



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

June 4, 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:

Southeast Asia: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a meeting with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, on June 3, 2025. Source: [X/@PiyushGoyal](https://twitter.com/PiyushGoyal)

East Asia: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met and Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar at the signing ceremony of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) in Hong Kong, May 30, 2025. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The People's Republic of China](https://www.mfa.gov.cn/en/foreign-ministry/202505/30/t20250530_0401299.htm)

Central Asia: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on May 27, 2025 in Lachin, Azerbaijan. Source: [X/@CMShehbaz](https://twitter.com/CMShehbaz)

India Ocean Region: Two frigates of the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) Operation ATALANTA, the Italian ship Antonio MARCEGLIA and the Spanish ship REINA SOFIA, arrived in Mumbai on May 26, 2025. Source: [PIB](https://pib.gov.in)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

At the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on May 31, General Anil Chauhan, India's Chief of Defence Staff, and General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Pakistan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, delivered pointed warnings and articulated their nations' respective limits during separate addresses. General Chauhan emphasized India's newly adopted zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, referencing [Operation Sindoor](#). He stated, "It is my hope that this operation, which remains within the military sphere, will serve as a lesson to our adversaries, demonstrating the limits of India's tolerance." General Sahir Shamshad Mirza [cautioned](#) that the lowered threshold poses a significant risk to strategic stability, potentially resulting in widespread damage and destruction before international intervention.

An upgrade in diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan has been announced; [the status](#) of their respective [chargés d'affaires](#) will be elevated to ambassadorial rank. The breakthrough in relations resulted from [trilateral discussions](#) among Afghanistan, China, and Pakistan, culminating in a meeting of their foreign ministers in Beijing this month. China reportedly played a crucial role in resolving the dispute between Pakistan and Afghanistan, leading to both countries agreeing to enhance their diplomatic ties.

Kathmandu experienced widespread [pro-monarchy protests](#) from May 29. Following an attempt to enter a restricted area during a June 1st protest, Kamal Thapa, Nepal's former deputy prime minister and chairman of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal, and approximately six others were taken into custody. The government has implemented a two-month [ban on all public protests](#) in Kathmandu, encompassing sit-ins, hunger strikes, and other forms of public assembly.

On May 29, Nepal's Finance Minister Bishnu Paudel presented the [national budget](#) to parliament. Minister Paudel announced a yearly budget totaling NPR 1.96 trillion, with a key objective being the finalization of long-outstanding infrastructure initiatives. This budget represents a 5.6 percent increase over the current fiscal year's budget. The Government intends to achieve 6 percent economic growth and limit inflation to 5.5 percent. The budget statement indicates that the government aims to generate revenue of Rs1.31 trillion and secure foreign grants totaling Rs53.45 billion. The budget deficit of Rs595.66

billion will be covered by foreign loans totaling Rs233.66 billion and domestic borrowing of Rs362 billion. Recurrent expenditure, encompassing routine governmental functions, has been assigned Rs 1.18 trillion, representing 60.1% of the total budget.

Other Developments

[Nepal seeks more Chinese investment and support, FM Deuba tells Wang](#)

[Bangladesh Supreme Court lifts ban on Jamaat-e-Islami party](#)

[770 illegal migrants deported from Delhi to Bangladesh in last six months](#)

[Over two hundred inmates managed to escape from District Prison Malir in Karachi on June 2](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [June 3](#), Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a meeting with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong and discussed ways to boost economic ties and huge opportunities in the Indian shipping sector. In a post on social media platform X, Minister Goyal said they also discussed enhancing our bilateral trade & investment ties.

On [June 2](#), during the Shangri-la Dialogue, Singapore's defence minister, Chan Chun Sing urged Beijing to use every opportunity to make its perspective known to the world. He stated it was beneficial for all sides to work with China and vice versa. He also sought to soothe tensions after the Chinese side protested against comments made by US defence chief Pete Hegseth. In a departure from its practice since 2019, Beijing sent a lower-level delegation to the conclave attended by ministers, defence chiefs and academics from 47 countries.

On [May 28](#), France and Indonesia signed a preliminary defence pact that could lead to new orders of French military equipment including Rafale fighter jets and Scorpene submarines, French President Emmanuel Macron. Indonesian President Prabowo said France was one of Indonesia's main partners as it upgrades its military hardware and develops its defence industry through joint production and technology transfers.

On [May 28](#), Cambodia's Ministry of National Defence said that one of its soldiers was killed in a brief firefight with Thai troops, in a disputed border region between the country's Preah Vihear province and Thailand's Ubon Ratchathani province. The ministry accused Thai soldiers of opening fire first on a Cambodian military post that had long existed in the contested border zone. While the two countries agreed to seek a peaceful solutions a day after the clash, on June 2, Cambodia said it plans to [seek a ruling from the UN's International Court of Justice](#) over the border disputes with Thailand

Other Developments

[Laos president says must lure more countries to invest](#)

[Vietnam scraps Two-Child policy](#)

[US made 'tough' requests to Vietnam in trade talks, sources say](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On May 30, Chinese [Foreign Minister Wang Yi](#) met Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Hong Kong. Mr Dar travelled to attend the signing ceremony of the Convention on the Establishment of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed). Wang Yi praised Pakistan's strong support for China's initiative, expressing readiness to collaborate on promoting IOMed. Dar commended the initiative as a significant step toward strengthening the multilateral system and reaffirmed Pakistan's support for China, including hosting the upcoming SCO Summit, emphasising enhanced regional cooperation and reaffirming China's support for Pakistan's sovereignty and its upcoming UN Security Council presidency.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of [South Korea](#) has launched a three-year 'Intelligent Diplomatic and Security Data Platform Project' to integrate AI into diplomatic functions, aiming to enhance task efficiency, strategic decision-making, and public engagement. Announced by Minister Cho Tae-yul as the official start of 'AI in diplomacy', the initiative will use generative and inference AI models within a secure private cloud tailored to the unique needs of diplomacy and security. LG CNS has been selected as the main contractor, joined by VAIV, Synergion, and Unidocs.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has reported increasing [Chinese military activity](#) around its territory, with the latest incidents occurring on June 2 and 3. On June 3, Taiwan detected three PLA aircraft sorties, 10 PLAN vessels, and one official Chinese ship, with one aircraft crossing the median line into Taiwan's northern and eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). Even a day earlier, six PLA aircraft sorties, six PLA-N vessels, and two official ships were reported in Taiwan's territorial waters. Taiwanese armed forces have been closely monitoring and responding to these incursions. This escalation has also drawn international concern, with the US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth, during his recent [Shangri-La Dialogue](#) address, warning of China's increasingly aggressive manoeuvres and the potential intent to attack Taiwan. He stressed the need for Asian nations to boost defence spending and deepen cooperation with the US to deter conflict, thereby ensuring Taiwan's security and sovereignty.

Other Developments

[North Korea deploys mystery balloon-like objects to stricken warship, satellite photos show](#)

[China and Russia Hold Deputy Foreign Ministers' Consultation on Asia-Pacific Affairs](#)

[7th ROK-Iran Director-General Policy Consultation](#)

[The Sixth Japan-China Foreign Press Secretary Consultations](#)

[Minister of Foreign Affairs and Secretary-General of AfCFTA Hold Meeting \(May 27\)](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On May 31, Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Al-Busaidi presented a US proposal to Iran regarding a potential nuclear deal. Reports indicated that Iran is likely to decline the US proposal as it does not accommodate Tehran's position on [Uranium enrichment for civilian purposes](#). During five rounds of nuclear talks between the US and Iran mediated by Oman, the Trump administration has given mixed public messages about whether to allow Iran to retain its Uranium enrichment capacity at lower levels for civilian purposes. However, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff clarified that the US supports Israel's position that Iran [must halt all Uranium enrichment activities](#), affirming that any potential agreement with Iran will incorporate this requirement.

Highlighting a significant [shift in the US's approach to Syria](#), US Ambassador Thomas Barrack met with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa and Foreign Minister Assad al-Shaibani in Istanbul on May 24. Ambassador Thomas Barrack highlighted that the Trump administration's decision to grant sanctions relief to Syria is intended to secure the lasting defeat of ISIS and provide the Syrian people with an opportunity to improve their lives. Later, Amb. Barrack travelled to Damascus and urged [dialogue between Syria and Israel](#), particularly regarding border issues, emphasising the significance of a mutual non-aggression agreement.

French President Emmanuel Macron, during his visit to Indonesia, reiterated his country's support for the creation of a Palestinian state. France and Saudi Arabia have announced plans to [co-organise a United Nations conference on Gaza](#), scheduled to take place in New York in June 2025, to foster renewed momentum toward the recognition of a Palestinian state.

Other Developments

[Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir receives All-Party delegation from India](#)

[Macron: France may toughen stance on Israel if it continues blocking Gaza aid](#)

[France bears the brunt of Israel's isolation ire](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [May 28](#), Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev met with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Lachin for a trilateral summit. The summit was organized to mark Azerbaijan's Republic Day. It served as a platform to present plans for deepening political, economic, and military integration between the three nations. In his speech at the summit, [Prime Minister Sharif stated](#) Pakistan's commitment to peace—hinting at recent clashes with India—and praised the support shown by Turkey and Azerbaijan. He also stated that Pakistan was willing to engage in dialogue with India on “all matters” if India reciprocates “in all sincerity”.

The inaugural [Central Asia-Italy Summit](#) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan on May 30. The summit emphasised Rome's commitment to being a key player in Eurasian affairs confirming a growing European presence in Central Asia, particularly Italy, which intends to use its strategic position in the Mediterranean Sea to make Central Asian goods more accessible to European and African markets. [Preliminary assessments](#) indicate that the Central Asia-Italy summit has inaugurated a novel chapter in regional diplomacy, which may portend Central Asia's metamorphosis from a peripheral region into a geostrategic nexus, concomitant with its fortification as a cohesive diplomatic and economic bloc. Following the Summit, [a joint declaration](#) was published.

On [June 3](#), State Counselor of Kazakhstan Erlan Karin, stated that the Central Asia-China relationship is reaching a new level. Opening the event, Karin emphasized the rapid development of cooperation between China and Central Asian countries, stressing the importance of expert dialogue and multilateral engagement. He announced that the second Central Asia–China summit will be hosted soon in Astana, marking another milestone in strengthening strategic ties between the two regions.

Other Developments

[Kazakhstan Sets Stage for AI Regulation with New Draft Law](#)

[Iraq Seeks Alternative Gas Import Routes Through Turkmenistan Amid Sanctions Challenge](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy's hydrography vessel, INS Darshak, [made a port call](#) at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on May 31. The visit focused on enhancing hydrographic collaboration between India and Vietnam, crucial for safe navigation, maritime safety, and accurate nautical charting in the region. INS Darshak demonstrated its advanced hydrographic survey technologies and methodologies. The crews of both navies engaged in professional discussions through technical demonstrations, fostering knowledge exchange and collaboration. The visit highlights the growing strategic partnership and trust between India and Vietnam, especially in the maritime domain.

ESPS Reina Sofia of the Spanish Navy and ITS Antonio Marceglia of the Italian Navy [visited](#) Mumbai from May 26 to June 01, 2025 for an operational turnaround. Both ships are currently operating under the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), and their visit marks the first such engagement with India under the EU's aegis. During their stay, the discussions focused on enhancing maritime cooperation, with both sides agreeing on the importance of extended collaboration in the military domain. The crews participated in Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs) and a Tabletop Exercise (TTX), addressing tactical-level cooperation at sea. The harbour engagements laid the foundation for the Joint Exercise between the Indian Navy and EUNAVFOR, focusing on counter-piracy operations, interoperability, and tactical manoeuvres in the Indian Ocean.

The UK's Strategic Defence Review 2025, [unveiled](#) on June 2, 2025, acknowledges India's growing influence on the global stage and highlights the importance of deepening the bilateral defence relationship across a range of shared interests, particularly in the Indian Ocean region and through enhanced capability cooperation. A key development noted in the review is the announcement of the UK-India Defence Partnership in February 2025, which is described as an important next step for bilateral defence cooperation, with a specific focus on next-generation weapons in the critical area of air defence. This partnership builds on the broader India-UK 2030 Vision, which includes strengthened efforts in cyber, space, countering crime and terrorism, and promoting a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.

Other developments

[Keel Laying of the eighth and last ship \(BY 530\), Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft \(ASW SWC\), was held on May 29, 2025](#)



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