

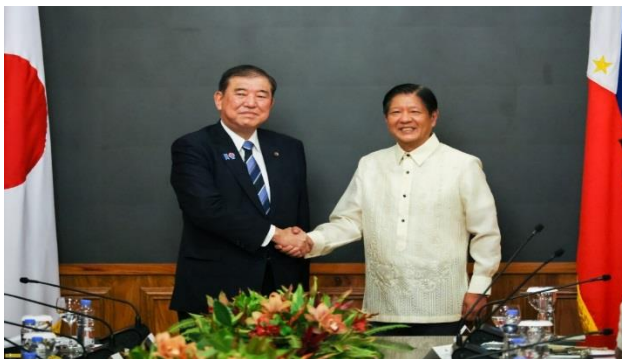
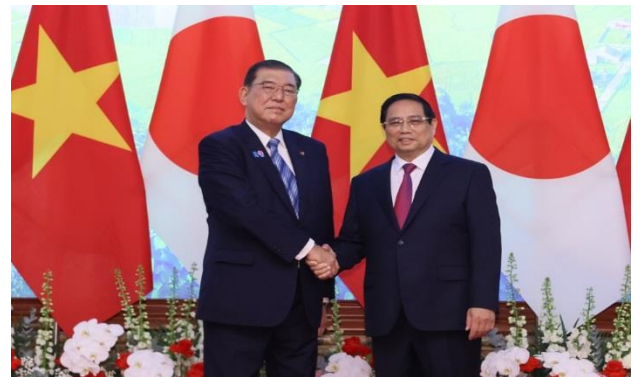


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

April 30, 2025



Volume III, Issue 18 | April 30, 2025

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, 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: On April 29, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan, and the chiefs of the three armed services. Source: [Akashvani](#)

Southeast Asia: Prime Minister of Japan, Shigeru Ishiba, held a summit meeting with Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Minh Chinh Pham, at the Prime Minister's office during his visit to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on April 28, 2025. Source: [Prime Minister's Office of Japan](#)

East Asia: Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. ISHIBA Shigeru with H.E. Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines for the Japan-Philippines Summit. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

West Asia: Mr. Soorojebally R, PMSM, the Commissioner of Police, Mauritius Police welcoming the INS Sunayna Crew arrived at The Port Louis, Mauritius. Source: [Press Information Bureau](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

In the wake of the April 22nd terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the tense situation between India and Pakistan continues. India's [Cabinet Committee on Security](#) (CCS) which held a meeting on April 23, in response to the cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack from Pakistan, announced a decision to withhold the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 in abeyance, close all borders and stop trade with Pakistan, expelled Pakistani citizens who are on valid visa in India, and reduced overall strength of the High Commissions. Pakistan [mirrored these measures](#) against India, suspending the 1972 Simla Agreement in response. On April 24, Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Shehbaz Sharif convened a meeting of the National Security Committee, issuing a warning that any interference with water flow would constitute an act of war. Both the countries closed airspace for the each other's airlines. Pakistani forces meanwhile [violated the ceasefire](#) along the Line of Control and International Border, in Jammu and Kashmir.

A meeting took place between Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong and Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar; Minister Dar also conferred with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the telephonic call. A Chinese media report indicates that, during a conversation, Foreign Minister Wang Yi pledged China's [unwavering support](#) for Pakistan in upholding its sovereignty and security. The United Nations Security Council has issued [a strong condemnation](#) of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 25. With China's backing, Pakistan sought to mitigate the statement's impact through alterations to its wording. The statement lacked a strong call for [international cooperation](#) with India's investigation, only mentioning "all relevant authorities."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi [convened a meeting](#) on April 29 with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The meeting was also attended by CDS Anil Chauhan and the chiefs of the three services.

Other Developments

[Trade between Afghanistan and India halted amid Kashmir tensions](#)

[Russia raises Afghan diplomatic representation in Moscow to ambassadorial level](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [April 28](#), Japan and Vietnam agreed to deepen economic cooperation including on semiconductors and clean energy. Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru and Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh signed four agreements, including on research and development in microchips and on bilateral cooperation in energy transition. The [pledges came](#) as Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru wound up a two-day state visit to Vietnam on April 27, part of a regional tour that also includes a stop in the Philippines. During his time in Hanoi, Ishiba met with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and other top officials, including To Lam, the head of the Communist Party of Vietnam, President Luong Cuong, and Tran Thanh Man, the president of the National Assembly. The leaders also discussed security cooperation where they exchanged views on the situation in the East and South China seas, where China has become more forceful in asserting its claims. They [agreed](#) to establish a communications framework (2+2) between their foreign and defence ministries at the vice-ministerial level.

On [April 28](#), Manila rejected Beijing's claim that it had seized control of Sandy Cay, a sandbar in the Philippines' territorial water - part of the Spratly Islands, lies near Thitu Island, also called Pag-asa and the site of a Philippine military facility. "Philippine government officials have categorically denied that China has seized Sandy Cay or has now permanently taken over Sandy Cay in the South China Sea, describing the statement that was released through Chinese state media over the weekend as an 'outright lie', as part of Beijing's disinformation tactics," Al Jazeera's Barnaby Lo said, reported from Manila. To prove this, point the Philippines showed media, a mission to Sandy Cay by the Philippine Coastguard and the Philippine Navy conducted on April 27.

On [April 28](#), Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono urged BRICS to deepen cooperation and strengthen its leadership in fostering global peace, amid the humanitarian crises in Gaza and Ukraine as well as the trade tensions under United States President Donald Trump, marking Indonesia's debut at the bloc's ministerial talks held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Addressing his counterparts at the two-day meeting, Sugiono also highlighted the need for a more inclusive global order and reiterated Indonesia's aspiration to join the BRICS-led New Development Bank (NDB).

Other Developments

[Indonesia wants 'fair and square' trade in US tariff talks](#)

[Malaysia, Singapore play up joint economic zone amid US tariff worries](#)

[Myanmar Military Attacks Continue Despite Earthquake Ceasefire, Report Says](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On April 27, 2025, [Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister](#) Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who provided an update on the tensions between Pakistan and India over the terror attacks in Kashmir. Dar reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to combating terrorism and managing the situation responsibly while maintaining communication with China and the international community. Wang Yi expressed China's close attention to the developments and reiterated that combating terrorism is a shared global responsibility. He assured Pakistan of China's full support in safeguarding its sovereignty and security and called for an impartial investigation. Wang Yi emphasised the importance of de-escalation, urging both Pakistan and India to exercise restraint and work towards regional peace and stability.

On April 29, 2025, [Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba of Japan and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines held a summit](#) meeting, marking the first visit of a Japanese prime minister to the Philippines in 25 years. The leaders discussed strengthening their strategic partnership, focusing on security, economic cooperation, and regional stability. They welcomed progress on the Japan-Philippines Reciprocal Access Agreement and agreed to negotiate an Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement. Both nations emphasised expanding collaboration in defence, maritime safety, and disaster management, with Japan supporting the Philippines' development in areas like telecommunication, energy, and infrastructure. They also addressed global economic issues, including US imposed tariff and the situation in the East and South China Seas, affirming their commitment to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Additionally, both leaders discussed the Osaka-Kansai Expo and expressed mutual support for its success.

[Lee Jae-myung, the liberal South Korean politician and presidential candidate for the Democratic Party, is leading](#) conservative rivals by a significant margin in polls ahead of the June 3 snap election. His path to the presidency has been fraught with challenges, including a narrow defeat to Yoon Suk Yeol in 2022, a knife attack, legal trials, and imposition of martial law and subsequent impeachment of Yoon where he played a key role in. Lee initially focused on economic equality and advocating for policies like universal basic income, however has recently come to adopt a more business-friendly approach. Despite ongoing legal battles, including one related to a \$1-billion property

development scandal, he remains a strong contender, recognised for his firm stance on political corruption and his commitment to national recovery.

Other Developments

[Joint Statement Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kenya on Creating an Inspiring Example in the All-Weather China-Africa Community with a Shared Future for the New Era](#)

[North Korea confirms Russia troop deployment, and the DPRK's new warship](#)

[Wang Yi: Uphold BRICS Unity and Cooperation, Reform and Improve Global Governance](#)

[DeepSeek available to download again in South Korea after suspension](#)

[Kim Jong Un's cryptic reference to new maritime border raises naval stakes](#)

[Regarding the Judgement of the Cheongju District Court of the Republic of Korea in the Lawsuit Filed by a Bereaved Family of a Former Comfort Woman \(Statement by Foreign Minister IWAYA Takeshi\)](#)

[Xi Jinping Visits New Development Bank](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The countries in West Asia, including [Saudi Arabia](#), [UAE](#), Bahrain, [Oman](#), Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Iran, and Israel condemned the terrorist attack in India's Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (Pahalgam) that killed 26 tourists on April 22. India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, in a phone conversation with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, highlighted "[cross-border \[Pakistani\] linkages](#)" to the Pahalgam terror attack. Further, in a conversation with the UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, EAM Dr. Jaishankar discussed the need to [counter terrorism effectively](#) in all its forms and manifestations.

On April 26, the US and Iran held the third round of indirect talks on Tehran's nuclear programme in Oman. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Iran's Foreign Minister, remained cautious about the success of the talks, noting that the two sides had "technical discussions" and that [significant differences remain](#). As part of the negotiations, Seyed Abbas Araghchi stressed that the goal of the talks is to establish confidence that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful in exchange for the lifting of sanctions.

However, the US and Israel maintained that all of Iran's nuclear programme [needs to be dismantled for sanctions relief](#). The Omani officials mediating between Washington and Tehran also indicated that the talks were intended to dismantle Iran's nuclear weapons program while maintaining its ability to develop nuclear energy for civilian use.

Meanwhile, there were at least 70 deaths and 1000 injuries in a [blast at Iran's Port of Bandar Abbas](#) on April 26. Although reports indicated that [missile fuel imported from China](#) had caused the blast, the Iranian government refused to comment on this and maintained that "failure to observe safety principles" was the primary cause.

Other Developments

[Houthis Say U.S. Airstrike in Yemen Killed Nearly 70 People in Migrant Detention Center](#)

[US targets China, Iran-based firms in fresh Iran sanctions](#)

[Iran: Sanctions relief, uranium enrichment non-negotiable in US talks](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [April 25](#), Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin in Almaty. The two sides exchanged views on multilateral cooperation and agreed to jointly support the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the China-Central Asia mechanism in playing a greater role. The two sides also vowed to strengthen border control and counter-terrorism cooperation to safeguard regional security and stability. The two sides also exchanged views on current tariff issues. Wang Yi stressed that China responds with resolute countermeasures to unilateral bullying by the United States, not only to defend its own legitimate rights and interests, but also to safeguard the shared interests of the international community. China is ready to work with all parties to jointly uphold free trade, oppose protectionism, and defend international fairness and justice.

India-Uzbekistan Joint Exercise [DUSTLIK-VI 2025](#) culminated with a 48 hour exercise on April 27, 2025 at Southern Command Foreign Training & Military Civil Fusion Training Node, in Pune. The two-week long exercise focused on enhancing interoperability and honing skills in conducting joint counter-terrorism operations in a semi-urban environment. The exercise witnessed active participation from contingents of both nations, engaging in a series of tactical drills, simulated scenarios, and knowledge-sharing sessions. The focus was on neutralising terrorist threats, handling hostage situations, and implementing effective strategies for urban warfare while adhering to international humanitarian laws.

The [1st Economic Cooperation Organization Forum](#) on Sustainable Development was held on April 28–29, 2025 in the smart city of Arkadag, Turkmenistan. The landmark Forum, jointly organised by ECO and the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, focused on strengthening regional cooperation and advancing efforts toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During his opening statement, the ECO Secretary General Dr. Asad M. Khan highlighted the significance of the Forum as a strategic platform for aligning regional policies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasising the need for enhanced coherence, innovative solutions, and multilateral partnerships. He underscored the role of the newly formed High-Level Sustainable Development Working Group (HLSDWG) and the soon-to-be-released ECO SDG Performance Index Report in guiding regional efforts.

Other Developments

[Kyrgyzstan begins border fencing with Tajikistan](#)

[Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan Set \\$1 Billion Trade Goal](#)

[Turkmenistan, Qatar consider cooperating in cyber security](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

[IOS SAGAR \(INS Sunayna\) arrived at Port Louis Harbour, Mauritius](#) on April 26, 2025 after completing Phase I of Joint EEZ surveillance with the National Coast Guard (NCG) Mauritius as part of its deployment to the South Western Indian Ocean. The ship, which sailed from Karwar on April 5, 2025, has 44 naval personnel from nine friendly nations of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), including two officers and six sailors from Mauritius. The ship and crew were warmly received by dignitaries including Mr Sooroojebally R, PMSM, and representatives from the Mauritius government, police, Indian High Commission, and NCG Mauritius, followed by a tour and interactions with the multinational crew. On [April 29, the ship departed from Port Louis](#), to commence Phase II of Joint EEZ surveillance with NCG Mauritius before proceeding to Port Victoria, Seychelles.

The [Indian Navy's guided missile destroyer, INS Surat, successfully test-fired a medium-range surface-to-air missile](#) in the Arabian Sea, with a range of approximately 70 km. This achievement marks a significant milestone in strengthening the Navy's defence capabilities, showcasing India's growing prowess in indigenous warship design and development. It underscores the nation's commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing and showcases the Indian Navy's capabilities to safeguard maritime interests.

Udupi Cochin Shipyard Limited (Udupi-CSL), Karnataka, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Limited, [delivered the first of six 3800 T DW dry cargo vessels to M/s. Wilson Ship Management](#) AS, Norway (the largest short sea shipping company in Europe), at New Mangalore Port. Dr Sushma Akkaraju christened the vessel in a ceremony attended by dignitaries from New Mangalore Port Authority, Wilson Ship Management, Bureau Veritas, CSL, and Udupi-CSL. Wilson Ship Management, headquartered in Bergen, Norway, operates around 130 vessels and transports approximately 15 million tonnes of dry cargo annually. The company has placed an additional order for eight 6300 TDW general cargo vessels worth INR 1041 Crore.

The delivered vessel, Wilson Eco 1, is a 3800 DWT diesel-electric, environmentally friendly cargo vessel built under Norway's green funding programme at a project cost of INR 506 Crore. Designed by Conoship International, the ship is equipped with advanced systems from both global and Indian suppliers and is classified by Bureau Veritas under the Norwegian flag.

This ship, built under the Indian government's "Make in India, Make for the World" initiative, is designed for all-weather, unrestricted operation and has received unmanned machinery space certification. The vessel will operate with a crew of nine.

Other Developments

[Keel Laying of Fourth Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel Yard \(3040\)](#)

[Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Calls for Infrastructure Boost, Sustainable Practices in The Fisheries Sector at Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025 in Mumbai](#)



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