



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### June 18, 2025



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**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:

**West Asia:** The Israeli Air Force struck nuclear sites in Iran on June 13, 2025.

Source: [Official X Handle/Israel Defence Forces \(IDF\)](#)

**East Asia:** Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong meeting Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi.

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China](#)

**Central Asia:** On June 16, 2025, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev held talks with President Xi Jinping at the Presidential Palace in Astana. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs-China](#)

**India Ocean Region:** INS Tabar participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the UK Carrier Strike Group, HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Richmond, in the North Arabian Sea. Source: [X/@indiannavy](#)

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## South Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held a phone conversation on June 18. PM Modi discussed "Operation Sindoor" with President Trump and [highlighted](#) that at no point was there a discussion on the India-US trade deal or any proposal for US mediation between India and Pakistan. He also told President Trump that India would now treat terrorist attacks as acts of war rather than proxy actions. Earlier, President Trump had claimed that the US played a significant role in facilitating the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, emphasising that his commitment to enhancing trade relations with both nations was instrumental in achieving the cessation of hostilities.

Following India's suspension of the ['Indus Waters Treaty' with Pakistan](#), a report from Pakistan's Indus River System Authority (IRSA) indicated a 17 percent reduction in water flow from India to Pakistan's Sindh province, adversely affecting the sowing of monsoonal (Kharif) crops in the region.

The Chief Adviser to the Interim Government of Bangladesh, Professor Muhammad Yunus and the acting Chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Tarique Rahman, met in London on June 13. The two leaders agreed to hold the [13<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Elections in Bangladesh](#) in February 2026, largely resolving the political uncertainty over elections in Bangladesh since the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

### Other Developments

[Trump to meet Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir over lunch amid Mideast crisis](#)

[Foreign Minister Deuba calls for boosting trade and seamless connectivity with India](#)

[Bangladesh should rein in terrorists: India after vandalism of Tagore's ancestral home](#)

[Clash between Taliban and Pakistani troops in Kunar leaves two dead](#)

[Nepali Congress leaders visiting China](#)

[25-Year Oil Contract for Amu Darya Cancelled](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [June 16](#), Cambodia delivered a letter to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) requesting it to rule on the demarcation of disputed border areas with Thailand. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said "Cambodia will not back away from using legal mechanisms through the ICJ to seek a resolution on the Cambodia-Thailand border issue over TAMONE THOM Temple, TAMONE TOUCH Temple, TA KRABEY Temple, and MOMBEI area. However, Thailand has indicated that it prefers that the disputed border be settled through bilateral negotiations with the Joint Boundary Commission as the main venue.

On [June 16](#), the Philippines, Japan, and the United States have kicked off their second round of joint coast guard exercises in Japan, shortly after the conclusion of a naval exercise between the Japanese and Philippine navies over the weekend. The five-day exercise, which officially began on Monday, is the second trilateral coast guard exercise involving Japan, the U.S., and the Philippines, after the drills that were [conducted](#) off the coast of Luzon in June 2023. It is also the first such exercise to be held in Japanese waters. [As a check against Beijing](#), Japan plans to bolster the Philippines' maritime capabilities via its official security assistance program, through which it offers defense equipment for free to like-minded countries.

On [June 13](#), the 4th Japan-Viet Nam Maritime Consultation was held in Tokyo. During the consultation, both sides discussed the importance of a global maritime order based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as the situations in the South China Sea and East China Sea, and other maritime issues of concern to the international community, including marine environmental policies. They concurred on the necessity for both countries to continue close cooperation in maintaining and strengthening the maritime order based on the rule of law.

Other Developments

[Ex-Philippine President Duterte seeks release from ICC detention](#)

[Vietnam admitted as BRICS 'partner country,' Brazil says](#)

[Cambodia blocks Thai fruit and vegetable trade as border tension escalates](#)

## East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On June 12, 2025, [Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong met with Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval](#) in New Delhi for a new round of the China-India Vice Foreign Minister-Foreign Secretary Dialogue. Sun emphasised the need to build on the recent positive momentum in bilateral relations, calling for enhanced political trust, cooperation, and constructive engagement based on the leaders' understanding reached in Kazan. Both sides discussed key international and regional issues, pledged support for each other's initiatives, including India's support for China's SCO presidency, and noted preparations for the 24th Special Representatives' Meeting on the boundary issue. They also committed to reviving dialogue mechanisms, resuming direct flights and media exchanges, facilitating Indian pilgrims' travel to Xizang, and continuing commemorative activities for the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties. Sun conveyed China's condolences over the air crash in Gujarat on the same day.

[Taiwan's first domestically built defence submarine, Hai Kun \(Narwhal\), has officially begun sea trials](#) after completing its harbour acceptance tests. The submarine departed from CSBC Corp's shipyard in Kaohsiung, closely guarded by naval forces including M109 assault boats, missile boats, and frigates. The ongoing sea trials, which include assessments of propulsion and navigation systems while partially surfaced, are a key step before delivery and are scheduled for November. The projects have faced multiple delays due to technical issues such as voltage surges and alleged leakage. Specific timelines for subsequent submerged trials and further evaluations of the vessel's performance remain undisclosed.

[North Korea has strongly criticised the US over renewed discussions about granting "strategic flexibility" to US Forces Korea \(USFK\)](#), allowing them to expand their role beyond the Korean Peninsula to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific. In a statement via the state-run KCNA, Pyongyang called the move an "attempt of aggression," accusing the US of using this doctrine to maintain regional hegemony and warning that such actions could escalate tensions and conflict in Northeast Asia. It also cautioned that South Korea could become a frontline base in future conflict and vowed to strengthen its military deterrence.

## Other Development

[North Korea plans to send military construction workers and deminers to Russia](#)

[Xi Jinping arrives in Astana to attend the Second China-Central Asia Summit](#)

[Korea names inaugural senior secretary for AI](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) conducted [pre-emptive strikes on Iran's nuclear](#) sites on June 13, marking a significant escalation of the military conflict between the two countries. IDF's precision strikes resulted in the deaths of key figures within [Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps \(IRGC\)](#), including Commander Hossein Salami, Aerospace and Ballistic Missile Program Chief Amir Ali Hajizadeh, and Intelligence Chief Mohammad Kazemi. All three were close advisers to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. In retaliation, Iran launched a barrage of [missiles targeting Israel's financial hub](#), Tel Aviv, as well as Haifa and Jerusalem. Amidst this, President Trump urged Iran to surrender and agree to a new nuclear agreement, warning that the US and Israel had gained [comprehensive control over Iran's airspace](#) and were aware of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's location.

Khamenei, the Iranian Leader, emphasised his refusal to capitulate and urged the [IRGC to deliver a robust response](#) to Israel's "terrorist Zionist regime," advocating for an uncompromising stance toward the Zionists. Iran's Foreign Ministry informed that the country's Parliament is preparing a bill that could push Tehran to exit the Nuclear [Non-Proliferation Treaty \(NPT\)](#). Meanwhile, other countries in West Asia [condemned Israel's military strikes on Iran](#), calling for urgent de-escalation of the situation and avoiding wider conflict in the region.

Russia also conveyed apprehensions regarding the intensification of hostilities between Tel Aviv and Tehran, underscoring its [willingness to mediate](#) between the two nations and to store Iran's highly enriched uranium.

### Other Developments

[India's statement on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's \(SCO\) Statement on Iran-Israel Conflict](#)

[Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu briefs PM Modi on Iran strikes](#)



## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The [Second China-Central Asia Summit](#) was convened, in Astana, on June 17, 2025. Hosted at the invitation of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the event was attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Central Asian counterparts. During the Summit, President Tokayev declared that ties between Central Asia and China have reached the level of an [eternal and comprehensive strategic partnership](#). Additionally, the heads of state signed the Astana Declaration of the second Central Asia-China summit and the Treaty on Eternal Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship, and Cooperation. The [summit saw agreements](#) signed across sectors such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and technology, solidifying China's growing influence in the strategically vital region. China and the Central Asian nations are poised to finalize over 35 memorandums collectively valued at more than \$17 billion.

[Prior to the Summit](#), Kazakhstan and China signed a series of landmark agreements in various fields on June 16. One of them was a strategic cooperation agreement between the International Green Technologies and Investment Projects Center (IGTIPC) and the Shanghai Science and Technology Exchange Center (SSTEC). It is expected to give Kazakhstan direct access to one of Asia's largest green technology platforms.

The [17<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise](#) NOMADIC ELEPHANT concluded today at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Defence Secretary, Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh along with Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh, Director General Operational Logistics and Strategic Movement, attended the closing ceremony. Speaking at the Closing Ceremony, the Defence Secretary commended the professionalism, dedication and conduct of the Indian soldiers during Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT. He said that this exercise is a testament to the enduring bond of friendship, mutual trust and shared cultural linkages between India and Mongolia. It served as a platform for meaningful military cooperation and demonstrate India's unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability.

## Other Developments

[Kazakhstan's Nuclear Diplomacy – With China Set to Build Second, Who Will Construct Third Nuclear Power Plant?](#)

[Xi says China willing to work with Turkmenistan to fully unlock potential for cooperation based on win-win collaboration](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy (UK) [conducted](#) a two-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the North Arabian Sea on June 9 and 10, 2025. The exercise involved INS Tabar, an Indian Navy submarine, and a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft operating alongside the UK Carrier Strike Group, which included HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Richmond. The navies executed a series of complex operations, including anti-submarine warfare drills, tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations, and officer exchanges. A key highlight was the coordinated anti-submarine warfare exercises, which utilised the Indian Navy's submarine and the advanced sensors of the P-8I aircraft in conjunction with Royal Navy assets to enhance interoperability and maritime security.

In the [ongoing salvage operations](#) of the container vessel MV WAN Hai 503, on 13 June 2025, the Navy deployed a specialised salvage team through an aerial insertion operation. The team embarked on a Seaking helicopter, executed a complex winching operation, and managed to connect the tow with the salvage tug Offshore Warrior. Following the successful connection, the team was safely extracted by the naval helicopter. Towing operations for the vessel have since commenced. Currently, the Indian Navy ship INS Sharda and the Offshore Support Vessel (OSV) MV Triton Liberty are actively participating in the ongoing salvage operation. These efforts are being carried out in close coordination with the Indian Coast Guard and other maritime agencies, ensuring a unified and effective response to the crisis.

The Indian Navy and the French Navy [successfully concluded](#) the 18<sup>th</sup> Staff Talks in Paris. The talks were co-chaired by Rear Admiral Nirbhay Bapna, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence), and Rear Admiral Du Gardin, ALRI of the French Navy. Discussions focused on advancing operational interoperability through bilateral and multilateral exercises, augmenting maritime domain awareness (MDA), expanding training exchanges, fostering subject matter expert (SME) interactions, and enhancing cooperation in niche technologies. These efforts underscore the commitment of both navies to deepen collaboration and address shared maritime security challenges.

## Other Developments

[The Turkish Naval Ship TCG BÜYÜKADA arrived at the Port of Colombo](#)

[10th Staff Talks between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy were successfully conducted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#)

[HNOMS Roald Amundsen arrived at the Port of Hambantota for replenishment purpose](#)



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