



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

June 24, 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. Family Picture of BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting, held in New Delhi on June 22-23. Source: [X/@RusEmbIndia](https://twitter.com/RusEmbIndia)
2. Pakistan and Qatar mediated a high-level dialogue between the U.S. and Iran in Switzerland on June 21-22, 2026. Source: [Official X Handle/Shehbaz Sharif](https://twitter.com/OfficialXHandle/ShehbazSharif)
3. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev welcomed President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov for his state visit to Azerbaijan, on June 22, 2026. Source: [The Azerbaijan State News Agency](https://www.azerbaijannewsagency.com)

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◇ <i>Status of the South China Sea Code of Conduct.</i>
◇ <i>'Lake Lucerne Summit' between the U.S. and Iran.</i>
◇ <i>Indian Navy commissions three frontline platforms - INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray.</i>

## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

BRICS National Security Advisers convened in New Delhi [from June 22-23](#). The meeting, chaired by India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, was attended by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian Security Council Secretary Sergey Shoigu, Iran's Deputy Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ghadir Nezamipour, and officials from other BRICS nations. The theme of [discussions](#) were 'Non-traditional security challenges confronting the world today,' focusing on the swift evolution of national security threats and the role of new technologies in emerging risks. The discussion also included cybersecurity, digital vulnerabilities, and AI-driven threats. The war in West Asia was also one of the [main topic](#) of the discussion, as reported by Chinese and Iranian press releases.

*With the rise of new types of non-conventional threats used by both state and non-state actors, BRICS' initiative to address these issues is a crucial move to reduce vulnerabilities and advance towards creating a multilateral cooperative framework to tackle them.*

On his first international visit, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Tariq Rehman, [travelled](#) to Malaysia from June 21-22. In his meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman called for the reopening of Malaysia's labour market, faster negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement, and backing for Bangladesh's application to join RCEP. As per the [Joint Statement](#), the two sides engaged in discussions about cooperation in regional and multilateral concerns, defence and security, education, trade, and the digital economy. They also entered into [an agreement to work together on](#) counter-terrorism research and building capabilities.

*Bangladesh, under the BNP government led by Tariq Rehman, is endeavouring to bolster its bilateral relations with ASEAN, prioritising economic dividends and market diversification.*

### Other Developments

[Nepal remains on FATF grey list, asked to strengthen anti-money laundering measures](#)

[Bangladesh issues countrywide alert fearing unrest on anniversary of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The ASEAN–Russia Commemorative Summit was held in Kazan [on June 17–18](#), marking 35 years of relations and 30 years of dialogue partnership. Leaders from 10 of ASEAN's 11 member states and Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged to expand trade, energy, and security cooperation. The summit's agenda included exchanging views on global and regional issues, reviewing efforts to develop Russia-ASEAN ties and discussing areas and tasks for future cooperation. During the summit, the two sides adopted a number of outcome documents, including the [Kazan Declaration 2026](#), which pledged to expand cooperation across a host of different fronts, based on a “common aspiration” for “a just multipolar world as guided by international law and the principles of the U.N. Charter.” The two sides also adopted the [ASEAN-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action 2026-2030](#), which will serve as a “guiding document” for future engagement between the regional bloc and Moscow.

*The ASEAN–Russia Summit in Kazan highlighted Moscow's pivot to Asia, with energy security and cultural diplomacy framing a partnership that seeks to balance ASEAN's ties among major powers while reinforcing ASEAN Centrality through a legally anchored roadmap to 2030.*

On [June 22](#), in an interview with Strait Times, Foreign Secretary of Philippines, Maria Theresa Lazaro underscored that amid rising instability in West Asia, advancing the South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC) remains a critical priority for ASEAN under the Philippines' chairmanship. She remarked, “We don't want to have a situation such as the Strait of Hormuz – with those choke points. I think the whole world will appreciate it if we can come up with this Code of Conduct. This is ASEAN's gift to the world.” Since assuming the chairmanship in January, Manila has made completing the COC by 2026 a central objective. Lazaro has consistently emphasized that the agreement must be legally binding, explicitly anchored in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

*Her statement regarding the Strait of Hormuz highlights a broader concern within ASEAN: that disruptions far beyond Southeast Asia can quickly threaten the region's trade and energy security.*

### Other Developments

[Summer Davos 2026: Energy transition in the spotlight: The importance of storage](#)

[Throne dispute in Malaysia's Negeri Sembilan halts rulers' conference, Aug 1 state polls in doubt](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

A high-level [dialogue between the U.S. and Iran](#) was mediated by Pakistan and Qatar in Switzerland on June 21-22. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that Washington and Tehran had "agreed on a roadmap toward an agreement within 60 days" and the establishment of a high-level political oversight committee. Four technical working groups began discussions, on sanctions termination, nuclear affairs, Iran reconstruction and economic development, monitoring and implementation. According to reports, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance claimed that Iran had [agreed to allow IAEA inspectors back](#) into the country for nuclear site inspections. However, the Iranian Foreign Ministry rejected such reports, stating that there are no plans for IAEA inspectors to visit Iran's nuclear sites.

*Following the U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding, the 'Lake Lucerne Summit' paved the way for a structured diplomatic process, including fixed timelines and technical working groups. West Asia's future depends largely on the outcome of these talks in the next 60 days.*

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is visiting the UAE, Kuwait, and Bahrain from June 23 to discuss the [key terms of the Iran MoU with regional allies](#). He is scheduled to meet the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Bahrain to discuss shared priorities across the region, including full and free safe transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

*Secretary Marco Rubio's visit to the Middle East comes as the U.S. seeks to address Gulf Arab countries' concerns about excessive concessions that could embolden Iran and reshape the regional security balance.*

### Other Developments

[The Full Text of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Iran](#)

[More vessels transit Hormuz, Qatar-linked LNG tankers return, data show](#)

[New Lebanon-Israel talks begin in shadow of US-Iran deal](#)

['What ceasefire?' In northern Israel, locals doubt an agreement can end the war with Hezbollah](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

In a short, but highly significant visit, the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov was received by Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on [June 22](#). Following a closed door, one-on-one meeting, a ceremony for the exchange of documents signed was held where the two leaders exchanged a [variety of agreements such](#) as the joint statement, various agreements for mutual trade, and cooperation in healthcare. The joint statement highlighted an agreement to streamline “technical specifications” concerning the movement of goods and vehicles between the two countries, and another to harmonize “customs statistics of mutual trade.” Additional agreements covered cooperation in such spheres as energy, industry, agriculture, banking and labour migration. The two leaders also issued instructions to empower an intergovernmental commission, which is now scheduled to meet in July in Ashgabat, to implement the Baku agreements.

*The visit of Turkmen President Berdimuhamedov is far more than a routine diplomatic event, it reflects the profound transformation of relations between the two nations, which in recent years have evolved from rivalry into a full-fledged strategic partnership.*

On [June 23](#), Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev held talks with European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, focusing on strengthening Kazakhstan-EU strategic partnership in trade, investment, transport connectivity, and energy cooperation. The meeting covered key areas including critical raw materials, transport and logistics, digital transformation, energy cooperation, and climate policy. The officials also reviewed prospects for expanding cooperation under the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) and the EU's Global Gateway strategy. Following the talks, the officials adopted a [joint statement](#) reaffirming the strategic nature of Kazakhstan-EU relations and their commitment to expanding cooperation across multiple sectors. Both sides stressed the importance of transport connectivity, energy security, and resilient supply chains, and confirmed continued cooperation under the EPCA framework. They agreed to improve the investment climate while expanding cooperation in critical raw materials, energy, transport, digitalisation, and new technologies.

*The joint statement highlighted the strategic role of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, known as the Middle Corridor giving Kazakhstan a central role in Europe's transport policy for Central Asia, and offers an alternative to the northern route through Russia.*

## Other Developments

[Kazakhstan enters rare earths, minerals race as China alternative](#)

[Kazakh and Chinese officials sign protocol on nuclear energy cooperation](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi [commissioned](#) three frontline platforms – INS Dunagiri, an advanced stealth frigate; INS Sanshodhak, a survey vessel (large); and INS Agray, an anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft – into the Indian Navy in Kolkata, West Bengal, on June 21, 2026. The three ships represent three different operational pillars of the Indian Navy – surface warfare, maritime survey, and anti-submarine warfare. All three vessels were designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. Two more Project 17A frigates, INS Mahendragiri and INS Vindhyagiri, [will be commissioned](#) in July. The three platforms demonstrate the growing maturity of India's shipbuilding ecosystem, with indigenous content exceeding 75 per cent. Their construction involved extensive participation by Indian industry, including more than 200 MSMEs, and generated substantial direct and indirect employment.

*The tri-commissioning of INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak, and INS Agray demonstrate India's defence-industrial ecosystem. It highlights the collaborative efforts of the Government of India, the Indian Navy, public sector shipyards, private industry and MSMEs in advancing the objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and strengthening India's maritime capabilities.*

Commander of U.S. Pacific Air Forces general Kevin Schneider [arrived](#) in Sri Lanka today to begin a three-day visit that reflects the growing strength of the U.S.-Sri Lanka defense partnership. During his visit from June 21-24, General Schneider met with senior Sri Lankan government and defense leaders, including leadership from the Ministry of Defense and the Sri Lanka Air Force. Their discussions were focused on expanded cooperation across air and maritime domain awareness, cybersecurity, disaster response, and regional security. General Schneider's visit is the latest milestone in an expanding bilateral relationship built on joint exercises, military exchanges, and consistent senior-level dialogue. The United States recognises Sri Lanka as an essential partner in the collective effort to preserve peace, security, and prosperity across the region. During his visit, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Paul Kapur [announced](#) that the United States will provide Fleet Broadband satellite communications technology to the Sri Lanka Navy, strengthening maritime connectivity along some of the world's busiest shipping routes.

*Sri Lanka's irreplaceable geography – sitting astride some of the world's busiest sea lanes – has significantly expanded their maritime security and defence partnership. This growing collaboration also focuses on countering growing regional influence, particularly China's, and securing vital shipping routes through the Indian Ocean.*

## Other Development

[INS Tarkash arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, during her ongoing operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region](#)

[INS Udaygiri and INS Kavaratti both arrived at Nha Rong Port, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, during their operational deployment to the Southeast Asia region](#)



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