



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

## India's Proximity Archives

May 7, 2025

### OPERATION SINDOOR



Volume III, Issue 19 | May 7, 2025

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, 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](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

### Cover Images:

**South Asia:** India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri along with Army and Airforce officials during the media briefing on Operation Sindoor, May 7, 2025. Source: [Ministry of External Affairs](#)

**Southeast Asia:** The representatives from all BRICS member states at the 15th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisers and High Representatives on National Security in Brasilia. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China](#)

**East Asia:** Lawrence Wong, the current prime minister of Singapore and the People's Action Party (PAP), won the 14<sup>th</sup> successive general elections. Source: [X/@LawrenceWongST](#)

**Indian Ocean Region:** INS Sharda arrived at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives, to participate in the inaugural India-Maldives Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, held from May 4 to 10, 2025. Source: [X/@indiannavy](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

On the night of May 6-7, India's armed forces initiated [Operation Sindoor](#), targeting terrorist infrastructure within Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir, the origin point of attacks against India. Nine locations, including the LeT headquarters in Muridke and the HeM headquarters in Bahawalpur, were targeted by the missiles. During a press briefing, India's Foreign Secretary stated that intelligence reports indicated the imminent threat of further attacks against India. He further mentioned that the attack was focused on dismantling terrorists' infrastructure. No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted.

Following the strike, India [provided briefings](#) to the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Russia. The Chinese Foreign Ministry conveyed its concern over the prevailing situation, advising both parties to act with restraint and avoid actions that might worsen the situation.

In a related [development](#), seven casualties were incurred in forward villages near the Line of Control due to Pakistani cross-border shelling. In response to Indian missile strikes on terrorist installations in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and Punjab Province, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared the action an [act of war](#), reserving Pakistan's right to commensurate retaliation. The Pakistan National Security Committee, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presiding, met on May 7 following the attacks.

Since April 22, the Pakistan Army has engaged in [a large-scale deployment](#) of troops and heavy military equipment to the Indian border, coupled with the execution of various military exercises and the issuance of navigational area warnings and NOTAMs. Conversely, while the Indian armed forces did undertake several training exercises, there was no substantial mobilisation effort.

## Other Developments

[Bangladesh's influential Islamists promise sharia as they ready for polls](#)

[Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh has threatened to paralyse the country if all their demands, including the abolition of the Women's Affairs Reform Commission, are not met immediately](#)

[Maldives signs with Qatari company for USD 8.8B financial free zone](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [May 3](#), Singapore's People's Action Party won its 14<sup>th</sup> successive election to extend its unbroken six-decade rule, delivering a strong mandate to its new premier as the city-state braces for economic turbulence from a global trade war. The PAP, which has ruled since before Singapore's 1965 independence, won 87 of the 97 parliamentary seats up for grabs, with victories by huge margins in many of the 33 constituencies as the opposition failed to extend gains in previous contests. The PAP had yet to be formally declared winner but took 65.57% of the vote, according to local media, surpassing the 61.2% achieved in the 2020 contest. The outcome will be seen as a ringing public endorsement of US-educated Wong, 52, who became Singapore's fourth prime minister last year, promising continuity as well as new blood and a new style of leadership.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. military conducted a simulated amphibious invasion in the South China Sea under the multinational Exercise [Balikatan 2025](#). The 40<sup>th</sup> edition, which will continue till May 9, aims to demonstrate the combined capabilities and interoperability on the island of Palawan amid the heightened tension between China and Philippines. According to [Balikatan's organisers](#), these field training exercises aim to simulate a "full battle test" of Philippine military capabilities alongside forces from the U.S., Australia, and, [for the first time, Japan](#).

On [May 1](#), it was announced that Indonesia's parliament would ratify an agreement made with Vietnam that sets the boundaries of their exclusive economic zones in the contested South China Sea by next week. Nico Siahaan, a lawmaker in the parliamentary commission overseeing the agreement, told Reuters the parliament and the government would formally agree to ratify it on Monday, with the actual ratification set for that week or the following week.

### Other Developments

[Myanmar junta calls new ceasefire after quake](#)

[Philippines signs military pact with New Zealand](#)

[Duterte's arrest hangs over Philippine midterm elections' final stretch](#)

[Thai king's state visit to Bhutan sets new diplomatic tone for his reign](#)

## East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On [April 30, 2025, the 15th Meeting of BRICS National Security Advisers and High Representatives on National Security](#) was held in Brasília, chaired by Brazil's Chief Presidential Advisor Celso Amorim. Wang Yi, representing China, emphasised the accelerating global changes and called for BRICS unity in upholding peace, development, and the rights of developing nations. He highlighted BRICS' growing influence and stressed the need to counter unilateralism, power politics, and protectionism. Wang outlined three priorities: defending the right to development, promoting unity and cooperation, and safeguarding multilateralism through institutions like the UN and WTO. All participants affirmed the need for BRICS to oppose interventionism, defend international law, and collectively work toward a multipolar, just, and secure world order.

On [May 3, around noon, four China Coast Guard vessels and a helicopter from one of them entered Japan's territorial waters and airspace](#) near the Senkaku Islands, prompting strong protests from Japan. Later that day, Director-General Kanai Masaaki summoned China's Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Zhao Baogang to protest sternly, condemning the violation of Japan's sovereignty and urging China to prevent future incidents. [Vice Minister Funakoshi Takehiro also lodged a strong protest](#) with Chinese Ambassador Wu Jianghao, reinforcing Japan's objection to the intrusion.

[North Korea recently conducted its first test-firing from a newly launched destroyer](#), overseen by Kim Jong Un, who called for faster development of the navy's nuclear strike capabilities. Photo analysis suggests the warship has Russian-made anti-air radar, engine systems, and other components. This test comes amid increasing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, with Pyongyang recently reported supplying troops and conventional weapons to aid Russia's war in Ukraine. In exchange, concerns are rising among the United States, South Korea, and allied nations that Russia may provide North Korea with advanced military technologies that could enhance its nuclear weapons program, alongside additional military and economic support.

## Other Developments

[Xi Jinping to Pay a State Visit to Russia and Attend the Celebrations Marking the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War](#)

[Taiwan reports increased Chinese military activity near its territory](#)

[Visit to Japan by H.E. Mr. Maros Sefcovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency and the holding of the 6th Japan-EU High-Level Economic Dialogue](#)

[North Korea-linked restaurant reopens in Mongolia after yearslong closure](#)

[Wang Yi on BRICS Cooperation on Counter-Terrorism and Cybersecurity](#)

[Japan-U.S. Consultation on U.S. Tariff Measures](#)

[South Korea offers Canada submarines, artillery, weapons worth \\$24 bn](#)

[Top Belarusian officials begin three-day trip to North Korea: State media](#)

[Japan-France Foreign Ministers' Luncheon Meeting](#)

[Raksha Mantri holds bilateral meeting with his Japanese counterpart in New Delhi](#)



## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Israel conducted airstrikes on [Yemen's Houthi-held port city of Hodeidah](#) and Sana'a International Airport on May 5-6 in response to a ballistic missile attack by the Houthis on Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. Following this, on May 7, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi announced that Oman's diplomatic efforts have resulted in a [ceasefire agreement between the US and Ansar Allah](#) (Houthis). It is expected that the [Houthis will not target American vessels](#) in the Red Sea or Bab al-Mandab Strait, thus ensuring freedom of navigation and smooth flow of international trade. However, the statement from Oman did not specifically mention whether the Houthis had agreed to stop attacks on Israel.

The fourth round of US-Iran nuclear dialogue, originally scheduled for May 3, was postponed and will [likely be held in Oman on May 11](#). Meanwhile, President Trump reiterated that the goal of negotiations with Iran is to achieve ["full disarmament" of Tehran's nuclear programme](#). Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, however, maintained that Iran has every right to [enrich Uranium](#), referencing the country's membership in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Amidst continuing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, the Israeli government approved a [new ground operation](#) that calls for "conquering the strip and holding the territory" to ensure that Hamas can't rebuild its sites for terror attacks against Israeli civilians.

### Other Developments

[Kremlin: Putin and Netanyahu 'reaffirmed determination to upholding the truth' about WWII](#)

[Oil rises as market eyes US-China trade talks, lower US output](#)

[Syrian leader heads to France in first European trip](#)

[Trump announces deal to stop bombing Houthis, end shipping attacks](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [May 6](#), Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Tô Lâm adopted a joint statement on the establishment of a strategic partnership during Lâm's state visit to Kazakhstan. Vietnam confirmed its readiness to serve as a bridge and support Kazakhstan's efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its member states. The leaders also agreed to deepen political dialogue and diplomatic relations, expand cooperation in defence, trade, investment, and finance, and pursue joint initiatives in agriculture, energy, tourism, education, labour, and environmental protection. At the [expanded-format negotiations](#), Tokayev expressed his support for Vietnam's strategic goal of becoming one of the world's top 25 economies by 2040, affirming Kazakhstan's readiness to provide comprehensive assistance to help realise this ambition.

On [May 5](#), French President Emmanuel Macron hosted President of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov for rare talks at the Élysée Palace, with Paris showing interest in the vast gas reserves of the reclusive Central Asian state. The visit's centrepiece was the [Turkmen-French Economic Forum](#), organised to elevate trade and economic ties; the forum attracted leaders from major French companies and Turkmen delegates. During the bilateral talks between President Macron and Berdymukhamedov, the leaders identified key sectors for collaboration, including energy, transport, construction, water management, and satellite technologies. They affirmed their readiness to pursue these opportunities, leveraging the strong potential of both nations. The meeting culminated in the signing of several bilateral agreements, including an agreement on Turkmen gas.

On [April 26](#), Foreign ministers from China and five Central Asian countries met in Almaty, Kazakhstan, agreeing to expand trade and expressing "opposition to unilateral protectionist practices," according to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is also a Politburo member, was in attendance with counterparts from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Wang criticised the United States, saying it has "undermined the rules-based multilateral trading system and destabilised the global economy". The Central Asian side expressed enthusiasm for facilitating trade with China and linking supply chains.

## Other Developments

[Kazakhstan and OPEC+ Partners to Raise Oil Output in June](#)

[Netanyahu postpones Azerbaijan visit scheduled for coming week](#)

[Russia Ready To Begin Construction Of Uzbekistan's First Nuclear Power Station, Says Rosatom Boss](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

INS Sharda [arrived](#) at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives, for a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise from May 4 to 10, 2025. The inaugural edition of the India-Maldives HADR exercise aims to enhance interoperability and coordination between the Indian Navy and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The exercise focuses on disaster response coordination, search and rescue operations, medical assistance, logistical support, joint drills, training sessions, and community engagement. This aligns closely with India's "MAHASAGAR" (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision.

DRDO and the Indian Navy [successfully conducted](#) combat firing of the Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM) with reduced explosives. The system is designed to enhance India's undersea warfare capabilities, providing a significant edge against stealthy adversary vessels and strengthening maritime security. MIGM is an advanced underwater naval mine indigenously designed and developed by the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories such as the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune, and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh. Its production partners include Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Visakhapatnam, and Apollo Microsystems Limited, Hyderabad.

### Other Developments

[Indian Ocean Ship \(IOS\) SAGAR arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles](#)

[INS Kochi arrives at Male, Maldives, for handing over MNDL CGS Huravee after it underwent normal refit at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai](#)

[After the commissioning of INS Tushil, India will soon receive the second warship built in Russia](#)



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