



Weekly Asia Pacific Monitor

(19 May-23 May 2025)

Weekly Asia Pacific Monitor is based on daily screening of 28 newspapers published from different countries of the region. The document provides a brief summary of interaction among Asia Pacific countries in security, economy and diplomacy sectors.

Consortium of Asia Pacific Studies (CAPS)

DEFENCE/SECURITY

Pakistan's integration of Chinese radar, fighter, and missile systems has enabled a seamless kill chain, granting it a strategic edge in air warfare. In contrast, India's diverse and fragmented fleet hampers real-time coordination, undermining its operational effectiveness.

Pakistan's indigenously developed Taimoor Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) marks a leap in precision-strike capability, offering stealth, accuracy, and strategic autonomy. Designed for integration with the JF-17, it reduces reliance on legacy platforms while positioning Pakistan as a rising missile exporter.

After over three days of intense cross-border drone, missile, and jet attacks, Pakistan and India woke up to relative calm on May 11, marked by a ceasefire. U.S. President Donald Trump claimed credit for brokering the truce, though India quickly denied his role while Pakistan welcomed his “constructive role.” Regardless, relief spread across both nations as people resumed daily life, from cricket plans in Rawalpindi to holiday preparations in India.

Pakistan to send high-level diplomatic mission globally to ‘expose Indian propaganda. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday decided to send a “high-level diplomatic delegation to important world capitals to expose Indian propaganda” in the aftermath of the recent military escalation with India

Taliban and Israel only backers of India's Sindoor Operation. Pakistan's Defence Minister claimed only the Taliban and Israel supported India's Sindoor military operation against Pakistan, highlighting shifting regional alliances.

A recent India-Pakistan air clash marked the first major combat use of Chinese J-10C jets and PL-15 missiles, with Pakistan claiming to have downed five Indian aircraft, including Rafales. While India denies losses, the event signals China's emergence as a combat-tested arms supplier, prompting global

reassessment of Chinese military tech and its implications for future warfare and defense planning.

Pakistan's unified Radar-Jet-Awacs strategy exposes India's defence gaps.

Pakistan's integration of advanced warfare systems has set a new benchmark in South Asian aerial defence, with China hailing Islamabad's tactical edge during the latest India-Pakistan border flare-up.

China is fast-tracking delivery of its advanced J-35A stealth fighters to Pakistan, with the first batch expected by August 2025, signaling a major leap in Islamabad's airpower amid rising tensions with India. This marks China's first known export of a fifth-generation jet, reshaping South Asia's strategic balance and deepening Sino-Pak defense ties.

China's next-gen J-35A stealth fighter has made its maiden flight as the first mass-produced unit, marking a major step in Beijing's push for a broad stealth fleet to rival U.S. airpower. With Pakistan reportedly ordering 40 jets and preparing pilots for training, the J-35A's induction is set to shift South Asia's airpower balance and accelerate the regional stealth arms race.

The PL-15E is China's advanced long-range air-to-air missile with a folded-fin design for stealth compatibility, optimized for fifth-generation fighters like the J-35A. Now part of Pakistan's arsenal, it marks a shift in regional airpower by enabling long-range, precision strikes and reinforcing China's growing role in modern aerial warfare.

Taiwan has joined global efforts to access debris from China's PL-15 missile recovered by India, aiming to study its capabilities and develop countermeasures amid rising regional tensions. Western allies, including the Five Eyes, France, and Japan, are also analyzing the missile to assess its performance, technology transfers, and strategic implications.

India is expanding its air-launched strike capability by upgrading 20 more Su-30MKI jets to carry the supersonic BrahMos-A missile, boosting its standoff reach and deep-strike precision. This move strengthens India's deterrence against dual-front threats while reinforcing its strategic dominance in the Indo-Pacific.

China's J-10C is rapidly emerging as a strong rival to the U.S. F-16 in the global arms market, signaling a power shift in military aviation exports. With advanced avionics and cost-effective capabilities, the J-10C is challenging Western dominance and reshaping global defense procurement dynamics.

Debris from China's PL-15 missile recovered in India has sparked intense Western interest for technical analysis, offering rare insights into Beijing's advanced BVR capabilities. The incident reveals strategic shifts in South Asia's airpower balance and exposes China's growing missile export influence via Pakistan.

Bangladesh has canceled a \$21 million Indian-funded tugboat deal under a 2023 defense Line of Credit, signaling a shift toward China following Sheikh Hasina's departure. The move marks a strategic setback for India, underscoring growing Chinese influence in Dhaka and prompting calls for New Delhi to recalibrate its regional strategy.

India plans to soon test the extended-range air-launched BrahMos missile, boosting indigenous content and operational capability. The missile, to be deployed on Sukhoi-30 jets, is also attracting international export interest.

China, US embassies in Singapore clash online. China late on Wednesday slammed a video shared on social media by the US embassy in Singapore that criticizes Beijing's South China Sea claims, comparing them to the actions of an inconsiderate neighbor who intrudes on others' space. The post sparked a strident reaction from China's embassy in Singapore.

India deployed Russian T-72 battle tanks against Pakistan – media. The armor reportedly played a crucial role in destroying posts across the border, cutting off suspected terrorist infiltration routes. In March, New Delhi signed a \$248 million contract with Rosoboronexport, the Russian state agency for defense exports, to procure engines for the Indian Army's T-72s. From 2005 to 2025, Rosoboronexport signed contracts with India worth \$50 billion, with total Russian military equipment supplies to the country reaching \$80 billion.

Five Eyes nations, France and Japan express interest in obtaining the wreckage of the Chinese PL-15E missile shot down by India during Operation Sindoor. Days after the Indian military displayed the debris of Pakistan's Chinese PL-15E missile shot down by India's air defence system, several major global powers have expressed interest in obtaining the parts of missiles. As per reports, the Five Eyes nations, along with Japan and France, want the wreckage of the PL-15 air-to-air missile fired by Pakistan.

Japan to double underground bomb shelters, providing cover for 10M. The Japanese government plans to roughly double the capacity of underground bomb shelters nationwide to 10 million people, in an effort to better safeguard the public from missile strikes.

Japan passed a law allowing preemptive offensive cyber actions. Japan has enacted the Active Cyberdefense Law, allowing preemptive offensive cyber operations to counter threats before damage occurs. This marks a shift from Japan's pacifist stance under Article 9, aiming to elevate its cyber defense to match major Western powers and enable broader military support to allies.

Japan flexes defence ambitions at arms show. Japan opened one of its largest-ever arms shows in a display that Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said marked the pacifist nation's deepening push for overseas defence cooperation and weapons exports. The DSEI Japan exhibition near Tokyo showcased Japanese missiles, warships and research into lasers and electromagnetic railguns. The 2025 edition

has drawn 450 defence-related enterprises from Japan and 30 other countries, alongside over 15,000 visitors.

Japan's Ishiba Calls for Closer Weapons Development with Allies. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said Japan and its allies should deepen cooperation in the development of weapons and other defence equipment as threats mount across the Asia-Pacific region.

Seventh Mogami-class destroyer Niyodo delivered to the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries delivered the destroyer Niyodo to the Japanese Ministry of Defence at the Nagasaki Shipyard and Machinery Works Nagasaki Plant. Ordered in fiscal year 2021, Niyodo is the seventh ship in the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force's 3,900-ton Mogami class.

Japan announces multirole combat support USV development. The Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), the research, development and procurement arm of the Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) took the opportunity at the DSEI Japan 2025 exhibition to announce a new uncrewed surface vehicle (USV) development with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI).

Japan to begin assembly of AMV XP armored vehicles. Japanese defense manufacturer Japan Steel Works is preparing to begin local assembly of the Patria AMV XP 8×8 armored vehicles, with production scheduled to start in September under a license agreement with Finnish defense firm Patria.

Military chiefs of South Korea, US vow to strengthen trilateral security cooperation with Japan. The top military officers of South Korea and the US vowed to further strengthen the allies' trilateral security cooperation with Japan during their first video talks earlier this week, as per a South Korean military statement.

North Korea's MiG-29 fires new radar-guided missile in bold test. On May 17, 2025, North Korea showcased a significant advancement in its military capabilities, unveiling a new active radar-guided air-to-air missile integrated with its MiG-29

fighter jets. This development, which shifts the country's air combat capabilities from outdated short-range systems to modern beyond-visual-range [BVR] weaponry, has raised eyebrows among regional powers, including South Korea, Japan, and the United States.

N. Korea develops hybrid fighter-drone combat strategy to overcome air force limitations. North Korea has ordered its air force to conduct combat training for a new fighter-drone operational doctrine. A source in the North Korean military recently that the Korean People's Army's General Staff Department has adopted hybrid tactics involving manned aircraft and unmanned drones as a new strategy for the air force.

Malaysia signs pact for long-range air defence radar system. Malaysia has entered into an agreement to procure a long-range air defence radar system, enhancing its national security infrastructure. This move is part of the country's broader efforts to modernize its defence capabilities.

Malaysia's Defence Ministry inks RM11 billion strategic arrangements at LIMA 2025. At the LIMA 2025 exhibition, Malaysia's Defence Ministry signed strategic arrangements worth RM11 billion. These deals aim to bolster the nation's defence readiness and regional peace commitments.

Malaysian Navy acquires US unmanned surface vehicle to boost maritime defence. The Royal Malaysian Navy has purchased an unmanned surface vehicle from the United States. This acquisition is intended to strengthen Malaysia's maritime defence and surveillance capabilities.

LIMA 2025 underscores Malaysia's commitment to defence readiness and regional peace. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim highlighted Malaysia's dedication to defence preparedness and regional stability during the LIMA 2025 event. The exhibition showcased the country's latest defence initiative.

Shoring up flood defences is a high priority for Johor. The state of Johor in Malaysia is prioritizing the enhancement of its flood defence systems. This initiative aims to mitigate the impact of seasonal flooding and protect local communities.

North Korea state media reports 'serious' accident at warship launch ceremony. A major accident occurred at a launch ceremony for a new North Korean naval destroyer, state media reported, with leader Kim Jong Un saying the mishap was a "criminal act".

North Korea fires multiple cruise missiles: South Korea. North Korea fired multiple unidentified cruise missiles, South Korea's defence ministry said.

Philippines and US Complete Sixth Maritime Exercise in South China Sea. The Philippines, together with the US Indo-Pacific Command, concluded the sixth bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea. The exercises took place in the waters near the islands of Palawan and Mindoro. They involved the Philippine Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, as well as the US Coast Guard cutter Stratton and the P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft.

PH, Australia to beef up cyber defense cooperation. The Philippines and Australia have committed to beefing up their cyber defense cooperation. This came as Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. met with the Australian Defense Force (ADF)'s Joint Force Cyber Component (JFCyC) commander, Air Commodore Paul Pettigrew, at the DND main building in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Wednesday.

Delegations from over 100 countries to attend Moscow security meeting. More than 125 delegations from over 100 countries across the Global South and East, along with representatives from 14 international organizations, are set to attend Russia's annual forum on global security, the Russian Security Council said on Tuesday.

Migrants' phones are being hacked. Moscow and Moscow Region to Launch Experiment to Track Foreigners via Smartphones. From September 1, 2025, the authorities of Moscow and the Moscow region will begin to control the location of migrants entering the capital region.

South Korea's KF-21 reaches assembly milestone. South Korea's first mass-produced KF-21 fighter aircraft has entered its final assembly phase, as per the country's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA).

South Korean army trains Polish soldiers to operate Chunmoo rocket artillery. The South Korean army is training a group of Polish soldiers to operate the Chunmoo rocket artillery after Warsaw's recent purchase of the weapons system, the Seoul-based Yonhap news agency reported.

South Korea denies talks on potential US troops withdrawal. South Korea's Defense Ministry stated on Friday that it has not engaged in any discussions with the U.S. Department of Defense regarding the possible withdrawal of American troops from the Korean Peninsula. The remarks came after The Wall Street Journal claimed that the White House is considering an option to pull out roughly 4,500 troops and relocate them to areas in the Indo-Pacific region.

South Korea defence spend hits \$222bn for 2021-2025. South Korea has earmarked a budget of \$222bn for the five-year period spanning 2021 to 2025 to strengthen its defence posture, according to a report by prominent data and analytics firm GlobalData.

USFK drawdown idea deepens security concerns in South Korea over North Korea threats. The United States' reported consideration of a U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) troop drawdown is raising eyebrows in South Korea as the reduction, if realized, could affect deterrence against a muscle-flexing North Korea and be construed as a sign of a diminished security commitment to South Korea.

US, Philippine coast guards hold 1st joint drill. The US Coast Guard and its Philippine counterpart held a combined drill for the first time, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Wednesday.

"Marking a milestone in maritime collaboration, this was the first time the US Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard jointly participated in a Maritime Cooperative Activity, highlighting a growing whole-of-nation approach to maritime cooperation," said the statement on X.

Vietnam attends Japan's defence and security expo. A delegation from Vietnam's Ministry of National Defence, led by Sen. Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Nghia, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, is attending the 2025 Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) Japan exhibition, held from May 20-23 in Chiba prefecture, Japan.

ECONOMY

China will impose up to 74.9% anti-dumping duties on POM copolymer imports from the U.S., EU, Japan, and Taiwan, following a 2024 investigation triggered by U.S. tariff hikes on Chinese goods.

China's economy showed stable growth in April 2025 despite external pressures, with industrial output rising 6.1% year-on-year, services up 6%, and retail sales increasing 5.1%. Fixed-asset investment grew 4% in the first four months, while the April unemployment rate declined slightly to 5.1%. Authorities credit macroeconomic policies for sustaining positive momentum.

China has announced a 75% anti-dumping tax on U.S. imports of polyformaldehyde copolymers, a key engineering plastic, citing unfair dumping practices that harmed its domestic industry. Imports from the EU, Taiwan, and Japan will face duties of 32.6–35.5%. Despite a recent U.S.-China tariff truce, the

move signals continued trade tensions. The plastic is widely used in automotive, electronics, and consumer goods sectors.

Chinese millionaire Candice Meng rejected Trump's proposed US "gold card" despite its low investment threshold, citing US-China tensions and safety concerns. Her stance reflects broader reluctance among China's wealthy amid growing distrust of American policies and conditions.

China's economy showed signs of slowing in April amid Trump's escalating trade war, with key indicators like retail sales, property investment, and industrial output falling short of expectations. High tariffs, weakening consumer demand, and deflation pressures are complicating Beijing's efforts to stabilize growth, while the temporary truce in tariffs offers only limited relief.

China's economy maintained steady momentum in April, sustaining growth despite ongoing domestic and external pressures, according to key economic indicators released by China's National Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

India to surpass China in oil demand growth over next decade: Moody's China drove global oil demand growth over the last decade, but now India is poised to take the lead in demand growth over the next decade.

Internal growth drivers anchor Indian economy amid US policy shifts, global uncertainty, says Moody's. Talking about strength to deal with global disruptions, the agency has listed robust internal growth drivers, a sizable domestic economy and a low dependence on goods trade as key factors.

Trump's new tax remittance plan could drain billions of dollars from Indian Economy. India risks losing a key remittance lifeline as the US, under Donald Trump, tightens immigration policies and proposes a 5% tax.

Nod for phosphine reopens Pakistan to Australian canola. Pakistan has reopened as a market for Australian canola following bilateral discussions which allow for phosphine fumigation of imported seed either pre-shipment or in transit.

China approves additional codes for Vietnamese durian. China has approved an additional 829 planting area codes and 131 packaging facility codes for Vietnamese durian, according to the Plant Protection Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. With the new approvals, Việt Nam now has a total of 1,469 planting areas and 188 packaging facilities eligible to export durian to China.

China Slaps Anti-Dumping Duties on Plastics from US, EU, Japan, Taiwan. China on Sunday announced anti-dumping duties as high as 74.9% on imports of POM copolymers, a type of engineering plastic, from the United States, the European Union, Japan and Taiwan.

India's oil imports from Russia surge – Reuters. India's imports of Russian crude oil are expected to reach around 1.8 million barrels per day in May, the highest level in 10 months, Reuters has reported, citing ship-tracking data from Kpler. The surge is attributed to refiners purchasing more light grades, such as Russia's ESPO Blend.

Ten Indonesian cities receive EU-funded climate action plans. The European Union has funded climate action plans for ten Indonesian cities. These plans are designed to support sustainable urban development and environmental resilience.

Indonesia seizes over 1.68 million illegal Chinese products. Indonesian authorities have confiscated more than 1.68 million illegally imported products from China. The seizure aims to protect domestic industries and ensure compliance with import regulations.

Indonesia seeks rollback of US reciprocal tariff on furniture. Indonesia is negotiating with the United States to reverse reciprocal tariffs imposed on its

furniture exports. The tariffs have affected Indonesia's furniture industry, prompting calls for trade discussions.

Indonesia's essential oil exports hit a 5-year high. Indonesia's essential oil exports have reached their highest level in five years. The surge is attributed to increased global demand and the country's expanding production capacity.

Danantara and China seek to boost long-term economic partnership. Danantara and China are working to strengthen their long-term economic ties. The partnership focuses on enhancing trade relations and collaborative investment opportunities.

Indonesia secures cattle supply from FMD-free zones ahead of Eid al-Adha. Ahead of Eid al-Adha, Indonesia has secured cattle supplies from foot-and-mouth disease-free zones. This measure ensures a safe and adequate meat supply for the festive period.

Foreigners to pay more for fuel under Malaysia's rationalisation plan. Malaysia's government has announced that foreigners will face higher fuel prices under a new rationalisation plan. The policy aims to reduce fuel subsidies and manage national expenditure.

Japan's exports slow, shipments to US fall as tariffs bite. Japan's export growth slowed in April, weighed by a decline in shipments to the U.S. as businesses in the world's fourth-largest economy braced for the hit to a fragile economic recovery from President Donald Trump's tariffs.

Japan is sticking to demand for US to eliminate tariffs, trade envoy says. Japan's top trade negotiator, Ryosei Akazawa, said on Tuesday there was no change to Tokyo's stance of demanding an elimination of U.S. tariffs in bilateral trade negotiations.

Japan's tariff envoy to visit US next week again, sources say. Japan's top tariff negotiator Ryosei Akazawa intends to visit the United States again on May 30 for a fourth round of trade talks, just one week after this weekend's visit.

Japan downgrades view on global economy as US tariffs bite. Japan's government on Thursday downgraded its assessment on the global economy in the face of uncertainty over U.S. trade policy, signalling its alarm over the broadening fallout from President Donald Trump's tariffs.

Malaysia Convenes Special ASEAN Economic Meeting to Discuss Trade with China, Japan, NZ. Malaysia, in its role as ASEAN Chair for 2025, has convened special meetings of the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) with key trade partners to address concerns about growing global trade tensions. The meetings included separate consultations with representatives from China, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

S Korea, US hold second round of tariff talks in Washington DC. South Korea and the US will resume technical trade talks in Washington this week to finalize a potential deal by early July 2025. The South Korean delegation will arrive on May 20, 2025 with discussions covering digital trade, tariffs, product origins, and economic security.

S. Korea suspends imports of Brazilian poultry after bird flu outbreak at chicken farm. South Korea has suspended imports of poultry and related products from Brazil after a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak was confirmed at a commercial farm in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs said the measure follows Brazil's official report to the World Organisation for Animal Health confirming an HPAI outbreak at a breeder farm in the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.

South Korea holds bilateral trade talks with 14 partners at APEC meeting. South Korea has discussed ways of enhancing bilateral economic and trade cooperation with the United States, China, Japan and several other partner nations on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting.

S. Korean business delegation meets President Macron to strengthen economic ties. A business delegation from the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) met with French President Emmanuel Macron on May 19 (local time) at the Palace of Versailles to discuss ways to strengthen economic cooperation between South Korea and France.

Business leaders of S. Korea, France discuss trade uncertainty, future cooperation. The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), a major South Korean lobby group, said Tuesday it has held a meeting with its French counterpart in Paris to exchange views on global trade issues, including growing uncertainty from U.S. trade policy and other areas of potential cooperation.

US and Japanese finance chiefs agree that the current dollar-yen reflects fundamentals. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Japanese Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato agreed that the dollar-yen exchange rate currently reflects fundamentals. President Donald Trump's past remarks accusing Japan of intentionally maintaining a weak yen have led to market expectations that Tokyo will face pressure to strengthen its currency's value against the dollar to give U.S. manufacturers a competitive advantage.

Increase in Sino-North Korean Trade at Wonjong-ni-Quanhe Border Crossing. There have been dramatic increases in Sino-North Korean trade at the lesser-known Wonjong-ni-Quanhe border crossing, which is located in the northeast corner of North Korea along the Tumen river connecting North Hamgyong province and the Korean expatriate community in the Yanbian autonomous prefecture.

UK, South Korea Ink Deal for Global Infrastructure Aid. The UK has signed a MoU with South Korea to jointly support Ukraine's reconstruction and global infrastructure, boosting trade and sustainable development.

Korea to partially resume poultry imports from Brazil amid bird flu outbreak. Korea will resume imports of poultry and related products from regions in Brazil

unaffected by a recent outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), government officials said Friday, amid possible supply shortage concerns.

MoIT, Thailand's Central Group forge partnership to boost Vietnamese exports. Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) and Thailand's Central Group has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost the sale of Vietnamese products in both domestic and international markets in the 2026-28 period, according to the ministry's Agency for Domestic Market Surveillance and Development.

Vietnam boosts strategic cooperation with leading US corporations. During a working visit to the US, Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien held meetings with executives from several major US corporations, including Excelerate Energy, Lockheed Martin, SpaceX, and Google, in Washington D.C.

Vietnam, Cambodia boost education, youth cooperation. Vietnamese Ambassador to Cambodia Nguyen Minh Vu held working sessions with officials from the Cambodian ministries of Education, Youth and Sport, and Civil Service on May 19 and 20 to promote education and youth cooperation between the two countries.

Vietnam, US look to boost bilateral economic, trade cooperation. Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien met with US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick in Washington, D.C. on May 22, as part of his four-day working visit to the US to promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation and review progress in negotiations on a reciprocal trade agreement between the two countries.

DIPLOMACY

Cambodia has started exporting durians to China, entering a market dominated by Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Despite gaining export approval, Cambodia faces challenges due to low brand recognition compared to established varieties like Thailand's Monthong. Some Chinese consumers remain hesitant, though interest is growing in Cambodia's unique durian varieties, offering potential for market expansion.

China and ASEAN have concluded talks to update their 15-year-old free trade agreement, reinforcing Beijing's regional influence amid US trade tensions. The deal, awaiting ratification, comes as ASEAN nations also seek to avoid renewed US tariffs under President Trump's trade policies.

Despite current tensions over electric vehicles, China-EU frictions are not seen as "existential," with both sides seeking closer trade and green transition cooperation amid U.S. policy disruptions. As Europe aims for net-zero emissions by 2050, Chinese tech is viewed as vital, though issues like EV tariffs remain points of contention.

China has urged the EU to ensure a fair and non-discriminatory business environment after Brussels proposed a handling fee on small parcels, which would heavily impact Chinese e-commerce firms. Beijing emphasized the importance of openness in trade, as the fee targets the 91% of parcels entering the EU from China.

NSA Ajit Doval to visit Russia next week, delivery of S-400 missile defence system likely on agenda India News: NSA Ajit Doval is scheduled to visit Moscow to push for the swift delivery of remaining S-400 systems, potentially ordering more to enhance defence capabilities.

India's recent clash with Pakistan exposed both the fragility of regional peace and the shifting dynamics of India's foreign policy, particularly its tradition of

nonalignment. As global power competition intensifies, India and the U.S. must adapt to build a balanced partnership amid rising Sino-American rivalry.

Australia celebrates its people-to-people connections with Pakistan. The Australian High Commission celebrated Australia Day in Spring 2025 with a vibrant reception in Islamabad, shining a spotlight on the dynamic people-to-people connections that continue to shape the Australia–Pakistan relationship.

Australian HC to Pakistan urges young professionals to shape Pakistan's future. The Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, said that Australia was proud to support young Pakistani professionals through various educational scholarship programmes.

China's J10-C jets in spotlight after Pakistan-India conflict. Just over a week after a ceasefire with India was struck, Pakistan's Foreign Minister is visiting his country's largest arms supplier, China, with the performance of the weapons they supplied a matter of burning interest for analysts and governments alike.

Indonesian minister warns migrant workers against 'cheap labour' traps in Japan. Migrant Workers Protection Minister Abdul Kadir Karding warned prospective interns to be cautious of Japan's so-called "cheap labour" schemes.

Uzbekistan, Japan discuss cooperation issues in the economy, trade, and industry. Minister of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan Sherzod Shermatov met with the State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, Koga Yuichiro, in Tokyo.

India's diplomatic offensive against Pak begins tomorrow, Sanjay Kumar Jha-led delegation to head to Japan, other nations. India's diplomatic outreach calling out Pakistan is set to kick off, with one of the seven all-party delegations led by JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha heading to the Eastern nations including Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.

President Rumen Radev of Bulgaria arrives in Tokyo, and an audience with Emperor Naruhito is scheduled. President Rumen Radev and the delegation he is

leading have arrived in Tokyo, Japan. While in the Japanese capital, President Radev is scheduled to have an audience with His Majesty Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace.

Convening of the U.S.-Japan-ROK Trilateral Coordinating Secretariat Managing Board. The Trilateral Coordinating Secretariat Managing Board, led by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary Kevin Kim, Japanese Deputy Director-General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Okochi Akihiro, and ROK Deputy Director-General for North American Affairs Yi Wonwoo convened in Washington to reaffirm the three countries' unwavering commitment to advancing trilateral cooperation.

Japan sees 3.91 million foreign visitors in April, hitting monthly record. The number of foreign visitors to Japan hit a single-month record of 3.91 million in April, up 28.5 percent from the same month last year, according to a Japan National Tourism Organisation report.

Japan-Paraguay Summit Meeting. On May 21, 2025, Prime Minister Ishiba held a summit meeting with H.E. Mr. Santiago PEÑA PALACIOS, President of the Republic of Paraguay, at the Prime Minister's Office.

Saudi Arabia, Japan sign MoU to boost judicial ties. Saudi Arabia's Minister of Justice Walid Al-Samaani met with his Japanese counterpart Keisuke Suzuki during an official visit to the East Asian country. The ministers discussed ways to strengthen judicial ties between the two countries.

Iran, Japan can be new model for cultural cooperation in Asia. Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, in a meeting with Japan's Ambassador to Iran, Tsukada Tamaki, emphasized on history of cultural cooperation and mutual capacities in tourism, education, sports and handicrafts sectors and opened new horizons in Iran-Japan ties.

Russia coordinating North Korean leader Kim's visit: Report. The Kremlin is coordinating North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's visit to the country, but it is too

early to discuss the timing, a Russian news report said on Wednesday, citing Russia's deputy foreign minister.

Japan envoys part of delegation as Israeli soldiers fire ‘warning shots’; FM Iwaya lodges protest. Japanese diplomats were part of the delegation that Israeli troops fired “warning shots” when the group was visiting Palestinian refugee camps in Jenin in the West Bank on Wednesday.

Chinese PM's three-day Jakarta visit starts this afternoon. Chinese Premier Li Qiang is commencing a three-day official visit to Jakarta. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral relations and discuss strategic cooperation between China and Indonesia.

Prabowo to receive visit from Chinese PM Li on Sunday. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto is scheduled to host Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Sunday. The meeting will focus on enhancing diplomatic and economic ties between the two nations.

Prabowo to attend ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur. President Prabowo Subianto will participate in the upcoming ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur. The summit will address regional issues, including economic cooperation and security challenges.

Cambodia and Thailand join Indonesia to intensify fight against human trafficking. Cambodia and Thailand have partnered with Indonesia to strengthen efforts against human trafficking. The collaboration focuses on enhancing regional cooperation and law enforcement.

Indonesia seeks increased cooperation with Timor-Leste. Indonesia is pursuing enhanced cooperation with Timor-Leste. The initiative aims to bolster bilateral relations and mutual development projects.

Indonesia and Ethiopia eye stronger economic BRICS cooperation. Indonesia and Ethiopia are exploring opportunities to deepen their economic collaboration within the BRICS framework. The partnership seeks to promote mutual growth and investment.

Indonesia and Tunisia deepen cultural bonds with film project. Indonesia and Tunisia are collaborating on a film project to strengthen cultural ties. The initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance people-to-people connections.

ASEAN senior officials meeting marks pivotal phase ahead of 46th ASEAN summit. Senior ASEAN officials convened to prepare for the 46th ASEAN summit. The meeting focused on setting the agenda and addressing key regional issues.

His Majesty to attend 46th ASEAN summit and related summits. Brunei's monarch is set to attend the 46th ASEAN summit and associated meetings. The participation underscores Brunei's commitment to regional cooperation.

Brunei reaffirms support for humanitarian law. Brunei has reiterated its commitment to upholding humanitarian law. The statement emphasizes the country's dedication to international legal standards and human rights.

North Korea erases 'unification' symbol at Panmunjom site. North Korea has replaced the nameplate of Tongilgak, a landmark building on its side of the Joint Security Area (JSA) at Panmunjom, with a new sign reading "Panmungwan," according to multiple government sources. The revision, carried out in the latter half of 2023, appears to be part of Pyongyang's broader campaign to erase symbols of inter-Korean reconciliation.

North Korean university delegation visits Russia to discuss ways to boost ties. The heads of 10 North Korean universities departed for the Russian Far East this week for an event on strengthening ties in education, the latest bilateral effort to expand upon their military cooperation over the war in Ukraine.

China's soft power play: The secret cultural campaign to win N. Korean hearts and minds. China's propaganda departments in the north-eastern provinces of Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang are secretly implementing a strategy to spread Chinese cultural content in North Korea through an unofficial exchange project called the "program for mutual cultural development and cooperation."

S. Korea-Tajikistan expand student exchange and academic cooperation. In a move to strengthen educational ties, South Korea and Tajikistan have agreed to significantly boost their student exchange and academic cooperation programs.

South Korean side sends letter of appreciation for swift Chinese rescue of fishing vessel. China's Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) on Saturday published a letter of appreciation on its official WeChat account from the Jeju regional maritime police agency of South Korea, which commends the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of China's Zhejiang Province for its prompt and effective response to an emergency involving a South Korean fishing vessel in waters off Ningbo.

Pakistanis Can Now Apply for Japan's Fully Funded Internship Program. Japan is now accepting applications for the Japan Internship Program (JIP) 2025, fully funded by the Japanese government.

Sindh Governor, Philippines Envoy to jointly hoist flags in Karachi. The Ambassador of Philippines and Governor Sindh will attend the hoisting flag ceremony to mark the 127th National day of the Republic of the Philippines here in Karachi.

Pakistan High Commission Singapore commemorates Youm-e-Tashakur. The High Commission of Pakistan in Singapore commemorated Youm-e-Tashakur to honour the historic Marka-e-Haq victory. A large number of Pakistani communities joined the High Commission in paying homage to the valiant Pakistani Armed Forces.

Russia, North Korea to deepen ties, exchange multiple high level delegations.

Russia and North Korea are set to significantly deepen their burgeoning ties with a commitment to exchange high level delegations before the end of 2025, according to Russian Ambassador to Pyongyang Alexander Matsegora.

Seoul, EU agree on close cooperation against Pyongyang's crypto theft.

South Korea and the European Union (EU) agreed on the need to boost cooperation in responding to growing cyberthreats worldwide, including North Korea's cryptocurrency theft, to ensure a safe and open cyberspace order as per Seoul's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

S. Korea, Japan to set up special immigration counters for anniversary of diplomatic ties.

Korea and Japan will operate exclusive immigration counters for each other's nationals traveling between the two countries as part of celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

FS Misri Meets Japanese Foreign Ministry Officials; Discusses Defence, Security And Economic Co-Op.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Japan's senior foreign ministry officials and reviewed the salient issues in the multi-dimensional bilateral ties, including defence and security, economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

Japan PM Ishiba says he spoke with Trump over phone.

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Friday he held a 45-minute phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump to discuss tariffs, diplomacy and security issues. The two exchanged hopes for an in-person meeting during the Group of Seven (G7) leader's summit scheduled next month.

Ishiba and Guterres agree to deepen Japan-U.N. cooperation.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres confirmed during phone talks Friday their intention to deepen cooperative ties between the Asian country and the United Nations.

Japan-Nepal Foreign Minister's Meeting. Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held a Japan-Nepal Foreign Ministers' Meeting with H.E. Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal, who was on a visit to Japan.

Pyongyang decries UN General Assembly meeting on NK human rights as 'provocation'. North Korea on Friday decried a recent high-level U.N. Assembly meeting on the country's human rights situation as a "politically motivated provocation," vowing not to overlook such a smear campaign by "hostile forces."

Libyan Agriculture Ministry Undersecretary visits South Korea – discusses establishing tractor factory. Within the framework of the official invitation extended by the Korean Foundation for International Relations of the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Tripoli based Undersecretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock paid an official visit to South Korea from 11 to 17 May 2025.

Vietnam-Singapore Halal Trade Seminar 2025 to Explore Opportunities in the Booming Global Halal Market. The Vietnam-Singapore Halal Trade Seminar 2025 is scheduled for Saturday, 24 May 2025, aiming to enhance bilateral cooperation in the rapidly expanding Halal industry. This hybrid event will convene in Hanoi and Singapore, with online participation available via Zoom. Organised collaboratively by the Vietnam Trade Office, the Commission for Standards, Metrology and Quality of Vietnam, the Vietnam Halal Certification Authority (HALCERT), Maybank Singapore, and Dawn Horizon, the seminar seeks to address the growing global demand for Halal products and services. The Halal market, currently valued at approximately US\$2 trillion, is projected to reach US\$5 trillion by 2030, presenting significant opportunities for exporters in both nations.

A Feast of Friendship: The Philippines and Singapore Celebrate 56 Years of Diplomatic Ties With Culinary Heritage And Music. In celebration of the 56th anniversary of Philippines-Singapore diplomatic relations on Friday, 16 May 2025

and in line with the Philippines' National Heritage Month in May, Philippine Ambassador to Singapore H.E. Medardo G. Macaraig, in partnership with the Orchard Hotel Singapore, hosted a luncheon reception to launch the two month-long culinary feast titled "Manila Meets Madrid: A Filipino-Spanish Buffet" at the Orchard Cafe of the Orchard Hotel.

STB, Vietnam Airlines team up to entice more Vietnamese tourists to Singapore. The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has formed a strategic partnership with Vietnam's national carrier Vietnam Airlines, and Sentosa Development Corporation to launch joint marketing and promotional efforts aimed at boosting travel demand from Vietnam to Singapore.

Vietnam, Thailand seek to strengthen people-to-people exchanges. Members of the Vietnam–Thailand Friendship Association (VTFA) and the Thailand–Vietnam Friendship Association (TVFA) gathered in Bangkok on May 21 for their working session to review recent collaboration and discuss future directions to further strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Russia hosts Islamic diplomatic forum. More than 50 young diplomats from 20 countries attended the annual event in Kazan. This important forum however didn't have any representation from Pakistan. This should be explored and next year participation can be ensured.

Russia's Birth Rate Plunges to 200-Year Low. By 2046, the country's population could fall to 138.8 million under Rosstat's baseline forecast — or to just 130 million in a more pessimistic scenario, roughly equal to the size of the Russian Empire in 1897. This sharp decrease could significantly reshape Russia's demographics. By the early 2040s, the number of children and teenagers is projected to fall by 26%, to just 20 million. Their share of the population would drop from 18.5% today to 14.2%. Meanwhile, the proportion of elderly Russians is expected to grow from 24.5% today to nearly 27% by 2046.

Sputnik V creator warns of global ‘cat flu’ pandemic. The head of Gamaleya Research Institute, Alexander Gintsburg, has warned that H5N1 avian flu is spreading among cats and could jump to humans, potentially triggering a deadly pandemic. Gintsburg said the threat is serious enough to warrant immediate vaccine development.