



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

## INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

November 12, 2025

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**Delhi Policy Group**

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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, Jayantika Rao T.V, Divya Rai and Arshiya Chaturvedi, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at [sanket@dpg.org.in](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

### Cover Images:

**South Asia:** Prime Minister and Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, jointly inaugurated the 1020 MW Punatsangchuu-II Hydroelectric Project on November 11, 2025. Source: [MEA Flickr](#)

**West Asia:** US President Donald Trump met Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa at the White House on November 10, 2025. Source: [Syrian Arab News Agency](#)

**Central Asia:** US President Donald Trump hosted a dinner with leaders of C5 Central Asian countries, in Washington D.C., on November 6, 2025. Source: [White House](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

An explosion in New Delhi on November 10 resulted in the deaths of 13 people. Preliminary investigation suggests that the incident was a terrorist attack perpetrated by terrorist organizations linked to Kashmir. From October 30 to November 8, the [Jammu and Kashmir police apprehended](#) five terrorists from the Kashmir Valley. These included three physicians affiliated with Al Falah University in [Faridabad](#), Haryana, and Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. As per media reports, the terrorist module was connected to Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AguH). The Delhi attack happened amidst the police's operation to uncover the terrorist module. Meanwhile, on November 9, the Gujarat ATS apprehended a Hyderabad-based physician, who received his education in China, along with two individuals implicated in a conspiracy concerning [chemical weapons](#) and affiliations with ISIS.

*Following Op Sindoor, the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation-JeM, Let and HM- pledged retaliatory actions against India. The continued tolerance of terrorist infrastructure within Pakistan's borders could potentially trigger another conflict between India and Pakistan.*

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi [visited Bhutan](#) from November 11-12, commemorating the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and attending the Global Peace Prayer Festival in Thimphu. Prime Minister Modi met with Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, where they [jointly inaugurated](#) the 1020 MW Punatsangchuu-II Hydroelectric Project. Officials from both countries have signed three MoUs in the areas of renewable energy, mental health services, and healthcare to further reinforce their cooperative efforts. The Indian government declared a concessional [Line of Credit of INR 4000 crore](#) for Bhutan to finance energy projects.

*Indian grants to Bhutan not only facilitate financial stability through development but also enhance interdependency between the two countries in sectors including energy, security, and connectivity, thereby reinforcing their relationship.*

The third round of Pakistan-Afghanistan [peace talks](#) in Istanbul concluded without a breakthrough, as a consensus on cross-border security mechanisms was not reached on November 7. According to Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Pakistan's Defence Minister, the discussions were paused as a result of an impasse, and there were no immediate plans for their reinstatement. The breakdown came as Pakistani troops and Afghan border guards exchanged fire in Spin Boldak, Kandahar, coinciding with the opening day of the peace talks. According to Taliban Deputy Foreign Minister [Mohammad](#)

[Naeem](#), the talks with Pakistan failed due to Islamabad's unrealistic demands and lack of cooperation, despite the attempts at mediation. According to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey's foreign minister, defense minister, and the head of its intelligence agency will visit Pakistan this week to discuss concluding a [ceasefire agreement](#) between Kabul and Islamabad. Meanwhile, on November 11, a suicide attack in Islamabad resulted in 12 fatalities and a minimum of 36 injuries.

*While the insurgency in Pashtun regions of Pakistan is an internal matter, policies such as the forced deportation of Afghan migrants, aggressive actions by the Pakistani army in border areas, and frequent border closures may exacerbate the insurgency in the near future.*

### **Other Developments**

[Afghanistan: Opium cultivation drops sharply, but regional trafficking rises](#)

[India expands electronic cargo tracking system for Nepal-bound shipments](#)

[Buses torched, crude bombs exploded in Dhaka, police on alert](#)

[Maldives to acquire military aircraft next year: President](#)

[Suicide bombing in Pakistan capital kills 12, raises regional tension](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [November 10](#), Thailand announced that it was suspending implementation of a peace agreement with neighbouring Cambodia after a landmine blast injured two Thai soldiers near the disputed border just two weeks after US President Donald Trump presided over its signing. The Royal Thai Army said in a statement that the landmine explosion in Sisaket province left one soldier with a severe leg injury, while pressure from the blast caused another to experience chest pains. Thai government spokesman Siripong Angkasakulkiat said that Bangkok would cease “follow-up to the joint declaration”. [Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul](#) told a news conference on the same day that he agreed with the decision taken by the country's defence chiefs, saying the “security threat.... has not actually decreased”.

*The suspension of the peace agreement reflects a hardline security-first stance approach by Thailand especially under the new government while for Cambodia, it risks renewed mistrust underscoring the fragility of US-brokered diplomacy in Southeast Asia while exposing ASEAN's limitations in dispute resolution.*

On [November 12](#), Australia and Indonesia signed a new security treaty that commits the two neighbours to consult one another if either country faces a security threat. The agreement was concluded during Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to Australia—his first since taking office last year. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described the treaty as a significant expansion of earlier security arrangements, the first of which was signed 30 years ago. The pact also establishes a framework for regular security dialogue between the two nations' leaders. “If either or both countries' security is threatened, we will consult and consider measures—whether individually or jointly—to address those threats,” Albanese stated. He added that both governments recognised that acting together offered the best path to ensuring peace and stability in the region.

*The Australia-Indonesia security treaty is more than symbolic—it reflects a strategic convergence of middle powers seeking to safeguard regional stability amid intensifying U.S.–China rivalry. For Australia, it diversifies security partnerships; for Indonesia, it elevates its geopolitical weight. For the Indo-Pacific, it reinforces a multi-layered security order where cooperation among regional actors is increasingly critical to balance great-power competition.*

On [November 12](#), Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Bui Thanh Son announced that Hanoi is working to finalize a trade agreement with the United States, as negotiations

continue in Washington. Speaking at a conference in Hanoi, Son urged U.S. businesses to support the process so the two sides could “soon sign a fair and balanced trade agreement.” In a [recorded statement](#), U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Michael DeSombre said the deal should rebalance trade flows and reduce America’s deficit with Vietnam, currently its largest after China and Mexico. A Vietnamese delegation led by Trade Minister Nguyen Hong Dien is in Washington this week, focusing on exemptions for Vietnamese exports such as coffee and on preferential access for U.S. goods including cars and farm products.

*Vietnam’s pursuit of a US trade agreement is far more than an economic initiative – it is a geopolitical maneuver to balance China, elevate ASEAN’s role, and secure its place as a central hub in Indo-Pacific supply chains. The deal strengthens Vietnam’s domestic legitimacy and international stature.*

### **Other Developments**

[Indonesian mosque blasts injure dozens; student suspected](#)

[Beijing suspected of using floating barrier to block access at disputed South China Sea shoal](#)

[Prabowo names late strongman Suharto an Indonesian national hero in move that rubs old wounds](#)

## East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On November 7, [Sanae Takaichi remarked](#) that “an attack on Taiwan that poses an existential threat could result in the deployment of Japanese forces. Further expounding on Taiwan contingency amid rising tensions, which require preparing for a worst-case scenario, she noted that Japan could invoke its right to collective self-defence to support an ally. The remarks have elicited the strongest objections from the Chinese side, with the demand to take these down. On November 10, Sanae refused to withdraw her statement in parliament but emphasised exercising caution in future for matters involving security.

*While Japan has traditionally maintained a cautious approach toward the China-Taiwan conflict, Takaichi's recent remarks suggest a willingness to engage more assertively and proactively in regional security. This shift can be seen as an attempt to actualise Takaichi's political vision of “making Japan strong and prosperous”.*

On November 7, [North Korea fired a ballistic missile off its east coast](#). This came just a few days after US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth visited South Korea, where he reaffirmed America's commitment to the security alliance with the country. North Korea also fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles in the last month, ahead of the APEC Summit, when South Korea hosted numerous world leaders, including former US President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump, on this tour, even expressed his willingness to meet Kim Jong Un. While Kim has not responded to this, previously he made clear that he doesn't mind meeting Trump if denuclearisation is off the agenda. More recently, on November 6, North Korea's foreign ministry called out the Trump administration for ‘antagonising’ by imposing sanctions on its officials and institutions over alleged money laundering, and vowed to respond.

*North Korea proactively uses its missile testing, nuclear advancements, and military rhetoric to showcase that coercion will not force Pyongyang to concede its strategic assets. However, it also indicates openness for negotiation when its core security interests are acknowledged. This reflects an asymmetric approach to North Korea's geopolitical engagements, which aims to extract concessions without compromising its national priorities.*

## **Other Developments**

[Taiwan detects eight PLA aircraft sorties, three vessels near its territory](#)

[Trump's deal with South Korea bogged down in details over submarine](#)

[7th Meeting of the Japan-Philippines Maritime Dialogue](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

US President Donald Trump held a meeting with [Syrian President Ahmad Al-Sharaa](#) at the White House on November 10. Al-Sharaa is the first President of Syria to visit the White House since the country's independence in 1946. The two leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations as well as other regional and international issues of mutual concern. The US removed the Syrian President, a former militant linked to al-Qaeda, from its [Specially Designated Global Terrorist List](#) and announced new sanctions relief for Syria, suspending measures under the Caesar Act for an additional 180 days. President Trump pledged to support Syria's efforts to rebuild its economy, combat terrorism, and provide prosperity to the country's citizens, including its ethnic and religious minorities such as Druze, Alawites, Kurds, and Christians.

*Since the fall of the Assad regime, a growing engagement between the US and Syria underscores Washington's intent to reduce Iran's malign influence on Syria, as well as to improve relations between Israel and Syria.*

UAE's officials have expressed concern that the UN-mandated international stabilisation force tasked with disarming Hamas in Gaza does not have a clear legal framework. Anwar Gargash, Senior Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the UAE, stressed that Abu Dhabi does not see a [clear legal framework for the stability force in Gaza](#). Therefore, the Emirates will not participate in the force but will support all political efforts to bring peace to the region. The Israeli government has so far refused to allow Turkey to join the international stability force, while Jordan has also reportedly refused to send troops to Gaza.

*UAE's refusal to participate in the Gaza international stabilisation force highlights broader regional doubts about the terms of the US-drafted plans for disarming Hamas.*

Amidst this, reports indicated that a [de facto partition of Gaza](#) between the area controlled by Israel and another controlled by Hamas is a distinct possibility. Currently, the IDF controls 53 percent of the Gaza Strip, along with Rafah in the south, parts of Gaza City, and other urban areas. Two million Gazans are crammed into war-torn cities in the rest of Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas.

*President Trump's plan to end the war between Israel and Hamas beyond a ceasefire appears to be faltering.*

## Other Developments

[Tehran: Iran seeks 'peaceful nuclear deal' with the U.S.](#)

[Saudi Arabia to host investment summit during bin Salman's Washington visit, source says](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [November 6](#), Central Asian leaders met with U.S. President Donald Trump for the 10th C5+1 Summit. During the meeting, Trump emphasised plans to diversify U.S. purchases of critical minerals – such as uranium, copper, and rare earth elements – in order to “reduce reliance on China and Russia for essential supply chains.” Among the [business deals](#) announced was an agreement for Boeing to sell up to 37 airplanes to airlines in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan combined. On his Truth Social channel, Trump highlighted Uzbekistan’s commitment to purchase US\$100 billion worth of American goods and services over the next decade, spanning critical minerals, aviation, infrastructure, agriculture, and information technology. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan announced 30 deals valued at US\$17.2 billion, including a finalized US\$1.1 billion agreement granting a U.S. firm rights to develop major tungsten deposits.

*It was clear that the C5+1 was transformed from a vehicle for broad-based multilateral diplomacy to a forum centered on economic outcomes and bilateral deal-making with individual Central Asian states. This transformation reflects both the priorities of regional leaders, who seek tangible investment and trade benefits, and Washington’s strategic calculus. For the United States, expanding access to Central Asia’s critical minerals is not merely an economic initiative; it is a geopolitical strategy aimed at reducing their reliance on China and Russia while embedding US firms in trans-Eurasian supply chains.*

After Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev’s high-level meeting with US President Donald Trump on [November 6](#), a landmark announcement was made: Kazakhstan will formally join the Abraham Accords, the US-brokered diplomatic initiative designed to normalize relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations. This decision carries historic weight, as Kazakhstan – Central Asia’s largest, wealthiest, and most strategically positioned country – will become the first nation in the region to sign onto the accords. By joining, Kazakhstan not only signals its intent to deepen ties with Israel and the United States but also broadens the geographic scope of the Abraham Accords beyond their original Middle Eastern and North African framework.

*Despite having long recognised and maintaining diplomatic ties with Israel since Kazakhstan’s independence, the decision to join the Abraham Accords was a strategic move intended to curry favour with Washington, thus making the move largely symbolic.*

On [November 11](#), following his meeting in Washington, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev arrived in Moscow for a state visit. The Kremlin announced that his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin would focus on gas projects and the impact of US sanctions on Russian oil companies. In his [opening remarks](#), President Putin welcomed Tokayev and highlighted the importance of this year's cooperative initiatives between the two countries. The [formal summit on November 12](#) is expected to further strengthen these ties, with the leaders scheduled to sign a series of bilateral agreements. One of the key events will be the Russia-Kazakhstan Interregional Cooperation Forum, which will be conducted via videoconference.

*Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's visit to Moscow, coming directly after his meeting with US President Donald Trump, underscores Kazakhstan's delicate balancing act between major powers – seeking to broaden its partnerships while carefully avoiding any estrangement from its longstanding allies.*

## Other Developments

[U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio Plans Visit to Central Asia in 2026](#)

[India Bags Massive \\$4 Billion Defence Order From Armenia – Akash NG, BrahMos & Pinaka Lead the Arsenal!](#)

[HQ-9 air defense missile reportedly displayed at Azerbaijani parade; Chinese-made equipment wins international recognition through performance: expert](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri is currently at Guam in the Northern Pacific Ocean to participate in the [multilateral Exercise Malabar-2025](#), which involves the navies of India, the United States, Japan, and Australia. Exercise Malabar-2025 consists of a Harbour Phase at Guam, featuring operational planning, alignment of communication protocols, familiarisation visits, and sports fixtures, followed by a Sea Phase where ships and aircraft will engage in advanced naval drills, including joint fleet operations, anti-submarine warfare, gunnery exercises, and flying operations. The participation of INS Sahyadri reaffirms India's partnership with Quad nations and its commitment to strengthening coordination, enhancing interoperability, and safeguarding regional maritime security.

*While the Quad summit's scheduling hinges on wider geopolitical factors and consensus at the highest political levels, Malabar naval exercises proceed to the strengthen of military interoperability among Quad countries.*

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), [arrived at](#) Port Beira, Mozambique, from November 9 to 12, 2025 as part of its deployment in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The ship was warmly welcomed by the Mozambique Navy, highlighting strong historical ties and maritime cooperation between the two nations. During the visit, personnel from both navies engaged in joint training, including navigational discussions, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, VBSS drills, damage control, and firefighting exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability and future joint deployments. INS Savitri also conducted community outreach by welcoming visitors onboard to showcase Indian naval capabilities and hosted a medical camp for residents, strengthening goodwill.

*This port call reaffirmed the Indian Navy's commitment as a Preferred Security Partner in the IOR and aligned with India's MAHASAGAR vision of peace, stability, and mutual prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.*

### Other Developments

[China's deep-sea research vessel 'Shen Hai Yi Hao' has arrived in Maldives](#)

[A delegation from ISRO visited the Mauritius to support the development of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Satellite](#)

[Multiple piracy incidents recorded off the Horn of Africa](#)

[Sri Lanka and Bangladesh strengthen ties with focus on port connectivity](#)

[16th Edition of Indian Navy – Republic of Singapore Navy Staff talks successfully concluded at New Delhi](#)

[Pakistan Navy ship visits Maldives as part of regional maritime security cooperation](#)

[The Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Vaibhav and Fast Patrol Vessel ICGS Abhiraj made a port call at Malé, Maldives](#)



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