



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

June 3, 2026

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**Delhi Policy Group**

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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 an independently funded 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, 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., and Divya Rai, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at [sanket@dpg.org.in](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

*The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Delhi Policy Group as an Institution*

### Cover Images:

1. Afghanistan and Russia have signed a military and technical cooperation agreement on the sidelines of the Moscow International Security Conference on May 27. Source: [X/@TOLONewsEnglish](#)
2. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with President of Myanmar, U Min Aung Hlaing at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on June 01, 2026. Source: [PMO Gallery](#)
3. Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks with President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on May 28. Source: [President of Russia](#)

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## Contents

### South Asia

Shreyas Deshmukh..... 1

### Southeast Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V. .... 3

### West Asia

Sanket Joshi..... 5

### Central Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V. .... 6

### Indian Ocean Region

Divya Rai..... 7

## Watch Points

◇ <i>Afghanistan-Russia military &amp; technical cooperation agreement.</i>
◇ <i>Japan-Philippines defence cooperation deepens.</i>
◇ <i>U.S-Iran military escalation in the Gulf.</i>
◇ <i>India-Australia defence dialogue strengthens maritime &amp; strategic cooperation.</i>

## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

A [statement](#) by Prime Minister Balen Shah regarding the border issue with India on May 31 led to protests within Nepal's Parliament. During a parliamentary response, PM Shah indicated that encroachment was not solely by India, Nepal has also encroached on Indian land in numerous areas. He further stated that the UK should participate in discussions to settle the border dispute. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lok Bahadur Paudel Kshetri later explained that the Prime Minister's statements addressed topics such as "boundary pillars, no-man's land, and cross-border land usage." India's Ministry of External Affairs [stated](#) that approximately 98% of the India-Nepal border has been demarcated. It also clarified that ongoing discussions through bilateral mechanisms are addressing the remaining unresolved segments, and ruled out involvement of third parties in this process. Meanwhile, Rabi Lamichhane, the chairman of Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), is [visiting India](#) from June 1-5 at the invitation of the BJP.

*Since taking office as Prime Minister in March 2026, Balendra Shah, the youngest state leader of Nepal, has faced controversy over his policies and statements, which may affect the stability of the government.*

Afghanistan and Russia have signed a [military and technical cooperation agreement](#) on the sidelines of the Moscow International Security Conference on May 27. The specifics of the transaction have yet to be formally announced. The signing ceremony was attended by Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid, the Taliban's Minister of Defence, and Sergei Shoigu, who serves as Russia's Security Council Secretary. Russia's special envoy for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, stated on June 1 that the agreement with the Taliban establishes a [legal framework](#) for prospective cooperation and contracts between the parties. In May 2026, Sergei Shoigu stated at a Bishkek meeting that Russia had initiated direct discussions with the Islamic Emirate and aimed to forge a "comprehensive partnership" with Afghanistan's de facto leadership. Furthermore, he indicated that America and NATO establishing military installations within Afghanistan or adjacent nations would be unacceptable.

*In an effort to mitigate transnational threats including ISIS-K, narcotics trafficking, and cross-border militancy, Russia, alongside other Central Asian states, is developing relationships with the Taliban.*

## Other Developments

[Bhutan resumes WTO accession process after 17 years](#)

[Bangladesh wins UN General Assembly presidency](#)

[UN panel backs Bangladesh's plea for 3 more years before LDC graduation](#)

[Colombo port expansion plans gather pace with US\\$ 2Bn pipeline](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

President of Myanmar, U Min Aung Hlaing arrived in India for a [five-day state visit](#), his first to the country since leading the military coup of 2021, and since becoming the elected president, on May 30. On June 1, he met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation in domains such as trade, defence and security, border management, technology, energy and critical minerals, and pledged to accelerate major connectivity projects. India's decision to receive Min Aung Hlaing with full state honors [prompted controversy](#), with domestic and regional civil society groups condemning the decision. However, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri defended New Delhi's decision to re-engage with the new "civilian" government in Naypyidaw and said that India's policy is "not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangements."

*President Hlaing's visit underscores New Delhi's readiness to re-engage with Myanmar's military leadership, driven by its pursuit of rare earth access and its vision of connectivity projects that position Myanmar as a bridge to Southeast Asia. For Myanmar, the visit, advances Hlaing's effort to normalise ties with regional partners and strengthen the legitimacy of his presidency.*

Following their May 28 summit meeting, Prime Minister of Japan, Sanae Takaichi and President of the Republic of the Philippines Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr agreed to [elevate their bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership](#), pledging deeper bilateral cooperation across a wide range of areas. In the joint statement, Takaichi referred to the Philippines as one of Japan's closest like-minded countries, stressing the importance of working together to advance the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision. One of the key topics in the meeting was enhancing security cooperation. The two countries agreed to launch formal negotiations on a deal that will allow both to immediately share and access classified military information, known as GSOMIA. If the deal with Japan is finalised, Japan will become the second country with which the Philippines has such an agreement. Takaichi and Marcos also agreed to promote the transfers of defense equipment echoing commitments highlighted by Japan's Defence Minister Koizumi Shinjiro during his visit to the Philippines in the beginning of May.

*Japan and the Philippines' decision to deepen ties reflects a deepening alignment on security and regional strategy underscoring a shared commitment to counterbalance regional threats and advance the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision.*

## Other Developments

[Philippines, Vietnam upgrade ties, say South China Sea peace 'non-negotiable'](#)

[Johor vote kicks off Malaysia's next electoral cycle: 4 takeaways](#)

[Cambodia starts UN-backed process to settle maritime dispute with Thailand](#)

[Muted Shangri-La Dialogue addresses emerging issues: 5 takeaways](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The [U.S. military targeted and "disabled" an oil tanker](#) heading towards Iran on June 2, reportedly violating the American naval blockade, marking another escalation in the U.S.-Iran conflict since the Pakistan-mediated ceasefire. The U.S. also struck Iran's [Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz](#), targeting air defence systems and a drone control station that posed a threat to shipping in the region. Reacting to this, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched missile and drone attacks on the U.S. Fifth Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain. Iran's new Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, [urged national unity amidst hostile attempts](#) to create divisions and hailed the Iranian people's character in their "third sacred defence" against foes like Israel and the U.S.

*The military escalation between the U.S. and Iran demonstrates another failure of the Pakistan-mediated ceasefire, and that Washington and Tehran remain at odds over key strategic issues.*

Amidst Israel's military strikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly had a tense phone conversation on June 1. Trump expressed his dissatisfaction with the IDF's [disproportionate strikes in Lebanon](#), especially in Beirut. Israeli PM Netanyahu, on his part, told the U.S. that the IDF would continue targeting Hezbollah in Beirut and southern Lebanon if Hezbollah did not stop its attacks on Israel. In line with this, Israel conducted multiple airstrikes across southern Lebanon on June 2, accusing Hezbollah of violating the ceasefire.

*President Trump's reported dissatisfaction with the Israeli military strikes in Lebanon has less to do with distancing the U.S. from Israel and more about preventing the IDF from derailing the talks with Iran.*

### Other Developments

[India and Oman energise a new Trade Gateway through a landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#)

[Rubio says he's optimistic on eventual Iran nuclear talks, but status of negotiations is unclear](#)

[From 'Epic Fury' to 'Fake Victory'](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [May 28](#), Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks with President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Palace of Independence in Astana. The talks began with a restricted-format conversation and continued in an expanded format. The two leaders signed the Joint Statement on the Seven Foundations of Friendship and Neighbourliness between the People of Russia and Kazakhstan. The bilateral documents signed during Vladimir Putin's state visit to Kazakhstan include intergovernmental agreements on the basic principles and terms of cooperation for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Kazakhstan, as well as on the provision of a state export loan to the Government of Kazakhstan to finance the project; and on expanding cooperation in the oil sector.

*Putin's visit to Astana, marked by agreements on nuclear power and oil cooperation, underscores Russia's bid to keep Kazakhstan firmly within its sphere of influence by deepening economic and energy integration.*

The [V Eurasian Economic Forum](#) held on May 28–29 in Astana alongside the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council meeting, underscored Kazakhstan's leadership of the EAEU in 2026. A total of 15 documents were signed, including agreements, memoranda, cooperation programmes, and contracts. A joint statement on the responsible development of artificial intelligence was adopted, which President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev hailed as a key symbol of unity within the bloc. Additionally, President Tokayev [highlighted](#) that mutual trade among EAEU member states surpassed US\$ 95 billion in 2025 despite global market instability and volatility with a projection growth of more than 6% resulting in trade turnover to exceed US\$ 100 billion. Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized the EAEU's growing international profile, noting intensified negotiations with India on trade liberalisation. Together, these outcomes reflect both the bloc's ambition to expand its economic integration and its effort to position itself as a relevant actor in shaping global trade and technology governance.

*The Forum signaled the EAEU's dual strategy of deepening internal economic integration – highlighted by rising intra-bloc trade and a joint commitment to responsible AI – while also expanding external partnerships.*

### Other Developments

[Kazakhstan and Hong Kong Open New Chapter in Bilateral Relations](#)

[Armenian PM rejects Russia's demand for EU referendum as relations nosedive](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Mr Richard Marles co-chaired the [second India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue](#) at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on June 1, 2026. Both leaders welcomed progress toward implementing their Prime Ministers' commitment to renew and strengthen the Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation. They reviewed advances in bilateral maritime security cooperation and ongoing work to finalise the Joint Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap. Both sides also encouraged expanded cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard and Australia's Maritime Border Command. The two countries committed to exploring arrangements to improve procedural interoperability for exercises and operations, building on the 2020 Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement, and to continue reciprocal aircraft deployments to develop operational familiarity. The Ministers further announced that India and Australia will commence drafting a Memorandum of Understanding on the Provision of Defence Articles and Defence Services.

*The dialogue signals a clear elevation of India–Australia defence ties from strategic partnership to operational and industrial cooperation, particularly in maritime domain awareness and interoperability. Joint initiatives – like the MOU on defence articles/services and the maritime roadmap – reflect both countries' intent to institutionalise practical capabilities rather than only diplomatic commitments.*

Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh and Permanent Secretary (Defence) Mr Joseph Leong co-chaired the [16<sup>th</sup> India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue](#) in Singapore on May 28, 2026. Both reviewed the progress of ongoing defence engagements and held wide-ranging discussions on key areas of defence cooperation, military engagements, defence industry collaboration, capacity building & regional security issues. They also explored new avenues for further strengthening the strategic relationship and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including collaboration between the industries. The two sides appreciated the continued cooperation between India and Singapore in regional and multilateral forums, including Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-led mechanisms and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework. Both countries reiterated their commitment to supporting an open, inclusive, and rule-based regional security architecture, while promoting practical and constructive defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

*India–Singapore defence ties are a cornerstone of India's Act East Policy. The 16th edition of the Defence Policy Dialogue reflects deep institutional trust between both countries.*

*Singapore's strategic location at the Malacca Strait, its defence industry, and its convening role within ASEAN make it an indispensable partner for India's Indo-Pacific visions.*

### **Other Developments**

[US military fired a Hellfire missile at a Botswana-flagged M/T vessel, which was heading toward Iran](#)

[INS Sudarshini departed Antigua after concluding a four-day port call](#)



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