

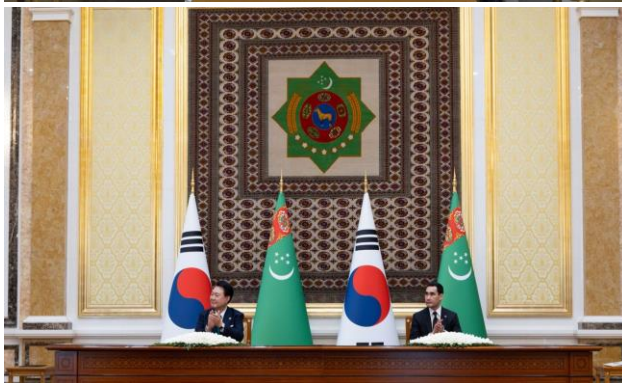


# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives June 12, 2024



Volume II, Issue 24 | June 12, 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:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu for the leaders of neighbouring countries on June 9, 2024. Source: [AVAS](#)

**Southeast Asia:** Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India, at the East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR on June 7, 2024. Source: [MEA/Official X Account](#)

**Central Asia:** President of the Republic of Korea, Yoon Seok-yeol signed a joint statement with Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov on June 10, 2024. Source: [President of the Republic of Korea](#)

**Indian Ocean Region:** INS Shivalik arrived at Yokosuka on June 11 and was received by Vice Admiral ITO Hiroshi, Commander JMSDF and Ambassador Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan. Source: [Embassy of India in Japan Twitter Account](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

The Maldivian parliamentary committee announced on June 10 that it will [evaluate three agreements](#) inked by former President Ibrahim Solih's administration with India. These [agreements](#) pertain to hydrographic surveys, the construction of the Uthuru Thilafalhu dockyard with grant assistance from India and the gifting of a Dornier aircraft by India to Maldives defence forces for humanitarian, search and rescue operations. This announcement coincided with President Muizzu's official visit to India to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing in ceremony.

The second round of the [Regional Contact Group meeting](#) on Afghanistan was held in Tehran on June 8, with the participation of special representatives from Iran, Russia, Pakistan, and China. At a [press conference](#) following the meeting, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Tehran's ambassador to Kabul, stressed the importance of resolving Afghanistan's problems through regional dialogue and cooperation.

On June 6, Pakistan was elected as a [non-permanent member to the UN Security Council](#). Out of 190 votes, five abstained, three voted against, and 182 voted in favour of Pakistan's membership.

On the backdrop of change in coalition partners, the Nepalese government on June 6, [recalled ambassadors](#) from 11 countries including India. Foreign Minister Shrestha had reportedly been opposing the proposal to recall ambassadors appointed in the quota for the Nepali Congress and other parties, but Prime Minister Dahal and CPN-UML Chairman KP Sharma Oli unilaterally decided to recall the ambassadors. Dahal and Oli are learnt to have pressured Shrestha to accept the move which was later decided by the Cabinet.

On the Sideline of Swearing in Ceremony of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina [held meeting](#) with Bhutanese PM Dasho Tshering Tobgay on June 9, in which they discussed issues related to energy trade. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said that import of hydroelectricity from Bhutan will require a [tripartite agreement](#) involving India and we have already brought the matter to India's attention.

## Other Developments

[Sri Lanka has made 'strong progress' on debt restructuring front: IMF](#)

[India's Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar calls on State heads of Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh](#)

[Sri Lanka lobbies UN for territorial sea expansion](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting (EAS SOM) and the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials' Meeting (ARF SOM) were convened on June 7 and 8, 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. India was represented by [Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary \(East\)](#), Ministry of External Affairs of India. Secretary (East) appreciated the critical role of EAS and ASEAN-led mechanisms, especially the ARF in promoting peace and stability in the region. He extended India's invitation to the 6th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation to be held in Mumbai on July 4-5, 2024.

The Philippines Coast Guard accused the Chinese Coast Guard of [blocking efforts to evacuate a sick armed forces](#) member in the South China Sea on June 7. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and navy rubber boats, harassed by the Chinese vessels, were on their way for a simple medical evacuation operation for a member of the small contingent of marines posted to guard the Sierra Madre. The PCG characterised the incident as "barbaric and inhumane behaviour". The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China replied to the allegations stating that it will allow the Philippines to deliver supplies and evacuate personnel if Manila notifies Beijing ahead of a mission.

### Other Developments

[UN chief 'strongly condemns' Myanmar military attacks on civilians](#)

[Malaysian PM Anwar calls for an end to violence in Myanmar](#)

[Singapore, India, others pitch 'clean' projects in U.S.-led framework](#)

## East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The United States and South Korea conducted their [first precision-guided bombing drill](#) in seven years in Seoul on June 5, 2024. The US B-1B Lancer and two South Korean F-15K Eagles dropped precision 500-pound JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munitions) at an unspecified firing range as part of the drills. Lieutenant-General David Iverson, US Force Korea Deputy Commander, stated that "this training showcases the incredible capabilities of our combined forces to simultaneously strike multiple targets in a contested environment".

On June 10, the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs met in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, for [the first time](#) following the accession of the new members. The participants agreed that the inclusion of more countries in BRICS cooperation accelerates the process of world multipolarity and promotes a more just and reasonable international order. Chinese Foreign Minister [Wang Yi](#) called for a full play to the strategic significance of "greater BRICS" to build the platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries into one of openness and inclusiveness. Furthermore, he stated that by expanding the BRICS' membership, a new era of joint self-reliance for the Global South has been ushered in. Regarding current global changes, Wang Yi said, "BRICS must maintain a high and far-sighted perspective" as there are certain powers (United States) that are reviving a Cold War mentality, forming a small geopolitical circle and openly resisting UN Security Council resolutions, thereby undermining the authority of multilateral mechanisms.

Pakistani Prime Minister [Shehbaz Sharif met with Chinese President Xi Jinping](#) in Beijing on June 7, 2024. The Chinese President stated that the two countries must emphasize "promoting the joint construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor". Firms of the two countries signed 31 memoranda of understanding covering technology, agriculture, trade, energy, coal and gasification, according to Pakistan's Commerce Ministry. The visit by PM Sharif comes days before Pakistan is scheduled to roll out its annual budget and apply for a new International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan.

### Other Developments

[U.S. And South Korea To Hold Nuclear Response Drill This Summer](#)

[Taiwan Rejects China's Protest Over Messages Between Its President, Modi](#)

[Putin To Visit North Korea, Vietnam In Coming Weeks, Vedomosti Newspaper Says](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On June 8, Israeli forces rescued [four hostages held by Hamas](#) in Gaza's al-Nuseirat neighbourhood. A spokesperson for the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reported that a Special Forces commander was killed during the operation. President Biden and the European leaders [welcomed the return of hostages](#) and promised to continue their efforts until all hostages return home and a ceasefire is achieved. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the Middle East and met leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Qatar from June 10-12. In Jordan, Secretary Blinken attended a [conference on urgent humanitarian assistance for Gaza](#). He also asked Arab leaders to press Hamas to accept the Israeli ceasefire proposal.

Amidst continued [rocket attacks on north Israel](#), an alleged Israeli airstrike killed Hezbollah commander Taleb Abdullah in south Lebanon. Earlier, the US cautioned Israel [not to escalate the conflict with Hezbollah](#), as that would risk drawing Iran into the conflict.

On June 10, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri, on the sidelines of the [BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting](#) held in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. The two sides reaffirmed their resolve to deepen strategic coordination and utilize the BRICS mechanism to reform and improve global governance. UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey's foreign ministers also attended the BRICS meeting.

The leaders of Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Iran [congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#) on his victory in India's Parliamentary elections. PM Modi reiterated the importance of maintaining an upward trajectory in India's relations with countries in West Asia.

### Other Developments

[UAE, Saudi, Iran, Egypt, Turkey FMs attend Russia's BRICS meeting](#)

[UN Security Council adopts a cease-fire resolution aimed at ending Israel-Hamas war in Gaza](#)



## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

At [the invitation of President Serdar Berdymuhamedov](#), President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Seok-yeol paid a state visit to Turkmenistan from June 10-11, 2024. The two leaders held a [bilateral summit](#) where they agreed to expand cooperation in large-scale energy and infrastructure projects and cooperate on Seoul's new "K-Silk Road Cooperation" strategy, which aims to create a new cooperation model linking Korea's innovative capabilities with Central Asia's development potential and resources.

The [11<sup>th</sup> round of the annual High-Level Political and Security Dialogue between the European Union \(EU\) and the countries of Central Asia](#) (Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) was held in Brussels on June 5. As reported by Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry, the participants discussed the [Joint Road Map For Deepening Ties Between The EU And Central Asia](#), touching on issues related to transport, trade, economic, energy and climate relations, as well as common security challenges related to the situation in Afghanistan. All the participants agreed that the current turbulent geopolitical situation significantly impacts the security, stability and economic development of both regions.

On [June 6](#), China, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on a new railway project that will connect the three nations which Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed as "strategic" for his country. The signing ceremony of the [trilateral intergovernmental agreement](#) was held in Beijing, with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev extending congratulations on the signing of the agreement via video link.

### Other Developments

[President Tokayev Meets with WTO Director-General](#)

[Armenian Archbishop Calls 4 Days Of Protests, Seeks PM's Ouster](#)

[Kazakhstan, China Sign Agreement for Copper Smelter Construction](#)

[Zelenskiy Hopes To See Central Asian Leaders At Swiss Peace Summit](#)

[Armenia Protestors Rally Against PM Amid 'Tavush For The Homeland' Movement](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On June 11, the Indian Navy's indigenous stealth frigate INS Shivalik arrived at Yokosuka, Japan, to participate in the [8<sup>th</sup> edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise 'JIMEX 24'](#). The visit of INS Shivalik is part of the operational deployment to the South China Sea and the Western Pacific Ocean. The ship was warmly welcomed by Vice Admiral ITO Hiroshi, Commander JMSDF Yokosuka District and Ambassador Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan.

The leaders of [neighbouring countries attended](#) the swearing-in-ceremony of the Prime Minister of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan on June 9, 2024. The leaders who attended the ceremony include the President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe; the President of the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu; the Vice President of Seychelles, Ahmed Afif; the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina; the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Mrs Kobita Jugnauth; the Prime Minister of Nepal, Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda; and the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay. The presence of the leaders highlighted the centrality of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, and its commitment to advance the shared vision of peace, security, and growth in the Indian Ocean Region under the vision SAGAR.

On June 6, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) celebrated [27 years of its establishment](#). The signing of Bangkok Declaration, on June 6, 1997, marked the establishment of BIMSTEC. To commemorate this occasion Bangladesh hosted a reception in the presence of Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, Adviser to Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Affairs as the chief guest.

### Other Developments

[Indian Navy and Royal Navy of Oman held the sixth edition of the Staff Talks from June 4-5 in New Delhi.](#)

[26<sup>th</sup> Committee of Senior Officials \(CSO\) Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association concluded in Colombo.](#)

[On June 5, INS Kulish responded to distress call by fishing vessel INFAN DHAS.](#)

[5<sup>th</sup> Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 built by M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd \(SEPPL\), Indian Navy was launched on June 10.](#)



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