

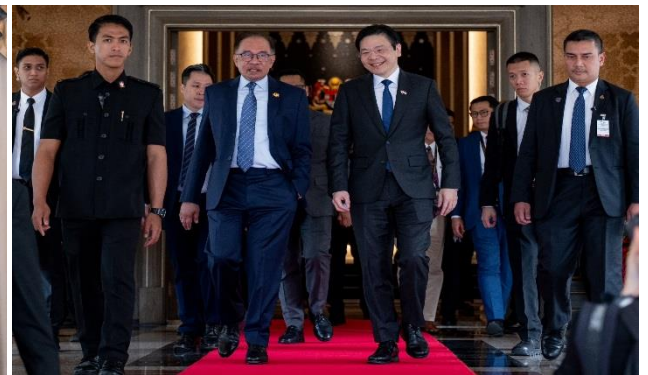


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives June 19, 2024



Volume II, Issue 25 | June 19, 2024

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, 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.

Cover Image:

South Asia: *The Vice Chairman of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Bateer, held meeting with Maldivian President Dr Mohamed Muizzu on June 13. Source: [The Presidents Office, Republic of Maldives](#)*

Southeast Asia: *Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong of Singapore at the Seri Perdana, Malaysia on June 12, 2024. (Source: [Anwar Ibrahim/Official X Account](#))*

East Asia: *Prime Minister Kishida of Japan with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine at the Summit on Peace in Ukraine in Switzerland on June 15, 2024. (Source: [Prime Minister's Office of Japan/Official Website](#))*

Indian Ocean: *On June 15, INS Sunayna, an Offshore Patrol Vessel based at Southern Naval Command, arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles. (Source: [PIB](#))*

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Pakistan Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb presented his inaugural [budget](#) for FY 2024-25 on June 12. It was prepared keeping the IMF bailout package in view, unveiling aggressive taxation measures, including higher taxes on personal incomes and petroleum products, new taxes on real estate, and the withdrawal of several tax exemptions. This includes PkR 1.761 trillion (about USD 6.33 billion at current exchange rates) in [new revenue measures](#) which may contribute to an increase in inflation. The government allocated PRs PkR 2.12 trillion (USD 7.63 billion) for the [armed forces](#), marking a substantial increase of 17.6pc over last year.

The Afghan Taliban authorities agreed to attend the third round of [United Nations-hosted talks](#) in Doha. This will be the first time the Taliban will attend a gathering of international envoys on Afghanistan since UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres started the process in May 2023, aimed at developing a coherent and unified world approach to engagement with the Taliban.

The vice chairman of the 14th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Bateer [visited Maldives](#) on June 12-14 and held a meeting with Maldivian officials including President Muizzu. During the meeting with Bateer on June 13, Muizzu mentioned the [key developmental initiatives](#) such as the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge and said he looked forward to strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries. They also discussed the [implementation of the 'consensus'](#) reached by the two heads of state, during the visit of President Muizzu to China.

Other Developments

[Pakistan Military official Brigadier \(R\) Amir Hamza, former 1122 Academy chief, shot dead in Jhelum](#)

[US Targeting ISIS-K in Afghanistan-Pakistan Border Area](#)

[German government discusses deportations to Afghanistan via Uzbekistan](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The United States, Canada, Japan, and the Philippines conducted a [two-day joint maritime exercise](#) in the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone from June 16- 17, 2024. The exercise was conducted to demonstrate a "commitment to strengthen regional and international cooperation in the maritime domain". It involved four warships and a series of maritime manoeuvres to test and validate the interoperability of the armed forces of the four countries' doctrines, tactics, techniques, and procedures.

Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong made [his first official visit](#), his first overseas visit, to Malaysia on June 12, 2024. During his visit, he met with the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Fadillah Yusof. The two sides discussed progress on projects like the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System Link and the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. The two leaders discussed ways to enhance cooperation in areas of sustainable development, renewable energy, and people-to-people exchanges.

The Chinese Coast Guard (CCG) accused a Philippine supply ship of ["deliberately and dangerously"](#) approaching a Chinese ship resulting in a slight collision on June 17, 2024. The CCG further stated that the Philippine supply ship "illegally intruded" into waters near Second Thomas Shoal. Responding to the accusations, the chief of the Philippine armed forces' public affairs office, Xerxes Trinidad stated that "we will not dignify the deceptive and misleading claims of the China Coast Guard". The US State Department condemned the "escalatory and irresponsible" actions by China in the South China Sea and reaffirmed its support for the Philippines.

Other Developments

[Philippines submits UN claim to extended continental shelf](#)

[Vietnam President calls for stronger defence and economic ties in meeting with US ambassador](#)

[New agreement allows Cambodia to implement Singapore's digital govt products](#)

East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, held a summit meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit on June 13, 2024. The two leaders signed the "[Accord on Support for Ukraine and Cooperation between the Government of Japan and Ukraine](#)" pronouncing Japan's continued support as well as assistance in financial, electricity and mine action sectors to Ukraine. PM Kishida further stated that Japan would aid in the 'recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine'.

Chinese Premier Li Qian made his [first official visit to Australia](#) from June 15-18, 2024. He co-hosted the Ninth China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Premier Li Qian's trip marks the first visit of a senior Chinese official to Australia since 2017. The two leaders signed a [range of agreements](#) to foster 'closer cooperation on trade and economic issues, education, climate change and culture'. The two sides announced that they will hold the 10th meeting of the Joint Science and Technology Commission, the Eighth China-Australia High-Level Dialogue, and the Eighth China-Australia Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change in Australia this year. The two sides confirmed the plan to resume the China-Australia Strategic Economic Dialogue this year and agreed to hold the next round of China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting in 2025.

On the sidelines of the G7 Puglia Summit in Italy, Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida and Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi held a [Japan-India Summit Meeting](#) on June 14. In a readout of the meeting, both ministries stated that the "two leaders noted that the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership is in its 10th year and expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the relationship." They also reaffirmed their collaboration projects, including the landmark Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project.

Other Developments

[Korea, China To Hold First Diplomatic Security Dialogue Since 2015](#)

[Talks On Korea-US Defense Procurement Pact Face Setback: Source](#)

[Korea, US, Japan To Hold Industry Ministerial Meeting Next Week](#)

[China dismisses EU comments on human rights crackdown](#)

[South Korean military fires warning shots after North Korean soldiers cross demarcation line](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On June 12, [45 Indian nationals died](#) and [more than 50 were injured in a fire](#) at a labour housing facility in Kuwait. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep [sorrow at this unfortunate incident](#) and extended condolences to the families of the deceased. India's Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh visited Kuwait to facilitate the early repatriation of the mortal remains of the deceased and ensure the well-being of those injured.

Amidst continuing tensions between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, [Hezbollah published a video](#) showing military and civilian locations in Israel and threatened to attack cities, including Haifa. Israel warned Hezbollah of the [global consequences of any attack on the ports of Haifa](#) operated by Chinese and Indian companies. He cautioned that if an all-out war breaks out, [Israel will strike Lebanon](#) and destroy Hezbollah. Meanwhile, US Envoy Amos Hochstein held talks with Israeli and Lebanese leaders calling for an urgent [de-escalation between Hezbollah and Israel](#).

During a reception marking Eid-al-Adha, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammed Bin Salman reiterated the importance of ending the conflict in Gaza and called upon the international community to [recognise the Palestinian State on pre-1967 borders](#), with Jerusalem as its capital. On the other hand, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu protested against the halting of some arms shipments by the US and urged Washington to provide the [necessary tools to dismantle Hamas in Gaza](#). Secretary Blinken clarified that Prime Minister Netanyahu was exaggerating the US's actions, insisting that only one shipment had been halted.

Other Developments

[G7 nations pledge support to specific infra projects like IMEC](#)

[Hamis response to Gaza ceasefire proposal 'consistent' with principles of US plan, leader says](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

After months of speculation, President of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan declared that [Armenia will formally withdraw from its military alliance with Moscow](#). On June 12, President Pashinyan announced in parliament that “we will leave” the Kremlin’s Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), but “we will decide the timing of our exit”. Furthermore, he defended his decision by saying, “it turned out that members of the alliance are not fulfilling their contractual obligations but are planning a war against us with Azerbaijan”. Pashinyan’s remarks mark the [first instance](#) of Armenia verbally expressing its decision to withdraw from the CSTO.

Russian special envoy Zamir Kabulov recently disclosed in an interview on June 11 that while [Moscow supports Afghanistan’s accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization \(SCO\)](#) under certain conditions, [Tajikistan expressed opposition to the Taliban’s participation](#) in the organisation. Afghanistan has been an observer member of the SCO since October 2012 being an active participant in the SCO activities, before the collapse of the government in 2021. Zamir Kabulov stated that most participants in the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member nations [supported the resumption of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group](#) except for Tajikistan. The Taliban have argued that excluding their representatives from the SCO meetings undermines comprehensive coordination on security challenges, combating drug trafficking, providing humanitarian aid and implementing infrastructure projects.

Other Developments

[CSTO Countries Discuss Details Of Military Drills In Bishkek](#)

[Azerbaijan President Aliyev invites PM Modi for COP29 Summit in November](#)

[South Korea to Expand Energy & Infrastructure Cooperation with Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan](#)

[President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov And Russian President Vladimir Putin Hold A Telephone Conversation](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On June 15, [INS Sunayna](#), an offshore patrol vessel based in the Southern Naval Command, entered Port Victoria, Seychelles in the company of Seychelles Coast Guard Ship (SCGS) Zoroaster. INS Sunayna was received by the Seychelles Coast Guard and the Embassy of India. During the visit to Seychelles, INS Sunayna will engage in joint Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) surveillance with the Seychelles Coast Guard. Seychelles Coast Guard Ship (SCGS) Zoroaster recently completed her short refit at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), India.

Indian Navy and JMSDF conducted the [8th edition of the bilateral Japan – India Maritime Exercise 2024 \(JIMEX 24\)](#). This is the eighth edition of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012. The exercise includes both harbour and sea phases. The IN was represented by INS Shivalik and the JMSDF was represented by the Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri. Integral helicopters from both navies also participated in the joint exercise.

The [naval ship 'Surat'](#) is set to join the Indian Navy's arsenal as a major combatant vessel. It commenced its maiden sea trials prior to induction into the Navy's fleet. Surat is the fourth ship of the Project 15B class of guided-missile destroyers being built for the Indian Navy constructed using cutting-edge technology by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

Other Developments

[On June 12, Iranian-backed Houthis struck M/V Tutor, a Liberian flagged,](#)

[Greek owned and operated bulk cargo carrier.](#)



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