



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

July 3, 2024



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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, 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.

Cover Image:

South Asia: *Taliban representatives at the UN-led meet in Doha, July 1, 2024. Source: [Ariana News](#)*

Southeast Asia: *Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong and Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro at the 9th Meeting of their Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea in Manila on July 2, 2024. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of People's Republic of China](#)*

West Asia: *External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Doha on June 30, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Dr. S. Jaishankar](#)*

Indian Ocean Region: *Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi met his counterpart Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, CNS, Bangladesh Navy at the Naval Headquarters, Dhaka, July 1, 2024. Source: [Indian Navy Official Twitter Account](#)*

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

The third round of U.N.-led talks to explore engagement with Afghanistan was [held on June 30 and July 1](#) in Doha, Qatar. Representatives from [over 25 countries](#), and at least five international organizations participated in the closed-door session. Participants agreed to continue to engage with Afghanistan while the UN ruled out recognising the de facto regime unless the Taliban ended curbs on women's education and participation in public life. The Taliban delegation attended the meeting for the first time. India was represented by JP Singh, [Joint Secretary](#) PAI division in the Ministry of External Affairs.

On July 2, CPN (UML) Chairmen KP Sharma Oli and Nepali Congress Chairman Sher Bahadur Deuba [announced an alliance](#) to form the new government. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Chairman of CPN (MC) said he will not resign following the withdrawal of support by CPN (UML). Agreement, reached between Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and KP Sharma Oli, is set to see Oli becoming the [Prime Minister](#) for the next one and a half years, followed by Deuba for the remaining term until the next election. This development is set to collapse the government formed on March 4, led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.

Following the approval by the IMF for the Extended Fund Facility Programme for Sri Lanka on March 20, 2023, the Official Creditors Committee (OCC) held talks among Sri Lanka's bilateral creditors to finalize a plan for restructuring Sri Lanka's debt. and [signed the Memorandum of Understanding](#) on debt restructuring on June 26. As one of the Co-Chairs of the OCC, along with France and Japan, India which was also the first creditor nation to convey financing assurances to IMF, paved the way for Sri Lanka to secure the IMF programme. On July 2, President Ranil Wickremesinghe announced in [Sri Lanka's Parliament](#) that an agreement was reached on June 26 with Sri Lanka's official creditors about debt repayment.

Other Developments

[UN reports nearly 600,000 Afghan migrants returned from Iran and Pakistan by May 2024](#)

[PM Hasina: Bangladesh-India relationship is model for others](#)

[Mahinda Rajapaksa meets Xi Jinping](#)

[Fitch downgrades Maldives' long-term IDR to 'CCC+'](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The 9th meeting of the [Bilateral Consultation](#) Mechanism on the South China Sea (BCM), co-chaired by the Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro and the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong, was convened in Manila on July 2. This comes after the latest escalation between the Chinese coast guard and Philippine naval vessels in the Second Thomas Shoal on June 17. The two countries held "frank and constructive discussions" and reaffirmed their commitment to de-escalating tensions in the South China Sea. The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines stated that "both sides recognized that there is a need to restore trust, rebuild confidence, and create conditions conducive to productive dialogue and interaction", according to the official statement.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, made an [official visit to Thailand](#) from June 25-26, 2024. During his visit, he met with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Anutin Charnvirakul and Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Maris Sangiampongsa. The leaders discussed the shared interest of Singapore and Thailand in developing carbon credits collaboration, digital economy, regional energy connectivity, and close defence cooperation. Dr. Balakrishnan officiated the opening of the 14th Coordinating Meeting of the Singapore–Thailand Civil Service Exchange Programme (CSEP14) themed "Embarking on a Green Partnership in a Digitalised Era". He also called on the President of the Privy Council General Surayud Chulanont and Privy Councillor General Prayut Chan-o-cha.

Other Developments

[Former Myanmar president makes rare trip to China](#)

[Indonesia bets on Japan tie-up to boost its nascent hydrogen industry](#)

East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On June 27, it was reported that China's Communist Party [expelled former defence minister](#) Li Shangfu and his predecessor Wei Fenghe for "serious violations of discipline", a euphemism for corruption. Li was removed last October without explanation after he vanished from public view amid a series of high-level shakeups. Chinese authorities on June 27 made the [first official confirmation](#) that graft allegations are behind his dramatic disappearance. In another sign of the scale of the high-level purges, Li's predecessor, Wei Fenghe, was also expelled from the Communist Party on the same day over alleged corruption.

After Japanese Defense Minister Kihara Minoru announced at a press conference that Japan's Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF) would [conduct a series of joint drills](#) with the air forces of Germany, France, and Spain in Japan in July, Russia publicly opposed this move. On [June 29](#), Russia's Foreign Ministry, in a note on its website, said a protest had been issued to Japan's Embassy in connection with the announcement. Russia said that Tokyo's plans to hold joint military exercises on the island of Hokkaido and accused Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of placing his country "on a path to dangerous escalation." Furthermore, the ministry stated, "We view such activity as a potential threat to the security of the Russian Federation".

On [June 29](#), senior diplomats of South Korea and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to closely working together to deter North Korean threats amid the growing military cooperation between Russia and the North. First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun and Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masataka Okano reached an understanding during a bilateral strategic diplomatic dialogue in Tokyo. They voiced "grave concerns" over Moscow and Pyongyang pledging mutual military assistance in a new treaty signed between their leaders at talks in Pyongyang last week. After their meeting, Seoul's Foreign Ministry stated, "The two ministers shared the need for close coordination between South Korea and Japan, as well as trilaterally with the United States and together with the international community, to work to deter North Korean threats amid the serious security situation posed by the North's deepening military cooperation with Russia".

Other Developments

[U.S. Adds Four Firms To Trade Restriction List For China Military Links](#)

[How ready is China's military? Dramatic downfall of two defense ministers raises questions](#)

[Japan's Defense Ministry unveils first basic policy on use of AI](#)

[Failed North Korean missile test may have fallen near capital Pyongyang, South Korea says](#)

[Korea, Vietnam Host Business Forum To Promote Bilateral Economic Ties](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On June 30, External Affairs Minister [Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Qatar](#) and met the country's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. As part of the discussion, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations in areas such as [trade, investment, energy, and technology](#), as well as regional and global issues, including the Gaza conflict.

Iran's UN mission warned Israel that a full-scale [military attack against Hezbollah in Lebanon](#) would result in an obliterating war that would involve the entire axis of resistance. Hezbollah's deputy leader Sheikh Naim Qassem stressed that the group would [halt its attacks on Israel](#) if a ceasefire is reached in Gaza. Meanwhile, the United States and the European Union warned Hezbollah [not to engage in a conflict with Israel](#) that is beyond the capabilities of the Lebanese militant group.

As the war with Hamas rages on, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserted on June 27 that Iran seeks to topple regimes in Jordan and Saudi Arabia and that [defeating Hamas is the first step to stopping their plans](#).

Other Developments

[Report says IDF brass backing truce even if it leaves Hamas in power; PM: Won't happen](#)

[Russian oil imports surge to 13-month high, Saudi volumes crash to decade-low](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

In an [interview with Xinhua](#) on July 1, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit participants (scheduled for July 4) will urge the international community to initiate an honest and open global dialogue, adopt a new security paradigm, create a fair economic environment, and take the necessary steps to maintain the planet's cleanliness. Additionally, in the interview, Tokayev expressed his [support for China's Belt and Road Initiative \(BRI\)](#) and praised President Xi Jinping's concept of a community with a common destiny for humankind, which in the current international situation is gaining new relevance and is designed to promote the formation of an equal and multipolar world.

In turn, in a letter published by the Kazinform news agency, [China's leader Xi Jinping noted](#): "China is now Kazakhstan's largest trading partner and its top export destination on July 2. He also discussed the [progress made in bilateral relations](#) with Kazakhstan and outlined the growth he expects to discuss with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during his state visit to Kazakhstan as part of the SCO Summit. President Xi outlined plans to strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan and map out a new blueprint for their future cooperation within the SCO framework. The Chinese leader noted that the cooperation between China and Kazakhstan will be guided by four fundamental principles: mutual respect, good neighborly friendship, solidarity in trying times, and mutual benefit. These principles aim to ensure a sustained and steady growth of their bilateral relations.

On [July 1](#), Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to discuss support for reforms in the country and the UN. During their talks, the two leaders discussed a range of topics, including promoting global and regional security, stability, and sustainable development. They also focused on expanding multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and the UN and reviewed the progress of joint projects aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, both leaders exchanged views on current national and regional situations. The president expressed support for the secretary-general's initiatives on promoting international security and stability, reforming the UN and its principal organs, and organizing the Summit of the Future in New York later this year.

Other Developments

[UN Chief to Deliver Peace Message during Central Asia Tour](#)

[Turkmenistan to Start Cargo Transit via Iranian Railroads](#)

[Kyrgyz Banks Restrict Money Transfers to Russia](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

[Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff \(CNS\), Indian Navy](#) arrived in Bangladesh for a four-day official visit from July 1-4. The CNS held bilateral discussions with his counterpart Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, Chief of the Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy in Dhaka and reviewed the Passing Out Parade at Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) at Chittagong. The Admiral also called on Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina on July 2. The visit aims to consolidate India - Bangladesh bilateral defence relations and explore new avenues for naval cooperation.

The Indian Navy has undertaken port calls across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) as part of its efforts to promote the collaborative vision of SAGAR. [INS Sunayna entered Port Victoria](#), Seychelles on June 26 as part of her long-range deployment in the Southwest Indian Ocean Region.

As part of her ongoing deployment to Africa and Europe, the Indian Navy's frontline frigate, INS Tabar, [arrived at the port city of Alexandria, Egypt](#). The two Navies will conduct a Passage Exercise or PASSEX at sea.

On June 29, as part of an operational deployment [INS Ranvir arrived at Chattogram](#), Bangladesh. INS Ranvir will also participate in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)/ PASSEX with ships of the Bangladesh Navy.

On June 29, [third 25T Bollard Pull \(BP\) Tug](#), Bajrang was delivered to Indian Navy. The construction and delivery of three 25T BP Tug was undertaken with M/s Shoft Shipyard Pvt Ltd (M/s SSPL), an MSME.

Other Developments

[Indian Navy's multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik arrived at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to participate in 29th edition RIMPAC exercise.](#)

[GRSE Ltd will build advanced ocean-going tug for Bangladesh navy.](#)

[IMO sponsored maritime security training on control and compliance concluded in Mombasa, Kenya.](#)



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