



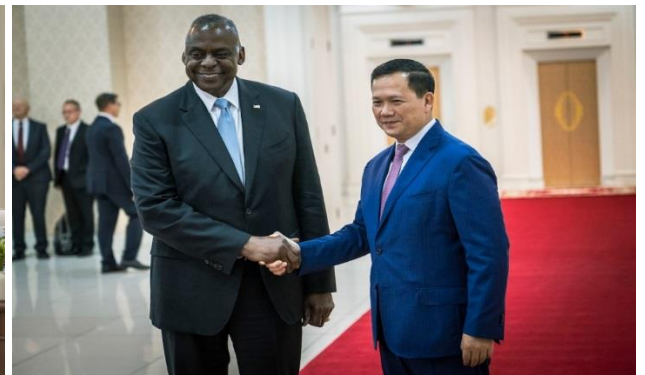
# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

June 5, 2024



Volume II, Issue 23 | June 5, 2024

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, Anshita Shukla, 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).

### Cover Image:

**South Asia:** UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed held a meeting with the Taliban's Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, on June 4, 2024. Source: [Emirates News Agency](#)

**Southeast Asia:** Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III is greeted by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet during a visit to senior Cambodian government officials in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on June 4, 2024. (Source: [US Department of Defense/ Official Website](#))

**East Asia:** US Defence Secretary Austin and Chinese Minister of National Defence Admiral Dong Jun met in Singapore on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue on May 31, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Secretary of Defence Lloyd. J. Austin III](#)

**West Asia:** The 10th Ministerial Meeting of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was held in Beijing on May 30, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Mohamed Bin Zayed](#)

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## Contents

### South Asia

Shreyas Deshmukh ..... 1

### Southeast Asia

Anshita Shukla ..... 2

### East Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V ..... 3

### West Asia

Sanket Joshi..... 4

### Central Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V. .... 5

### Indian Ocean Region

Divya Rai..... 7

## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Sirajuddin Haqqani, the Interior Minister of the Taliban, [visited Abu Dhabi on June 4](#) and met with Mohammed bin Zayed, the President of the United Arab Emirates. Accompanying Haqqani was the chief of the Taliban's intelligence agency. UAE's media reported that the meeting focused on [providing economic and development aid](#) to Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif began [a five-day trip to China](#) on June 4. Upon reaching Shenzhen, [he had a meeting](#) with Meng Fanli, the Party Secretary of the Shenzhen Municipal Committee, and Deputy Party Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee. During this meeting, he extended an invitation to Chinese companies to construct SEZs in Pakistan. The National Bank of Pakistan and China-Pakistan International Silk Road Industry Investment Management Company [signed an MoU](#) on June 1 to support investment in key projects, promote industrial cooperation, establish special economic zones (SEZs), and boost bilateral trade.

Yohei Sasakawa, the Chairman of the Nippon Foundation and the Japanese Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar travelled to [Bangladesh](#) on June 3-4. During [their meeting](#), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina informed him that no new structures would be allowed in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. [Bangladesh's Home Minister](#), Asaduzzaman Khan, made it clear that no additional Rohingya or Myanmar nationals will be permitted to enter the country.

### Other Developments

[Maldives and China discuss further bolstering defence ties](#)

[Maldives gov't decides to impose ban on Israeli passports](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin made a [one-day visit to Phnom Penh](#), Cambodia on June 4, 2024. He met with Tea Seiha, the Defence Minister of Cambodia, and Prime Minister Hun Manet. His discussions included resuming military training exchanges on disaster assistance and U.N. peacekeeping, as well as de-mining and unexploded ordnance clearance. Austin stated that he held "substantive conversations about ways to strengthen U.S.-Cambodian defence ties".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr [Zelensky visited Manila](#) on June 3, after his unscheduled visit to Singapore during the Shangri-La Dialogue. He met with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who supported Ukraine's "territorial integrity and sovereignty". The two sides reiterated their support for an international rules-based order. During his visit, President Zelensky announced that Ukraine would be opening an embassy in Manila this year.

Philippine President Ferdinand [Marcos Jnr during his visit to Brunei](#), signed a maritime cooperation deal with the country's monarch, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. The deal includes the two nations mutually developing their maritime capabilities through joint skills training, as well as research and information sharing. The leaders also signed deals on mutual recognition of education certificates and boosting tourism, as well as renewed memorandums of understanding (MOU) on food security and agricultural cooperation.

### Other Developments

[China Coast Guard seizes Philippine supplies for outpost in Second Thomas Shoal: Source](#)

[Philippines' Marcos slams maritime aggression at Shangri-La Dialogue](#)

[ASEAN chief says South China Sea code to be concluded by 2025](#)

## East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

On the margins of the Shangri-La Dialogue, [US Secretary of Defence Llyod Austin](#) and China's Minister of National Defence, Admiral Dong Jun met on May 31. The meeting was the first face-to-face talk since late 2022. The ministers touched on Taiwan, China's relationship with Russia and the friction in the South China Sea.

Despite these 'constructive talks' during the Shangri-La Dialogue, the two used their speeches to deliver markedly different messages and accuse each other of escalating global tensions. While [Llyod Austin](#) hailed Washington's deepening network of security partnerships, [Admiral Dong Jun](#) denounced this formation of "exclusive military alliances and attempts to create "bloc confrontation". While Admiral Jun never explicitly criticised the US, top Chinese Defence Official, Lieutenant General Jing Jianfeng categorised the US as the "source of chaos and tension in the Indo-Pacific" and accused US of trying to build an "Asia-Pacific version of NATO". However, Admiral Jun's [toughest remarks](#) were saved for the issue of Taiwan's independence. He accused the new Taiwanese government of President Lai Ching-te of incrementally pursuing separatism and being "bent on erasing" the island's Chinese identity and emphasised through his speech that anyone who supports Taiwan will "end up in self-destruction". In an [apparent reference to the US](#), Dong slammed "external interfering forces" for selling arms and having "illegal official contacts" with Taiwan.

### Other Developments

[Philippine Military Denies Pointing Guns At China Coast Guard](#)

[Japan's Kishida Says He Won't Dissolve Diet During Ongoing Session](#)

[China's Drills Appear To Be 'Rehearsal' For Taiwan Invasion: U.S. Admiral](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

To deepen China's relations with the Arab world, Beijing hosted the 10th Ministerial Conference of the [China-Arab States Cooperation Forum](#) on May 30. Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Tunisian President Kais Saied, UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, and the Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit attended the event. In his remarks, President Xi underscored China's commitment to working with Arab countries to maintain world peace and stability, develop high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, establish a new paradigm for harmonious coexistence among civilisations, and promote global governance. He reiterated China's support for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

On May 31, President Biden proposed a [three-phase plan](#) to end the hostilities between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The first phase involves a "complete ceasefire" and an increase in humanitarian aid with the release of some remaining Israeli hostages. In the second phase, hostilities will cease permanently, Israeli forces will withdraw from Gaza, and the remaining hostages will be released. Reconstruction of Gaza will be the final phase of this plan. Foreign Ministers of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and Egypt welcomed the US' proposal and urged Israel and Hamas to engage with it "seriously and positively".

In the wake of continued rocket and drone attacks from Hezbollah on northern Israel, IDF Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi warned that [Israel is reaching a decisive point](#) and could launch an offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

### Other Developments

[Hezbollah 'ready' for an all-out war with Israel, deputy head says](#)

[US House passes bill to sanction ICC for seeking Israel arrest warrants](#)

[EU Council Michel criticises European Commission chief von der Leyen over pro-Israel stance](#)

[Biden hints Netanyahu is dragging out Gaza war for political survival](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

President of Kyrgyzstan, Sadyr Japarov [welcomed Kiyoto Tsuji](#), the state minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, for a diplomatic meeting to bolster bilateral ties between the two nations on June 3. The press service of the Kyrgyz President underscored the meeting's focus on [enhancing political dialogue](#), inter-parliamentary relations and fostering growth across various sectors, including trade, economy, culture, and humanitarian endeavours.

The [sixth meeting of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership Dialogue \(ESPD\)](#) between Kazakhstan and the United States was held under the aegis of Kazakhstan's Deputy Foreign Minister Akan Rakhmetullin and Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu, in Washington, on May 31, 2024. During the meeting, the representatives summed up the rest of the joint work over the past period, synchronises their views on current bilateral and regional issues and outlines further plans for the development and deepening of the enhanced strategic partnership, with a special emphasis on aspects of political and economic cooperation. The participants also [discussed projected outcomes](#) of the meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Murat Nurtleu and US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.

On June 3, the [President of Uzbekistan signed a decree](#) cancelling the exclusive rights of several state-owned companies to conduct economic activities. The issuance of this decree indicates the leadership's dedication to implementing substantial and complex reforms to create a free market. Starting January 1, 2025, Uzmetkombinat, Uzvtortsvetmet, Uztransgaz, UzGasTrade, Uzkimyoimpeks, and Uzenergositish will lose their exclusive and monopoly rights. First assistant to the president, Saida Mirziyoyeva emphasized the significance of the decree in aligning with Uzbekistan's aspirations to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) by the 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Cameroon in 2026.



## Other Developments

[Central Asian Trade Turnover Up By \\$11bn Over Past Five Years](#)

[Turkmenistan Officials in Georgia to Prepare for WTO Application](#)

[China and Central Asian Countries to Jointly Respond to Emergencies](#)

[Aliyev says Azerbaijan to start resettling capital of Karabakh region in September](#)

[Central Asia's Combined 'Army of Turan': Could a Hypothesis Become a Reality?](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

[INS Shivalik](#), mission deployed to the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean, departed Singapore for onward passage to Yokosuka, Japan. The ship is scheduled to participate in JIMEX 24 and RIMPAC 24.

Aligning with the Government of India's initiatives 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India', recently the Indian Navy has made significant strides in its pursuit of indigenisation. On May 29, M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, an MSME shipyard delivered the '[Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile Barge, LSAM 20'](#) to the Indian Navy.

Furthermore, on May 31, the steel-cutting ceremony for the first [Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel \(NGOPV\)](#) took place at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai. On June 3, 2024, the [keel-laying ceremony](#) for the second Cadet Training Ship was held at M/s L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli.

### Other Developments

[Royal Navy seizes 2.4 tonnes of drugs in the Indian Ocean](#)

[Houthi military spokesperson claimed to conduct six military operations targeting ships in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, including an alleged strike on a U.S. aircraft carrier.](#)

[INS Shivalik mission deployed to the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean is set to participate in JIMEX 24 and RIMPAC 24.](#)

[15<sup>th</sup> Industry Strategic Meeting, was organised by the European Union Naval Force \(EUNAVFOR\) Operation ATALANTA.](#)



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