



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

March 5, 2025



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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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, Jayantika Rao T.V, Divya Rai and Arshiya Chaturvedi, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

Cover Images:

South Asia: Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held delegation level talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on February 27. Source: [X/@CMShehbaz](https://twitter.com/CMShehbaz)

East Asia: President Xi Jinping and Secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council Sergei Shoigu meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Source: [Embassy of the People's Republic of China, India](https://embassy.of.the.People.s.Republic.of.China.India)

West Asia: The Extraordinary Arab Summit for Palestine was held in Egypt on March 4, 2025. Source: [Official Website/European Council](https://www.european-council.europa.eu/media/1000000/attachment/data/file/54000/Official%20Statement%20on%20the%20Extraordinary%20Arab%20Summit%20for%20Palestine.pdf)

Indian Ocean Region: The Indian Navy's INS Tarkash and Hellenic Navy's flagship, HS Hydra, conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Indian ocean, Source: [X/@indiannavy](https://twitter.com/indiannavy)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

On February 28, Bangladeshi students, key players in last year's government ouster, formed a [new political](#) party. The party's leadership comprises key organisers from Students Against Discrimination (SAD). The new 'Jatiya Nagorik Party' is led by its convener, Mr. Nahid Islam, a former advisor to the interim government, with Akhtar Hossain serving as its secretary. Nahid said the new party would be a "democratic, egalitarian, people's party".

Meanwhile, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Interim Government Muhammad Yunus, in an interview, dismissed concerns over deteriorating [relations with India](#), asserting that ties between the two nations remain strong despite recent tensions. Yunus, however, acknowledged the emergence of some conflicts but attributed them primarily to "misinformation and propaganda". His remarks came weeks ahead of the [BIMSTEC Summit](#) in Thailand on April 3-4, when the Bangladeshi side is keen to set up a meeting between Yunus and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan [visited Islamabad](#) on February 27, where he held delegation level talks with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The presence of senior security officials in the delegation suggested that the two sides also discussed security-related matters. Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed [multiple agreements](#) and MoUs for cooperation in various sectors, including banking, mining, infrastructure, and railways.

[Sporadic clashes](#) between Taliban and Pakistani border guards have continued from March 3, near Torkham border crossing. Both sides are using light and heavy weaponry. At least one Pakistani civilian was killed, while four Pakistani soldiers and another civilian were wounded in the fighting. The Taliban's Interior Ministry confirmed that one of their fighters was also killed. The failure of negotiations to reopen the vital trade route resulted in subsequent clashes.

Other Developments

[Taliban representatives meet Indian Ambassador in Tehran to discuss strengthening ties](#)

[Pakistan on list of 'worst performing' democracies](#)

[FATF grey-listing: Nepal emerges as South Asian haven for money laundering](#)

[Maldives' imports from China surge by 55 percent following FTA](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

The [4th India-Vietnam Policy Planning Dialogue](#) was held in New Delhi on March 4, 2025. According to a statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the meeting was co-chaired by Raghuram S, Joint Secretary (Policy Planning and Research), MEA, and Le Dinh Tinh, Director General of the Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Vietnam. The [dialogue enabled](#) both sides to share views on various regional and global issues, including recent developments in the Indo-Pacific, the functioning of multilateral institutions, and development priorities of the Global South.

On [March 3](#), the head of Myanmar's military government arrived in Russia for an official visit to a major ally of the Southeast Asian nation that has been shunned by much of the West for overthrowing a democratically elected government and subsequent brutal repression. On [March 4](#), Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin. "The relations between our countries are steadily developing," Putin told junta chief Min Aung Hlaing in a televised meeting. Following the meeting between the two leaders, Myanmar and Russia signed a memorandum on investment cooperation in a special economic zone in Dawei, including construction of a port and an oil refinery. Additionally, Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said Moscow saw potential to boost cooperation in energy, nuclear, transport, agriculture, and telecom projects with Myanmar.

On [March 3](#), Thailand's government announced it was studying the idea of building a wall on part of its border with Cambodia to prevent illegal crossings, as a multinational effort to dismantle a sprawling network of illicit scam centres mounts. Thailand and Cambodia share a border of 817 km (508 miles). The Thai defence ministry has previously proposed a wall to block off a 55 km natural crossing between Thailand's Sa Kaeo province and Poipet, which at present is only protected by razor wire.

Other Developments

[Philippine army confirms attack on its networks](#)

[Philippines to scrutinize donations by suspected Chinese spies](#)

[French Navy aircraft carrier visits Singapore as part of 5-month mission in region](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On February 28, [President Xi Jinping met with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu](#) in Beijing. The Chinese President emphasised the strong China-Russia relationship, highlighting their close cooperation on major global and regional issues. Noting that 2025 marks the 80th anniversaries of the victories of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, the Soviet Union's Great Patriotic War, the World Anti-Fascist War, and the founding of the UN, he called for deeper strategic partnership between the two countries. Mr. Shoigu praised Russia-China relations as a model for major power relations and reaffirmed Russia's commitment to strengthening them. He also acknowledged China's efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine crisis.

[A US aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, arrived in South Korea's port of Busan](#) on Sunday, marking the first such deployment since June. The deployment follows North Korea's recent test-firing of strategic cruise missiles to showcase its counterattack capability and nuclear readiness. This move aims to reinforce the US-South Korea military alliance and enhance interoperability amid ongoing North Korean threats.

[New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Winston Peters, met with China's Foreign Minister](#), Wang Yi, in Beijing on February 26. Wang Yi emphasised the steady growth of China-New Zealand relations and proposed deeper cooperation in key sectors such as the economy, AI, the green economy, and climate change. Mr. Peters reaffirmed China as a crucial partner and expressed interest in expanding collaboration across trade, agriculture, and defence. [Mr. Winston Peters also stopped to meet South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul](#), where they discussed strengthening Korea-New Zealand ties through high-level exchanges and cooperation in defence, space, and economic sectors.

Other Developments

[Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence detected 19 PLA aircraft sorties and five PLAN vessels near its borders](#)

[Japan and Pakistan held the Fourth Counter-Terrorism Consultations on February 26, 2025](#)

[The diplomatic envoys of Central and Eastern European countries visited China's High-Tech Enterprises including Huawei, Baidu and Xiaomi](#)

[The Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MOFA\), Japan launched its AI Diplomacy Division to address global AI challenges and opportunities](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Egypt hosted an [Emergency Arab Summit for Palestine](#) on March 4, during which leaders endorsed Cairo's plan for the reconstruction of Gaza to ensure that its residents are not displaced and the core principles of the Palestinian cause remain intact. Egypt's proposal is an attempt to offer an alternative to President Trump's plan to relocate Palestinians and turn Gaza into a "Riviera of the Middle East". The joint communique issued at the Arab Summit also called for the return of the [Palestinian Authority \(PA\) to Gaza](#), which would symbolise Palestine's political and geographical unity. Analysts however questioned the prospects of the Palestinian Authority governing Gaza, given that Israel had [ruled out any future role for the body](#) and President Trump had closed the PLO liaison office in Washington DC during his first term.

As Israel blocked humanitarian aid into Gaza after Hamas rejected an Israeli proposal to extend the ceasefire without committing to an end to the conflict, the [truce between the two sides remains tenuous](#). In light of this, Gideon Saar, Israel's Foreign Minister, stated that Israel was ready to move forward with the [second phase of the Gaza agreement](#) if Hamas released the remaining 59 hostages. Meanwhile, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz spoke on the phone, during which Washington reaffirmed its [unwavering support for Israel's defence and security](#).

In response to ongoing Houthi attacks on American interests in the Middle East, the US Department of State re-designated [Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement](#) as a "Foreign Terrorist Organisation".

Other Developments

[US supports Israel's decision to block Gaza aid](#)

[Syria's al-Sharaa meets European Council chief at Arab Summit in Egypt](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [March 3](#), the Standing Committee on European Integration of the National Assembly (NA) began discussions on a bill to initiate Armenia's membership in the European Union. The proposed law was introduced by Artak Zeynalyan, a member of the Republic Party of Armenia and one of the bill's initiators. The authors of the EU bill in Armenia believe that Western democratic institutions are essential for the country's security. During the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the Armenian Prime Minister emphasised the government's endorsement of the bill on January 9.

After China and Tajikistan signed a cooperation agreement to build the longest road bridge in Central Asia in the country, experts highlighted this development as the latest shining progress under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and [bridging connectivity between the two countries](#), as well as between China and the broader Central Asian region. The implementation agreement was signed between Tajikistan's Ministry of Transport and the Tajik branch of the Chinese company Zhejiang Communications Construction Group Co. Ltd. (ZCCC) represented by Tajik Minister of Transport Azim Ibrohim and ZCCC representative Li Mingkun, respectively on February 27. The bridge, spanning 920 meters (1,500 meters including access roads), will cross the Surkhob River in Nurabad district, making it the largest infrastructure project of its kind in the region.

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan plan to enhance their trade relationship with the planned opening of [four new trade corridors](#). This initiative, aimed at increasing bilateral trade turnover, was announced by Bakhtiyor Ibragimov, Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Kazakhstan, during a meeting with entrepreneurs from the Zhetysay Region on March 4, 2025.

Other Developments

[Kazakhstan to Help Build Small Hydropower Plants in Kyrgyzstan](#)

[Kazakhstan Leads Global Push for Nuclear Disarmament in New York](#)

[Tajikistan Announces Preliminary Parliamentary Election Results; OSCE Absent](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy's INS Tarkash [conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise](#) (MPX) with the Hellenic Navy's flagship, HS Hydra, in the Western Indian Ocean Region. This exercise was designed to enhance interoperability and strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation between the two navies. Key activities during the MPX included cross-deck landings by integral helicopters of the two ships, anti-piracy drills such as simulated boarding operations on a hijacked vessel, subject matter exchanges where naval personnel shared expertise and best practices, and advanced tactical manoeuvres to improve operational coordination.

INS Kuthar, a frontline warship of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet, [arrived](#) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as part of its mission deployment in the Indian Ocean Region. During its three-day Operational Turnaround visit, the ship handed over a refilled cylinder of Fire-fighting system, an essential component of the major safety system installed on the Sri Lanka Coast Guard Ship Suraksha. SLCGS Suraksha is an Offshore Patrol Vessel transferred to Sri Lanka by the Government of India in October 2017. India has also donated spare parts for the ship earlier in June 2021, April 2022, and June 2024 and also provided similar assistance in refilling cylinders in January 2024. The visit also included professional engagements, knowledge-sharing sessions, and joint activities aimed at fostering interoperability and strengthening maritime cooperation under India's Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR initiative.

Other Developments

[Indian Navy's First Training Squadron arrives at Phuket Deep Sea Port in Thailand](#)

[4th Navy Subgroup Meeting between the Indian Navy and Russian Navy concluded in New Delhi](#)

[Iranian Navy's training flotilla, comprising IRIS Boushehr and IRIS Lavan, arrived in Mumbai](#)



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