



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

October 8, 2025

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South Asia:

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Indian Ocean Region:

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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: Mohamed Ghassan, the Maldivian Defence Minister, held a meeting with the Indian delegation led by India's Defence Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh, in Male on October 06, 2025. Source: [X/MoDmv](#)

Central Asia: The heads of state of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) convened in northern Azerbaijan for the 12th summit on October 7, 2025. Source: [Organization of Turkic States](#)

Indian Ocean Region: The Indian Navy and Royal Navy will be conducting bilateral Exercise Konkan-25 from October 5 to 12, 2025, off the western coast of India. Source: [X/ @indiannavy](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Raytheon [will provide](#) Pakistan with an unspecified number of AIM-120 AMRAAM missiles, according to a newly modified arms contract notified by the US Department of War. The May 7, 2025, contract for the AMRAAM deal did not list Pakistan as a purchaser of the missile. A press release dated September 30, concerning contracts issued by the US Department of War for the US Air Force, indicated that Raytheon received a \$41.6 million firm-fixed-price modification to a prior contract for the enhanced C8 and D3 AMRAAM variants and their production. F-16 Falcons operated by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) are equipped with US-manufactured missiles.

Pakistan's past purchases of missiles from the US notwithstanding, the enhanced rapport between President Trump and Pakistan's military leadership could lead to additional transactions of this nature in the near future.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has declared the commencement of [investigations into human rights violations](#) in Afghanistan, which may lead to criminal investigations into alleged violations by the Taliban and foreign military forces, including the United States. The European Union's proposal requests investigators to gather evidence for subsequent legal actions and represents one of the most robust forms of a UN rights investigation. The United States previously resisted examination of its actions by the International Criminal Court. However, a State Department spokesperson said on October 5, before the adoption of the resolution on October 6 without a vote: "The United States government, under the leadership of President Trump, will not accept international organisations attempting to exert unlawful jurisdiction over American troops." The Taliban authorities say they respect rights in line with their interpretation of Islamic law.

Inquiries have been initiated in certain countries that contributed troops to Afghanistan, like Britain and Australia, but prosecutions have been uncommon. New investigations are unlikely to prompt governmental action against troops involved in similar cases in the future.

The Indian delegation, led by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, [participated in the sixth annual defence cooperation dialogues in the Maldives](#). The meeting took place on October 6, with the Maldivian delegation being headed by Maj Gen Ibrahim Hilmy, Chief of Defence Forces. The talks prioritised the reinforcement of defence collaboration, capacity enhancement, promotion of defence technology, and regional security within the Indian Ocean Region. Secretary Singh also met with Maldivian

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ibrahim Latheef and Minister of Defence Mohamed Ghassan.

The relationship between India and the Maldives has evolved significantly since President Muizzu's election, whose primary campaign pledge included the removal of all Indian military personnel stationed in the Maldives. Presently, India and the Maldives are experiencing strengthened relations across various sectors, including defence, trade, and interpersonal connections.

Other Developments

[Taliban 'Foreign Minister' Muttqi to visit India next week](#)

[Communications Restored In Afghanistan After 2-Day Blackout](#)

[Nepal may see negative growth after unrest, World Bank warns](#)

[Maldives police arrest 8 demonstrators during opposition party protest](#)

[Sri Lanka still to pay USD 37 bn foreign loans, Rs. 19.6 trillion domestic loans](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

[On October 1](#), the spokesperson of the Royal Thai Army announced that Thailand has no imminent plans to reopen its fractious border with Cambodia. The border has remained closed since five days of clashes between the two countries' militaries in July left dozens of people dead and displaced hundreds of thousands. The move has dealt a major economic blow to both nations, with [Cambodia suffering more since](#) Thailand plays a key role in its supply chains. Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen, the former prime minister and father of Prime Minister Hun Manet, who has played a prominent role in the dispute, said on Facebook that if Thailand reopens the border, Cambodia will reciprocate within five hours - but it will not bend its knee.

The continued Thai-Cambodia border standoff, despite the recent ceasefire, reveals the fragility of peace and the limits of ASEAN's conflict-resolution mechanisms. The refusal to reopen the border signals unresolved political and emotional grievances. The rhetoric from Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen – asserting reciprocity but rejecting submission – underscores lingering mistrust and national pride.

On [October 5](#), Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto told the military to guard the country's vast natural resources from foreign entities, saying such groups have been "stealing" and "smuggling" Indonesia's assets. In a speech at a ceremony commemorating the military's 80th anniversary in Jakarta, Prabowo said, "It's no secret that our natural resources are abundant and we, for hundreds of years, have been disturbed, invaded by foreign powers," "Up until today, until this very second, these irresponsible powers are still stealing, smuggling and taking much of our resources."

President Prabowo Subianto's October 5 remarks carry significant geopolitical weight, signalling a more assertive and nationalistic posture in Indonesia's resource governance and foreign policy. Additionally, by tasking the armed forces with resource protection, Indonesia blurs the line between defence and economic policy, elevating resource management to a national security priority.

Other Developments

[Vietnam's top leader To Lam to visit North Korea this week](#)

[Will Takaichi's Japan engage with Quad, Squad or new 'Asian Quad'?](#)

[Myanmar junta strike kills dozens at festival protest, say residents](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

[Sanae Takaichi was elected leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party \(LDP\) on October 4.](#) Earlier, Ishiba Shigeru had announced his resignation from the post of Japan's Prime Minister in September 2025. The 64-year-old Takaichi stands to become the country's first-ever female prime minister in the parliamentary vote to select the new premier scheduled for later this month. She invoked a victory call to build a strong and prosperous Japan, which could be passed on to the next generation. Takaichi is considered a right-wing figure within the LDP, with her political stance combining ultranationalism and social conservatism with an aggressive fiscal stance, which is a stark departure from Ishiba's moderate approach. Her fiscal approach is guided by that of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as she advocates aggressive public spending and low-interest borrowing to stimulate Japan's stagnant economy. She has even indicated during a TV debate last month, the possibility of renegotiation of the US-Japan Trade deal if, during implementation, some provisions are negatively affecting Japan's national interest.

Many developed countries worldwide are experiencing slowed economic growth, which is fuelling public frustration over issues such as inequality, unemployment, and immigration, prompting voters to turn toward leaders or parties that emphasise nationalism, economic protectionism, and traditional values. Japan too reflects this broader trend of rising right-wing politics with the election of right-wing figure Sanae Takaichi and the growing prominence of Japan's right-wing Sanseito party, as seen in the latest upper house election.

[Taiwan President Lai Ching-te, in an American radio interview,](#) made a public appeal to US President Donald Trump to continue supporting Taiwan, arguing that it not only serves Taiwan's interests but also those of the United States. He warns that if China annex Taiwan, it would gain greater power to compete with the US on the global stage and alter the rules-based international order, which would significantly undermine American interests. He even said that if the US president could persuade Beijing to permanently renounce the use of force against Taiwan, he would surely be deserving of a Nobel Peace Prize. While the US has long been a strong ally of Taiwan, support from the Trump administration has been iffy. Lai reportedly had to postpone an overseas trip because the U.S. denied him a transit stop in New York, and President Trump also reportedly declined the military aid package worth over \$400 million for Taiwan. He has expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue with Beijing that is

guided by equality and dignity, while also supporting America's efforts for its reindustrialisation and becoming a global leader in artificial intelligence.

Taiwan is majorly dependent on the US for its security in terms of military aid, advanced weaponry, and strategic backing to deter Chinese aggression. The existing uncertainty and policy inconsistency by the current US government amid China's continued military posturing is heightening Taiwan's strategic anxiety.

Other Developments

[Taiwan detects 3 Chinese sorties, 7 vessels around strait](#)

[China Premier Li Qiang to visit North Korea for ruling party anniversary](#)

[Vietnam's top leader to visit North Korea this week](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On October 5, US President Donald Trump warned Hamas that ceasefire [negotiations in Gaza must move expeditiously](#) or “massive bloodshed will follow”. According to him, positive talks have been held with Hamas to secure the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza and end the war, which could lead to peace in the Middle East. On October 3, in accordance with the US-proposed 20-point Gaza peace plan, [Hamas agreed to release all Israeli hostages](#) (alive or dead), as well as to negotiate a ceasefire with Israel, provided it received guarantees that the war would be ended and that such acts would not occur again. The [indirect talks between Hamas and Israel](#) in Sharm El Sheikh are being mediated by Qatar, Egypt, and President Trump's advisers Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

The indirect talks between Israel and Hamas, following the US's 20-point Gaza peace plan, appear to be the most promising for ending the Gaza conflict to date. However, uncertainty remains regarding the rebuilding and governance of Gaza.

In an address to the nation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu paid tribute to the victims of the Hamas terror attack that occurred on October 7, 2023, during which 1200 people were killed and 251 individuals were taken hostage by Hamas. PM Netanyahu reiterated that Israel was fighting a [“battle of existence on seven fronts”](#) in the region and that the IDF had delivered crushing blows to adversaries such as Hamas, Hezbollah (Lebanon), the Houthis (Yemen), Iran, and the Assad regime in Syria. He pledged that Israel would accomplish all of its war objectives in Gaza, including the return of all hostages and the dismantling of Hamas.

Israel's military strikes on key leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, Iran's nuclear sites, and the overthrow of the Assad regime in Syria demonstrate a substantial weakening of the Iranian axis that may change the face of the Middle East.

Other Developments

[Syrian army and SDF reach ceasefire deal in Aleppo city following clashes](#)

[Syria to establish first post-Assad parliament amid political inclusivity concerns](#)

[US sends \\$230 million to Lebanon as it moves to disarm Hezbollah, sources say](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

[On October 6-7](#), leaders from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkiye and Uzbekistan convened in Gabala, in northern Azerbaijan, for the 12th summit of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). The summit follows the September meeting of Vice Ministers in Bishkek and will see Azerbaijan take on the rotating presidency of the transnational organisation. The Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the shared vision of a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Turkic World. They emphasised the importance of deepening cooperation in political affairs, foreign policy, security, economy, and people-to-people relations under the OTS framework. Following the summit, the leaders signed the Gabala Declaration to conclude the initiatives.

The summit highlights a deepening solidarity among Turkic-speaking nations, with the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) increasingly asserting itself as a cohesive Eurasian bloc – one that could serve as a counterbalance to dominant regional powers.

During [the 12th summit of the Organization of Turkic States](#), Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev emphasised the importance of unity in addressing global challenges, proposing initiatives to enhance political, economic, and cultural cooperation. During his speech, Tokayev emphasised that the global security system is undergoing a turbulent period, with conflicts and geopolitical contradictions posing serious threats. Therefore, Turkic countries must act together in our shared interests. Additionally, acknowledging the growing risks of cyberattacks, Tokayev proposed establishing a council on cybersecurity under the OTS to ensure coordination and mobilise joint efforts.

Tokayev's call for collective action marks a strategic shift toward stronger regional solidarity, especially given Kazakhstan's central role in Central Asia. He redefines the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) from a cultural alliance into a rising geopolitical platform, poised to address transnational threats and shape regional diplomacy.

The [upcoming CIS \(Commonwealth of Independent States\) summit](#) on October 10 in Dushanbe marks a notable moment of multilateral engagement, as both Azerbaijan and Armenia are expected to participate, particularly significant given Armenia's recent absence from previous meetings. Their joint presence signals a potential thaw in relations and a renewed commitment to regional dialogue following the recent peace deal.

The peace deal eliminates a longstanding source of intra-bloc friction, presenting a critical test of the CIS's ability to function as a unified decision-making body and translate political goodwill into coordinated regional action.

Other Developments

[Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry Board discusses SCO presidency, China-Central Asia Summit](#)

[Vast Reserves, Nothing To Drink: Why Tajikistan Is Struggling With Water Issues Despite Abundant Reserves?](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Exercise KONKAN-25 between the Indian Navy and Royal Navy [began on October 5, 2025](#), off India's west coast, marking two decades of growth in scale, complexity, and mutual understanding in maritime operations. Conducted in harbour and sea phases until 12 October, the exercise features professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, sports and cultural engagements, as well as advanced operational drills including anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare, flying operations, and seamanship evolutions. Both navies will field frontline assets — aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, submarines, and shore-based as well as integral air elements. Frontline assets from both sides are participating, with the UK Carrier Strike Group 25 led by HMS Prince of Wales, joined by units from Norway and Japan and India's carrier battle group centred around INS Vikrant. On the conclusion of Exercise Konkan 2025, UK CSG 25 is scheduled to participate in a one-day exercise with the Indian Air Force off the west coast of India on October 14, 2025, before continuing with her planned deployment.

KONKAN-25 underscores the commitment to secure, open, and free seas of the India-UK Vision 2035, while deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The exercise also serves as a platform for strategic dialogue, professional exchanges, and trust-building, contributing to regional maritime stability in the Indo-Pacific amid evolving security challenges.

[The Indian Navy commissioned INS Androth](#), a state-of-the-art anti-submarine warfare (ASW) shallow watercraft with over 80% indigenous content, on October 6, 2025, at Visakhapatnam, marking a significant milestone in India's self-reliant maritime capabilities. This vessel, named after the Lakshadweep Island of Androth, is designed for operations in coastal and shallow waters, equipped with advanced sensors, weapons, and communication systems to detect and neutralise submarine threats with high precision. Powered by three waterjet propulsion systems driven by marine diesel engines, INS Androth is extremely agile and manoeuvrable. Its capabilities extend to Maritime Surveillance, Search and Rescue, coastal defence missions, and Intensive Maritime Operations (LIMO), making it a versatile platform for littoral operations.

Its induction enhances India's anti-submarine warfare reach, underscores the emphasis on indigenisation and innovation, and strengthens India's strategic posture in the Indian Ocean Region and the Indian Navy's ability to safeguard maritime interests in littoral zones, contributing to regional security and peace.

Other Developments

[INS Abhay and INFAC T-82 were decommissioned on October 06, 2025, at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai](#)

[INS Kadmatt visited Makassar, Indonesia, for a three-day operational turnaround from October 3 to 5, 2025](#)

[British Prime Minister Keir Starmer begins a two-day visit to India](#)

[INS Sahyadri made a port call at Kemaman, Malaysia, during its operational deployment to the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific](#)

[INS Sotlej arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on to commence the 18th Joint Hydrographic Survey Mission under the bilateral MoU on Hydrography](#)

[INS Trikand arrived at Taranto, Italy during her ongoing operational deployment to the Mediterranean Sea](#)



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