



INDO-PACIFIC CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

#09/2024/April-June, 2024

7th Edition of Joint Military Exercise "Shakti" Concludes

The Indo-Pacific Civil Society Forum (IPCSF) is an informal coalition of civil society organisations (NGOs, think tanks, etc.) working across the region toward realising a shared vision of peace, security, stability, and prosperity.

<https://cuts-wdc.org/indo-pacific-forum.htm>

India and France recently concluded the seventh edition of their biennial joint military exercise, "Shakti," held at a Joint Training Node in Meghalaya. The exercise, aimed to strengthen cooperation and interoperability between the armed forces of both nations, featured rigorous training scenarios across various domains.

"Shakti" emphasised tactical proficiency and strategic alignment, reflecting the strong defense partnership between India and France. This exercise not only reinforced bilateral ties but also underscored both countries' commitment to enhancing regional security and global peace through collaborative military engagements.

RIMPAC 2024 Commences

Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024 has begun in Hawaii, bringing together navies from across the globe for the world's largest maritime exercise. Hosted by the U.S. Pacific Fleet, this biennial event focuses on enhancing interoperability and readiness through a range of naval operations.

Participants will engage in maritime security drills, disaster response simulations, and complex warfighting exercises over several weeks. In addition to tactical skills, RIMPAC aims to foster diplomatic relations and mutual understanding among nations addressing shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.



The exercise serves as a testing ground for new technologies and operational concepts while promoting international norms and a rules-based maritime order. RIMPAC 2024 highlights the collective commitment to global security and stability through cooperative naval engagements.

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Indo-Pacific Pact Signed by 14 Nations

At the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) meeting, India, the U.S., and 12 other nations signed a significant economic pact focusing on supply chain resilience, clean energy, and fair economic practices.

This agreement aims to address challenges, such as climate change and economic disruptions while ensuring equitable growth. India's Commerce Secretary emphasised the importance of collective action in fostering sustainable and inclusive economic development across the Indo-Pacific region.

(ET, 10.06.24)



Samsung Chief Meets Tech CEOs in U.S.

Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong held a series of meetings with the leaders of global tech giants including Meta, Amazon and Qualcomm, to strengthen ties and boost collaboration during his two-week trip to the U.S.

During his meeting with Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon, Lee discussed expanding collaboration in AI chips. Samsung, which has a long-standing partnership with Qualcomm uses Qualcomm's advanced Snapdragon chips in its flagship smartphones.

(TN, 14.06.24)

Indian Exports to Soar by 2030

India and France have announced plans to establish a climate fund to support startups in Indo-Pacific countries. The fund aims to promote innovative solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the region.

This initiative reflects the commitment of both countries to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific.

(ET, 28.05.24)

EU's Defence Links with Japan, S. Korea

The European Union is pursuing security and defense industry partnerships with Japan and South Korea aimed at the joint development of military equipment. This initiative, reported by the Nikkei, would mark the EU's first security and defense-related collaboration with Asian nations.

There has been a proposal to expand opportunities for Japanese companies to participate in research and development programmes in the defense sector led by the EU, which would provide capital for joint projects between Japanese and European companies.

(Observer, 23.06.24)

Group of Seven Focuses on Migration

The Group of Seven (G7) Summit, held in Southern Italy, concentrated on migration issues, seeking ways to combat trafficking and increase investment in countries where migrants begin their journeys.

Migration is a priority for host Italy and its Premier Giorgia Meloni, who aims to increase investment and funding for African nations to reduce migratory pressure on Europe.

(AP, 15.06.24)

France-Germany-Britain Condemn Iran

France, Germany and Britain have condemned Iran's latest steps to further expand its nuclear programme as reported by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The joint statement highlighted Iran's operation of additional advanced centrifuges at Natanz and its plans to install thousands more at Natanz and Fordow, further undermining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

(TS, 15.06.24)

China Praises Ties with S. Korea-Japan

Chinese Premier Li Qiang praised the renewed relations with Japan and South Korea during the first trilateral talks in four years.

The meeting focussed on reviving trade and security dialogues hampered by global tensions and advancing three-party free trade agreement negotiations, stalled since 2019.

(TJP, 28.05.24)

U.S.-India Discuss Strategic Partnerships

During a recent meeting between U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, discussions included defense acquisitions, cooperation in space and shared concerns about China's activities.

The meeting emphasised the importance of the Quad Alliance in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific.

(TP, 17.06.24)

Singapore, Vietnam Call for Peace Amid Drills

Amid large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan, Singapore and Vietnam have called for regional peace and stability. Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong warned of the grave repercussions of a conflict in the Taiwan Strait.

In Vietnam, the government hoped Taiwan and China could maintain peace, stability, and cooperation. Peace would not only benefit the whole world, including people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

(DM, 27.05.24)

Philippines Reaffirms Clean Energy Goals

At the Indo-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, the Philippines reiterated its commitment to clean energy, aiming to increase renewable energy capacity to 35 per cent by 2030 and 50 per cent by 2040.



Energy Secretary, Raphael Lotilla, highlighted efforts to attract investments and enhance energy infrastructure, emphasising the role of international partnerships and private sector involvement. The Summit also saw discussions on regional collaboration, innovative energy solutions, and policy frameworks to foster sustainable economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region.

(SQ, 17.06.24)

Centre for Indonesian Policy Studies



CIPS hosted a plenary session at [On](#)

[Think Tanks Conference 2024](#) in

Barcelona, Spain on May 22, 2024,

where its Chief Innovation and

Development Officer, Anthea Haryoko facilitated a discussion about maintaining integrity in the middle of a flawed democratic landscape for think tanks.

It also held a closed Roundtable Discussion sharing findings from seven ongoing studies on Trade Impact in Indonesia on June 08, 2024. During the quarter, CIPS published a Policy Brief on [Optimizing Teacher's Autonomy](#) and a Policy Paper on [Landscape of Online Review in Indonesia](#).

www.cips-indonesia.org/

Institute of South Asian Studies

The ISAS was established in July 2004 and is dedicated to research on contemporary South Asia. It seeks to promote understanding of this vital region of the world



and communicate knowledge and insights about it to policymakers, the business community, academia and civil society, in Singapore and beyond.

In this quarter, ISAS published some papers on [India-Indonesia Breaking Barriers](#); [India and the Sino-Russian Entente](#); and [The Changing Global Order and China's Rise](#).

www.isas.nus.edu.sg/

Perth USAsia Centre

The Perth USAsia Centre is a leading foreign policy think tank focused on Indo-Pacific strategy. In April, the Centre launched its programme, ["Next Generation Regional](#)



[Perspectives on the U.S.-Australia Alliance](#).

The programme, supported by the U.S. Department of State, saw five emerging leaders from the Indo-Pacific travel to Washington, DC, where they met with White House officials, policymakers, journalists, diplomats and scholars, to better understand how Indo-Pacific countries, Australia and the U.S. can collaborate on issues of regional importance.

Later in the quarter, the Centre hosted the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral Stephen T. Koehler, for a robust [discussion](#) on opportunities for greater defense collaboration between Australia and the U.S.

<https://perthusasia.edu.au/>

The Hinrich Foundation

The Hinrich

Foundation is a

unique Asia-based

philanthropic

organisation that works to advance mutually beneficial and sustainable global trade. It believes sustainable global trade strengthens relationships between nations and improves people's lives.

It published reports on [Deep Dive: The rising contest over Asia's water](#) and [The Deglobalization Myth: How Asia's supply chains are changing](#).

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www.hinrichfoundation.com/

Bay Area Council Economic Institute

Bay Area Council

Economic Institute is a

leading think tank focused

on the economic and policy

issues facing the San Francisco/Silicon Valley

Bay Area. During this quarter, the institute

released a report on [Bay Area Council Conversations: Finding Opportunity in U.S.-China Economic Relations](#).

www.bayareaeconomy.org/



Australian Risk Policy Institute

ARPI as convenor of the

Global Risk Policy Network

(GRPN) announces the Top

Ten Global Vulnerabilities

identified through Strategic Risk Policy

foresight. ARPI's Pillar of Policy Reason is that 'Today, Risk is based in Vulnerability and concerned with Consequences.'

Vulnerability is defined as 'Potentiality or Possibility of Strategic Risk.' ARPI delivers contemporary thinking and approaches to risk to empower leaders to make informed and pre-emptive decisions, essential in today's transformative and disruptive world.

www.arpi.org.au/



Sources: AP: The Associated Press; DM: Daily Mirror; ET: The Economic Times;
SQ: Solar Quarter; TJP: The Jakarta Post; TN: The Nation; TP: The Print; TS: The Star



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