



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

August 13, 2025

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South Asia:

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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.

Cover Images:

Central Asia: Armenia and Azerbaijan have signed a historic peace agreement signed at the White House on August 8, 2025, facilitated by the Trump administration to end decades of conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Source: [X/@White House](https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse)

South Asia: Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the Interim Government of Bangladesh, made a three-day state visit to Malaysia from August 11 to August 13, 2025. Source: [X/ @anwaribrahim](https://twitter.com/anwaribrahim)

Indian Ocean Region: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sandhayak visited Singapore on August 9, 2025, to participate in Singapore's National Day. Source: [X/@indiannavy](https://twitter.com/indiannavy)

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Watch Points

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◇ <i>Two advanced stealth frigates – Udaygiri and Himgiri – to be commissioned at Visakhapatnam on August 26</i>

South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Field Marshal Asim Munir, the head of the Pakistan Army, is currently visiting the United States. Information [regarding his arrival](#) and duration of stay in the US was not disclosed. According to the ISPR [press release](#), COAS Munir was present for the Retirement Ceremony of General Michael E. Kurilla, the departing Commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM), and the Change of Command Ceremony, which saw Admiral Brad Cooper take command on August 10. He also had a meeting with General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. While [addressing an event](#) in Tampa, Florida, Field Marshal Munir said, “We are a nuclear nation, if we think we are going down, we’ll take half the world down with us” . The [Ministry of External Affairs of India](#) indicated that “remarks...substantiate the long-standing scepticism regarding the security of nuclear command and control in a nation where the armed forces are closely associated with terrorist organisations.” Concurrently, the most recent iteration of the U.S.-Pakistan [Counterterrorism Dialogue](#) took place in Islamabad on August 12th. The press release from the US State Department indicated that both delegations emphasised the significance of establishing effective strategies for addressing terrorist threats, including those posed by the BLA, ISIS-Khorasan, and TTP.

Field Marshal Munir’s second visit to the US in two months suggests a strengthening of the US-Pakistan defence partnership. These advancements suggest that the United States seeks to reassert its presence in the Af-Pak region, whereas Pakistan is taking advantage of the situation to reclaim its role in the region’s geopolitical dynamics.

Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the Interim Government of Bangladesh, paid a state [visit to Malaysia](#) between August 11 and August 13. The Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato’ Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, and Professor Yunus engaged in bilateral discussions, addressing matters concerning trade, investment, migration, energy collaboration, the blue economy, education, and cultural exchange. Moreover, the leaders deliberated on Bangladesh’s goal of expanding cooperation with ASEAN, encompassing its pursuit of Sectoral Dialogue Partner status, and sought Malaysia’s endorsement during its ASEAN Chairmanship. Following the talks at the [delegation level](#), both countries formalised agreements by signing five MoUs and three Exchange of Notes covering various areas of cooperation, including defence, LNG supply and related infrastructure.

The visit suggests Bangladesh's desire for a more prominent role and interaction with ASEAN. Bangladesh may also be seeking to diversify its energy imports and explore new markets and partners in its immediate eastern neighbourhood. Despite Professor Yunus's announcement of the July Declaration and the date for the general elections, discord among political parties regarding critical reforms may cause prolonged political instability.

Other Developments

[US puts Balochistan armed group in Pakistan on 'foreign terrorist' list](#)

[India must remain proactive in countering combined naval threat from China, Pakistan: Parliamentary Panel](#)

[Pakistan launches new security operation against militants near Afghan border](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [August 11](#), the Philippines released dramatic footage showing a Chinese warship colliding with a vessel from its Coast Guard while pursuing a Philippine patrol boat in the South China Sea. The incident occurred near the contested Scarborough Shoal, as the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) was escorting vessels that were delivering aid to fishermen in the area. PCG spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela stated, "The Chinese Coast Guard vessel, which was chasing the PCG vessel BRP Suluan at high speed, made a risky manoeuvre from the starboard quarter of the Philippine vessel, resulting in the collision with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy warship."

The dramatic footage released by the Philippine Coast Guard depicting the collision underscores the extent of China's aggression in the South China Sea. This incident, particularly characterised by military intimidation during a civilian aid mission, elevates the situation beyond the scope of coastguard enforcement. It serves to highlight that Beijing is prepared to escalate tensions in order to achieve its objectives.

On [August 7](#), the Extraordinary Cambodia-Thailand General Border Committee (GBC) was held in Kuala Lumpur, with General Nattaphon Narkphanit, Thailand's Deputy Defence Minister, and General Tea Seiha, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, signing the meeting's conclusions. The meeting was observed by Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Minister of Defense of Malaysia, and representatives from the US and China. During the meeting, Thailand presented 13 proposals, while Cambodia did not bring its proposals; instead, it reviewed and requested adjustments to Thailand's suggestions. Among Thailand's requests, Cambodia was urged to cooperate in the removal of landmines from the border area. However, on August 9, three Thai soldiers were injured by a landmine while patrolling the border. [The Thai army spokesman Major General Winthai Suvaree said](#) that the incident is clear evidence that Cambodia has violated the ceasefire, including international agreements like the Ottawa Convention, for [using landmines](#). He also mentioned that the incident took place in an area that had recently been cleared of landmines. As a result, they plan to file a complaint with the International Criminal Court against Cambodia for violating a treaty that prohibits the use of landmines and for infringing on Thailand's sovereignty.

Despite the signing of this more concrete ceasefire, the incident that occurred on August 9 in an area reportedly cleared of explosives underscores the tenuous nature of the truce. In light of ongoing negotiations, it is evident that the ceasefire continues to represent a delicate illusion.

Other Developments

[Thailand, Cambodia agree to let ASEAN teams monitor ceasefire](#)

[South Korea and Vietnam leaders agree to increase trade, investment](#)

[Asia braces for intensifying competition over US imports](#)

East Asia

by

Divya Rai

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung is [scheduled to meet](#) US President Donald Trump on August 25, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This will be their first face-to-face summit since Lee took office in June 2025. The meeting comes about a month after South Korea and the US reached a deal on tariffs, reducing threatened tariffs on Korean goods from 25% to 15%. South Korea also agreed to purchase \$100 billion in US energy and invest \$350 billion in the US. Lee's spokesperson Kang Yu-jung said the leaders could use their meeting to discuss expanding cooperation in key industries such as semiconductors, batteries and shipbuilding.

The August 2025 summit comes shortly after a tariff deal between both the countries. The upcoming summit is expected to modernise the Korea-U.S. alliance into a "future-orientated, comprehensive strategic partnership" adapted to changing international security and economic conditions.

Australia's Defense Ministry said that Mitsubishi Heavy Industries [won selection for a lucrative](#) \$6.5 billion contract to acquire 11 advanced Mogami-class frigates for the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). This contract marks one of Japan's largest-ever defence exports and a significant boost in bilateral security cooperation between Japan and Australia. The first three vessels will be built in Japan and the remaining eight in Australia, creating local jobs and enhancing domestic shipbuilding skills. The first frigate is set for delivery in 2029 and operational deployment by 2030. The upgraded Mogami-class design, built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, was chosen over Germany's MEKO A-200 after a rigorous competitive process. These warships will offer four times the missile capacity of Australia's retiring ANZAC-class frigates. The deal is not finalised yet, as commercial contracts are targeted for 2026.

Historically, Japan's defence exports were tiny, rare, and politically sensitive. This Australia deal is not just one of its largest ever – it's an order-of-magnitude leap that puts Japan into the league of top-tier arms exporters for the first time in the modern era.

The US and China have agreed to [extend](#) their trade truce for another 90 days, until November 10, 2025, keeping existing tariffs in place – 30% on Chinese imports to the US and 10% on US goods to China. The delay was the expected outcome from the latest round of talks between U.S. trade negotiators and their Chinese counterparts, which [took place](#) in Stockholm in July. Without this extension, then U.S. duties on China would have shot back up to where they stood in April – U.S. duties on Chinese goods at 145% and China's retaliatory tariffs at 125%.

President Trump has been announcing steep tariffs on countries, only to later modify, reduce, or temporarily suspend them. By prolonging his trade truce with China, Trump has opened the door to a likely summit with Xi.

Other Developments

[British F-35B stealth fighter jet made an emergency landing at Kagoshima Airport in southwestern Japan due to a technical malfunction](#)

[Putin and Kim Jong Un held a phone conversation ahead of Putin's summit with Trump in Alaska.](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On August 11, Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that Australia would [formally recognise the State of Palestine](#) at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly to be held in New York in September 2025. PM Albanese expressed hope that this decision would contribute to the international momentum towards a two-state solution, a ceasefire in Gaza, and the release of remaining Israeli hostages. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio rejected Australia, France, and other Western countries' plans to [recognise Palestine as "symbolic" and "largely meaningless"](#). Adding that, a UN resolution will not decide the future of the Israel-Palestine issue, as it will be decided by reality on the ground.

Secretary Rubio's remarks highlight a significant divide between the West on the issue of the recognition of a Palestinian State. The US and Israel believe that recognising Palestine following the October 7, 2023, Hamas terror attack would reward terrorism.

Meanwhile, on August 8, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu approved a proposal to launch a military [offensive in densely populated Gaza City](#), even as the IDF expressed concerns that such a move could harm the remaining Israeli hostages. Reportedly, around one million Palestinians reside in Gaza City in northern Gaza.

The Israeli military's offensive in Gaza's densely populated areas underscores its determination to destroy Hamas and take complete control of the Gaza Strip.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian called for the [renewal of the nuclear dialogue](#) with the US on August 10, stressing that holding talks with Washington does not mean that Tehran intends to surrender. These comments were severely criticised by senior officials of [Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#) (IRGC), cautioning President Pezeshkian that such rash public statements could have serious consequences for the country.

After the US's military strikes on Iran's nuclear sites, President Pezeshkian and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have differing opinions regarding the possibility of resuming nuclear negotiations with the US.

Other Developments

[Iran says IAEA official to visit for talks; no access to nuclear sites planned](#)

[Gaza suffering has reached 'unimaginable' levels, say 26 foreign ministers](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [August 12](#), Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a phone call from Uzbekistan's President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. During the call, the two leaders discussed the progress made in several key areas of their bilateral cooperation, including trade, connectivity, health, technology, and people-to-people ties. They also exchanged perspectives on regional and global developments of mutual interest and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the historic relationship between India and Central Asia. Both leaders expressed a shared determination to further advance the [strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan](#).

This diplomatic engagement goes beyond being a mere symbolic gesture; it serves as a strategic manoeuvre that strengthens India's role as a stabilising and constructive influence in Central Asia. The reaffirmation of these ties also aligns with India's broader "Indo-Eurasian Connect 2025" strategy.

On [August 8](#), the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan shook hands at a peace summit held at the White House before signing an agreement aimed at ending decades of conflict. According to the White House, the two countries signed several agreements. One of the key deals will allow the U.S. to reopen important transportation routes by establishing a major transit corridor, which will be named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity. The terms of the agreement also include exclusive U.S. development rights for a route through Armenia that would connect Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan, an Azerbaijani enclave bordering Turkiye, a close ally of Baku. However, [Iran has stated that it will block this corridor](#) "with or without Russia", as it believes that the corridor would undermine Armenia's territorial integrity.

The peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan is expected to enhance stability in the region. However, it also creates a complex web of geopolitical tensions with significant implications. Tehran perceives the corridor as a direct threat to its strategic interests, especially with the support of the U.S., which may lead to increased regional tensions and a shift in alliances.

Other Developments

[Armenia, US launch 'Eagle Partner-2025' joint military drills](#)

[No Kremlin Needed: Peace Breaks Out in Post-Soviet Eurasia](#)

[China Welcomes PM Modi For SCO Summit As Beijing Seeks Closer Ties](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sandhayak, the first indigenous Survey Vessel Large (SVL) equipped with advanced hydrography technology, [visited](#) Singapore on August 9 for Singapore's National Day. The three-day engagement reaffirmed India's commitment to regional maritime cooperation and strengthened hydrographic collaboration between the Indian Navy and Singapore's maritime authorities. The maiden visit aimed at facilitating technical and professional exchanges as well as sustained hydrographic support, featuring official calls on Mr Gary Chew, Assistant Chief Hydrographer of Singapore, and Colonel Chauah Meng Soon, Commander of the 9th Flotilla, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

The visit underscores India's growing leadership in maritime diplomacy, regional hydrographic capacity-building, and cooperative engagement in Southeast Asia.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tamal, the Indian Navy's newest stealth frigate, [made a port call](#) at Casablanca, Morocco, from August 6 to 9 during her return voyage to India. Commissioned in Russia on 1 July 2025, the vessel is transiting to her home base via multiple European and Asian ports and is the third Indian warship in the last two years to visit Casablanca. Over the three-day visit, the ship's crew engaged in bilateral discussions, cross-deck visits, sports fixtures, yoga sessions, and cultural exchanges with their Moroccan counterparts, reflecting the warmth of Indo-Moroccan relations. On departure, INS Tamal conducted a Passage Exercise with Royal Moroccan Navy ship Mohammed VI, further enhancing operational interoperability.

The visit underscores the significance India places on its growing naval cooperation with Morocco and provides both navies opportunities to share best practices and explore new areas of cooperation.

On August 26, 2025, the Indian Navy will make history by simultaneously [commissioning](#) two advanced stealth frigates—Udaygiri (F35) and Himgiri (F34)—at Visakhapatnam, marking the first time two major surface combatants from two Indian shipyards are inducted together. Udaygiri, the second Project 17A frigate from MDL Mumbai, and Himgiri, the first from GRSE Kolkata, represent a generational leap in indigenous warship design and the Navy's 100th ship designed by its Warship Design Bureau. The commissioning follows extensive sea trials and highlights the success of India's Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, with over 200 MSMEs contributing and nearly 14,000 jobs supported.

Their commissioning underscores India's accelerated naval modernisation and self-reliance in warship design and construction. As these two warships are set to join the fleet, they reflect India's growing maritime strength and commitment to guarding its oceans with ships built in India, by Indians, for India.

Other Developments

[Indian Navy launches advanced maritime information hub for Indian Ocean Region](#)

[India and Pakistan will hold parallel naval firing exercises in the Arabian Sea on August 11-12](#)

[INS Rana arrived at the Port of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka](#)



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