



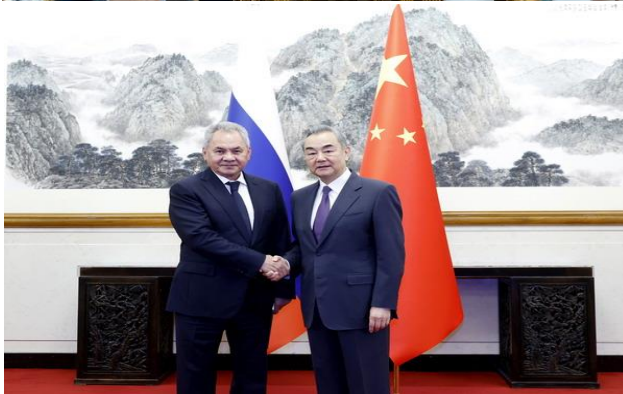
# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### November 13, 2024



Volume II, Issue 46 | November 13, 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:** An Indian delegation led by Secretary JP Singh, held meeting with Taliban's interim Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob in Kabul, Afghanistan on November 5, 2024. Source: [X/@MoDAfghanistan2](#)

**Southeast Asia:** Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People, Beijing, PRC on November 9, 2024. Source: [Prabowo Subianto/Official X Account](#)

**East Asia:** China's Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and director of the Central Foreign Affairs Office, Wang Yi co-chaired the 19<sup>th</sup> round of China-Russia strategic security consultations with Sergei Shoigu, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, in Beijing on November 12, 2024. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China](#)

**West Asia:** The extraordinary Arab and Islamic Summit was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on November 11, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/OIC](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

A delegation from India, headed by JP Singh, the Joint Secretary of the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran division in the MEA, [travelled to Kabul](#) on November 4-5. They met with the Taliban's interim Defence Minister, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, former President Hamid Karzai and other officials. While meeting with JP Singh, Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban Foreign Minister, expressed a desire to strengthen ties between the [Taliban Government and India](#). India proposed to Afghan businesses the use of Chabahar Port in Iran, and also discussed providing more humanitarian aid to Kabul. Meanwhile, the Taliban have installed Ikramuddin Kamil in the position of Acting Consul at the [Afghan Consulate in Mumbai](#). Mr. Ikramuddin is currently a Ph.D. student at South Asia University in Delhi.

A [suicide bombing](#) at a railway station in Quetta, Pakistan, claimed the lives of at least 26 people, including 16 security personnel, on November 9th. In response to recent major terrorist attacks, the Balochistan government enacted the [Balochistan Security of Vulnerable Establishment Act](#), 2024. This law aims to improve coordination between security agencies and restore peace and order in the province. Protests have been announced by Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, the Jamaat-i-Islami's Balochistan emir and MPA, who leads the [Haq Do Tehreek movement](#), to take place throughout Balochistan on November 15.

On November 6th, the Indian Army Chief, Upendra Dwivedi, engaged in a [virtual discussion](#) with his Bangladeshi counterpart, General Waker-Uz-Zaman. This marks the first meeting between the army chiefs of the two nations since the political turmoil in Bangladesh in August, which led to the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The meeting involved a discussion of shared interests, particularly focusing on bilateral defense cooperation.

### Other Developments

[Afghanistan: opium cultivation increased by 19 per cent in second year of drugs ban, according to UNODC](#)

[US Indo-Pacific Deputy Commander Rudd in Nepal on four-day visit](#)

[Inauguration of Immigration Check Post in Darranga, Assam at the India-Bhutan border](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto visited [China and the US from November 8-12](#), 2024, his first visits abroad after assuming office. During his visit to China, he held meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang, and Zhao Leji, the Chairperson of the National People's Congress. The leaders of the two countries signed a series of agreements on infrastructure, green energy, digital technology and agriculture worth [approximately \\$10 billion](#). On November 12, President Prabowo met with US President Joe Biden at the White House and celebrated the 75th anniversary of U.S.-Indonesia relations. The two leaders [discussed](#) ways to strengthen U.S.-Indonesia cooperation as part of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. According to the [joint statement](#) both leaders "committed to continue advancing vision for an open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific regional architecture, with ASEAN at the centre, that upholds international law."

Prime Minister [Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia made an official visit to China](#) from November 4 to 7, 2024, making this his third visit since taking office. During his visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Shanghai, attended the China International Import Expo and paid a courtesy call on Chinese President Xi Jinping. The two leaders shared the need to strengthen cooperation in areas such as information technology, digital economy and energy. The Chinese leadership expressed support for "Malaysia assuming the rotating chairmanship of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#) next year, and supports ASEAN centrality and strategic independence, to maintain the mainstream of regional cooperation in development".

Indonesia and Australia commenced [joint combat drills, Keris Woomera 2024](#), off Indonesia's main island of Java on November 13, 2024. The four-day drills will involve about 2,000 troops training in air, maritime, amphibious and land operations. The head of the Indonesian delegation, Lt. Col. Empri Airudin, stated that "this joint exercise aimed to strengthen the partnership between Indonesia and Australia as we are building trust and to increase capabilities and interoperability".

## Other Developments

[Indonesia says it has no overlapping South China Sea claims with China, despite joint agreement](#)

[China summons Philippine ambassador over new maritime laws](#)

[Philippine Coast Guard to acquire 40 fast patrol craft from France](#)

## East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

On November 12, Russia's top security official Sergei Shoigu told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Moscow and Beijing face an "urgent task" to work together [to counter "containment"](#) by the US. Shoigu's meeting with Wang Yi in Beijing was the first between high-level Russian and Chinese officials since Trump won the US presidential election last week. According to [the read-out by the Chinese foreign ministry](#), the two ministers discussed major security issues of mutual interest, reached new consensus, increased mutual trust and agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation further. Wang Yi stated that "the more complex the international situation gets and the more external challenges there are, the more the two sides must firmly unite and cooperate to defend common interests".

On [November 12](#), according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), North Korea ratified a landmark defence pact with Russia, deepening security cooperation that has seen Pyongyang send thousands of troops to help Moscow fight Ukraine. The agreement formalizes months of tightening military bonds between two nations that were communist allies throughout the Cold War. North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, [signed a decree](#) to ratify the Treaty of Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships with Russia. The agreement is said to take effect when both sides exchange the ratification instruments.

Other Developments

[Japan's Ishiba stays as PM despite election setback](#)

[Japan PM Ishiba set to meet China's Xi on Friday in Peru](#)

[China's New J-35 Stealth Fighter Stars at Zhuhai Air Show](#)

[Putin Greets North Korean Foreign Minister warmly at Kremlin](#)

[Trump Diplomacy and Security Picks Likely to Anger China but Reassure Japan](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On November 11, an extraordinary Joint Arab-Islamic Summit was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which reaffirmed the need for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and called for a [two-state solution based on 1967 border](#), with East Jerusalem as Palestine's capital. Notwithstanding, Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's Finance Minister, dismissed the possibility of a Palestinian state and asserted that Donald Trump's election as President of the United States would provide Israel with an opportunity to [annex Jewish settlements in the West Bank](#) (Judea and Samaria).

Israel's Defence Minister Katz informed that "there will be [no ceasefire and no pause in Lebanon](#)" until war objectives are achieved. Israel's objectives include disarming Hezbollah, pushing it beyond the Litani River, and ensuring that northern residents are permitted to return to their homes without danger. The US has assured Israel that it [will not limit arms transfers](#) and urged Tel Aviv to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Meanwhile, [Israeli football supporters were attacked](#) by "antisemitic hit-and-run squads" on November 8 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. US President Joe Biden condemned the "despicable" attacks, stressing that they "echoed dark periods in history when Jews were persecuted".

Russia and Iran have [linked their banking systems to counter Western sanctions](#) as part of their growing strategic partnership. This plan is also likely to be implemented in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Turkey, which have extensive financial and social interactions with Iran.

### Other Developments

[Iran and Saudi Arabia pursue cautious rapprochement](#)

[U.N. Agency Aiding Millions of Palestinians Is in Jeopardy—and There's No Plan B](#)

[US military says it strikes Iran-backed militia facility in Syria](#)



## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The Azerbaijan Presidency of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) announced an early victory with the [adoption of standards for the creation of carbon credits](#) under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement, drawing criticism. The early adoption of the related modalities and, most importantly, carbon removal technologies was done without a discussion by parties. During the conference, the [Indian delegation](#) emphasised principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities” and technology transfer for developing countries.

On November 6, Kyrgyzstan hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). Chaired by [Kyrgyzstan's President](#) Sadyr Japarov and themed “Empowering the Turkic World: Economic Integration, Sustainable Development, Digital Future, and Security for All,” the summit was attended by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and Viktor Orbán, the Prime Minister of Hungary (observer state of the OTS). Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has once again discussed the situation in the Middle East [stating](#) “the only solution to this long-standing conflict is the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the 1967 borders, by international regulations and resolutions”.

Azerbaijan, China, and Kazakhstan have [signed an agreement](#) to establish an intermodal cargo terminal in the Port of Alat in Baku, the Azerbaijani capital. The agreement was [signed](#) in Baku on November 12 by SK-AIH Investment Fund Ltd (Samruk-Kazyna, Azerbaijan Investment Holding), Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (Kazakhstan's national railway company), Baku International Sea Trade Port (Azerbaijan), and Xi'an Free Trade Port Construction and Operation Co., Ltd (China).

## Other Developments

[Azerbaijan accused of intensifying repression of critics amid hosting COP29](#)

[ICJ Rules Armenia, Azerbaijan discrimination cases can proceed](#)

[From France to war-hit Armenia, why there is a growing demand for India's Pinaka rocket system](#)

[Azerbaijan President lauds fossil fuels, knifes Western 'Hypocrisy' in COP29 opener](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The 4th Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise (SITMEX) was [held](#) from November 8 to 11, 2024, hosted by the Indian Navy (IN) at Port Blair, India. This year's exercise saw the participation of the Republic of Singapore Navy's Formidable-class frigate RSS Tenacious, along with S-70B Seahawk naval helicopter, as well as the Royal Thai Navy's Krabi-class offshore patrol vessel HTMS Krabi. The Indian Navy was represented by the Saryu-class offshore patrol vessel INS Saryu, the Kora-class corvette INS Karmuk, and a Dornier-228 maritime patrol aircraft. The navies carried out a range of naval exercises, which included manoeuvring drills and live firing operations in the Andaman Sea.

On November 8, 2024, India [gifted](#) two water-jet propelled Fast Interceptor Craft (FIC) to Mozambique as part of its capacity-building initiatives in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The FICs were delivered by INS Gharial, with the ceremony attended by key officials from both nations, including India's High Commissioner to Mozambique, Shri Robert Shetkintong, and Mozambique's Permanent Secretary of National Defence, Mr. Augusto Casimiro Mueio. These FICs will enhance Mozambique's maritime security capabilities, particularly in combating maritime terrorism and insurgency in the Cabo Delgado province. This delivery builds on India's previous assistance to Mozambique, which included the donation of two large interceptor vessels in 2019 and two additional FICs in January 2022.

The Indian Naval Ship INS Suvarna [successfully completed](#) its visit to Port Louis, Mauritius, where it engaged in joint surveillance operations with the Mauritius National Coast Guard. The visit was aimed at securing Mauritius' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), included coordinated efforts with NCG Ship CGS Victory and Dornier aircraft to ensure maritime safety and stability in the region. Following this, INS Suvarna took the Mauritius Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Valiant under tow for its passage to India, where MCGS Valiant is scheduled for its maiden refit at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.

The 34th International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) [meeting](#) between the Indian Navy and Coast Guard and the Sri Lankan Navy and Coast Guard was successfully conducted on November 6, 2024. The meeting took place onboard the SLNS Vijayabahu, located at sea north of Kankesanthurai (KKS) in Sri Lanka. This event underscores the ongoing collaboration and dialogue between India

and Sri Lanka regarding maritime security and boundary management in the region.

### **Other Developments**

[2nd Indian-Nigerian Navy Subgroup Meeting was held in Abuja, Nigeria](#)

[INS Vela arrived at the port of Colombo on November 10, 2024](#)

[3rd edition of the India-Australia joint military exercise, AUSTRAHIND, started in Pune](#)



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