



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

April 8, 2026

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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 an independently funded 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, 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, 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).

*The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Delhi Policy Group as an Institution*

### Cover Images:

1. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India M Hamidullah called on Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi on April 2, 2026. Source: [X/@adgpi](#)
2. Afghanistan-Central Asia dialogue was held in Kabul on April 5, 2026. Source: [Official X Handle/MFA Afghanistan](#)
3. On April 3, 2026, INS Taragiri, the fourth stealth frigate of the indigenous Project 17A class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. Source: [PIB](#)

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◇ <i>Afghanistan's intent to strengthen relations with Central Asian countries.</i>
◇ <i>Indian Navy Commissions Fourth Project 17A Stealth Frigate, INS Taragiri.</i>
◇ <i>Iran's demand that it retains control over the strait of Hormuz.</i>

## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, Khalilur Rahman, is visiting India from April 7-9, accompanied by the Prime Minister's foreign affairs advisor, Humayun Kabir. This is the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister's first trip to Delhi since Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's BNP, came into office on February 17. The delegation is slated to meet India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal, and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri. Key agenda items for these meetings would be to address [issues](#) related to transboundary river water sharing, energy sector partnerships, reinstating standardised visa services, and examining the consequences of the conflict in West Asia. Earlier, on April 6, the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka, Pranay Verma, paid a [courtesy call](#) on the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Tarique Rahman. The [High Commissioner](#) of Bangladesh to India, Riaz Hamidullah, met with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi on April 2 to explore avenues for deepening defence cooperation between the two nations.

*Khalilur Rahman, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, is visiting Delhi, marking an important step toward re-establishing a sustainable political relationship between the two countries, showing both sides' commitment to resolving issues through dialogue.*

The Indian High Commission in the Maldives revealed on April 1st that India has approved a record volume of [essential commodities](#), encompassing food and construction materials, for export to the Maldives for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The Indian government has clarified that these shipments will be exempt from any export restrictions, whether current or future, for the duration of their validity, ensuring a steady supply of essential goods to the Maldives.

*By assuring the continued supply of essential commodities to the Maldives, India emphasises its consistent adherence to the "Neighbourhood First" policy, positioning itself as a reliable partner in promoting food and economic security within its immediate neighbourhood.*

### Other Developments

[Nepal Foreign Minister Khanal to begin maiden overseas trip from Mauritius](#)

[11-party alliance announces 7-day programme demanding implementation of referendum verdict in Bangladesh](#)

[UK Trade envoy visits Dhaka to strengthen two-way trade and economic ties](#)

[US\\$ 2bn World Bank-backed plan to power Sri Lanka's next growth phase](#)

[India Sends 2nd Aid Shipment to Afghanistan in Two Weeks](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

Vietnam's National Assembly [unanimously elected](#) To Lam, the head of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), to serve as the country's state president for the next five years on April 17. The election result, which was widely anticipated since Lam's reappointment as party chief in January 2026, marks a break with the previous system of collective leadership in which Vietnam's four main leadership roles – were held by different officials. After the vote, Lam gave a televised address to the National Assembly in which he said that it was an honour to hold both posts and pledged “a new growth model with science, technology, innovation, and digital transformation as the primary driving forces.” He also stated that he would “prioritize self-reliance in defence”. Following his elevation to the state presidency, Lam is planning [a visit to China](#).

*To Lam's appointment not only makes him the most powerful Vietnamese leader in decades, but also signals a departure from the collective decision-making model that has defined much of the country's political history. At the same time, it underscores Vietnam's alignment with fellow communist states such as China, where Xi Jinping holds both the position of party leader and head of state.*

On [April 8](#), Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim issued a statement welcoming the ceasefire between the United States and Iran, describing it as a pivotal step toward restoring global peace. He urged that negotiations should lead to a durable resolution for the wider region, including an end to what he termed the “genocide” in Palestine. Anwar highlighted Iran's ten-point peace plan, noting that it had been “positively received by the US,” and argued that the proposal could lay the groundwork for stability not only in the Middle East but globally. He emphasized that sustainable peace requires negotiations to move beyond the immediate conflict, addressing deeper structural issues. Reaffirming Malaysia's commitment to the peace process, Anwar declared that the country “stands ready to support and complement all efforts in this regard.” He concluded with a call for immediate humanitarian access to civilians affected by the war, underscoring the urgency of alleviating human suffering alongside political dialogue.

*Prime Minister Ibrahim's statement reflects Malaysia's effort to position itself as a moral and diplomatic voice in global affairs, framing the U.S.–Iran ceasefire not only as a regional breakthrough but also as a platform to spotlight Palestinian suffering, thereby linking Malaysia's foreign policy to broader Muslim solidarity and signalling its intent to play a bridging role between Western powers and the Islamic world.*

On [April 3](#), Myanmar's new parliament elected Min Aung Hlaing as the President of the country. The 69-year-old General won 429 of 584 votes in a parliament dominated by the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), and a separate large bloc of lawmakers appointed by the junta. As Hlaing takes control as the President of the country, he has built new mechanisms to ensure that even this nominally civilian government does not dilute military authority. China has already congratulated the new administration.

*Despite the appearance of civilian governance, Myanmar's underlying power dynamics remain unchanged, with military dominance merely cloaked in democratic rhetoric. The trajectory of the new government points toward an increasingly personalized dictatorship, eroding even the limited collective structures that once constrained authoritarian rule.*

## **Other Developments**

[Philippines' V-P Sara Duterte asks court to halt impeachment case](#)

[ASEAN survey finds growing doubts over US on trade and security](#)

[Snap polls for Malaysia in 2026 unlikely as PM Anwar bets on riding out 'corporate mafia' storm](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On April 7, following a conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Trump announced [a two-week ceasefire](#) between the U.S. and Iran and an agreement to open the Strait of Hormuz. Reports indicate that [talks between Washington and Tehran](#) are set to begin on April 10 in Islamabad. Earlier, the U.S. and Israel targeted a top science and technology university in Tehran, Iran's [Bushehr nuclear plant](#), and Kharg Island. According to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, the country supports the U.S.' decision to suspend missile strikes against Iran for two weeks. However, this does not include Lebanon, implying that [Israel would continue to strike Hezbollah targets](#).

*U.S.-Iran diplomacy has entered a new stage, where the next few weeks/months will determine whether the two sides can reach a comprehensive agreement across strategic issues or if it is simply a pause before another escalation.*

On April 7, [China and Russia vetoed a United Nations Security Council Resolution](#) presented by Bahrain, calling upon states to coordinate efforts to protect commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Moscow and Beijing's veto was described by U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Mike Waltz, as "a new low" when Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz prevented medical aid and supplies from reaching Gaza, Congo, and Sudan, which were experiencing a humanitarian catastrophe. He urged the international community not to tolerate such strategic behaviour by China and Russia, and called on responsible nations to join the U.S. in securing the Strait of Hormuz.

*In vetoing the UNSC resolution on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, China and Russia demonstrated that they view the draft resolution as biased against Iran – this came at a time when President Trump threatened the destruction of Iran.*

### Other Developments

[Oil slides below \\$100 after Trump announces two-week ceasefire](#)

[What is in Iran's 10-point peace plan?](#)

## Central Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On April 5, the Taliban hosted representatives from five Central Asian countries in Kabul for the [Afghanistan-Central Asia Consultative Dialogue](#). Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi shed light on deep historical and cultural ties between the two sides and informed that the dialogue mechanism aims to coordinate multilateral efforts that would enhance trade and regional connectivity. [Afghanistan intends to increase trade](#) with the Central Asian Republics to USD 10 billion over the next three or four years. Both sides also emphasised the need for joint responses to contemporary geopolitical challenges, including [security issues in West Asia](#).

*The Taliban's intent to strengthen relations with Central Asian countries demonstrates Afghanistan's resolve to utilise its "gloeconomic position" to link Central Asia with South and West Asia and reduce its dependence on Pakistan.*

The U.S. and the European Union's engagement with countries in Central Asia has increased in recent years. Even as the Five Central Asian Republics strengthen their relations with Washington and Brussels, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin informed that Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan remain committed to their strategic partnership with Moscow. He added that Russia's relations with Central Asia are rooted in multilateral frameworks such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

*Amidst the Ukraine conflict, Central Asian countries are playing balancing act. On the one hand they are strengthening ties with the U.S. and the EU, on the other, despite pressure from the West, they remain committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Russia.*

### Other Developments

[Opinion: Trump Has Golden Opportunity to Launch C6+1 on Sidelines of UN](#)

[Central Asia's Expanding Role in U.S. Critical Minerals Security](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

INS Taragiri, the fourth Project 17A stealth frigate, [was commissioned](#) by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh into the Indian Navy on April 3, at Visakhapatnam. This 6,670-tonne vessel, designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) with MSME support, boasts over 75% indigenous content and advanced stealth features for reduced radar signature. Equipped with BrahMos supersonic missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles, and an advanced anti-submarine warfare suite, the warship is designed for multi-role operations. INS Taragiri enables high-intensity combat to anti-piracy patrols and humanitarian missions. Its advanced stealth technology significantly reduces its radar cross-section, giving it a lethal edge in contested environments.

*The commissioning of INS Taragiri sends a strong signal across the Indo-Pacific – particularly at a time when critical chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz can be weaponised, making India's investment in indigenous, capable, and deployable naval power not just an ambition, but an imperative to safeguard its maritime interests.*

On April 7, the United States and Iran announced a two-week [ceasefire](#), offering the first pause in weeks of escalating conflict. Central to the agreement was Iran's [10-point proposal](#), which the US acknowledged as a “workable” basis for negotiation. One of the ten conditions mentions “continuation of Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz”. Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi made Tehran's [position](#) explicit: “If attacks against Iran are halted, our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations. For a period of two weeks, safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces and with due consideration of technical limitations”. Interestingly, Iran had [previously said](#) it would only agree to open the strait as part of a full peace settlement that guaranteed no further attacks by the United States and Israel, and not simply in exchange for a temporary ceasefire. For Washington, the ceasefire framework represented a dramatic reversal just ahead of a self-imposed deadline that had stoked fears of a broader regional war.

*The temporary opening of the strait is conditional on coordination with Iranian armed forces, reinforcing rather than relinquishing Tehran's claim of control over the waterway. Whether the condition holds, and whether it leads to a lasting resolution that fully restores freedom of navigation through the world's most critical maritime chokepoint, remains deeply uncertain.*

## Other Developments

[India and Mozambique conducted the Fifth Joint Defence Working Group \(JDWG\) meeting](#)

[INS Trikand arrived at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania as part of its ongoing deployment in the Southwest Indian Ocean Region](#)

[INS Sunayna arrived at Male on marking the first port call of her operational deployment under \(IOS\) SAGAR initiative](#)



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