



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

November 5, 2025

Authors

South Asia:

Shreyas Deshmukh

Southeast Asia:

Jayantika Rao T.V.

East Asia:

Arshiya Chaturvedi

West Asia & Central Asia:

Sanket Joshi

Indian Ocean Region:

Divya Rai

Volume III, Issue 45



Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

Vol. III, Issue 45

November 5, 2025

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:

Southeast Asia: The Nineteenth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting was held on October 31, 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Source: [ASEAN](#)

East Asia: President Lee Jae Myung welcoming President Xi Jinping in Gyeongju, South Korea on November 1, 2025. Source: [MOFA PRC](#)

West Asia: India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar met in New Delhi on November 4, 2025. Source: [Official X Handle/Dr. S. Jaishankar](#)

© 2025 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

India's Proximity Archives

Vol. III, Issue 45

November 5, 2025

Contents

South Asia

Shreyas Deshmukh 1

Southeast Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V..... 3

East Asia

Arshiya Chaturvedi 5

West Asia

Sanket Joshi..... 7

Central Asia

Sanket Joshi..... 9

Indian Ocean Region

Divya Rai..... 10

Watch Points

◇ <i>Political violence in Bangladesh against the backdrop of upcoming national elections</i>
◇ <i>The deepening of the India-Israel Strategic Partnership</i>
◇ <i>C5+1 Summit in Washington, D.C., aimed at deepening US relations with five Central Asian countries</i>

South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, held in Istanbul from October 25-30, [were inconclusive](#). Both nations have expressed willingness to deliberate on [three primary facets](#): extending the ceasefire, instituting a peace monitoring and verification system, and imposing sanctions for violations. The Turkish Foreign Ministry stated that both parties had decided to meet again in Istanbul on November 6 to finalise the operational specifics of this mechanism. A [Pakistani representative stated](#) that the talks had failed because the Afghan Taliban was not committed to or serious about handling terrorism-related issues, and they also refused to offer any written guarantees. The Afghan side, however, held the Pakistani delegation responsible for “improper conduct,” citing “unacceptable demands to Afghanistan.” Meanwhile, the clashes between the TTP and Pakistani forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, persisted, leading to the reported fatalities of [six Pakistan Army soldiers](#), including an officer, and seven terrorists on October 30.

Pakistan has been confronting TTP terrorism for the past two decades, predating the second Taliban regime's ascendance in Afghanistan. While the TTP had connections to the Afghan Taliban, it is primarily a domestic terrorist movement. Pakistan has consistently used the victim narrative to mask its actions on the Durand Line.

According to Bangladesh's Election Commissioner (EC) Md Anwarul Islam Sarker, the timetable for the [upcoming national election](#) will be announced in the initial week of December, and the polls will take place in February of the following year. Political parties have initiated the announcement of candidates for the elections. The BNP has announced a roster of [237 candidates](#), in anticipation of the election of candidates for 300 seats in the National Parliament. In the meantime, political unrest persisted throughout the nation. The Awami League leader [was assassinated](#) in Sylhet on October 31. According to a [report published by Odhikar](#), a human rights organization, on October 30, 281 individuals were reported to have died in political violence since August 2024. Reports indicate that another 40 individuals suspected of crimes were extrajudicially killed, while an additional 153 were victims of lynching.

In light of the governance deficit and the fragile interim government, political parties in Bangladesh are leveraging this context to promote their ideological viewpoints and suppress opponents via violence and intimidation, which makes it unlikely that the elections will bring about political stability in Bangladesh.

Other Developments

[Punjab provincial government in Pakistan hands over TLP mosques, seminaries to moderate clerics](#)

[Nepal, India sign deal to build two 400kV power lines](#)

[Regime changes in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka were due to poor governance: Doval](#)

[FM Nirmala Sitharaman & EAM Dr. S Jaishankar meets Sri Lanka opposition leader Sajith Premadasa in New Delhi](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [November 2](#), the Philippines and Canada signed a visiting forces agreement. The Status of Visiting Forces Agreement is Canada's first such military pact with an Indo-Pacific nation. In a joint briefing with Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., Canadian counterpart David McGuinty said, "The agreement, which will facilitate joint combat drills between the two countries, also reflects a deeper truth that peace is built on rules and not recklessness, and that stability grows from cooperation, not confrontation." McGuinty said Canada hopes to be present at next year's annual flagship military drills by the Philippines and the US. Teodoro said the latest agreement would allow the two countries to "work together not only bilaterally but with other like-minded partners to preserve and enforce peace and stability, to deter instability. Both countries are also in talks for a free trade agreement.

The latest military pact struck by Manila showcases the countries push to build a coalition of allies to deter the Chinese aggression in the South China Sea.

On [October 31](#), Indonesia's top defense official said the country is no closer to the purchase of Chinese J-10 fighter jets after previously signaling otherwise. On the sidelines of the a regional security conference in Kuala Lumpur, Defense Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin said "As a country "free and active, we can go everywhere to see which one is efficient, not expensive – and no requirement," Previously, the minister had signaled earlier this month that the country's military was nearing a deal to acquire Chinese-made J-10 fighter jets, after officials have said they were considering a first purchase of the battle-tested aircraft to modernize the armed forces.

While there have been different narratives of Indonesia's choice of China as a partner to buy fighter jets which has been a clear motive under Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, it is clear that little progress has been made on this front.

After the two-day ASEAN defense ministers meeting concluded on November 1, it was clear that as the host, Malaysia pushed for an "[ASEAN first](#)" approach for a regional solidarity at a summit attended by the US, China, and other partners. Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said [ASEAN must remain the principal platform for dialogue](#) and cooperation in the region, warning that smaller multilateral arrangements must never compromise ASEAN First and collective solidarity. He also called on the grouping to evolve with the times, highlighting that threats now

transcend borders and dimensions. “We see the challenges in the South China Sea but we must also recognise that our digital realm is equally at risk,” he remarked.

While there is this push of an "ASEAN-first" approach, member states must remain mindful of the platform's limitations – particularly in addressing entrenched regional tensions like the South China Sea issue. Divergent views among the states have hindered consensus, resulting in limited meaningful impact.

Other Developments

[Russia sees Southeast Asia as next destination for small nuclear reactors](#)

[Philippines and UAE apply to join CPTPP to counter Trump tariffs](#)

[UK and Vietnam upgrade strategic partnership, champion free trade](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On November 1, President Lee Jae Myung of the Republic of Korea met with President Xi Jinping, who was [visiting South Korea](#) to attend the 2025 APEC Summit. During the meeting, Xi noted that China and the ROK, as neighbouring countries, are natural partners in cooperation. He further affirmed China's readiness to work with the ROK to advance their strategic partnership for greater peace and development. To achieve this, Xi proposed four key pillars around which greater cooperation is needed. These are strengthening strategic communication to build mutual trust; deepening mutually beneficial collaboration in areas such as AI, biomedicine, green industries, online gambling, and telecom fraud; fostering people-to-people ties through cross-border travel and exchanges among youth, media, and think tanks; and enhancing coordination in multilateral fora to jointly promote peace and development. President Lee supported closer China-ROK relations and President Xi's proposals. He also backed China's hosting of the 2026 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

Cordial and harmonious relations between China and South Korea are critical in advancing their respective interests, a view well supported by IR theories such as the Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) and Liberalism.

On October 30, [President Xi Jinping](#) Met with US President Donald J. Trump in Busan, South Korea. President Xi remarked that historically the two countries have been partners and friends, and the realities of today demand that they remain so. He emphasised that because of having different national dynamics, some disagreements have existed, but the two should work through challenges, and keep China-US relations moving forward steadily. To this end, he called to prioritise long-term cooperation over retaliation and continue dialogue based on equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit to expand areas of collaboration. President Trump also responded positively, noting that China is the US's biggest partner and together they can achieve great things and sustained long-term success.

From being a predominant partner in China's development during the 1970s and 1980s, the US has grown wary of China's rise. With China emerging as another axis of global power, the US has increasingly adopted numerous policies and measures to contain China and preserve its global hegemony.

Other Development

[Takaichi and Xi reaffirm pledge in first meet to pursue 'mutually beneficial' ties](#)

[Hegseth says 'flexibility' needed for U.S. forces in South Korea](#)

[China furious as Japan PM Takaichi meets Taiwan leader, Xi issues 'gravely wrong signal' warning](#)

[South Korea triples AI spending in 2026 budget plan](#)

[Japan's new leader Takaichi says she wants to meet North Korea's Kim Jong Un](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Israel's [Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar](#) visited India on November 4-5 and met India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The two sides pledged to deepen India-Israel Strategic Partnership in domains such as political, security, agriculture, trade and investment, defence, critical and emerging technologies, semiconductors, cyber security, and AI. They reaffirmed a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Major issues discussed in the meeting included the developments in West Asia, including the Gaza Peace Plan and the return of Israeli hostages from Gaza.

It is expected that a deepening of the strategic partnership between India and Israel will provide both countries with access to each other's advanced military technologies, intelligence cooperation, and co-production of defence systems.

China's Vice President [Han Zheng visited Saudi Arabia](#) on October 28 and met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. He also addressed the ninth Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh. In his remarks, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng shed light on Beijing's four major initiatives, namely, the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), Global Civilisation Initiative (GCI), and Global Governance Initiative (GGI) and called for deepening cooperation between China and the Middle East region.

The Middle East occupies an increasingly prominent position in Beijing's strategic calculus as strategic competition with the US intensifies. China is diversifying its trade with the Middle East, expanding its scope beyond energy to include fields such as high-technology, infrastructure, and consumer goods.

Following the US-Israeli airstrikes on Iran's nuclear sites in June 2025, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, during his visit to the country's Atomic Energy Organisation, vowed to [rebuild its nuclear facilities "with greater strength"](#). According to him, Iran does not seek nuclear weapons and that its nuclear programme is purely civilian in nature.

Iran's intent to rebuild nuclear sites and President Trump's threat that the US would strike Iranian nuclear facilities again if they were rebuilt illustrate the continuing friction between the two countries and Washington's resolve not to allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons.

Other Developments

[Syrian President Sharaa expected to visit Washington, US envoy says](#)

[Israel urges Lebanon to disarm Hezbollah under ceasefire terms](#)

Central Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

US President Donald Trump will host [Central Asian leaders for the C5+1 Summit](#) in Washington on November 6. It is anticipated that the two sides will focus on strengthening their cooperation in three key areas, including connectivity and trade corridors, energy and critical minerals, as well as sanctions compliance and security. Since 2015, the C5+1 meeting format has been the US's primary channel for strategic diplomacy with five Central Asian countries amid increasing strategic competition with China and Russia.

The Central Asian countries, namely, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, are hedging between Russia, China, the European Union, and the US to secure their interests in the region. Following Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Washington has given greater attention to Central Asia and maintained policy continuity in the region.

The [US has granted India a sanctions waiver](#) for its operations at Iran's Chabahar Port until early 2026. In 2024, India had signed a 10-year contract with Iran to operate the Shahid Beheshti Terminal of Chabahar port, underscoring New Delhi's long-term commitment.

The Chabahar port is India's gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia, reducing its reliance on routes through Pakistan.

India's Ministry of External Affairs informed that the country had wrapped up its operations at the [strategic Ayni air base in Tajikistan](#). MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stressed that India and Tajikistan had a bilateral arrangement for the rehabilitation and development of Ayni aerodrome. This agreement was concluded in 2022, and therefore, the facility was handed over to the Tajik side.

Other Developments

[Kazakhstan to focus on building prowess in AI through global collaboration](#)

[Uzbekistan aims to pave way for productive US-Central Asia summit](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy is set to [commission](#) 'Ikshak', the third Survey Vessel (Large), at Naval Base Kochi on 6 November 2025. The third ship of this class, Ikshak is primarily designed for conducting coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of ports, navigational channels, and Exclusive Economic Zones. Besides its core hydrographic role, the vessel has dual-role capabilities, serving as a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) platform and functioning as a hospital ship in emergencies. The vessel is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, Kolkata, under the supervision of the Directorate of Ship Production and the Warship Overseeing Team (Kolkata). The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff.

Strategically, the addition of Ikshak and its sister ships strengthens India's ability to map and monitor its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and extended maritime boundaries. This capability is vital for maritime security, protection of sea lanes, and asserting India's influence in the Indian Ocean Region.

India and the United States signed a [10-year Defence Framework Agreement](#) on October 31, 2025, in Kuala Lumpur during the ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting. The pact, exchanged between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, aims to establish a unified vision and policy direction to guide bilateral defence collaboration over the next decade. It encompasses joint exercises, defence technology innovation, industrial partnership, military interoperability across land, air, sea, space, and cyberspace, as well as maritime domain awareness. The signing follows earlier discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump in February, where the two sides had announced plans for the new 10-year defence framework. In a [statement](#), the Ministry of Defence said the 2025 framework is intended to provide a unified vision and policy direction to deepen defence cooperation. It said the framework will usher in a new era in the already strong defence partnership between the two countries and marks a new chapter in further transforming it over the next 10 years.

Despite ongoing trade and tariff tensions, the defence partnership is prioritised and insulated as a critical pillar of bilateral relations between India and US. Over the next ten years, the framework shows that defence and strategic interests can transcend immediate bilateral issues.

Other Development

[Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region \(IFC-IOR\) hosts the third edition of its flagship event – Maritime Information Sharing Workshop](#)

[India will host the International Fleet Review \(IFR\) 2026, Exercise MILAN 2026, and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium \(IONS\) Conclave of Chiefs in Feb 2026 at Visakhapatnam](#)



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org