malabar exercises due to concerns about provoking Beijing. Similarly, India was cautious in fully engaging with the Quad Security Dialogue for several years to avoid antagonising China. This cautious approach was evident when, despite Australia's invitations following the deepening of military ties after the first 'India-Australia 2+2 dialogue' in September 2021, India chose not to participate in the 'Talisman Sabre' exercise, seeking to avoid a negative reaction from China. Overall, India has been careful to avoid actions that might be seen as directly confrontational toward Beijing.

Considering the possibility of a two-front land-based threat from both Pakistan and China complicates India's defence posture. New Delhi is changing its security doctrines and is enhancing its preparedness on both northern and western fronts. As a core and active member of the QUAD grouping, alongside

¹⁴ Department of Defence-Australia. "HMAS Sydney leaves Talisman Sabre on a high", July 23, 2025. <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-07-23/hmas-sydney-leaves-talisman-sabre-high>

¹⁵ South China Morning Post. "Talisman Sabre: Australia, US push Pacific deterrence amid China's security overtures", July 23, 2025. <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3319230/talisman-sabre-australia-us-push-pacific-deterrence-amid-chinas-security-overtures>



the United States, Japan, and Australia, India is reinforcing a balance between assertive defence and collaborative diplomacy for maintaining a stable and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

The Induction of INS Tamal

On July 01, INS Tamal, the fifth ship of Project 1135.6R built by Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad and the eighth ship overall, was commissioned into the Indian Navy (IN)¹⁶. She is the 51st warship to be built for the IN in Russia. She is also the last Indian warship to be built by a foreign shipyard and marks the final phase of the transition of the IN from dependence on other countries for its warships to self-reliance, with all future warships to be constructed in Indian shipyards.

INS Tamal was among the six ships conceived by the Russian Navy in 2010-11 for modernisation of its Black Sea Fleet. Construction of the lead ship of the class, Admiral Grigorovich, began in December 2010; the ship was commissioned in March 2016. The third ship of the class, Admiral Makarov, was commissioned into the Russian Navy in December 2017. INS Tamal, then named Admiral Istomin, began construction in November 2013. The programme came to a halt following the Russian invasion of Crimea in February 2014, with Ukraine refusing to supply the propulsion plant contracted for the ship. In October 2018, India finalised a deal to purchase the 4th and 5th ships of the class, followed by construction of two more in an Indian shipyard. Ukraine agreed to sell the power plants to India; India then transferred them to Yantar Shipyard to enable completion of the 4th and 5th ships. The 4th ship, INS Tushil, was commissioned in December 2024¹⁷.

INS Tamal is designed for blue water operations in all dimensions of maritime warfare: surface, air, underwater and electro-magnetic. She displaces about 4100 tons at full load, has a length of 125m, a beam of 15.2m, and a draught of 4.5m. Her Zorya-Mashproekt M7N1 propulsion plant gives her a top speed of 32 knots and a range of nearly 9000 Km at 14 knots. Her main armament comprises 8

¹⁶INS Tamal, Latest Stealth Frigate Commissioned into the Indian Navy, July 01, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2141361>

¹⁷See Lalit Kapur, "The Commissioning of INS Tushil" in the Indo-Pacific Monitor, Volume V, Issue 12, December 2024, https://www.delhipolicygroup.org/uploads_dpg/publication_file/indo-pacific-monitor-5240.pdf



Brahmos land-attack and anti-ship supersonic cruise missiles, 24 Shtil-1 Surface-to-Air Missiles with a maximum range of 70 Km, 8 Igla-1E short-range Surface-to-Air Missiles, a 100mm naval gun, 2 AK-630 Close-In Weapon Systems, 1 RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launcher and two twin 533 mm torpedo tubes. The ship carries one Ka-28/Ka-31 ASW/AEW helicopter. She will form part of India's Western Fleet and will be based in Karwar.

Two more ships of the class, Tripat and Tavasya, are being built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). They are presently being fitted out and are expected to commission in the last quarter of 2026 and the first half of 2027 respectively.

INS Tamal is India's 15th frigate (three Brahmaputra class, three Shivalik class, eight Talwar Class and INS Nilgiri), to add to 13 destroyers in service. Two more frigates, maybe three (Himgiri, Udaygiri and Taragiri) should commission before the end of the year, taking India's escort strength to 30+ ships. This places the IN as the fourth largest in the world going by the number of escorts, after the US, China and Japan, and ahead of Russia, France and the UK. The IN is thus on a growth path, in keeping with India's needs as a maritime nation.

Other Indo-Pacific Developments

Houthi Attacks on Commercial Vessels in Red Sea Recommence. Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea recommenced with MV Magic Seas, a Greek-operated Liberian flagged vessel being attacked on July 07¹⁸. The ship was reported have sunk following a fire in the bows and engine room, and had been abandoned by the crew¹⁹. Also attacked was a Greek-owned Liberian flagged vessel Eternity C, with three mariners reported killed and two others injured²⁰. The attacks were the first by the Houthis on merchant ships during the

¹⁸Updated: Houthis Attack Commercial Ship in the Red Sea, Israeli Forces Strike Targets in Yemen, July 07, 2025, <https://news.usni.org/2025/07/07/houthis-attack-commercial-ship-in-the-red-sea-israeli-forces-strike-targets-in-yemen>

¹⁹Condemning Recent Houthi Attacks on MV Magic Seas and MV Eternity C, July 08, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/condemning-recent-houthi-attacks-on-mv-magic-seas-and-mv-eternity-c/>

²⁰Yemen's Houthi Rebels attack another ship in the Red Sea, killing 3, July 09, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/mideast-wars-yemen-houthis-israel-6dc55ee05a9d1e78621788aa0bc52168>



current year. The group said they would attack merchant ships in the Red Sea if those ships have ties with companies that work with Israeli ports²¹.

Thailand PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra Suspended. Thailand's constitutional court suspended Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra pending an ethics investigation on July 01 pending decision on a case that seeks her dismissal over a controversial leaked phone call with Cambodia's Hun Sen in June 2025²². In the call, Shinawatra appears to be pandering to Hun Sen and then denigrating a Thai military commander.

Thailand Cambodia Border Clash. Cambodian and Thai troops exchanged fire at their disputed border near the Prasat Ta Muen Thom Temple, escalating a standoff between the neighbours that contributed to the suspension of Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra of Thailand²³. Both sides accused the other of firing first. The Thai Army said at least nine civilians had been killed and 14 injured following firing by the Cambodian side. Thailand deployed F-16 fighter jets to "destroy" two Cambodian military support units. The two sides declared a ceasefire after five days of clashes, brokered by Malaysia (the current chair of ASEAN) and the US, on July 28²⁴.

Japan Elections. Elections to Japan's House of Councillors (the upper house) on July 20 saw the ruling LDP-Komeito coalition losing its majority, winning only 47 of the 124 seats up for grabs²⁵. The ruling coalition now has only 122 seats in the 248 member house. It had lost majority in the House of Representatives (the lower house) following the general elections on October 27, 2024, winning only 223 seats in the 465 member house. Notwithstanding the loss, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba did not resign, citing the need to fulfil responsibility with the public so as to prevent politics from stagnating or drifting away.

²¹Houthis to Target Ships in Red Sea That Travel to Israeli Ports in New Escalation, Group Says, July 29, 2025, <https://news.usni.org/2025/07/29/houthis-to-target-ships-in-red-sea-that-travel-to-israeli-ports-in-new-escalation-group-says>

²²Dynasty in distress: Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn's fate in limbo, July 01, 2025, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2025/07/01/asia-pacific/politics/thai-premier-fate-limbo/>

²³Live Updates: Thailand Says 9 Civilians Killed as Tensions Rise on Border With Cambodia, July 24, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2025/07/24/world/thailand-cambodia-border-clash>

²⁴The Ceasefire Between Cambodia and Thailand, July 28, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/the-ceasefire-between-cambodia-and-thailand/>

²⁵Ishiba clings to leadership after election setback, The Japan Times, July 21, 2025, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2025/07/21/japan/politics/analysis-post-election/>



New Caledonia to Become a French State. France and New Caledonia announced an agreement on July 12 that would make the French overseas territory a state within the French Republic²⁶. The State would be enshrined in the French Constitution and other nations would be allowed to recognise it. The agreement, which has to be approved by the French Parliament and the people of New Caledonia, gives the overseas territory greater autonomy but stops short of granting independence.

East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting, chaired by Malaysia's Foreign Minister, was convened on July 11 at Kuala Lumpur. The ministers reviewed the future direction of the EAS, discussed areas of cooperation and discussed regional and international issues²⁷.

Rubio Wang Yi Meeting. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met China's Director of the Office of the CCP Central Foreign Affairs Commission and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on July 11²⁸. Both sides described discussions during the meeting as constructive and pragmatic²⁹. Secretary Rubio said that President Trump had been invited to visit China and wanted to undertake the visit, both sides would work at finding the right dates for it³⁰.

Anniversary of South China Sea Tribunal Award. On the ninth anniversary of the South China Sea Tribunal Award, the US called out China for ignoring the Tribunal's unanimous decision, continuing to assert unlawful and expansive maritime claims and taking increasingly aggressive actions against its

²⁶France agrees to New Caledonian state and nationality, but not independence, July 13, 2025, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-13/france-new-caledonia-state-accord-not-independence/105526426>

²⁷Chairman's Statement of the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, 11 July 2025, <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Final-Chairmans-Statement-of-the-15th-EAS-FMM-12-July-2025.pdf>

²⁸Secretary Rubio's Meeting with China's Director of the Office of the CCP Central Foreign Affairs Commission and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, July 11, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/secretary-rubios-meeting-with-chinas-director-of-the-office-of-the-ccp-central-foreign-affairs-commission-and-foreign-minister-wang-yi/>

²⁹Chinese FM calls for joint efforts in finding right way for China, US to get along, July 12, 2025, https://english.www.gov.cn/news/202507/12/content_WS6872f3fac6d0868f4e8f41ed.html

³⁰Secretary of State Marco Rubio Remarks to the Press, July 11, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/secretary-of-state-marco-rubio-remarks-to-the-press/>



neighbours³¹. It called on China to abide by the 2016 arbitral ruling and cease its dangerous and destabilising conduct.

Japan-EU Summit. The 30th Japan-EU Summit took place on July 23. Leaders committed to closer cooperation in the backdrop of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, serious challenges to a free and open Indo-Pacific and other regional and international issues³². They reiterated that the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific are interconnected and identified priorities for cooperation in security and defence, economy, digital, climate change, biodiversity, energy and environment, multilateralism, sustainable connectivity, research, transport and people-to-people links areas.

AUKMIN July 2025. The Australia-UK 2+2 Defence and Foreign Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN) took place in Sydney on July 25, 2025³³. The Ministers reaffirmed that the security, resilience and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions are interconnected and committed to continue to expand efforts to safeguard internationally agreed roles and norms and respect for sovereignty. Reiterating their strong opposition to coercive or destabilising activities by Chinese vessels in the South China Sea, they agreed to continue cooperation to support freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, including through participation in joint activities. They reaffirmed their commitment to the AUKUS partnership and to the SSN-AUKUS.

French Indo-Pacific Strategy. France published its revised Indo-Pacific Strategy on July 22³⁴. The revised strategy visualises the Indo-Pacific as a stage for rivalries between great powers, China's growing assertiveness and strong trade tensions, with the global ability to meet environmental challenges and combat the erosion of multilateralism at state in the region. France commits itself to defending its interests and increase its commitment to sustainable development, regional stability and the protection of common goods. Its four part strategy for the region comprises strengthening its overseas communities; consolidating sovereign partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries focused on security and

³¹On the Ninth Anniversary of the Philippines–China South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal Ruling, July 12, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/on-the-9th-anniversary-of-the-philippines-china-south-china-sea-arbitral-tribunal-ruling/>

³²Japan-EU Summit 2025 Joint Statement, <https://japan.kantei.go.jp/content/000176491.pdf>

³³Joint Statement on Australia-UK Ministerial Consultations (AUKMIN) July 2025, July 25, 2025, <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/statements/2025-07-25/joint-statement-australia-uk-ministerial-consultations-aukmin-july-2025>

³⁴France's Indo-Pacific Strategy, https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/france_s_indo-pacific_strategy_2025_cle04bb17.pdf



defence, the economy and energy transition, and climate and health; support for multilateralism; and support for the European Union's strategy in the region.

AUKUS Developments. Australia was reported to have paid the US \$ 525 million as the second instalment of its contribution towards bolstering the US submarine industrial base on July 23³⁵. Their payment was made even as the AUKUS submarine deal is under review. Meanwhile, CNO (Desig) Admiral Daryl Caudle said the US industrial base must double its attack submarine output to meet its obligations under the AUKUS agreement with Australia and the UK³⁶. He said the current review is about US industrial capacity.

Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulations. Australia began public consultations on the regulatory framework that will underpin its Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator on July 02³⁷. The consultation will enable the development of a framework to ensure that the highest standards of nuclear safety and radiological protection are applied across the AUKUS SSN programme. The consultation period runs from July 02-30, with key stakeholders and the Australian public invited to provide inputs.

Role of Allies in Potential Conflict Over Taiwan. The Pentagon is reported to be seeking clarity on Japan's role in a potential conflict over Taiwan³⁸. The US Undersecretary of Defense has been broaching this issue in his meetings with Japanese and Australian officials, according to a media report. The US itself maintains a position of strategic ambiguity over how it will respond to a Chinese attack on Taiwan.

2025 Defense of Japan White Paper. The 2025 edition of Japan's Defence White Paper was published on July 15³⁹. The paper says that the international community faces its greatest trial since World War II and is entering a new era of

³⁵Australia pays US another \$ 525 million to bolster AUKUS industrial base, July 23, 2025, <https://breakingdefense.com/2025/07/australia-pays-us-another-525-million-to-bolster-aukus-industrial-base/>

³⁶CNO Nominee Caudle Says Sub Construction Pace Needs to Grow to Deliver on AUKUS Promise, July 24, 2025, <https://news.usni.org/2025/07/24/cno-nominee-caudle-says-sub-construction-pace-needs-to-grow-to-deliver-on-aukus-promise>

³⁷Public Consultation opens for the Australian Naval Nuclear Power Safety Regulator, July 02, 2025, <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2025-07-02/public-consultation-opens-australian-naval-nuclear-power-safety-regulations>

³⁸US urges clarity on Japan's role in potential war over Taiwan, report says, July 14, 2025, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2025/07/14/japan/us-japan-taiwan-contingency/>

³⁹2025 Defense of Japan Pamphlet, https://www.mod.go.jp/j/press/wp/wp2025/pdf/DOJ2025_Digest_EN.pdf



crisis. Global security challenges are particularly prominent in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in East Asia, and are likely to intensify in the future. Russia's aggression against Ukraine gets pride of place among global security challenges. China is portrayed as an unprecedented and the greatest security challenge to which Japan should respond with its comprehensive national power and in cooperation with allies, like-minded countries and others. The paper expresses concern about China's actions in the East China Seas and around Taiwan, as well as in the South China Sea. North Korea is seen as another strategic challenge, as is the Russia-China alliance. It spells out Japan's three-pronged approach towards achieving defence objectives: strengthening Japan's own architecture for national defence, the Japan-US alliance, and collaboration with like-minded countries.

US Trade Deals with Indo-Pacific Countries. The US and Japan struck a trade deal on July 22, under which Japanese exporters will pay 15% "reciprocal" tariffs on goods, including automobiles and car parts, exported to the US⁴⁰. Japan will also invest \$ 550 billion in the US. In other announcements on July 22, the US reached trade deals with Indonesia and the Philippines, under which goods from these countries will pay 19% duty for exports to the US⁴¹. There will be no duties on imports from the US into these countries.

NISAR Satellite Launch. The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite was launched by the GSLV-F16 launch vehicle from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on July 30⁴². It's unique dual-band synthetic aperture radar will provide high-resolution and large swathe imagery of the entire globe every 12 days. The NISAR mission will enable the study of land and ice deformation, land ecosystems and oceanic regions in areas of common interest to the US and Indian science communities.

Delivery of Aircraft Carrier John F Kennedy Delayed. The Ford class aircraft carrier John F Kennedy, which was to have been delivered in July 2025, is now likely to become available only in March 2027⁴³. The delay is on account of

⁴⁰Trump announces 'massive' trade agreement with Japan, CNN, July 23, 2025, <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/07/22/business/japan-trade-agreement-us>

⁴¹Trump announces trade agreement with the Philippines and terms of deal with Indonesia, CNN, July 23, 2025, <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/07/22/business/trump-philippines-trade-deal>

⁴²NISAR to revolutionize Earth observation with precision, global data access, July 30, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150367>

⁴³Carrier John F. Kennedy Delayed 2 Years, Fleet Will Drop to 10 Carriers for One Year, July 07, 2025, <https://news.usni.org/2025/07/07/carrier-john-f-kennedy-delivery-delayed-2-years-fleet-will-drop-to-10-carriers-for-1-year>



Advanced Arresting Gear Certification and continued Advanced Weapons Elevator work. The delay will result in reduction of USN aircraft carrier strength to 10 as USS Nimitz is due to decommission in May 2026.

Delivery of Udaygiri. Udaygiri, the second of the Project 17A Nilgiri-class frigates being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL) was delivered to the Indian Navy at Mumbai on July 01⁴⁴. Displacing 6670 tons, the ship is propelled by two General Electric LM2500 gas turbines and two MAN Diesel engines in a CODAG configuration. The ship is equipped with Brahmos SSMS, Barak 8 SAMs, torpedo tubes for the Varunastra torpedo, RBU-6000 anti-submarine rockets, an Oto-Melara 76mm naval gun, AK-630 CIWS and two 12.77 mm remote controlled guns. She carries one Dhruv or Seaking Mk 42B helicopter.

Delivery of Himgiri. Himgiri, the third of the Project 17A Nilgiri class frigates built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) was delivered to the Indian Navy at Kolkata on July 31⁴⁵. The ship is built to the same specifications as Udaygiri above.

Commissioning of INS Nistar. Nistar, the first of the two indigenous Diving Support Vessels being built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, was delivered to the Indian Navy on July 08⁴⁶ and commissioned on July 18⁴⁷. The 118m long vessel displaced 9350 tons and is equipped with cutting edge diving systems and remotely operated vehicles to monitor divers and conduct salvage operations at depth of up to 1000m. A second ship of the class, Nipun, has also completed sea trials and is expected to be delivered shortly. The two ships, to be based at Visakhapatnam and Mumbai, will provide diving support and submarine rescue capability on each coast.

Keel Laying of Fleet Support Ship. The keel of the third Fleet Support Ship (FSS) for the Indian Navy was laid at M/s L&T Shipyard Kattupalli on July 09. A contract to build five FSS was awarded to Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in August 2023. HSL has sub-contracted the construction of two ships to L&T Shipyard to meet the stringent timelines for delivery. Displacing 45,000 tons and

⁴⁴Project 17A Indigenous Stealth Frigate Udaygiri Delivered to Indian Navy, July 01, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2141259>

⁴⁵Project 17A Indigenous Advanced Stealth Frigate Himgiri Delivered to Indian Navy, July 31, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150864>

⁴⁶ Delivery of First Indigenous Diving Support Vessel – ‘Nistar’, July 09, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2143335>

⁴⁷ Indian Navy to Commission the First Indigenous Diving Support Vessel – ‘Nistar’, July 10, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2143722>



with a length of around 229 metres, the FSS will be the second largest ships of the Indian Navy, after the two aircraft carriers.

Launch of Yard 3034 (Ajay). Yard 3034 (Ajay), the eighth and last ship of the ASW Shallow Water Craft Project, indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Kolkata was launched on July 21⁴⁸. The first ship of the class (Arnala) was commissioned in June 2025; the next is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in August this year. Eight more ASW Shallow Water Craft are being built by Cochin Shipyard.

Next Generation Coast Guard OPV. The keel of the first of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard was laid at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited on July 22⁴⁹. The ships are scheduled to enter service commencing the first half of 2027.

Launch of ICGS Atal. Goa Shipyard launched ICGS Atal (Yard 1275), the sixth of eight Fast Patrol Vessels it is building for the Indian Coast Guard, on July 29⁵⁰. The vessel is intended to conduct coastal patrols, island security missions, offshore asset protection, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and search & rescue operations.

Exercise Talisman Sabre. Australia's largest military Exercise Talisman Sabre commenced its 11th iteration on July 13⁵¹. The United States, Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, and the United Kingdom joined as partners in the exercise. Malaysia and Vietnam attended as observers. The Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit visited Australia from July 26-28 to witness the exercise⁵². Six officers from the Indian Armed Forces are participating in the exercise for the first time as staff planners; Indian officers have been observers at the 2021 and 2023 editions of the exercise.

⁴⁸Launch of Yard 3034 (Ajay), Last Ship of ASW SWC 9GRSE) Project, July 21, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2146420>

⁴⁹Keel Laid for First Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel of ICG and MDL Mumbai, July 22, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2146825>

⁵⁰Goa Shipyard Launches ICGS Atal Fast Patrol Vessel for Indian Coast Guard, July 29, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2149907>

⁵¹Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 opens, July 13, 2025, <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/releases/2025-07-13/exercise-talisman-sabre-2025-opens>

⁵²Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Witness Multilateral Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 in Australia, July 25, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2148441>



Taiwan Live Fire Exercises. Taiwan carried out its longest ever live fire Han Kuang 41 exercise with special focus on countering China's grey zone tactics from July 09-18⁵³. The drills are double the length of the normal five-day four-night exercises. The first three days focused on how Taiwan's military collectively counters China's grey zone operations and responding should China convert these operations into an invasion. After that, the exercise moved to the full-scale combat phase including joint anti-landing operations, coastal and beachhead combat, and protracted warfare.

Indian Greek Navy PASSEX. INS Tarkash conducted a PASSEX off Mumbai with Greek Navy ship HS Psara on July 10. The Greek ship made her maiden port call at Mumbai from July 11-13⁵⁴.

India-Indonesia CORPAT. The 44th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) took place in the Andaman Sea from July 13-21⁵⁵. INS Saryu and INLCU-55, along with a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, participated from India's side.

Exercise Bold Kurukshetra. The 14th edition of India-Singapore joint military exercise Bold Kurukshetra commenced at Jodhpur on July 27⁵⁶. The exercise will continue till August 04.

India Extends Range of ASW Rockets. User trials of Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR) were successfully carried out from INS Kavaratti from June 23 – July 07⁵⁷. India's warships are largely fitted with the Russian-Origin RBU-6000 Rocket Launcher, firing RGB-60 rockets with a maximum range of 5500m. Three DRDO organisations, ARDE, HEMRL and NSTL designed and developed the ERASR, with a maximum range of 8900m; this was first tested in April 2023. The completion of user trials on this rocket paves the way for its

⁵³ Ministry of National Defense Statement on the Han Kuang 41 Exercise Live-Fire Drills, July 08, 2025,

<https://www.mnd.gov.tw/english/Publish.aspx?title=News%20Channel&SelectStyle=Defense%20News%20&p=84642>

⁵⁴ Greek Frigate Psara Makes Maiden Port Call in Mumbai, July 14, 2025, <https://www.prokerala.com/news/photos/greek-frigate-psara-makes-maiden-port-call-in-mumbai-3733830.html>

⁵⁵ <https://x.com/IndianEmbJkt/status/1947145336142905536>

⁵⁶ Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2025 to Kick Off at Jodhpur: Advancing India Singapore Defence Cooperation, July 27, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2149031>

⁵⁷ User Trials of Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket successfully carried out from INS Kavaratti, July 08, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2143225>

induction into service, enabling IN ships to engage submarine targets at longer ranges.

Test Flight of Astra BVR AAM. DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted the flight-test of an indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker from a Su-30MKI on July 11⁵⁸.

India – Australia Underwater Cooperation. India's Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) and Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) agreed to a joint three year research project that if successful could improve the early detection and tracking of submarines and autonomous underwater vehicles⁵⁹. This is the first defence science and technology research project between Australia and India.

DAC Accords AON for Acquisition Proposals. The Defence Acquisition Council accorded Acceptance of Necessity for 10 capital acquisition procurement proposals worth approximately Rs 1.05 Lakh crores on July 03⁶⁰. Among the acquisitions approved were Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Moored Mines, Super Rapid Gun Mount and Submersible Autonomous Vessels.

Japan Explores Transfer of Abukuma Class Warship to the Philippines. Japan was reported to have agreed to the transfer of used Abukuma class Destroyer Escorts and King Air TC-90 aircraft to the Philippines to supplement its defence capability and counter China's actions in the South China Sea on July 07⁶¹. The report indicates that up to five ships of the class, commissioned between 1989 and 1993, may be transferred subject to their condition being found suitable by the Philippine Navy⁶². The ships, due to be retired from the JMSDF in 2027, are equipped with Harpoon anti-ship missiles, anti-submarine rockets and torpedo

⁵⁸DRDO & IAF conduct successful flight-test of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile with indigenous Radio Frequency Seeker from Su-30 MKI, July 11, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2144118>

⁵⁹Indian pact bolsters undersea surveillance, July 03, 2025, <https://www.defence.gov.au/news-events/news/2025-07-03/indian-pact-bolsters-undersea-surveillance>

⁶⁰DAC clears 10 capital acquisition proposals worth approx. Rs 1.05 lakh crore under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category, July 03, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2141835>

⁶¹Japan eyes used warship transfer to Philippines in a bid to counter China, July 07, 2025, <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2025/07/07/japan/politics/japan-philippines-used-destroyers-china/>

⁶²Japan in talks to transfer warships, surveillance aircraft to the Philippines, July 06, 2025, <https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/07/japan-in-talks-to-transfer-warships-surveillance-aircraft-to-the-philippines/>



tubes, as well as a 76mm gun and a CIWS. Reports indicate that equipment on the ships could be changed if required by the Philippines. The transfer, if it occurs, will be the first transfer of a complete defence platform by Japan in decades.

Cdr UAE Naval Forces Visit India. Maj Gen Humaid Mohammed Abdullah AlRemeithi, Cdr UAE Naval Forces visited India from July 07-09⁶³. The visit is intended to bolster India-UAE Naval relations, deepen cooperation and promote shared interests in the Indian Ocean Region.

CNS Visit to Japan. Admiral DK Tripathi, the Chief of the Naval Staff, proceeded on a four day official visit to Japan commencing July 30⁶⁴. His discussions during the visit are expected to encompass a broad spectrum of defence cooperation areas, with particular emphasis on maritime security, technological collaboration, and identifying new avenues to strengthen naval synergy and interoperability.

Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreements. The US-Thailand Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (123 Agreement) entered into force on July 09⁶⁵. The agreement provides the framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the US and Thailand, based on a mutual commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. A day later, the US and Malaysia launched negotiations for a civil nuclear cooperation agreement⁶⁶.

Eastern Fleet Deployment to Southeast Asia. Ships from India's Eastern Fleet arrived Singapore for a four-day visit as part of the operational deployment of the Indian Navy to Southeast Asia on July 16⁶⁷. They followed up by visiting Da

⁶³Visit of Maj Gen Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Al-Remethi, Commander UAE Naval Forces, July 08, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2143185>

⁶⁴Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff Embarks on an Official Visit to Japan, July 29, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2149792>

⁶⁵United States and Thailand Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Enters into Force, July 11, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/united-states-and-thailand-civil-nuclear-cooperation-agreement-enters-into-force/>

⁶⁶United States and Malaysia Sign Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation and Launch Negotiations for a Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, July 10, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2025/07/united-states-and-malaysia-sign-memorandum-of-understanding-concerning-strategic-civil-nuclear-cooperation-and-launch-negotiations-for-a-civil-nuclear-cooperation-agreement/>

⁶⁷Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Ships Arrive Singapore as Part of the Deployment to South East Asia, July 17, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2145603>

Nang, Vietnam from July 24-27⁶⁸, and Manila from July 30-August 02⁶⁹. Following the port visit to Manila, the ships will participate in a Maritime Cooperation Activity with the Philippine Navy in the South China Sea. IN deployment to Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific has increased substantially over the last decade.

INS Sandhayak visits in Southeast Asia. INS Sandhayak, the indigenously designed and constructed survey vessel large (SVL) visited Port Klang, Malaysia from July 16-19⁷⁰. The visit was intended to facilitate technical exchanges and strengthen institutional ties via concerted cooperation like sharing of survey technologies and sustained hydrographic support engagements. She followed up with a visit to Jakarta, displaying her advanced hydrographic equipment to the Indonesian Navy⁷¹. The final leg of her Southeast Asian tour took the ship to Manila on July 30.

SIMBEX 2025. INS Satpura arrived Singapore to participate in the 32nd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-25) on July 30⁷².

India-UAE to Enhance Defence Partnership. India and the UAE agreed to enhance bilateral defence cooperation during the 13th India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting at New Delhi on July 30⁷³. Increased cooperation spans training, maritime security, defence industrial partnerships and service-to-service exchanges.

⁶⁸The Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Ships Arrive at Da Nang, Vietnam – Deepening Maritime Ties and Advancing Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, July 25, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2148522>

⁶⁹India, Philippine Navies to Hold First South China Sea Joint Patrol, July 30, 2025, <https://news.usni.org/2025/07/30/indian-philippine-navies-to-hold-first-south-china-sea-joint-patrol>

⁷⁰INS Sandhayak, the First Indigenous Survey Vessel Large (SVL) visits Port Klang, Malaysia, July 19, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2146022>

⁷¹INS Sandhayak Displays its Cutting-edge Survey Equipment During Jakarta Visit, July 26, 2025, <https://www.indiandefensenews.in/2025/07/ins-sandhayak-displays-its-cutting-edge.html>

⁷²INS Satpura Arrives in Singapore for SIMBEX-25, July 30, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150265>

⁷³India & UAE Commit to Deepening Defence Partnership at 13th Joint Defence Committee Meeting, July 30, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2150322>



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