



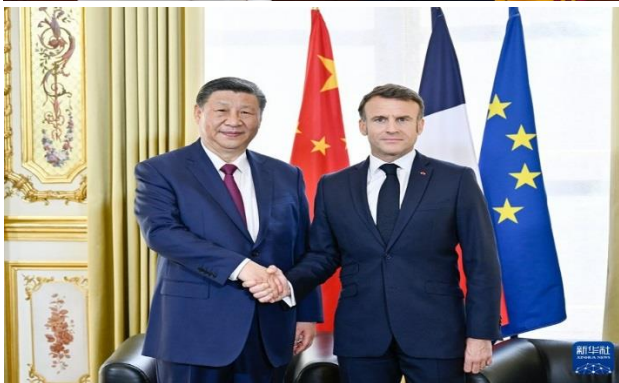
# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

May 8, 2024



Volume II, Issue 19 | May 8, 2024

**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, Central Asia and Indian Ocean Region of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open-source media. The research team includes Shreyas Deshmukh, Sanket Joshi, Anshita Shukla, 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).

### Cover Image:

**South Asia:** Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko held bilateral meeting with Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka on May 4, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

**Southeast Asia:** The U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin with Japanese Defence Minister Minoru Kihara, Australian Defence Chief Richard Marles and Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro in Honolulu on May 2, 2024. (Source: [Lloyd Austin/Official X Account](#))

**East Asia:** Chinese President Xi Jinping with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris, France on May 7, 2024. (Source: [Spokesperson of MOFA China/Official X Account](#))

**Indian Ocean Region:** The Indian Naval Ships – INS Delhi, INS Shakti, and INS Kiltan arrived at Singapore on May 6. (Source: [Spokesperson- Ministry of Defence Twitter Handle](#))

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko held a bilateral meeting with Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, and also [called on](#) President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena during her official visit to Sri Lanka on May 4. Minister Kamikawa stated that "Sri Lanka is an important partner situated in a [strategic location](#) on the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean, and Japan would like to actively work with Sri Lanka". She offered a vessel equipped with a sonar to be used for compiling maritime charts. Both sides agreed to work to resume [stalled bilateral projects](#), including a USD 1.5 billion Japanese-funded light railway.

After her visit to Sri Lanka, Minister Kamikawa arrived in Nepal on May 5, where she held a [bilateral meeting](#) with Narayan Kaji Shrestha, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal. The discussions focused on enhancing support and cooperation in Nepal's major [developmental priorities](#), including agriculture, hydropower, infrastructure development, connectivity, export promotion, industrial production, foreign investment and tourism sectors, among others.

Nepal has announced the printing of a [new Rs 100 currency note](#) with a map that shows the controversial territories of Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani as part of Nepal. India External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar [said that](#) "New Delhi's position on this matter is very clear. Kathmandu has unilaterally taken certain measures on their side. While both countries were engaged in talks to resolve boundary issues, Nepal's unilateral actions will not change the on-ground reality. Meanwhile, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal said that Nepal is in favour of resolving the row through [diplomatic means](#) and table talks with India.

A Saudi delegation led by Deputy Investment Minister Ibrahim Almubarak and comprising [50 investors](#) visited Pakistan from May 5-7. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured Saudi investors that they would get the [best facilities](#) possible and ease of doing business under the umbrella of the Special Investment and Facilitation Council (SIFC).

## Other Developments

[Pakistan Government striving to clear \\$2bn Chinese IPPs dues](#)

[Taliban face rare public uprising against their rule in northeastern Afghanistan](#)

[Tehran to fence 'Vulnerable Areas' on the Afghanistan border](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

On May 2, the [Defence Chiefs of the US, Japan, the Philippines, and Australia](#) convened their second joint meeting at Camp H. M. Smith, a U.S. Marine Corps base in Hawaii. The U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin held bilateral, trilateral, and quadrilateral engagements with Japanese Defence Minister Minoru Kihara, Australian Defence Chief Richard Marles, and Philippine Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro. In the [joint statement](#), the four sides expressed grave concern over the situation in the East and South China Seas and strongly objected to China's dangerous deployment of coast guard and maritime militia vessels in the South China Sea. The four sides agreed to undertake more joint maritime military exercises to increase interoperability through the sharing of information and intelligence.

The [26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting \(AISOM\)](#) was convened in New Delhi on May 3, 2024. The meeting was co-chaired by Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India along with Mr. Albert Chua, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. The Senior Officials' reviewed ASEAN-India relations across the three pillars of engagement, namely, political-security, economic, and socio-cultural and discussed the implementation of the Prime Minister's 12 Point Proposal announced at the 20th ASEAN-India Summit in 2023 in Jakarta.

### Other Developments

[Cambodia's former PM Hun Sen urges Myanmar junta chief to allow video call with Suu Kyi](#)

[Philippines, US repel mock foreign invaders in annual military exercises](#)

## East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Paris on May 6 for his [two-day state visit to France](#). During his meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, the two leaders agreed to expand cooperation in agri-food, finance, and other sectors, and advance joint R&D and innovation in areas including aviation, aerospace, and civil nuclear energy. The two sides signed various agreements in some sectors, such as electric vehicle batteries, and called for cooperation in other areas.

The Chinese leader Xi Jinping participated in the [trilateral meeting of China, France and the European Union \(EU\)](#) alongside French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the Élysée Palace, in Paris on May 6. The meeting aimed to ensure more balanced trade between the three countries. President Ursula stated that the main impediments in the bilateral relations were unequal market access and Chinese state subsidies. On the issue of "China's overcapacity", the leaders agreed to properly address economic and trade frictions through dialogue and consultation and accommodate each other's legitimate concerns.

On May 7, Taiwan reported that [four Chinese ships sailed through Taiwan's](#) "prohibited" waters. In the official statement, Taiwan's coastguard said that "the ships sailed out of our prohibited and restricted waters about an hour later". The agency urges China to "immediately stop behaviour that endangers navigation safety". This came after Taiwan's Defence Ministry reported that it had detected 26 Chinese aircraft and five naval vessels around the island on [May 3](#). It added that seventeen of the Chinese aircraft crossed the media line on the same day.

### Other Developments

[South Korea discusses joining part of Aukus pact with US, UK and Australia](#)

[North Korea plotting attacks on embassies, Seoul spy agency warns](#)

[China's new aircraft carrier conducts first sea trials: State media](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On May 7, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) took control of the Palestinian side of the [Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt](#), as part of a wider offensive against Hamas. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserted that the operation in Rafah serves two main objectives: [the elimination of Hamas](#) and the return of hostages. During his remarks at the '[Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)' held in Jerusalem on May 5, PM Netanyahu reiterated that international pressure will not prevent Israel from defending itself.

As the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, clashes have erupted between [pro-Palestine students and police](#) across US universities. Approximately 2,500 students were reportedly arrested by police. Meanwhile, President Biden warned of a "[ferocious surge](#)" in antisemitism in the US and around the world.

On May 7, during President Xi's visit to Paris, China and France issued a joint statement on the [situation in the Middle East](#). The two countries emphasised promoting the political settlement of the Iran nuclear issue, a concrete implementation of the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. In advance of Israel's offensive in Rafah, Houthi rebels in Yemen warned of an [increase in missile and drone attacks](#) against all ships traveling to or associated with Israeli ports.

### Other Developments

[Readout of President Joe Biden's Call with Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel](#)

[No end to Gaza war in exchange for hostage swap, Israel's Netanyahu says](#)



## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov arrived in Moscow to attend the [jubilee Eurasian Economic Union Summit](#) on May 8 and the celebrations of Victory Day in Moscow on May 9. Leaders of the Central Asian nations and other EAEU countries will gather for the jubilee EAEU summit, commemorating the 10th anniversary of signing the Eurasian Economic Union Treaty. Despite current tensions between Armenia and Russia, Armenian Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, who is currently the chair of the Union, will [chair the jubilee summit](#) and also hold a meeting with the Russian President.

The [15th Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation \(OIC\)](#) witnessed the [active participation of the Kyrgyz Republic delegation](#), led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aibek Moldogaziev, in Banjul, Gambia. Under the theme "Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development," the summit, held from May 2 to May 5, aimed to address pressing global challenges and foster cooperation among member states. The Kyrgyz delegation played a pivotal role, advocating for international initiatives championed by the Kyrgyz Republic, with a particular focus on disarmament and mountain-related issues, which were incorporated into the Final Communiqué.

### Other Developments

[Russia willing to show Armenia the CSTO door](#)

[China's Economic Forays In Central Asia Gives Rise To Discomfiture In Moscow](#)

[Mirzoyan Says Azerbaijan Unwilling To Recognize Armenia's Territorial Integrity](#)

[Foreign Ministers Of Azerbaijan and Armenia To Meet In Almaty on May 10 for Peace Treaty Negotiations](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On May 6, the Indian Naval Ships – Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan arrived in Singapore as part of the [operational deployment of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet](#) to the South China Sea. The delegation led by Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, Flag Officer Commanding the Eastern Fleet, Indian Navy, visited the Information Fusion Centre in Singapore on May 7, where they held deliberations on current maritime security threats and cross-pollination of ideas between IFC Singapore and IFC IOR.

On May 3, Vice Admiral B Siva Kumar, Controller Warship Production & Acquisition, and Shri B K Upadhyay, Chairman & Managing Director, GSL, presided over the Keel laying ceremony of the [first Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels \(NGOPV\)](#) at Goa Shipyard. On March 30, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) for construction of 11 indigenously designed NGOPVs. Under the contract, seven ships will be constructed by GSL shipyard and the remaining four ships by GRSE shipyard.

The [Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo \(SMART\)](#) system, designed and developed by the DRDO, was successfully tested on May 1. SMART is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system to enhance the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedoes.

### Other Development

[On May 3, the 7<sup>th</sup> India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation was held in New Delhi.](#)

[INS Sumedha, mission deployed for antipiracy ops in the Arabian Sea provided critical medical assistance to an Iranian FV.](#)

[Jordan, Egypt, Djibouti, and Yemen, alongside the Royal Saudi Forces participated at the naval exercise Red Wave-7 at King Faisal Naval Base, Jeddah.](#)

[On May 3, the 4<sup>th</sup> high-level core group meeting was held between the Maldives and India in New Delhi](#)

[On May 7, the 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic dialogue meeting was held between Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom in Colombo.](#)



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India

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