

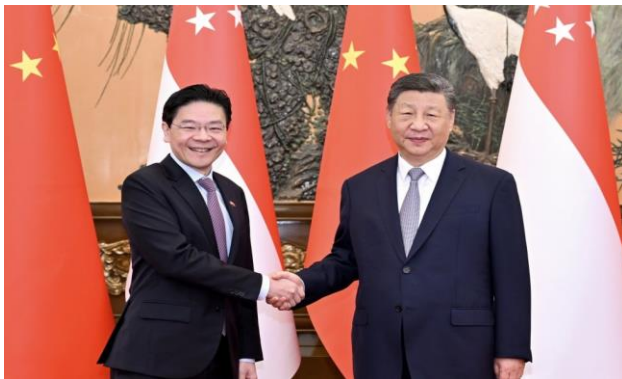


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

June 25, 2025



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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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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: Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong in Beijing on June 24, 2025. Source: [X/@LawrenceWongST](https://twitter.com/LawrenceWongST)

East Asia: Chinese Foreign minister, Wang Yi, met with India's National Security Advisor and Special Representative for the China-India Boundary Question, Ajit Doval, on June 23, 2025, in Beijing. Source: [MOFA PRC](https://www.mofa.gov.in/press-releases/2025/06/23)

West Asia: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during the press briefing on US airstrikes on Iran's nuclear sites on June 22, 2025. Source: [US DOD](https://www.defense.gov/News/Record/2025/06/22)

India Ocean Region: INS Teg concluded her port call at Port Louis, Mauritius, on June 22, 2025, as part of her operational deployment. Source: [X/@indiannavy](https://twitter.com/indiannavy)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

On June 18, the U.S. President Donald Trump [met with](#) Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Asim Munir, at the White House. This was the first time a U.S. president had received the head of Pakistan's army at the White House without accompanying senior Pakistani civilian representatives. President Trump stated that the issue of Iran had been discussed, a matter on which he asserted Pakistan possessed superior knowledge. In an official statement, the Pakistani military reported that a two-hour meeting addressed trade, economic growth, cryptocurrency, and included an exchange of perspectives on Israeli-Iranian tensions. Due to the lack of diplomatic relations between Iran and the United States, the Pakistani Embassy in Washington, D.C. has a dedicated section that manages Iranian interests.

The Pakistani National Security Committee (NSC) convened on June 23rd, issuing a [statement](#) reflecting a more measured stance on the US airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear facilities. The Foreign Office's initial unequivocal [condemnation](#) of the US strikes and affirmation of Iran's right to self-defense transitioned to a more circumspect expression of concern by the NSC.

The [inaugural trilateral meeting](#) of the Vice Foreign Ministers/Foreign Secretaries of China, Bangladesh, and Pakistan convened in Kunming on June 19. The meeting included the participation of Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, Bangladeshi Acting Foreign Secretary Ruhul Alam Siddique, and Pakistani Additional Foreign Secretary Imran Ahmed Siddiqui. Via videoconference, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Amna Baloch, joined the first phase of talks. In a [statement](#), Sun Weidong highlighted the strong bilateral relationships between China, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, emphasizing their crucial roles in the Belt and Road Initiative. The three sides agreed to explore cooperative ventures and form a working group to monitor and implement the meeting's outcomes.

The sixteenth meeting of the [India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group](#) on Security Issues convened in Pune, India, on June 23rd and 24th. Representatives from the Foreign and Defence Ministries, along with the Indian and Nepali Army directorates, constituted the delegations. Matters pertaining to security and defense collaboration, including equipment provision, training initiatives, joint military exercises, disaster relief efforts, and military exchanges, were addressed during the meeting. Moreover, the

delegations conducted site visits to crucial defense manufacturing facilities in both the public and private sectors to assess opportunities for reciprocal collaboration.

Other Developments

[Pakistan, Turkiye reaffirm commitment to deepen ties](#)

[Pakistan recommends Trump for Nobel](#)

[India extends evacuation efforts under Operation Sindhu to include citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka stranded in Iran](#)

[ADB, World Bank approve loans worth \\$1.5 billion to Bangladesh](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong [Visited China](#) from June 22 to 25. It was his first visit to a non-ASEAN country since assuming office in May. The Singaporean Prime Minister's Office said that Wong's trip to China will see both sides commemorate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations. On June 24, during the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and PM Wong, President Xi called for [Singapore and China](#) to work together to "stand on the right side of history" and push for an equal multipolar world.

During a visit to Russia on June 19th, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto met with President Vladimir Putin and signed a declaration of [strategic partnership](#). During their meeting, both leaders addressed key strategic issues and formalized their cooperation through the signing of memorandums of understanding [in the sectors](#) of higher education, transportation, and investment. A collaborative agreement has been signed by Indonesia's sovereign wealth fund, Danantara, and the Russian Direct Investment Fund, establishing a USD 2.29 billion investment vehicle. Prabowo's post-meeting statement highlighted the strengthening of relations between both countries.

Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's [10-month-old government is teetering](#) after a leaked phone call between her and Cambodian leader Hun Sen triggered public outrage and led to the exit of a key coalition partner. On June 19, an audio was released wherein Paetongtarn Shinawatra refers to Hun Sen, a longtime family friend, as "uncle" and appears to dismiss a senior Thai military commander's handling of a simmering border dispute. Following this, the Bhumjaithai Party, the second-largest member of the ruling coalition, [withdrew its support](#), accusing the prime minister of compromising national sovereignty and damaging military morale. This sudden exit slashed the government's strength to a precarious 255 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives.

Other Developments

[Indonesia, Malaysia seek engagement with Russia as Putin eyes allies](#)

[Japan doubles security aid recipients, adding Sri Lanka, Thailand](#)

[Cambodia bans fuel imports from Thailand as border dispute flares](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

On June 23, the Chinese Foreign minister and a Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Wang Yi met India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to discuss [China-India relations](#) and border issues in Beijing. Both leaders emphasised the need for cooperation between the two countries and noted the consensus reached in Kazan as a significant step towards improving bilateral ties. Minister Wang Yi argued for strengthening of communication, mutual trust, and peaceful border management. Mr Doval reaffirmed Minister Wang Yi's views and further stressed on shared development goals, long-term strategic perspectives, and the opportunity to deepen practical cooperation as the two countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year. The two leaders committed to maintaining border peace and enhancing coordination in multilateral platforms such as the SCO.

Japan, the US and South Korea conducted on June 20, the first [joint aerial exercise](#) under South Korean President Lee Jae-myung's administration. The drill held south of Jeju Island, aimed to strengthen deterrence against North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threats. Participating aircraft included Japan's F-2 fighters, U.S. F-16s, and South Korea's F-15Ks. While previous drills featured strategic assets like aircraft carriers and bombers, this exercise focused solely on fighter jets, potentially reflecting President Lee's intent to de-escalate tensions with North Korea. However, President Lee reaffirmed South Korea's commitment to maintaining strong security ties with Japan and the US during a meeting with Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Canada. This recent aerial exercise reflects the serious commitment to trilateral security cooperation.

However, on June 21, a day after joint air drills, [North Korea](#) responded by firing over 10 rockets into the Yellow Sea from Sunan, near Pyongyang. South Korea's military believes the projectiles were launched from an upgraded 240mm multiple rocket launcher capable of targeting the Seoul area.

On June 19, Chinese President [Xi Jinping](#) spoke with his counterpart, Russian President Vladimir Putin, discussing the situation in the Middle East, which is becoming mercurial, particularly after Israel attacked Iran's nuclear facilities. President Putin noted the dangers of escalation and emphasised working in close collaboration with China to promote regional stability. President Xi delineated China's principled stance on the crisis in the Middle East and proposed four key actions: an immediate ceasefire, protection of civilians,

renewed dialogue and negotiation, and stronger international efforts to de-escalate tensions, especially from the UN and major powers.

Other Development

[Taiwan detects 12 Chinese military aircraft, 7 naval vessels near air defence territory](#)

[The G7 summit concluded on June 17, 2025, with leaders issuing joint statements on key issues.](#)

[Japan-Israel Foreign Ministers' Telephone Talk](#)

[Xi Jinping Meets with Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon](#)

[China Slams Taiwan's Lai for Speech Mentioning Independence](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The US military targeted three [Iranian nuclear facilities](#) in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan on June 22. The airstrikes were executed using the B-2 strategic bomber, deploying the [GBU-57 bunker buster bombs](#) on Iran's nuclear sites. President Trump announced that the US had achieved its goal of eliminating Tehran's nuclear enrichment capabilities, thereby halting the nuclear threat posed by Iran, a nation the US identifies as a major sponsor of terrorism. Iran responded with a [missile strike targeting the US's Al Udeid airbase](#) in Qatar, resulting in no casualties. Amidst this, on June 24, President Trump announced cessation of hostilities between Israel and Iran, ending what the [US and Israel termed as the "12-day war"](#). This designation draws a historical parallel to the "Six-Day War" of 1967, during which Israel regained control of Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Sinai Peninsula.

The US Ambassador to the UN, Dorothy Shea, informed the UN Security Council that the airstrikes were "in accordance with the [right to collective self-defence](#), as outlined in the UN Charter, to mitigate the threat posed by Iran to Israel, the region, and international peace and security". However, a US Defence Intelligence Agency report contradicted President Trump's claim that the Iranian nuclear program had been "obliterated", stating that the US and Israeli strikes only [set Iran's nuclear program back by a few months](#). On his part, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff noted that Washington and Tehran remain [engaged in indirect nuclear talks](#), expressing optimism about the prospect of achieving a sustainable peace agreement between the two nations.

Other Developments

[India welcomes ceasefire between Iran and Israel](#)

[Syrian Christian leader chides President over deadly church bombing in Damascus](#)

[Donald Trump signals sanctions relief for China to buy Iran's oil](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev reiterated the country's commitment to being a reliable and reform-oriented investment destination, while emphasising growing opportunities across strategic economic sectors and ongoing efforts to build a future-ready, digitally driven, and sustainable economy during the [37th plenary session of the Foreign Investors' Council](#) on June 24. Tokayev opened the session by acknowledging the complex global economic landscape, marked by slowing GDP growth forecasts, inflationary pressures, and disrupted supply chains.

Russia and its close partner in Central Asia Kazakhstan have reached an agreement and signed documents for the [construction of a nuclear power plant](#) in Kazakhstan. The agreement was signed by Alexey Likhachev, director general of the Russian atomic energy corporation Rosatom, and Almasadam Satkaliyev, chairman of Kazakhstan's Atomic Energy Agency, at the recently held St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. During the meeting the Indicative Road Map was approved, envisaging the stages of project preparation and implementation, including surveying, conclusion of an EPC contract and development of project documentation. In addition, Kazakhstan Nuclear Power Plants LLP (KNPP LLP) and Atomstroyexport JSC (Engineering Division of Rosatom) signed a framework agreement that defines the key principles of cooperation in implementing the project in Jambyl district of Almaty region.

During the meeting between the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Meder Abakirov, with U.S. Ambassador to Bishkek, Lesslie Viguerie, the ministers said Kyrgyzstan and the United States are working to find mutually acceptable solutions on [sanctions-related issues](#). According to the ministry, the two sides discussed key aspects of bilateral cooperation in political, trade-economic, and consular-legal areas. The parties expressed readiness to work together to find mutually acceptable solutions to sanctions problems.

Other Developments

[Turkmenistan opens border for US citizens fleeing Iran amid Israel strikes](#)

[Turkmenistan Discusses Regional Issues, Bilateral Ties with US](#)

[Chinese premier meets Kyrgyz PM](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

INS Teg, a frontline stealth frigate of the Indian Navy's Western Naval Command, [concluded](#) her port call at Port Louis, Mauritius, on June 22, 2025, as part of her operational deployment to the Southwest Indian Ocean Region. During the deployment, INS Teg conducted coordinated surveillance of Mauritius's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in collaboration with the Mauritius National Coast Guard (NCG) ships and aircraft, reaffirming both nations' shared commitment to safeguarding the global commons and combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. To mark International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, INS Teg conducted a joint yoga session on June 21. Following [an engaging](#) and productive stay at Port Louis, INS Teg departed the Mauritian capital to conduct joint surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) alongside the Mauritius Coast Guard.

An Indian delegation led by Joint Secretary (Maritime & Systems Acquisition) Shri Dinesh Kumar [convened the kick-off meeting](#) for the implementation of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Rafale Marine programme with senior officials from the French Directorate General of Armament (DGA) and the French Ministry of Defence. The meeting took place on Thursday, 19 June, on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show in France. This high-level engagement marks a significant step forward in Indo-French defence cooperation, setting the stage for the timely execution of the Rafale Marine programme, which is expected to enhance the Indian Navy's carrier-based air power and further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations.

INS Tarkash, a frontline stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, recently made a [port call](#) at Djibouti in the Western Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for an Operational Turn Around (OTR). During this visit, the ship's commanding officer and crew engaged in professional interactions with their counterparts from the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ship HS Psara of the Hellenic Navy. These discussions focused on sharing best practices, enhancing interoperability, and strengthening mutual cooperation in the realm of maritime security.

Other Developments

[INS Tamal, the Indian Navy's newest stealth multi-role frigate, to be commissioned on July 1, 2025, at Kaliningrad, Russia](#)

[INS Karmuk arrived at the Port Klang Cruise Terminal, Malaysia, for an operational visit](#)

[INS Mormugao and INS Tabar visited Muscat Port in Oman as part of their operational deployment](#)



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