

Asia's Shifting Sands: Key Political Headlines and Recent Developments

Asian Politics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which of the following countries recently agreed to promote dialogue and reschedule a visit between their leaders to foster bilateral ties over the next three decades?

- A) South Korea and China**
- B) Japan and Vietnam
- C) India and Pakistan
- D) Indonesia and the Philippines

2. In the South China Sea dispute, an international tribunal ruled in favor of which country on fourteen of fifteen points regarding China's 'nine-dash line' claim?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Malaysia
- C) The Philippines**
- D) Brunei

3. Which Asian nation has been shifting its foreign policy from traditional non-alignment towards a strategy of multi-alignment and issue-based partnerships?

- A) Thailand
- B) India**
- C) Myanmar
- D) Cambodia

4. Taiwan's political status is largely defined by its dispute with which neighboring country that claims it as a province?

- A) Japan
- B) South Korea
- C) The Philippines
- D) China**

5. In recent years, what has been a major focus of security challenges in Central Asia, particularly concerning its southern frontier?

- A) Border disputes with Russia
- B) The political situation in Afghanistan**
- C) Economic sanctions from Europe
- D) Technological advancements in Kazakhstan

6. Which of the following is a key element of India's evolving foreign policy, moving towards more agile, issue-based groupings?

- A) Rejoining the Non-Aligned Movement
- B) Focusing solely on its immediate neighborhood
- C) Strategic multilateralism like the QUAD**
- D) Withdrawing from international trade agreements

7. Recent developments in the South China Sea have seen increased tensions between China and which Southeast Asian nation over territorial claims and maritime rights?

- A) Singapore
- B) Malaysia
- C) The Philippines**
- D) Vietnam

8. Following recent elections, which country's parliament saw a leadership change with Vicente Sotto III elected as the new Senate President?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Malaysia
- C) The Philippines**
- D) Thailand

9. Which of the following is a significant aspect of the contemporary relationship between China and South Korea, as highlighted by recent high-level engagements?

- A) Disputes over maritime claims in the Yellow Sea
- B) A focus on strengthening their strategic and cooperative partnership**
- C) Competition for influence in North Korea
- D) A trade war over agricultural products

10. Taiwan's January 2024 presidential election resulted in a divided legislature for the first time since 2004, with which party's candidate winning the presidency?

- A) Kuomintang (KMT)
- B) Taiwan People's Party (TPP)
- C) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)**
- D) New Party

11. In Southeast Asia, recent elections in Myanmar saw the military proxy party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), win a significant majority of seats. This occurred in the context of:

- A) The dissolution of the National League for Democracy**
- B) An increase in international observer missions
- C) The release of Aung San Suu Kyi from prison
- D) A decrease in military control over the country

12. Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi has been focusing on fiscal stimulus and tax reforms. What is a key goal of these reforms?

- A) To decrease capital investment in advanced technologies
- B) To reduce research and development incentives
- C) To promote capital investment and strengthen R&D**
- D) To increase the tax burden on lower and middle-income individuals

13. Recent tensions in the South China Sea have involved accusations between China and the Philippines regarding alleged illegal landings and covert research on a disputed sandbar near which island?

- A) Spratly Island
- B) Thitu Island (Pag-asa Island)**
- C) Paracel Islands
- D) Scarborough Shoal

14. The upcoming political landscape in Indonesia in 2026 includes various conferences on political themes. Which city is frequently mentioned as a venue for these events?

- A) Surabaya
- B) Bandung
- C) Medan
- D) Jakarta**

15. South Korean President Lee Jae-myung's diplomatic efforts in early 2026 have focused on balancing relationships with which two major global powers, despite their ongoing rivalry?

- A) Russia and India
- B) The United States and Japan
- C) China and Japan
- D) The United States and China**