



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

November 06, 2024



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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)



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### ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

### India's Proximity Archives

India's Proximity Archives covers major developments in South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Indian Ocean Region of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open-source media. The research team includes Shreyas Deshmukh, Sanket Joshi, Anshita Shukla, Jayantika Rao T.V, and Divya Rai, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at [sanket@dpg.org.in](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

### Cover Image:

**Southeast Asia:** Foreign Minister of Thailand, Maris Sangiampongsa, with Dr. S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India in New Delhi, India on November 2, 2024. (Source: [Dr. S Jaishankar/Official X Account](#))

**South Asia:** Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif with Qatar emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Doha on October 31, 2024. Source: [X/@CMShehbaz](#)

**East Asia:** On November 1, Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, held the 1st Japan-EU Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue with H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission. Source: [MoFA Japan](#)

**Indian Ocean Region:** Following its departure from La Réunion, INS Talwar conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the French Navy ship FS Floreal. Source: [Spokesperson Indian Navy](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

During his [visit to Qatar](#) from October 31 to November 1, Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif met with Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. On October 29-30, Prime Minister Sharif was [in Riyadh](#) to participate in the Future Investment Initiative (FII). Following visits, Prime Minister Sharif announced to cabinet members on October 4 that Qatar and Azerbaijan have committed to [investing \\$5 billion in Pakistan](#). A Qatari business delegation is scheduled to arrive shortly. The Minister for Investment of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh, stated that the [27 MoUs](#) signed during his visit to Pakistan in October have increased to 34, with five of them currently operational.

The government led by PMLN in Pakistan is persistently pushing bills through the National Assembly regarding [judicial reforms](#) and other matters. The government approved six bills on November 4, which aimed to prolong the terms of the heads of the nation's three armed forces and boost the quantity of judges in higher courts. These bills were swiftly passed by the National Assembly in under 24 minutes and subsequently by the Senate in a mere 16 minutes.

According to a Taliban government minister, Afghan women are [prohibited from reciting](#) the Quran or praying loudly in the presence of other women. Women are now facing a new restriction under morality laws that forbid them from speaking loudly or uncovering their faces outside of their homes. They are already excluded from education after sixth grade, many public spaces and most jobs.

A formal invitation has been sent by China to Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli for an [official visit](#) set to take place from December 2 to 6. The invitation from Chinese Premier Li Qiang was given by Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Chen Song on October 5. During the visit, the primary focus could be on converting the loan for the Pokhara International Airport into a grant, signing the implementation plan for the Belt and Road Initiative, initiating new projects under the BRI framework, and accelerating the implementation of prior agreements between the two countries.

## Other Developments

[Afghanistan received \\$6.7B in humanitarian aid since return of Taliban: UN](#)

[Iran to complete border closure with Afghanistan and Pakistan by mid-next year](#)

[Maldives and Türkiye sign free trade agreement](#)

[Bangladesh fast tracks payment to Adani Power ahead of November 7 deadline](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The Foreign Minister of Thailand, Maris Sangiampongsa, made an [official visit to New Delhi](#), India from October 31- November 3, 2024. During his visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Dr. S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, and discussed [enhancing cooperation](#) in areas like the defence industry. The two ministers also emphasised the roles of Thailand and India in driving forward multilateral frameworks, particularly BIMSTEC and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC). They agreed to work together to tackle issues such as transnational crime, human trafficking, natural disasters, and enhancing connectivity within the region.

Indonesia and Russia commenced their [first joint military training drills](#) in the Java Sea on November 4. The drills will end on November 8 and will be participated by four Russian warships. The Indonesian navy commander Denih Hendrata stated that "Russian warships came from afar to Indonesia and conducted joint exercises for the first time that seek to improve diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Russia, especially the navies".

Myanmar junta chief [Min Aung Hlaing commenced his visit to China](#) on November 5, his first reported visit to the country since 2021. During [his visit](#), he will be participating in the Greater Mekong Subregion Summit of Leaders, a meeting held every three years involving China, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, in the city of Kunming on November 6. He will also be attending the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy (ACMECS) and join a meeting with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam on November 6 and 7 in Kunming, the state media reported. The statement further added that "he will have meetings and discussions with authorities from China and will work on enhancing the bilateral relationship, economic and development in several sectors".

### Other Developments

[UN envoy says she met Myanmar army chief, calls for end to violence](#)

[Malaysia complains to Vietnam over South China Sea reef expansion, sources say](#)

## East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

On [November 4](#), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Takeo Akiba, Secretary General of Japan's National Security Secretariat, held consultations under the China-Japan high-level political dialogue mechanism in Beijing. The two sides reiterated that they would abide by the principles and consensus set out in the four political documents between China and Japan and commit to comprehensively advancing the strategic relationship of mutual benefit between the two sides, reaching agreement to maintain high-level intercourse, dialogue and exchanges in various fields, and send more positive signals to the outside world. They also discussed a [possible summit](#) between Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

On [November 1](#), Japan and the European Union announced a security and defence partnership, as they seek to step up military ties amid growing tensions with China, North Korea and Russia. The agreement is the first that the EU has concluded with an Asia Pacific country. Their talks came [a day after North Korea test-fired](#) what is believed to be a new type of ICBM-class ballistic missile. Borrell and Iwaya also shared "grave concern" about Russia's deepening military cooperation with North Korea, including the North's troop deployment to Russia and arms transfers between the two countries, according to an EU statement.

Other Developments

[Japan's Ishiba prepares for first meeting with Biden, Xi](#)

[Taiwan hosts U.K. officials for fresh trade talks, sources say](#)

[Taiwan detects 37 Chinese aircraft near island](#)

[Push for constitutional amendments in Japan wanes after election](#)

[Taiwan Sees Potentially 'More Pros Than Cons' If Trump Wins](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

During his visit to Saudi Arabia, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal co-chaired the 2nd Ministerial [Meeting of the Economy and Investment Committee](#) under Saudi Arabia-India Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) alongside Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman on October 30. The two sides noted deepening of the bilateral economic partnership and deliberated on ways to enhance trade and investment. India and Saudi Arabia are exploring emerging sectors for collaboration, including fintech, new technologies, energy efficiency, clean hydrogen, textiles, and mining. Minister Goyal, speaking at the 'Future Investment Initiative' (FII) in Riyadh, [encouraged global investors to invest in India](#).

On October 5, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [removed Yoav Gallant as Defence Minister](#) citing disagreements and lack of mutual trust. Israel Katz will replace Gallant as Defence Minister, while Gideon Sa'ar will become the new Foreign Minister of Israel. Meanwhile, the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Israel and the US of a "[crushing response to the recent attack](#)" on Iran or its allies. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) deployed [B-52 Stratofortress Strategic Bombers](#) to the Middle East in response to the Iranian threat.

Russia's Soyuz rocket successfully launched two Iranian satellites (Kowsar and Hodhod) into orbit on October 5, continuing the deepening of the [strategic partnership between Russia and Iran](#). Earlier, the US-led West had accused Iran of supplying Russia with drones for use in Ukraine.

### Other Developments

[Iranian female student who stripped in public is 'troubled', says government](#)

[From Iran to Turkey, how the Middle East is bracing for US elections](#)

[Updates: Israel's north Gaza siege kills 1,300; Lebanon toll passes 3,000](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On November 5, Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and French President Emmanuel Macron adopted a joint declaration to strengthen their strategic partnership at a [joint media briefing](#). During an expanded-format meeting, [Tokayev expressed confidence](#) that the discussions and the Joint Statement being adopted would elevate bilateral relations to a strengthened strategic partnership. The Presidents also discussed areas for further collaboration, including mechanical engineering, transport, logistics, agriculture, energy, industrial cooperation, climate, digital development and healthcare, with a focus on enhancing cultural and humanitarian ties.

On November 4, during a [working visit to China](#), Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov attended the Kazakh-Chinese investment roundtable and met the Premier of the State Council of the PRC Li Qiang. Bektenov oversaw the signing of eight commercial agreements between Kazakh and Chinese companies worth \$2.5 billion. Five of the agreements involved a company named Qarmet JSC. Although the deals were branded as commercial, there's considerable [state involvement](#) given that Qarmet JSC is owned by a state-owned private equity fund, the Qazaqstan Investment Corporation (QIC).

On [November 1](#), Tajikistan's Ministry of Finance [signed a grant](#) agreement worth \$86.6 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a "Green Corridor Demonstration Project". This project aims to reconstruct 49 kilometres of Tajikistan's Dangara-Gulistan highway, expand it to four lanes with a "Green Road" element, add 48.8 kilometres of bicycle lanes, and build two charging roads. The AIIB [has approved](#) a \$75.5 million loan for Tajikistan to build a 920-meter bridge, connecting 350,000 people in the northeast to Dushanbe and regional towns and the border of Kyrgyzstan.

## Other Developments

[Kyrgyzstan Backs Turkish Arms Embargo Against Israel](#)

[India, Kazakhstan Form JV Firm To Strengthen Titanium Supply Chain](#)

[President Tokayev invites French investment to support Kazakhstan's nuclear ambitions](#)

[Kazakhstan's Return to Nuclear Power: TCA in Association with American Foreign Policy Council Hosts Inaugural Burgut Expert Talk](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On October 31, 2024, the Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar [conducted](#) a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the French Navy's ship FS Floreal. This exercise took place in the Indian Ocean and included various manoeuvres as well as helicopter flying exercises to enhance interoperability between the two naval forces. INS Talwar [arrived](#) at La Réunion on October 27, 2024, as part of its ongoing deployment in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The 3rd edition of MAHASAGAR, a high-level [virtual interaction](#) hosted by the Indian Navy, was held on November 5, 2024. Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), engaged with leaders from various navies and maritime agencies across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), including representatives from Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. The discussions were aligned with the Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), focusing on enhancing maritime security through potential avenues for training cooperation.

Saudi Arabian telecommunications company Mobily has [collaborated](#) with Telecom Egypt to launch the first submarine cable connecting Saudi Arabia and Egypt through the Red Sea. Fully owned by Mobily, this cable is intended to improve internet connectivity and address the rising demand for digital services in both nations. It will land at two key sites—Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt and Duba in Saudi Arabia—enhancing connectivity between the Arabian Gulf and surrounding regions while providing access to various international networks. This announcement comes at a time of increased tensions in the Red Sea, where recent activities have raised concerns regarding the security of undersea cables.

### Other Developments

[The German Navy has confirmed that its frigate Baden-Württemberg will avoid the Red Sea on its return journey from the Indo-Pacific deployment](#)

[CULines has launched a new shipping service called the India-Middle East-Red Sea \(IMR\) service](#)



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