



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

## INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

August 6, 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:

**Southeast Asia:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed President of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr, during his State Visit to India, at Hyderabad House, on August 5, 2025.

Source: [X/@MEAIndia](https://twitter.com/MEAIndia)

**East Asia:** China and Russia held the Joint Sea-2025 naval exercise at Vladivostok, Russia, on August 1, 2025.

Source: [China Military Online](https://china-military-online.com)

**Indian Ocean Region:** Indian Naval Ships INS Delhi, INS Shakti, and INS Kiltan arrived in Manila, Philippines, to participate in the first-ever bilateral maritime exercise with the Philippine Navy from August 3 to 4, 2025.

Source: [X/@indiannavy](https://twitter.com/indiannavy)

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◇ <i>US President Donald Trump's expected meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev at the White House on August 8</i>

## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian [visited Pakistan](#) from August 2-3 and held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif. The Iranian President was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, Defence Minister Brig Gen Aziz Nasirzadeh, and the governor of Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province. The discussions emphasised bolstering [bilateral cooperation](#), augmenting annual trade, energy collaboration and border security. During a joint press conference, Prime Minister Sharif affirmed Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy. The Iranian President also met with President Zardari and Army Chief Field Marshal Munir.

*The relationship between Pakistan and Iran has seen improvements in the last year, with both countries working together on border management, Afghan refugees, and trade. Following the 12-day Iran-Israel conflict, Pakistan might be acting as a mediator between Tehran and Washington.*

On August 5, marking the anniversary of the Awami League government's downfall under Sheikh Hasina, Professor Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser to the Interim Government of Bangladesh, presented the '[July Declaration](#)' during a public event. This document will provide official state and constitutional recognition to the July 2024 mass uprising. Professor Yunus stated in a later [televised address](#) that Bangladesh's elections would be in February 2026.

*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.*

The Pakistani government has escalated the [third phase of the forced deportation](#) of Afghan migrants. The deportation procedure has also been expedited in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, following Sindh and Punjab. Pakistan's Ministry of Interior announced: "All provincial governments are instructed that henceforth, Afghan nationals lacking valid visas and passports in Pakistan are considered to be in violation of [the law](#), and must be apprehended and repatriated." In the meantime, senior representatives of the IOM are [visiting Afghanistan](#), as the forced deportation of Afghan migrants from Iran has sharply increased. The purpose of this visit is to assess the escalating humanitarian crisis and reinforce emergency response initiatives for those who have returned.

*Pakistan and Iran have forcibly deported 1.2 million and 2 million Afghans, respectively, during the past year, which has precipitated a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, a nation already grappling with resource scarcity. The new wave of deportations will further aggravate the situation.*

## **Other Developments**

[Tajikistan reports surge in border clashes with Afghanistan's drug traffickers](#)

[India builds road in Bhutan for strategic access near China border](#)

[Pakistan Army has inducted Z-10ME attack helicopters](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The President of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., is paying a [State Visit to India](#) from August 4 to 8, 2025. This is the first visit by President Marcos Jr, son of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, who was the first Philippine President to visit India, in 1976. On August 5, Prime Minister Modi and President Marcos held bilateral talks following a ceremonial reception. They announced the establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the two countries. Following the talks, [Prime Minister Modi stated](#), “India and Philippines are friends by choice and partners by destiny”. [President Marcos said](#), “India is now only the fifth country to hold strategic partner status with the Philippines – signifying a shared commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific”. The two leaders also witnessed the signing and exchange of several agreements and terms of reference, including those facilitating military-to-military staff talks between their respective air forces, armies, and navies, as well as enhanced maritime cooperation between their coast guards.

*The elevation of India–Philippines relations to a Strategic Partnership signifies a pivotal geopolitical development, as it deepens defence and maritime cooperation between two key democracies in the Indo-Pacific – underscoring their shared commitment to counterbalance China's assertiveness, safeguard regional sea lanes, and promote a free, open, and rules-based order.*

On [August 4](#), officials from Thailand and Cambodia met in Malaysia for the start of border talks, a week after [a fragile ceasefire](#) brought an end to an eruption of five days of deadly clashes between the two countries. Prior to this meeting, on August 3 Malaysian Defense Minister Mohamed Khaled Nordin held a trilateral video conference with his Cambodian and Thai counterparts, Gen. Tea Seiha and Gen. Natthaphon Narkphanit, respectively. Following this meeting on August 4, [there will be a key General Border Committee \(GBC\) meeting on August 7](#), which is expected to be led by the Thai and Cambodian defence ministers. The Malaysian defense minister said the upcoming GBC meeting will include observers from Malaysia, the US, and China, reflecting international interest in ensuring a peaceful resolution to the border standoff.

*The ongoing border discussions between Thailand and Cambodia with ASEAN as a mediator highlights the organisation's evolving role as a regional stabiliser and diplomatic convener amid the rising internal security dynamics giving them more credibility.*

On [July 31](#), the military junta of Myanmar ended the nationwide state of emergency by revoking Order No. 1/2021- which was initiated to justify the military coup on February 1, 2021- through Order No. 1/2025 signed by Min Aung Hlaing. According to [state-run MRTV](#), Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) dissolved the State Administration Council (SAC), forming a new Union government, led by U Nyo Saw as Prime Minister (PM), alongside a newly created State Security and Peace Commission chaired by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

*While it is obvious that Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is still trying to consolidate his power, the ending of the nationwide state of emergency signals a tactical shift by the junta to project a political façade of normalcy in order to reduce international sanctions and regional pressure from ASEAN and the United States.*

## Other Developments

[US tariffs: Myanmar, Laos, Syria hit with steepest levies](#)

[Thailand Approves Gripen Jet Purchase After Cambodia Clash](#)

[Malaysia Agreed to \\$150B in Purchases as Part of US Tariff Deal: Minister](#)



## East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

Japan and Australia have strengthened their defence relations. On August 5, 2025, [Australia announced a landmark USD 6 billion deal](#) to acquire 11 Mogami-class stealth frigates from Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. This is Japan's largest defence export deal since World War II. The advanced frigates, equipped with long-range missile capabilities, will replace Australia's ageing Anzac-class vessels. As part of a broader military restructure aimed at deterring China, the deal will expand its major warship fleet from 11 to 26. While the first three ships will be built overseas, the remaining will be constructed in Australia.

*As natural partners with shared strategic vulnerabilities in the region, Japan and Australia are deepening cooperation. The acquisition also underscores Australia's commitment to strengthening defence capabilities, complementing the AUKUS nuclear submarine program and in alignment with its plan of raising defence spending to 2.4% of GDP.*

[On August 3, Russia and China began a joint naval exercise, Maritime Interaction-2025, in the Sea of Japan.](#) The exercise, which concluded on August 5, involved drills in artillery, anti-submarine warfare, air defence, and search-and-rescue operations. Participating vessels from the two countries were a Russian anti-submarine ship, two Chinese destroyers, diesel-electric submarines, and a Chinese submarine rescue vessel. This is particularly critical, especially amid heightened tensions following former President Donald Trump's announcement to deploy two nuclear submarines in the region.

*This ongoing military cooperation between Russia and China, reinforcing their "no-limits" strategic partnership, is aimed at deterring common adversaries and counterbalancing Western influence in the Indo-Pacific.*

### Other Developments

[The 5th Consular Consultation between Japan and Australia](#)

[Korea-China Foreign Ministry Spokespersons' Meeting Held](#)

[Former UK PM Johnson rejects China's bullying of Taiwan, calls for deeper ties with West](#)

[Taiwan Investigates TSMC Employees Over Possible Trade Secret Theft](#)

[China enforces Covid-like measures amid Chikungunya outbreak](#)



## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

According to reports on August 6, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is urging the country's military to pursue a ["full conquest" of the Gaza Strip](#). PM Netanyahu warned that if the IDF Chief of Staff disagreed with this decision, he should resign. US President Donald Trump expressed no concern about Israel's plan to conquer Gaza, but rather focused on getting more [humanitarian aid into the region](#). In line with this, US Special Envoy for the Middle East Steve Witkoff visited the US-backed [Gaza Humanitarian Foundation](#) (GHF) in Rafah on August 1.

*Israel's plans to conquer Gaza indicate an impasse in the Qatar-mediated negotiations between Israel and Hamas regarding a hostage deal and a ceasefire agreement.*

On July 30, the "New York Declaration" was adopted at the United Nations High-Level Conference on the "Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution". In this joint statement, the Arab League and Turkey, for the first time, [condemned Hamas's terror attack on Israel](#) on October 7, 2023. They called for the disarmament of Hamas and the establishment of a Palestinian State through the [unification of Gaza and the West Bank](#) under the Palestinian Authority, as well as the eventual integration of Palestine into the Middle East as a whole. Notwithstanding, on August 4, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, visited an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, declaring the region as the ["mountains of Judea and Samaria"](#) that belong to the Jewish people.

*The UN conference on the Palestine Question was largely symbolic, as the US and Israel's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian State will continue to hinder the two-state solution.*

### Other Developments

[Renewed sectarian clashes in south Syria kill four](#)

[US must agree compensation before nuclear talks, Iran's foreign minister says](#)

[U.S. To Scale Up Sanctions On Iran's Key Financier China](#)

## Central Asia

by

Divya Rai

According to [reports](#), US President Donald Trump is scheduled to host Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev at the White House on August 8, 2025, for peace talks aimed at advancing a long-delayed peace agreement between the two countries. According to the Armenian government, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan will visit Washington on August 7 and 8 to attend a trilateral meeting with Trump and Aliyev. The talks are focused on promoting peace, prosperity, and economic cooperation in the region, with a possibility that a peace agreement will be announced after the meeting. Armenia and Azerbaijan [have a decades-long conflict](#) over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but with a predominantly ethnic Armenian population, which Azerbaijan regained control over in 2023. Despite prior draft agreements and recent talks, a final peace deal has remained elusive.

*The meeting is viewed as a part of the U.S.'s wider initiative to reinforce its leadership in resolving significant international conflicts. Following earlier unsuccessful negotiations led by the U.S. in Abu Dhabi in July 2025, reaching a final peace agreement will enhance stability in the South Caucasus region.*

Kazakhstan's Energy Minister Yerlan Akkenzhenov announced at a briefing that Russia has [proposed](#) increasing its oil transit to China through the Atasu-Alashankou pipeline in Kazakhstan by 2.5 million tonnes annually. Yerlan Akkenzhenov stated that the proposal is under technical review by Kazakhstan-China Pipeline LLP, the joint venture operated by KazTransOil JSC (Kazakhstan) and CNODC (China), to determine whether additional pumping stations or additives are needed to handle the higher volume. The Atasu-Alashankou pipeline spans 965 kilometres and facilitates the export of both Kazakh and Russian crude to China. In 2024, the approximately 10 million tonnes of Russian oil transported via this route generated about \$150 million in transit fees for Kazakhstan, calculated at \$15 per tonne.

*The proposal from Russia to increase oil transit via the Atasu-Alashankou pipeline aligns with Kazakhstan's broader strategy to boost oil exports and transit volumes through multiple corridors and enhance energy cooperation with Russia, China, and other players.*

The [recent spat](#) between Azerbaijan and Russia centres on Azerbaijan's removal of a statue of Ivan Aivazovsky, a 19th-century Russian artist of Armenian descent, in Khankendi (formerly Stepanakert), the Nagorno-Karabakh capital. The statue was installed in December 2021 by Russian peacekeeping forces, but Azerbaijani officials claim it was placed without their permission. The monument was demolished on July

29, 2025, coinciding with Aivazovsky's birthday, provoking sharp criticism from Russian officials. Russian authorities, including Konstantin Zatulin, deputy head of the Russian Duma's Committee on CIS Affairs, [condemned](#) the removal as an "act of barbarism". The issue inflamed tensions further because Russian media continued to use the Armenian name "Stepanakert" for the city, while Azerbaijan insists on the name "Khankendi" after recapturing the territory in 2023. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry responded sharply, calling such references disrespectful and threatening punitive measures against Russian journalists unless an apology is issued.

*Azerbaijan's removal of the statue has triggered a diplomatic backlash from Russia, with accusations exchanged over cultural disrespect and territorial nomenclature, deepening the rift between the two countries.*

### Other Developments

[Armenia and the United States are scheduled to conduct their joint military exercises "Eagle Partner 2025" from August 12 to 20, 2025, in Armenia](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura arrived in Singapore to take part in the [32nd edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise \(SIMBEX-25\)](#) from July 28- August 2, 2025. SIMBEX-25 commenced with the Harbour Phase, featuring Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), professional interactions, operational discussions, and familiarisation visits aboard participating vessels, including RSN Vigilant and RSN Supreme. The Sea Phase will include advanced operational drills such as air defence exercises, cross-deck helicopter operations, precision targeting, complex maneuvering, and Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations. The exercise marks yet another milestone in the enduring maritime partnership between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

*SIMBEX remains a cornerstone of India-Singapore defence cooperation. The exercise has evolved from modest anti-submarine warfare drills to complex multidimensional naval operations involving surface, air, and underwater tactics. As maritime challenges grow, SIMBEX continues to serve as a vital platform for both nations to share expertise, and project a collaborative approach to regional security.*

The [first-ever bilateral maritime exercise](#) between India and the Philippines took place from August 3 to 4, 2025, in the South China Sea. This activity, officially termed a "bilateral maritime cooperative activity," marked a significant step in defense cooperation and maritime engagement between the two nations. The Indian Navy participated with [ships](#) including the guided missile destroyer INS Delhi, the tanker INS Shakti, and the corvette INS Kiltan, while the Philippine Navy deployed the frigates BRP Miguel Malvar and BRP Jose Rizal. The maritime exercise coincided with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s visit to India from August 4 to 8, 2025, highlighting growing strategic partnership between the two countries.

*India's participation in the first-ever bilateral naval exercise with the Philippines in the disputed South China Sea and the strategic partnership being elevated between India and the Philippines signify India stepping up its engagement in Indo-Pacific maritime security to support a rules-based order and freedom of navigation.*

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi [visited](#) Japan from July 30 to August 2, 2025, on an official four-day visit aimed at strengthening bilateral defence relations between India and Japan. This visit was part of the ongoing efforts under the India-Japan 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership,' with a particular focus on enhancing maritime cooperation. During his visit, Admiral Tripathi held high-level bilateral discussions with senior Japanese officials, including Minister of Defense Mr. Nakatani Gen, Vice-

Minister of Defense Masuda Kazuo, and Admiral Saito Akira, Chief of Staff of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The discussions centered on maritime security, technological collaboration, naval interoperability, and identifying new avenues to deepen naval synergy.

*The visit underscores deep and growing partnership between India and Japan in the maritime domain, particularly in new avenues to strengthen naval synergy and interoperability, and technological collaboration for regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.*

## **Other Developments**

[Himgiri, the third ship of Nilgiri Class \(Project 17A\) and the first of the class built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers \(GRSE\), was delivered to the Indian Navy](#)

[Second edition of India-UAE Defence Industry Partnership was held on the sidelines of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee \(JDCC\)](#)

[Inaugural edition of India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue was held in New Delhi](#)



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