

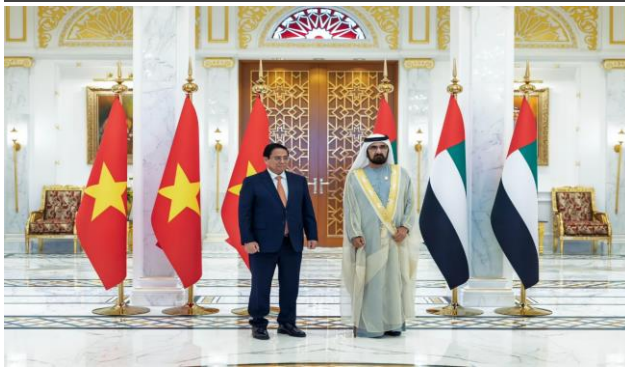


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

October 30, 2024



Volume II, Issue 44 | October 30, 2024

Delhi Policy Group

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

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.

Cover Image:

Southeast Asia: Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and UAE Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in Dubai on October 28, 2024. Source: [Rashid Al Maktoum/Official X Account](#)

West Asia: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met in Riyadh on October 23, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Antony Blinken](#)

Central Asia: During the 11th China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, the representatives signed agreements on cooperation on agriculture, new energy vehicle, infrastructure and other projects on October 27, 2024. Source: [The State Council of the People's Republic of China](#)

Indian Ocean Region: Indian Navy's Destroyer INS Delhi, German Navy's Frigate Baden-Württemberg and Tanker Frankfurt Am Main undertook the inaugural Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Bay of Bengal Region. Source: [PIB](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Pakistan is under international pressure to achieve political and economic stability and ensure a secure environment for international investors. During the week, [terrorist attacks](#) in [Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#) and Baluchistan claimed the lives of over 30 security personnel. A polio [vaccination campaign](#) in North Waziristan was halted due to [incidents of attacks](#) on vaccination teams in the area. Five workers responsible for [dam maintenance](#) lost their lives in the Panjgur district of Balochistan on October 29. Urging action, the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan called for Islamabad to take tangible and decisive action against terrorist organisations that are targeting [Chinese nationals](#) in the country. On October 23, over 60 members of the US House of Representatives penned a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden urging the release of [political detainees in Pakistan](#), including ex-PM Imran Khan.

The bi-annual talks led by the heads of the Border Security Force (BSF) and its Bangladeshi counterpart the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were to be tentatively held between November 18 and 22 in new Delhi, have been [postponed](#) following a change in plan by Bangladesh.

Sri Lankan police arrested three persons on suspicion of plotting an [attack against Israeli](#) tourists following a tip-off from Indian intelligence on October 24. The US embassy in Sri Lanka also issued a [warning](#) regarding a potential attack on Arugam Bay. Earlier, Israel's national security council urged its nationals to immediately leave certain tourist spots. Sri Lankan [security agencies](#) have increased vigilance in the area, and officials are on high alert.

Other Developments

[Iran announces deportation of 850,000 undocumented Afghan migrants](#)

[CSTO approves plan to strengthen Tajikistan-Afghanistan border](#)

[China offers Taliban duty-free trade, promising zero tariffs](#)

[Maldives President Dr. Muizzu announces salary cuts for political employees](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and UAE Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum signed the [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement](#) in Dubai on October 28, 2024. The Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien and UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi were also present at the signing. This agreement, the first free trade agreement that Hanoi has established with a Middle East country, comes after a year of negotiations. The agreement opened "a new era in the upgraded and increasingly substantive relationship between Vietnam and the UAE in particular and Arab countries in general", according to the official statement by Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade.

On October 24, Indonesia's Maritime Security Agency reported that twice in a week a [Chinese Coast Guard vessel had entered its territorial waters](#) and disrupted a survey by state energy firm Pertamina in the South China Sea. The agency stated that the Chinese vessel was "intercepted and again driven out". The spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, Mr Lin Jian, retaliated stating that "its coast guard carries out routine cruises in waters under China's jurisdiction in accordance with international law and domestic law". On [October 26](#), the agency reported that "the China Coast Guard-5402 (CCG-5402) re-entered the Indonesian jurisdiction".

Other Developments

[Britain, EU, Canada impose new sanctions targeting Myanmar military](#)

[Prabowo puts Cabinet to the test with military boot camp retreat](#)

East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

On October 27, [Japan's ruling coalition failed](#) in the lower-house for the first time since 2009. The election results put Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on thin ice, with the PM being quoted as saying, "[We are receiving severe judgement](#)." The election in Japan called by [Prime Minister Ishiba](#) shortly after he won the party's leadership contest last month has dealt a huge blow to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the most powerful and dominant party in the country. Keiichi Ishii, who took over as LDP's leader last month, [lost in his district](#). The outcome may force parties into fractious power-sharing deals to rule, potentially ushering in political instability as the country faces economic headwinds and a tense security situation in East Asia.

On October 29, South Korea's spy agency reported that a contingent of North Korean troops, including high-ranking generals were being deployed to Russia and will be now positioned on the front lines of the Ukraine war. Representative Lee Seong-kweun of the ruling People Power Party told reporters following the closed-door parliamentary audit of the National Intelligence Service (NIS) that the Kim Jong Un regime "appears to be [clamping down on information](#) about the troop dispatch internationally". During the audit, NIS also briefed lawmakers on a Russian government special aircraft making a round-trip between Moscow and Pyongyang, concluding that it was carrying at least one Russian security official linked to the deployment of North Korean troops. The NIS also added that it is "actively monitoring potential additional troop deployments and follow-up measures through high-level channels" between Russia and North Korea, which includes [North Korean foreign minister Choe Son-hui's visit to Moscow](#).

Other Developments

[North Korean Troops Are In Russia, U.S. Defense Secretary Says](#)

[Finland Warns Xi Of 'Provocation' By North Korea In Ukraine War](#)

[China Launches New Crew To Its Space Station, Expands Exploration](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) conducted targeted [airstrikes against Iranian military targets](#) on October 25 in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Israel. India expressed deep [concern over the escalation in West Asia](#) and urged all involved parties to exercise restraint and resume dialogue and diplomacy. The US Department of Defence reaffirmed [America's "ironclad commitment" to Israel's security](#) and emphasised that the strikes in Iran should be the end of tit-for-tat between the two countries. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, and Syria [condemned Israel's military action](#) as a "violation of Iran's sovereignty" and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

Amidst the continuing tensions in the Middle East, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar between October 21-25. In his meetings in the region, Secretary Blinken discussed [US efforts to bring the war in Gaza to an end](#), securing the release of Israeli hostages, and alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people. He also discussed the need to reach a diplomatic resolution to the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

A terrorist attack on the [Turkish Aerospace Industries](#) (TUSAS) headquarters on the outskirts of Ankara on October 23, killed at least five people and injured 22 others. Turkey's Defence Ministry held the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) responsible for the terror attack.

Egypt, UAE, and Iran attended their first BRICS Summit in Kazan as full members, underscoring the [importance of West Asia-North Africa](#) (WANA) to the group. On the margins of the BRICS Summit, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. The two leaders discussed the importance of [reconstruction of Afghanistan](#) as well as enhancing trade and economic ties with Central Asia. The signing of the long-term contract for Chabahar Port was noted as a milestone in bilateral relations.

Other Developments

[UAE President Receives Russian Security Council Secretary](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The [11th China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum](#) was held from October 25 to 28 in Yinchuan, the capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in Northwest China. Shen Yueyue, vice-chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, announced that leaders from China and five Central Asian countries developed a new cooperation strategy. During the forum, [35 agreements](#) worth 11.2 billion yuan (about US\$ 1.6 billion) were signed, covering trade, agriculture, and sister city partnerships. The event also launched the [Yinchuan Initiative](#), promoting collaboration in green development, smart agriculture, e-commerce, and cultural exchanges.

Kazakh and Uzbek business leaders signed 76 documents worth more than \$352 million during the fourth Uzbekistan – Kazakhstan interregional cooperation forum, chaired by Prime Ministers of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov and Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov on October 22. The list of signed documents include the plan of practical actions to accelerate the implementation of agreements reached at the highest level. The document provides for the implementation of joint projects in energy, mining, and geology. The meeting participants also inked agreements on cooperation in trade and economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres between the regions of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

During the forum, Bektenov and Aripov discussed measures to increase bilateral trade turnover, as well as industrial cooperation, interaction in the water, energy and transit-transport spheres, and the gas industry, reported the Prime Minister's press service.

Other Developments

[Putin To Visit Kazakhstan](#)

[Terror Activities Along Afghan-Tajik Border Alarm India And Russia](#)

[Turkmenistan Stopped Gas Supplies To Russia Due To Lack Of Agreement On New Price](#)

[Kazakhstan Offers Amendments To The Agreement On The Status Of The CSTO Formations](#)

[Following The Joint Meeting Between The Kyrgyz Republic And The Russian Federation, A Number Of Bilateral Documents Were Signed](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy's destroyer INS Delhi, the German Navy's frigate Baden-Württemberg, and the replenishment tanker Frankfurt Am Main [conducted](#) a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Bay of Bengal region. This exercise marks the inaugural collaboration between the Indian and German navies. The MPX coincided with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's [visit to India](#) from October 24 to 26, 2024. The timing of the naval exercise alongside the diplomatic engagements underscores the commitment of both nations to strengthen maritime security and operational interoperability.

Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States conducted the Maritime Big Play exercise. This [inaugural exercise](#) included a series of integrated experiments and demonstrations aimed at refining joint operations among AUKUS partners, with Japan participating as an observer. The exercise emphasized testing and improving the ability to operate uncrewed systems, share maritime data, and enhance real-time maritime domain awareness. The [Autonomous Warrior 2024](#), a maritime experimentation event held in Jervis Bay, Australia was major highlight. This included testing of various technologies including high-altitude balloons, Triton subsurface vessels, and autonomous surface vessels like the Greenough Advanced Rescue Craft.

The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise ([SIMBEX](#)) was conducted from October 23 to 29, 2024, in Bay of Bengal region. The Republic of Singapore Navy Ship RSS Tenacious arrived on October 23. Began as 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994, has evolved into a vital bilateral maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The exercise was held in two phases: the Harbour Phase, featuring Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-deck visits, sports fixtures, and pre-sail briefings; and the Sea Phase, which will include advanced naval drills such as live weapon firings, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training, and tactical manoeuvres.

Other Developments

[The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship JS Murasame made a port call at Kochi from October 25 to 27, 2024](#)

[ESPS SANTAMARIA of the Spanish Navy and KNS SHUJAA of the Kenya Navy conducted a joint sea activity](#)



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