



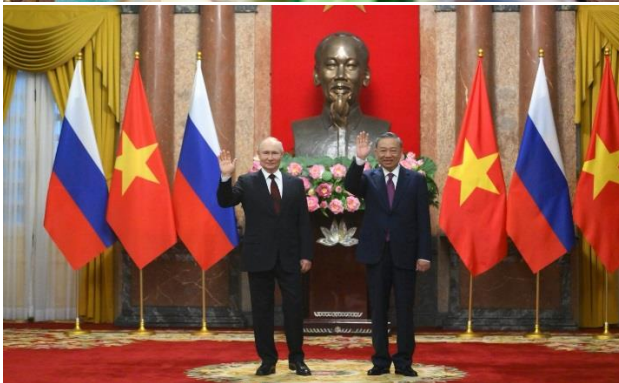
# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### June 26, 2024



Volume II, Issue 26 | June 26, 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 met Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi on June 22, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Narendra Modi](#)

**East Asia:** Russian President Vladimir Putin with the Chairman of State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang, North Korea on June 19, 2024. (Source: [President of Russia/Official Website](#))

**Southeast Asia:** Russian President Vladimir Putin with the President of Vietnam To Lam before the beginning of Russia-Vietnam talks in Hanoi, Vietnam on June 20, 2024. (Source: [President of Russia/Official Website](#))

**West Asia:** India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on June 23, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Dr. S. Jaishankar](#)

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## South Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On June 22, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a state visit to India and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders outlined a [shared vision for the future](#) that would enhance connectivity, commerce, and collaboration for prosperity. PM Modi reaffirmed Bangladesh's importance in [India's "Neighborhood First" policy](#), "Act East", "SAGAR Policy", and the "Indo-Pacific Vision". India will soon send a technical team to Bangladesh for the management and [conservation of the Teesta River basin](#), amidst China's attempts to convince Dhaka to allow Chinese developers to develop the basin.

India's External Affairs Minister [Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka](#) on June 20. During the visit, he met Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, and Foreign Minister M.U.M Ali Sabry. The two sides remain committed to working closely for the steady development of bilateral relations in areas such as energy, connectivity, port infrastructure, aviation, digital technology, health, food security, education, and tourism. They also exchanged views on greater multilateral cooperation, especially in BIMSTEC, IORA, and the UN.

As part of [India-Sri Lanka development cooperation](#), EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar handed over 48 houses under the Model Village Housing Project in Colombo and Trincomalee districts and 106 houses under Phase III of Indian housing project in Kandy, Matale, and Nuwara Eliya Districts.

### Other Developments

[Territories East of Mahakali River including Kalapani belongs to Nepal, says Prime Minister Prachanda](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Russian President Vladimir Putin made an official [two-day visit to Vietnam](#) from June 19- 20, 2024. This was his first state visit to the country since 2017. During his visit, Putin held meetings with Vietnamese President to Lam, Communist Party's General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, and Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha. The two leaders signed eleven bilateral agreements in areas of education, science and technology, oil and gas exploration, and clean energy and agreed to work on a roadmap for a nuclear science and technology centre in Vietnam. The countries adopted a [joint statement](#) for further developing their comprehensive strategic partnership.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang made a [three-day visit to Malaysia](#) from June 18-19, 2024, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia. This is the first trip of the Chinese Premier to Malaysia since 2015. During his visit, he held meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Malaysia's King Ibrahim Iskandar. The two countries signed a dozen agreements on cooperation in areas ranging from the digital economy to green development, housing, tourism, and communications, among others. The leaders also agreed to renew a five-year economic cooperation pact and to allow exports of fresh durians.

Following Putin's visit to Vietnam, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink also visited Vietnam on June 22, 2024. During his visit, he met with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son and one of his deputies, Vice Minister Ha Kim Ngoc. The visit was aimed at underscoring the strong U.S. commitment to implementing the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and to working with Vietnam in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region according to the official statement by the [US Department of State](#). The two ministers stressed the importance of resolving disputes, including in the South China Sea, through peaceful measures, in accordance with international law.

### Other Developments

[Philippines says Chinese coast guard seized guns and punctured rubber boats on resupply mission](#)

[Sara Duterte quits Philippine cabinet in open challenge to Marcos.](#)

[Philippines accuses China of 'piracy' in South China Sea](#)

## East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Russian President Vladimir Putin made his [first official visit](#), to North Korea from June 18-19, 2024. The leaders upgraded bilateral relations between Russia and North Korea to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which includes a clause on "mutual immediate military and other assistance by all means at its disposal" in case of armed aggression on either of the parties". They also signed intergovernmental agreements on building a trans-border road bridge and on cooperation in the fields of healthcare, medical education and science.

The United States and South Korea commenced a [five-day joint military logistics drill](#) on June 24, 2024. The military exercises involve 2,000 South Korean and US troops and over 500 pieces of military equipment, including tanks, self-propelled artillery units, refuelling tankers, ships, civilian cargo ships, and aircraft. According to the statement by South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), "the continuous support exercise is aimed at practicing procedures for the timely distribution of personnel, equipment, fuel and other logistics to various combat units."

The Japanese Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki and his South Korean counterpart Choi Sang-mok convened the [Ninth Korea-Japan Finance Ministerial Dialogue](#) in Seoul on June 25, 2024. During the meeting, the ministers held discussions on wide-ranging issues on global and regional economies and policies as well as bilateral and regional financial cooperation. The ministers agreed to "continue to take appropriate actions against excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates," the statement said, expressing "serious concerns about the recent rapid depreciation" of their currencies.

### Other Developments

[US, China hold high-level talks on anti-narcotics cooperation](#)

[US and China hold first informal nuclear talks in 5 years, eyeing Taiwan](#)

[Taiwan detects 41 Chinese aircraft around island](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited United Arab Emirates on June 23. He met UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and discussed the [ever-growing comprehensive strategic partnership](#) between the two countries. EAM Dr. Jaishankar also visited the [BAPS Hindu Mandir](#) (Temple) in Abu Dhabi and expressed his appreciation that the temple has become an iconic cultural destination.

As tensions between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah continue in South Lebanon, Hezbollah's Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah [threatened to attack Cyprus](#) if it allows Israel to use Cypriot airports and bases to attack Lebanon. Nasrallah informed that Hezbollah does not want a "total war" with Israel but is only acting in support of Hamas. Amidst this, on June 25, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant met US Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin in Washington. Secretary Austin reaffirmed the [US's ironclad commitment to Israel's security](#) and discussed efforts to de-escalate tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border, humanitarian aid to Gaza, and Iran's destabilising activities in the Middle East. The US cautioned Israel that another war with Hezbollah could become a regional conflict with [severe consequences for the Middle East](#).

### Other Developments

[Houthi attack targets another ship off Yemen's remote Socotra island](#)

[Israel will be the 'ultimate loser' in war with Hezbollah, Iran says](#)

[EU says Hezbollah's threats to Cyprus threaten all its member states](#)



## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On June 24, Israel made a significant announcement, stating its [consideration of selling additional weapon systems](#) to Azerbaijan. This development comes in the wake of [Armenia's recent](#) recognition of an independent Palestinian state on June 21. The timing of this potential arms deal has led to speculation, with many suggesting that it is a response to Armenia's order for the Indian-made Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS). Given Israel's close defence ties with Baku, any additional arms provided to Armenia could potentially escalate the ongoing arms race with Azerbaijan.

In preparation for the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit on July 3-4, Kazakhstan's First Deputy Foreign Minister Akan Rakhmetullin underscored the [crucial role of the United Nations](#) in addressing urgent global challenges. Rakhmetullin emphasised Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's focus on sustainable development, linking the country's strategies and programs to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

On [June 21](#), Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Fariz Rzayev took part in the High-Level Conference of the OSCE Malta Chairmanship on Climate Change. The conference discussed the impact of climate change on security in the OSCE region, the current situation and the possibilities of jointly combating climate change. Speaking at the conference, Deputy Minister Fariz Rzayev said that Azerbaijan was also affected by climate change. It was noted that Azerbaijan supports the decision of the OSCE Ministerial Council adopted in Stockholm in 2021 to strengthen cooperation in combating the challenges caused by climate change; our country is actively participating in several regional OSCE projects. Noting that 2024 has been declared the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World" in Azerbaijan, the deputy minister said that in November this year our country will also host the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29).



## Other Developments

[France Says It Will Sell CAESAR Howitzers to Armenia](#)

[Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan & China: When is a done deal really done?](#)

[Armenia Recalls Ambassador From Belarus Amid Rising Tension With Russia](#)

[Armenia, Russia, Ukraine Nationals Detained In Germany On Suspicion Of Espionage](#)

[PM Modi likely to skip SCO summit in Kazakhstan in July; Putin, Xi, Sharif may attend](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

[INS Sunayna](#), an Indian Navy ship, arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on June 20, as part of its long-range deployment to the Southwest Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Prior to entering the harbour, the ship engaged in joint maritime surveillance of the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) along with the Mauritius Coast Guard Ship Barracuda and the Mauritius Police Force Dornier aircraft.

At the invitation of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, Sheikh Hasina, [Prime Minister of Bangladesh visited India on June 21-22](#). India and Bangladesh highlighted their commitment to a free, open, inclusive, secure, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. To further this vision, India and Bangladesh have agreed to co-lead the 'Disaster Risk Reduction and Management' pillar of the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved setting up a [major port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra](#). The Project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL), an SPV formed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB). The port will be developed as an all-weather greenfield deep draft major port and will comprise nine container terminals, each 1,000 meters long, four multipurpose berths, four liquid cargo berths, a Ro-Ro berth, and a Coast Guard berth.

Other Developments

[Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to Sri Lanka on 20 June 2024.](#)

[Spain assumed command of the European Naval Force \(EUNAVFOR\) ATALANTA.](#)



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India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi - 110003  
India

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