



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

May 14, 2025



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Delhi Policy Group

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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 May 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over a high-level meeting comprising Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, the armed forces chiefs, and senior officials. Source: [X/PMO](#)

East Asia: Chinese President Xi Jinping, attended grand celebrations for the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union in Moscow, on May 9, 2025. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China](#)

West Asia: US President Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammed bin Salman, met in Riyadh on May 13, 2025. Source: [Official X Handle/Foreign Ministry Saudi Arabia](#)

Central Asia: Russian President Vladimir Putin met with President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on May 9, 2025. Source: [President of Russia](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Following the April 22nd terrorist attack in Pahalgam, perpetrated by the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Indian Armed Forces initiated Operation Sindoor on May 6th. The operation resulted in the destruction of substantial India-centric terrorist infrastructure located in Pakistan. Subsequently, India issued a statement disavowing further escalation, asserting that its [initial objectives](#) had been met; however, on the night of May 7-8, Pakistan, in a provocative escalation, launched drone and missile attacks against multiple civil and military installations in northern and western India. India's air defense systems successfully repelled these attacks.

[On May 8](#), multiple Pakistani air defense systems, including one in Lahore, were destroyed in a targeted operation conducted by Indian forces. Intense fighting continued [on May 9](#) and the [morning of May 10](#), involving drone deployments and the exchange of heavy-caliber fire across the Line of Control and portions of the International Border. The situation began to [de-escalate on](#) May 10, when a ceasefire was agreed upon following a call between the Pakistani and Indian DGMOs. A [DGMO-level meeting took](#) place on May 12 between the two countries, in accordance with the prevailing ceasefire understanding.

In a national address on May 12th, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi [announced](#) a new policy to counter terrorism. Key tenets include swift and decisive responses to attacks, unequivocal rejection of nuclear blackmail, and a unified approach to both state-sponsored and non-state terrorism. On May 13th, Prime Minister Modi also visited [Adampur Air Base](#), a key facility in the response to attacks from Pakistan.

In response to [mounting pressure](#) from the newly formed National Citizen Party (NCP), the interim Bangladeshi government issued a ban on the Awami League. On May 12, the Bangladesh Election Commission announced the [suspension of AL's registration](#). The BNP [endorsed](#) the ban on AL. Reports indicate that [NCP operatives](#) are assuming control of the local Awami League office.

Other Developments

[Nepal backs as India hits Pakistan-based terror camps under 'Operation Sindoor'](#)

[Bhutan Signs MoU with Adani for 5,000 MW hydropower](#)

[Bangladesh Army all set to procure China-made SAMs and MSAMs](#)

[India rolls over \\$50 million worth Treasury Bill to help Maldives](#)

[The National People's Power party led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake won local municipal councils elections](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, detained at the International Criminal Court (ICC), [won the mayoral election](#) in his home Davao City, while five candidates backed by his family are leading the Senate race showing the Duterte political dynasty's continued grip on power. The results are a big boost for Vice President Sara Duterte, Rodrigo Duterte's daughter, who faces impeachment by the Senate in July 2025. The [Philippine mid-term elections](#) have thrown up unexpected results that may shake President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr's hold on the senate.

On [May 12](#), Vietnam and Russia agreed to quickly negotiate and sign agreements on building nuclear power plants in Vietnam. The Southeast Asian nation has restarted plans to develop nuclear power plants that were suspended nearly a decade ago, as part of its efforts to [ramp up its power generation](#) capacity to support its fast-growing economy. The joint statement also mentioned that Vietnam and Russia have also agreed to boost cooperation in oil and gas industries, including the provision of Russian crude oil and liquefied natural gas to Vietnam.

On [May 12](#), Philippines' national security chief stated that the Philippines is drafting a long-term strategy to safeguard its claims in the South China Sea, aiming to preserve its assertive maritime stance beyond the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The move, observers said, could help Manila avoid the "pendulum" swing that had seen its foreign policy shift repeatedly between Washington and Beijing in recent years, and instead forge a more consistent approach rooted in national interest.

Other Developments

[Trump blinked in trade war with China. Can South-east Asia get a break, too?](#)

[ASEAN can be mediator in US-China rivalry: Indonesia's Yudhoyono](#)

['Work from Hague': Detained ex-Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte wins mayor's race, but can he govern?](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

During [Xi Jinping's state visit to Russia for the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's Victory in the Great Patriotic War](#), [China and Russia issued a joint statement](#) on May 9, emphasising their strong strategic alignment. The statement stressed the need for collective security, multilateralism, and also called out Western-led military alliances like NATO and AUKUS, accusing them of undermining global stability through nuclear doctrines or schemes such as "nuclear sharing" and "extended nuclear deterrence" and militarisation of emerging technologies like space and AI. The two countries reaffirmed support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC), and a legally binding treaty to prevent space weaponisation, while expressing serious concern about the U.S. and its allies violating arms control norms under various international conventions and conducting military biological activities. The statement shows a clear intention of China and Russia to actively cooperate in addressing critical challenges within the international security framework and promote a more balanced arms control architecture to maintain and strengthen global strategic stability.

Former South Korean President [Yoon Suk Yeol appeared in court on Monday, May 12, for a criminal trial over insurrection charges](#) related to his December 3 declaration of martial law, which led to the deployment of armed soldiers to parliament. He was impeached by the assembly immediately after in December last year, which was upheld by South Korea's constitutional court last month, formally suspending him from office. Yoon also became the first sitting South Korean president arrested, though later released on procedural grounds. If convicted, Yoon faces a potential life sentence or even the death penalty, though executions have not been carried out in South Korea since 1997. He also faces separate abuse of power charges and is under investigation for bribery involving his wife and a shaman. Meanwhile, his former party, the People Power Party (PPP), has nominated ex-labour minister Kim Moon-soo as its candidate for the upcoming June 3 presidential election.

[Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence \(MND\) reported detecting 31 Chinese military aircraft, seven naval vessels, and one official ship](#) operating around the island on May 13, with 30 aircraft crossing the Taiwan Strait's median line into the island's northern and southwestern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). China also launched satellites from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre early

Tuesday, with the trajectory over central Taiwan, while the MND stated it posed no threat and was being monitored closely.

Further amid escalating tensions and continuous violations of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by China, [Taiwan on May 12, 2025, conducted its first live-fire drill of the US-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems \(HIMARS\)](#) at the Jiupeng base in southern Pingtung County. The exercise marked a significant step in Taiwan's efforts to bolster its defence capabilities against potential Chinese aggression. The precision-guided, truck-mounted rocket systems used effectively in Ukraine are part of Taiwan's broader strategy to deter Beijing, which claims the island as its territory.

Other Developments

[G7 Foreign Ministers' statement on India and Pakistan](#)

[Japan-U.S.-ROK Foreign Ministries' Official Telephone Talk on North Korea](#)

[Xi Jinping Meets with Myanmar's Leader Min Aung Hlaing](#)

[President Xi Jinping Attended the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum and Delivered a Keynote Address](#)

[The 6th Japan-EU High-Level Economic Dialogue](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

US President Donald Trump met Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh during his visit to the Middle East on May 13. Both leaders pledged to strengthen the US-Saudi strategic partnership for economic prosperity, with [Riyadh committing USD 600 billion in investment](#) in the US in areas such as energy security, defence industry, high technology, and access to global infrastructure and critical minerals. The US and Saudi Arabia also reached an agreement on a [USD 142 billion arms package](#), which the US described as its largest "defence cooperation agreement" to date. President Trump announced that the [US would lift sanctions on Syria](#) in response to a request from Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

On May 11, the US and Iran held the fourth round of nuclear talks in Muscat, mediated by Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr al-Busaidi. According to Oman, the dialogue between Washington and Tehran was useful and reflects a [shared desire to reach an agreement](#). Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi maintained that Tehran's right to [civilian enrichment of Uranium](#) cannot be subjected to any deal. Meanwhile, the [US imposed sanctions on 20 companies](#) in a network that helped Iran export oil to China.

The [Kurdistan Workers Party \(PKK\)](#), which has been engaged in conflict with Turkey since 1984, has announced that it will disband and end its struggle against the government of Turkey.

Other Developments

[Iran, India reaffirm strategic ties at high-level talks in New Delhi](#)

[Hamas releases American-Israeli hostage Edan Alexander](#)

[Iran proposes partnership with UAE and Saudi Arabia to enrich uranium](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [May 9](#), Russian President Vladimir Putin met with President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who was taking part in celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The [leaders discussed](#) methods for expanding and strengthening of Uzbek-Russian relations of comprehensive strategic partnership and alliance in the context of practical implementation of agreements reached during the visit of Russia's President to Uzbekistan in May last year. Additionally, they discussed way to take coordinated measures to maintain the dynamic of trade, economic and investment cooperation. Special attention was paid to accelerating preparation and implementation of projects in priority economic sectors, and encouraging cooperation ties between the regions.

On [May 12](#), Tehran hosted a high-level six-party meeting the participation of representatives from China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan to discuss advancing the China–Kazakhstan–Uzbekistan–Turkmenistan–Iran–Türkiye/Europe transport corridor. During the meeting, an agreement was reached on joint actions to intensify container traffic on this route. The meeting participants confirmed their readiness to provide comprehensive support for promoting the corridor in the international transportation market. They also approved competitive tariff conditions and agreed on key parameters for organizing train traffic, including maintaining the approved delivery time along the route.

On [May 8](#), Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Rashid Meredov held phone talks. The ministers discussed current issues related to strengthening cooperation between the two countries. The ministers expressed confidence that the traditional friendship and brotherhood between the two peoples, which have existed historically, will continue to develop on the basis of partnership relations between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Other Developments

[Armenia minister discusses defense cooperation prospects with Germany colleague](#)

[Indian tourists cancel trips to Turkey, Azerbaijan for supporting Pakistan, travel sites suspend bookings](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

In the wake of the Pakistan-sponsored terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, the Indian Navy under 'Operation Sindoor', [deployed](#) its advanced anti-missile and anti-aircraft defence capabilities as a part of a joint operational plan coordinated with the Indian Army and Air Force, aimed at deterring further hostilities and maintaining escalation control. Central to this operation was the [deployment](#) of the Carrier Battle Group (CBG), supported by numerous MiG-29K fighters and Airborne Early Warning helicopters, which formed the first layer of the Navy's layered Fleet Air Defence system. This robust forward-deployed posture ensured that no suspicious or hostile aircraft could approach within several hundred kilometres of the fleet, maintaining an uncontested operational presence that effectively denied Pakistan any opportunity to threaten India's maritime interests. At a joint briefing with senior commanders from the armed forces, the Director General of Naval Operations, Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod, [highlighted](#) that the Navy's deployment in the Arabian Sea compelled the Pakistan Navy to remain confined to its harbours or operate only close to its coastline, underscoring India's decisive maritime dominance during the operation.

India has [renewed](#) its financial support to the Maldives by rolling over a \$50 million Treasury Bill for another year through the State Bank of India (SBI), reinforcing its commitment to a strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean region. Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel expressed gratitude and said, "This timely assistance reflects the close bonds of friendship between Maldives and India and will support the Government's ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience". This interest-free financial assistance, provided under a special government-to-government arrangement since March 2019, is a direct response to a request from the Maldivian Ministry of Finance and is aimed at supporting the island nation's ongoing economic reforms and resilience efforts.

Other Developments

[INS Kiltan, made a port call at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, to participate in the International Maritime Defence Expo \(IMDEX-25\)](#)

[After completing a month-long deployment in the southwest Indian Ocean region, Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR \(IOS SAGAR\) returned to Kochi on May 8, 2025](#)

[Prime Minister Anthony Albanese appointed Tim Watts as Australia's first-ever Special Envoy for Indian Ocean Affairs](#)



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