



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### November 29, 2023



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Delhi Policy Group  
Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003  
[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)



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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, China, and Central Asia of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open-source media. The research team includes Angana Guha Roy, Ph.D., Shreyas Deshmukh, Sanket Joshi, Anshita Shukla and Jayantika Rao T.V, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at [sanket@dpg.org.in](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

### Cover Image:

**Southeast Asia:** Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan and Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong at the summit in Tokyo on November 27, 2023. Source: [Prime Minister's Office of Japan/Official Website](#)

**East Asia:** Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi attends the 10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa in Busan, South Korea on November 26, 2023. Source: [The State Council of the People's Republic of China](#)

**West Asia:** Israeli hostages held in Gaza returned home on November 26 after 50 days in Hamas captivity. Source: [Official X Handle/Israel Defence Forces](#)

**Central Asia:** Group photo of the heads of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation member states during a meeting in Minsk, on November 24, 2023. Source: [President of Russia](#)

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## Contents

### South Asia

Shreyas Deshmukh ..... 1

### Southeast Asia

Anshita Shukla ..... 3

### East Asia

Anshita Shukla ..... 4

### West Asia

Sanket Joshi..... 5

### China

Angana Guha Roy ..... 6

### Central Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V. .... 7

## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

On India-Bangladesh [Foreign Office Consultations](#) (FOCs) were held in New Delhi on November 24. There were comprehensive discussions on a wide range of issues covering border and security, trade, commerce and connectivity, cooperation in water, power and energy sectors, people to people ties and development cooperation in Bangladesh. Dhaka [requested New Delhi](#) to expedite the process of signing the Teesta River water deal and other treaties concerning shared rivers during the meeting.

President Dr Muizzu of Maldives led a high-level Ministerial Delegation for his first overseas official visit to Türkiye from November 26-29. At the bilateral meeting, [President Erdoğan](#) said that "President Dr Muizzu's visit will help to start a new chapter in the bilateral relations between Türkiye and the Maldives." In a [meeting with Chairman](#) and Speaker of the National Assembly of Türkiye, and other parliamentarians, Dr Muizzu highlighted the strategic geographical location of the Maldives and pointed out the country's exclusive economic zone which is significant due to geographical dispersion. President Dr Muizzu also held meeting with the Treasury and Finance minister of Türkiye Mehmet Şimşek in which he shared his [plan](#) to further strengthen and expand the Maldivian economy which includes accelerating the completion of Velana International Airport development project.

On November 23, thousands of demonstrators gathered in Kathmandu calling for the [restoration of the monarchy](#) and the country's prior position as an officially Hindu state. To stop the march, police used water cannons and tear gas and beat demonstrators with batons. Meanwhile, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and leader of the main opposition K P Sharma Oli held talks on November 28, and [agreed on](#) there should be no compromise on secularism and the republic.

Pakistan's envoy to Moscow Muhammad Khalid Jamali has said that his country has applied for [BRICS membership](#) and sought Russia's support. There has been no comment from the Foreign Office without whose approval Jamali (who is yet to present his credentials) would not have made this revelation. Jamali said Islamabad planned to join the group under Russia's presidency next year.

## Other Developments

[Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves continued to fall with the net reserves standing now at USD 15.82 billion. In August 2021, it was USD \\$48.0 billion.](#)

[Qatari State Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives in Kathmanon two-day visit on November 23](#)

[Bangladesh has proposed a mechanism between Nepal, India and Bangladesh to enhance trilateral cooperation in the energy sector.](#)

[Afghanistan embassy announces permanent closure of its diplomatic mission in New Delhi](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The President of Vietnam, Vo Van Thuong, commenced his [first official visit to Japan](#) on November 27. At their summit in Tokyo, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and President Thuong agreed to elevate the relationship to a "comprehensive strategic partnership." The two sides agreed to increase defence-related exchanges, discuss cooperation under Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) program, and expand cooperation in the fields of economic security, energy, digital transformation, people-to-people exchanges and regional security. President Thuong remarked that "upgraded ties opened a new chapter in bilateral relations as the two countries become even more closely aligned".

The Philippines and Australia commenced their [first joint sea and air patrols](#) in the South China Sea on November 25. The three-day exercises in the West Philippines Sea will witness the participation of two navy vessels and five surveillance aircraft from the Philippines, and the frigate Toowoomba and P8-A maritime surveillance aircraft from Australia. The Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles stated that the joint patrols demonstrate that "Australia and the Philippines are firmly committed to peaceful, secure and prosperous region, where sovereignty and agreed rules and norms are respected".

Indonesia held [a meeting with the main stakeholders](#) in the Myanmar military conflict in Jakarta from November 20-21. The meeting involved pro-democracy groups, armed groups belonging to ethnic minorities, and "interlocutors" for the ruling junta, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The main objective of the meeting was to "bring conflicting parties to an inclusive dialogue, to reduce violence, and to ensure safe deliveries of humanitarian assistance for the people of Myanmar affected by the conflict", according to the statement released on November 24. All sides signalled a "positive indication" on the possibility of convening inclusive talks soon.

### Other Developments

[China, US exchange accusations over US vessel in South China Sea](#)

[China pledges deeper trade ties with Vietnam](#)

## East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The [10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) between Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea was convened in Busan, Republic of Korea on November 26. The ministers agreed to renew trilateral cooperation in the latest move to ease tensions between the three countries. Chinese FM [Wang Yi urged](#) that the three countries to promote East Asia cooperation and "adhere to open regionalism, oppose ideological demarcation, and resist turning regional cooperation into camp politics". The Ministers also agreed to create conditions for a China-Japan-South Korea leaders' Summit and step up all relevant preparatory work.

On November 24, top diplomats of the United States, South Korea and Japan held a [telephone conversation](#) regarding the recent launch of a spy satellite by North Korea. The representatives of the three countries strongly condemned the launch, as stated by the US State Department. The statement read that the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin and Japan Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa "strongly condemned the (Nov 21) launch for its destabilising effect on the region". The diplomats urged the international community to "come together to prevent (North Korea's) procurement activities and stem the flow of revenue supporting its unlawful WMD (weapons of mass destruction) and ballistic missile programs".

Taiwan reported [Chinese military activity near the Taiwan Strait](#) on November 22. Taiwan's Defence Ministry detected J-10 fighters, J-16 fighters, H-6 bombers and early warning aircraft carrying out overseas missions. Eleven of these aircrafts crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line flying in airspace to the centre and south-west of the island, working with Chinese warships to carry out "joint combat readiness patrols", as reported by Taiwan's Defence Ministry.

### Other Developments

[Japan, China foreign ministers agree plan to hold security talks, improve ties](#)

[South Korea court orders Japan to compensate 'comfort women', reverses earlier ruling](#)

[Australian warship sails through Taiwan Strait](#)



## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The US and Qatar confirmed that Israel and Hamas had agreed to extend a four-day temporary [truce in Gaza](#) for another two days on November 27. Hamas began releasing [Israeli hostages](#) on November 24, and Israel has reportedly released [180 Palestinian prisoners](#). President Biden welcomed the release of the hostages and reiterated that the [US will not cease its efforts](#) until Hamas releases all hostages. Since the conflict began, more than 14,800 [Palestinians have been killed in Gaza](#), most of them civilians.

US Secretary of State, [Antony Blinken will visit Tel Aviv](#) and Ramallah for the third time since Hamas attacked Israel in October 2023. Secretary Blinken aims to find a way to extend a temporary ceasefire in Gaza and get more hostages released. Meanwhile, the Arab States and the European Union held the 8th Regional Forum of the [Union for the Mediterranean](#) in Barcelona on November 26-27. At the forum, the EU's Foreign Policy Chief, Josep Borrell, called for the Palestinian Authority (PA) to govern Gaza, while both sides reiterated the need for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

On November 26, the 18th [India-Iran Foreign Office Consultations](#) (FOC) held in Tehran were jointly chaired by India's Foreign Secretary, Vinay Kwatra, and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Dr. Ali Bagheri Kani. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including connectivity projects such as Chabahar port, trade and economic issues, agricultural cooperation, and capacity-building initiatives. Further, they discussed current regional and global issues, including the situation in Afghanistan and Gaza. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra also met with officials from the United Arab Emirates in Abu Dhabi to discuss [expanding bilateral relations](#) and cooperation under the I2U2 framework.

### Other Developments

[Visit of Prime Minister of India to the United Arab Emirates for the World Climate Action Summit](#)

[Joe Biden's call for a two-state solution as PM Netanyahu plans Israel's 'full force' after Gaza truce](#)

[India welcomes Israel-Hamas truce deal, reaffirms 'zero-tolerance' to terrorism](#)



## China

by

Angana Guha Roy

[China has provided the World Health Organization \(WHO\) with data](#) about a recent pneumonia outbreak among children in the country. The WHO publicly requested this information using the International Health Regulations mechanism after receiving reports of “undiagnosed pneumonia” in northern China from ProMed, the outbreak surveillance network that first alerted the world to Covid-19. Some Western health experts have suggested that the pneumonia outbreak is linked to China's stringent pandemic lockdown.

Following the European Union's constant assertion on China's unethical coercive economic policies, [China has reportedly lifted its “economic pressure” on Lithuania](#). Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said talks were ongoing to end a feud with Beijing that flared when Lithuania in 2021 permitted the opening of a controversially named Taiwanese office in its capital, Vilnius. In a simultaneous development, Taiwan is working to set up a non-diplomatic representative office in Estonia. The move comes after [Estonia's cabinet decided to revise the country's approach to Taiwan](#) and allow it to open a diplomatic office in Tallinn.

[The 11th China-Europe Forum was held in Brussels on November 23](#) by Friends of Europe, a Brussels-based non-profit think tank for EU policy, wherein Chinese Ambassador to the European Union (EU) Fu Cong dismissed a recent claim made by the EU that China is exporting its overcapacity of electric vehicles (EV) to the European market. Responding to the EU's accusation, FU asked, “If finding an overseas market can be interpreted as overcapacity automatically, then what are the European companies doing in the Chinese market?”

### Other Developments

[China hits back at West's de-risking strategy at supply chain expo](#)

[Xi Jinping calls legal backing on foreign affairs an 'urgent task' for China.](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

[The Collective Security Council](#) of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation convened in Minsk, Belarus on November 23. The participants engaged in a constructive dialogue about improving the collective security system and addressing the current international and regional challenges. During his address, Russian President Putin highlighted that the CSTO has formed stronger ties with its "[natural partners](#)" like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The Armenian President was [absent](#) from the meeting, indicating the growing strain in Armenia's relations with Russia.

[On November 22](#), a joint meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Republic of Belarus, which brought together the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Defence Ministers, and the Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils of the CSTO. The parties exchanged views on the international and regional agenda focussing on current events and trends in the security situation in the CSTO area of responsibility. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus Sergei Aleinik said that the Belarusian Chairmanship fell during the period of "a systemic crisis in international relations and an unprecedented aggravation of the military and political situation on the Eurasian continent".

On the [25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia \(SPECA\)](#), the first Summit of Heads of State was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 24. In his opening speech, President of Azerbaijan, [Ilham Aliyev stressed](#) that the member states have come a long way since SPECA's inception when the countries were taking their "first steps as independent countries". He argued that while wars and conflicts are ravaging the world, the member states have enjoyed peace, stability, and security with significant accomplishments and success. During the summit, a SPECA Trust Fund was established wherein Azerbaijan pledged 3.5 million US dollars to the trust fund. President of Tajikistan, [Emomali Rahmon suggested](#) that the Fund should be used for "simplification of trade procedures and removal of artificial barriers, expansion of multi-modal transport and economic corridors, development of green economy and digitization".

## Other Developments

[Russia supplies two divisions of S-300 missile systems to Tajikistan](#)

[SCO Commends Kazakhstan's Chairmanship within Organization](#)

[Kyrgyz President Says Events In Gaza Strip Cause Of 'Deep Concern'](#)

[President of Uzbekistan discusses cooperation projects with delegation of Saudi Arabia](#)



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