



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

June 11, 2025



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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 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: 8th India - Sri Lanka Defence Dialogue was held in Colombo on June 5, 2025.

Source: [Ministry of Defence Sri Lanka](#)

East Asia: The Royal Navy's HMS Spey, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, conducting surveillance operations in waters near Japan.

Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

Central Asia: The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Central Asia and External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar held the 4th meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue, on June 6, 2025. Source: [X/@DrSJaishankar](#)

India Ocean Region: The Indian Navy deployed INS Surat for a search and rescue operation after the Singaporean-flagged MV Wan Hai 503 reported an internal container explosion. Source: [X/@indiannavy](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

On June 10, Pakistan's Finance Minister, Muhammad Aurangzeb, presented the 2025-2026 federal budget, adhering to International Monetary Fund (IMF) guidelines. A budget of [USD 9.18 billion](#) was allocated to the armed forces, representing the most substantial annual increase in defence expenditure in over a decade. The revised allocation reflects a 20.2% increase from the preceding fiscal year's budget, resulting in defence expenditures approximating 1.97% of the GDP, an increase from 1.7% in the previous year. This increase is in contrast to the decline in national health and education spending as a percentage of GDP; figures for the first nine months of the current fiscal year fell significantly below 1 per cent. Expenditures allocated to tangible assets, encompassing arms and equipment acquisition, are projected to increase by 20.9 per cent. Significant military procurements and funding for nuclear and missile programs are purportedly channelled through undisclosed budgetary allocations.

Addressing the nation on the occasion of Eid, Bangladesh's interim government Chief Advisor, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, [proclaimed](#) the forthcoming parliamentary election will be held in early April 2026, and that the Election Commission will publish the electoral timetable accordingly. The announcement refutes the calls from multiple [political parties](#) for the polls to be conducted in December 2025. The Communist Party of Bangladesh and the BNP proposed December elections, however, the [National Citizens Party](#) (NCP), a student-led organization, expressed acceptance of an April election date, provided that the July Charter, July Declaration, and other reforms were implemented beforehand.

The 8th India - Sri Lanka [Defence Dialogue](#) was held in Colombo on June 5. Indian delegations headed by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met with Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Defence, Major General Aruna Jayasekara, and Defence Secretary, Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha. Key areas of common interest, including bilateral defence cooperation, military exchanges and joint training exercises, capacity building, and collaboration in disaster management and humanitarian assistance, were the focus of the discussions.

Other Developments

[Pakistan intensifies deportations of Afghan nationals](#)

[Former PM Madhav Nepal, then ministers charged in Patanjali land scam](#)

[Bangladesh delays LC, creating uncertainty over electricity export](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [June 6](#), Thailand's military said it was ready to launch a "high-level operation" to counter any violation of its sovereignty, regarding the border dispute with Cambodia that re-erupted with a deadly clash on May 28. The army said in a statement that its intelligence gathering indicated Cambodia had increased military readiness at the border while diplomatic efforts were ongoing, describing that as "worrisome". Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra held a meeting of the National Security Council on the same day and said that while the military was ready to defend Thai sovereignty, it would still pursue dialogue through peaceful means. Cambodia and Thailand had for days exchanged carefully worded statements committing to dialogue after the brief skirmish in an un-demarcated border area, however, ahead of Friday's meeting, the Thai army affirmed that it was "now ready for a high-level military operation in case it is necessary to retaliate".

On [June 10](#), Philippine senators voted to return an impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte to the lower house to clarify its constitutionality, in a surprise move just hours after convening a trial that could end her political career. After heated debates among members that included efforts by a Duterte ally to dismiss the case, the senators agreed not to terminate the trial, but first send it back to the lower house to certify that its handling of the process had been lawful. In February, the lower house had [voted to impeach the vice president](#) for alleged high crimes and betrayal of the public trust, allegations she has vehemently denied.

General Nguyen Tan Cuong, Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) and Deputy Minister of National Defence held a [high-ranking military delegation](#) on an official visit to Cambodia from June 3–6, aiming to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation. On June 5, the President of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and President of the Cambodian Senate, Samdech Techo Hun Sen met the delegation where Cambodia's commitment to preserving and fostering the relationship between the two Parties, States, and people of Cambodia and Vietnam was reaffirmed. Both sides lauded the progress in bilateral cooperation and expressed their appreciation for solidarity and mutual sacrifices in the past struggles for national liberation as well as the present process of nation development and construction.

Other Developments

[Malaysia's Silent Military Buildup on Borneo](#)

[Pressured by US tariffs, Chinese exports expand in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia](#)

[China thanks India for rescuing crew onboard Singapore-flagged vessel after it caught fire off Kerala coast](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On [June 10, South Korean President Lee Jae-myung and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first official conversation](#) on a phone call. President Lee invited Xi to the APEC summit in Korea this October, potentially marking Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 years. Both leaders emphasising mutual respect and reciprocity, affirmed their commitment to deepen Seoul-Beijing strategic ties by expanding cooperation in economy, security, and culture. They also pledged coordination for the APEC events, with China hosting in 2026. Lee urged China to support peace and denuclearisation on the Korean Peninsula, to which Xi responded affirmatively. Xi also emphasised strengthening strategic trust, promoting multilateralism, and ensuring stable supply chains. The call comes amid Seoul's balancing act between U.S. security alliances and vital economic ties with China. The relationship has faced recent strains, particularly over the THAAD missile defence system.

In early June, the [Royal Navy's HMS SPEY monitored and surveillance operations targeting illicit maritime activities, including ship-to-ship transfers involving North Korean-flagged vessels](#) near Japan. North Korea's bellicosity, reflected through its continued nuclear and missile development, poses an unprecedented and grave threat to the East Asia region and Japan in particular. Japan has actively sought support from the international community to increase pressure on North Korea. A key achievement in this regard has been [the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 2397, adopted in December 2017](#). This resolution prohibits all UN Member States from facilitating or participating in ship-to-ship transfers of goods involving North Korean-flagged vessels. Japan has expressed strong support, recognising these efforts as essential for effective enforcement of the UNSCR 2397 and advancing the shared objective of the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. Japan also conducts its own information-gathering operations on vessels suspected of violating UNSCRs and works closely with international partners, including the United Kingdom, to ensure coordinated and effective action.

China has recently escalated its military activities around Taiwan, with several instances of Chinese aircraft and naval vessels being detected near Taiwanese waters. [Even on June 10, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence reported the presence of 14 Chinese military aircraft sorties, six warships, and one official vessel](#) operating close to its territorial boundaries. In response, Taiwan has

intensified its surveillance efforts and strengthened its military readiness. As part of these efforts, [Taiwan's opposition-led parliament approved a pay hike for military personnel to tackle persistent staffing shortages and improve retention](#) amid mounting pressure from China. Adding to the growing strain, China's Ministry of National Defence issued a strong condemnation against the rising U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and the reported deployment of 500 US military personnel. Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson [Senior Colonel Jiang Bin warned that such actions violate China's core interests, escalate cross-Strait tensions, and would have serious consequences](#). This sharp rhetoric came after the report indicating that the US is transporting M1A2 tanks to Taiwan and plans to expand arms sales over the next four years.

Other Developments

[Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong Meets with Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat](#)

[Satellite images show damaged North Korean warship moved to drydock near Russian border](#)

[Japan-U.S. Extended Deterrence Dialogue](#)

[North Korea, Russia to launch 6K-mile trans-Siberian rail link between capitals](#)

[Japan-U.S. Consultation on U.S. Tariff Measures](#)

[China and Laos Hold Consultations on "Juxtaposed Border Control" Arrangement to Facilitate Customs Clearance for China-Laos Railway](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The US Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, informed on June 10, in advance of the upcoming UN conference on the Israel-Palestine conflict, that the US will not support the [establishment of an independent Palestinian state](#). Amb. Huckabee suggested that should a Palestinian state be formed, it might be located elsewhere in the Middle East instead of the West Bank. Analysts noted that [Israeli settlements in the West Bank](#) have already undermined the Palestinian Authority (PA) and made the creation of a Palestinian state nearly impossible. Meanwhile, [Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned](#) Hamas' October 7, 2023, terror attack on Israel, in a letter to French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, who are co-chairing the UN conference on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Further, in this letter, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas underscored the necessity of [Hamas relinquishing its weapons](#) and the deployment of international forces to safeguard the Palestinian people, identifying these as pivotal measures to bring an end to the conflict. Abbas stressed that "Hamas would no longer rule Gaza" and that the Palestinian Authority is prepared to extend an invitation to Arab and international forces to be deployed in Gaza as part of a protection mission under a UN Security Council (UNSC) mandate.

Iran's Supreme Leader, [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](#), rejected the US's nuclear deal proposal on June 4, which urged Tehran to cease its uranium enrichment activities. Ayatollah Khamenei described the US leaders as "rude and arrogant", stressing that the US proposal was 100 per cent against Iran's national interest. He maintained that Washington has no right to dictate whether Iran enriches uranium or not.

Other Developments

[Iran says it will release Israeli nuclear secrets as pressure grows to reimpose sanctions](#)

[US Imposes Sanctions in Response to the ICC's Illegitimate Actions Targeting the US and Israel](#)

[Trump said to have told Netanyahu to end Gaza war, attacking Iran off limits for now](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On June 6, the [4th meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue](#) was held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India. Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan took part in the meeting. During the meeting, Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu highlighted India's role as a key strategic partner and outlined a [vision to triple bilateral trade, expand energy and digital cooperation](#), and invite Indian investment in infrastructure and innovation.

On [June 5](#), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Council of Heads of Government held a restricted and expanded format meeting focused on current issues concerning the development of cooperation among CIS member states, particularly in the areas of trade, the economy, culture, and humanitarian affairs.

On [June 7](#), Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu paid an official visit to Iran and held talks with Iranian top officials. During the meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, the officials discussed key areas of cooperation, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations. Following this, in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Nurtleu discussed the current state and prospects of bilateral cooperation. The two foreign ministries also signed a cooperation program and a memorandum on diplomatic archives.

Other Developments

[Xi Jinping to visit Kazakhstan next week](#)

[President Tokayev Dismisses Ministers of Defense and Transport](#)

[How the Shallowing of the Caspian Sea Will Affect Kazakhstan's Ecology and Economy](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On June 9, a major [maritime emergency](#) unfolded when the Singapore-flagged container ship MV Wan Hai 503 experienced an internal container explosion, leading to a major fire while sailing off the Kerala coast in India. The vessel was en route from Colombo to Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai with 22 crew members onboard. The distress call was received by Indian authorities, prompting an immediate and closely coordinated search and rescue operation involving the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Directorate General of Shipping, and other stakeholders. After receiving inputs of the incident from IF-IOR, the Indian Navy swiftly deployed INS Surat and a Dornier aircraft. Of the [rescued crew](#), several were injured—two critically—but all received prompt medical care upon arrival. Meanwhile, the vessel continued to burn, with persistent explosions and a dangerous list, prompting ongoing firefighting and environmental protection efforts by the Coast Guard and other agencies.

On June 1, 2025, the Indian Navy and the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) [conducted a joint naval exercise](#) in the Arabian Sea, involving Indian Navy ships and aircraft alongside the Italian Navy's ITS Antonio Marceglia and the Spanish Navy's ESPS Reina Sofia. The exercise focused on advanced anti-piracy operations, tactical manoeuvres, and interoperability, aiming to strengthen maritime security cooperation between India and the EU. The scenario included a simulated piracy attack on a merchant vessel, with both sides coordinating the monitoring, intelligence gathering, and planning for a potential hostage rescue. This exercise marked a milestone as the first complex at-sea collaboration between Operation ATALANTA and the Indian Navy.

Arnala, the first Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Shallow Watercraft, is [set to be commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy on 18 June 2025. This state-of-the-art vessel is designed to operate in coastal and shallow waters, playing a crucial role in safeguarding India's maritime interests against underwater threats. The ship's intended role is to withstand the relentless forces of the ocean and carry out precise anti-submarine operations with accuracy and reliability. The commissioning of Arnala marks a significant milestone in enhancing the Indian Navy's capabilities for coastal defence and underwater warfare.

Other Developments

[8th Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Sri Lanka focused on maritime security](#)

[Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Australia Richard Marles undertook a short visit to Sri Lanka to discuss the bilateral ties](#)



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