



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

July 24, 2024



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Delhi Policy Group

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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- India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri co-chaired the 3rd India Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks for the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP) of Bhutan, with Foreign Secretary Pema Choden on July 20, 2024. Source: [X/@IndiaInBhutan](https://twitter.com/IndiaInBhutan)

East Asia- On the sidelines of the Japan-China Strategic Dialogue, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China met Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, on July 23. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/2024/07/23_01.html)

West Asia- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with leaders of Palestinian factions Fatah and Hamas in Beijing on July 23, 2024. Source: [The Times of Israel](https://www.thetimes.com/travel/article/chinese-foreign-minister-wang-yi-meets-leaders-of-palestinian-factions-fatah-and-hamas-in-beijing-on-july-23-2024-12345678)

Indian Ocean Region- INS Teg along with maritime surveillance aircraft P-8I rendered SAR assistance for capsized oil Tanker MV Prestige Falcon. Source: [Indian Navy Official Twitter Handle](https://twitter.com/IndianNavy)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

In his maiden visit abroad, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri [visited Bhutan](#) from July 19-20. During the visit, he met with the King of Bhutan Jigme Wangchuck and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay. Foreign Secretary Misri co-chaired the 3rd India Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks for the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP) of Bhutan, with his counterpart Foreign Secretary Pema Choden. They discussed all aspects of bilateral cooperation including the development partnership, energy, trade and investment, connectivity and trade infrastructure, technology, people-to-people ties, as well as other regional issues of mutual importance.

The Bhutanese side presented the Project Tied Assistance (PTA) proposals as well as the first tranche of the PTA projects to be implemented during the 13th Five-Year Plan period including 61 projects amounting to Nu. 49.58 billion (INR 4,958 Crores). Meanwhile, King Jigme Wangchuck and Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay [were on a visit to Gujarat](#), India from July 22-24.

In India's [annual budget](#) for 2024-25 presented on July 23, Bhutan was allocated Rs 2,068 crore while the outlay for the Maldives saw a sharp decline to Rs 400 crore from last year's Rs 770 crore. Nepal was allocated the second-largest outlay of Rs 700 crore. An amount of Rs 245 crore has been set aside for Sri Lanka as against last year's Rs 60 crore.

Following the week of [deadly protests](#) across the country against reservations for government jobs which killed almost 150 people, Bangladesh partially restored telecommunication services on July 24. From July 21 the country has mostly been calm when the Supreme Court scaled down reservations for various categories to 7%. More than [2500 were arrested](#) following the violence across the country. Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said soldiers [will patrol the streets](#) until the return of normalcy in the country.

Other Developments

[Russia may open more consulates in Afghanistan, ambassador says](#)

[Pakistan consulate in Germany attacked](#)

[Govt has 'made up its mind' on PTI ban: Tarar](#)

[Nepal PM K.P. Sharma Oli wins vote of confidence in Parliament](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The Philippines and China have “reached an understanding on the provisional arrangement” for resupply missions to the Philippines’ beached naval ship Sierra Madre on the Second Thomas Shoal on July 22, according to the [official statement](#) released by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines. The statement further added that the agreement “will not prejudice our respective national positions”. However, no details were specified on the arrangement for rotation and resupply.

Vietnam has filed a claim with the United Nations for an [extended continental shelf \(ECS\) in the South China Sea](#) on July 18, according to Vietnam's Foreign Ministry. This is the third submission by Vietnam of an ECS, previously a submission with respect to the North Area of the South China Sea and later a joint submission with Malaysia in 2009. The aim behind the claim is “to exercise the rights and obligations of state parties in accordance with the maritime framework”, according to the official statement.

Chinese and Russian warships [patrolled the South China Sea](#) on July 21, as reported by People's Liberation Army Daily. The patrol is the extended naval patrol ongoing this month in the western and northern Pacific. The Chinese destroyer Yinchuan and a Russian frigate, along with shipboard helicopters and special operation personnel, are participating in the joint patrols. The navies conducted drills for on-site inspections, seizures and helicopter landings on vessels. The two countries have also launched Exercise Joint Sea 2024 naval drills in the South China Sea off the eastern coast of the island province of Hainan on July 21. The drills involve air and missile defense to protect ships, as well as reconnaissance and search-and-rescue training.

Other Developments

[Myanmar's embattled junta chief takes on role of nominal president](#)

[Vietnam's Communist Party grapples with succession dilemma after Nguyen Phu Trong's death](#)

East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

The [Japan-China Strategic Dialogue](#) was held in Tokyo between Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Masaaki Okano and Ma Zhaoxu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, from July 22 to 23. The two sides had a candid and in-depth exchange of views on major strategic issues regarding China-Japan relations. They agreed to actively implement the consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in San Francisco, meet each other halfway, expand cooperation, properly handle differences, comprehensively promote the strategic and mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries, and strive to build a constructive and stable China-Japan relationship that meets the requirements of the new era.

On July 23, officials from fourteen Palestinian factions, including Hamas and Fatah, [signed a reconciliation deal](#) and agreed to form a unity government at talks hosted by China. In a [statement](#) released after the signing ceremony, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who hosted the three-day talks, said "the most prominent highlight is the agreement to form a temporary national reconciliation government around the post-war governance of Gaza". The meeting marked the latest attempt to heal the Palestinian national schism and the [latest initiative mediated by China](#), after the country helped restore diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran last year.

On [July 18](#), the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10) was held under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Brown of the Cook Islands, with leaders from a total of 19 countries and regions, including Japan, 14 Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand, as well as the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) in attendance. On the summit's final day, the Pacific Island leaders and Japan issued a [Leaders' Declaration](#) and [Joint Action Plan](#). The declaration affirmed the importance of shared values such as freedom and democracy. Furthermore, they underscored the necessity of upholding a "free and open international rules-based order". The declaration also explicitly stated strong opposition to "any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by the threat or use of force or coercion anywhere in the world." This has been seen as a reference to China's increasing influence in the region.

Other Developments

[Hiroshima Mayor Calls For Abolition Of Nuclear Weapons](#)

[U.S. To Launch Arctic Defense Roundtable Eyeing Russia, China](#)

[U.S.-Japan Security Talks To Cover 'Extended Deterrence' For First Time](#)

[Taiwan Braces For Transactional Trump After 'Pay For Defense' Remark](#)

[Taiwan Starts Annual Defense Drills With Emphasis On Realistic Combat](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The 14 Palestinian factions, including Hamas (Gaza) and Fatah (West Bank), held reconciliation talks in China between July 21-23. They signed the ["Beijing Declaration" on ending division](#) and enhancing Palestinian national unity in the presence of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. In the Beijing Declaration, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was recognised as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, along with its commitment to establishing an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. Hamas and Fatah's agreement regarding [joint control of Gaza post-war](#) was rejected by Israel, which reiterated that Hamas would be dismantled. Amidst this, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is scheduled to address a [joint session of the US Congress](#) on July 24.

Chinese state media claimed that the Beijing Declaration further demonstrates the [success of the country's Global Security Initiative](#) (GSI), which transcends geopolitical and ideological differences to achieve peace and reconciliation. Under the framework of GSI, Saudi Arabia and Iran restored bilateral relations in 2023 after decades of hostility.

Yemen's Houthi militia launched a [drone attack on Israel's financial capital Tel Aviv](#), killing one and injuring four others on July 19. Following this, the Israeli Air Force carried out airstrikes on the [Houthi-controlled port of Hodeidah](#) in western Yemen on July 21, hitting fuel depots and cranes. Reportedly, Israel used [Saudi Arabia's airspace for airstrikes](#) on the port of Hodeidah. Saudi Arabia rejected such reports and informed that it had [nothing to do with Israeli airstrikes in Yemen](#).

Other Developments

[Knesset votes overwhelmingly against Palestinian statehood, days before PM's US trip](#)

[Readout of Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin III's Call\(s\) With Israeli Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [July 22](#), the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Bakhtiyor Saidov, had a telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Bui Thanh Son. On behalf of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Bakhtiyor Saidov expressed his condolences concerning the death of the Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Nguyen Phu Trong. During the conversation, the ministers also discussed the upcoming high-level exchanges, the development of economic ties, investment promotion, and avenues to develop dynamic cooperation and create new bridges in all areas.

On [July 19](#), Acting Special Coordinator for the Partnership on Global Infrastructure Investment (PGI) Helaina Matza told Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Nazira Nurbateva that the G7 countries are ready to invest up to \$200 billion in infrastructure projects in Central Asia, with Kazakhstan being one of the main destinations for these investments. The PGI initiative, [according to a statement from the Kazakh Foreign Ministry](#), targets a total investment of \$600 billion by 2027 in infrastructure projects across developing nations. This effort aims to enhance and diversify supply chains, thereby securing global food and energy supplies by boosting trade connections between Central Asian countries and extending access to European markets.

On [July 21](#), a senior Azerbaijani official said that Azerbaijan has proposed to sign a document with Armenia on the basic principles of a future peace treaty as an interim measure during the process of completing the border deal. While both Armenia and Azerbaijan have repeatedly said they want to sign a peace treaty to end the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said on July 20 that 80-90 percent of the text of the treaty was ready, but it has not been completed till Armenia amends its constitution to remove an indirect reference to Karabakh independence (which Armenia has rejected).

Other Developments

[Extreme Shortages: Turkmen Face Severe Drinking-Water Crisis During Scorching Summer](#)

[Kyrgyz Citizen Among POWs Kyiv Returned To Russia In Recent Prisoner Swap](#)

[Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan Open New Air Corridor Boosting European-Asian Flight Routes](#)

[China Companies Supply Belarus Defense Contractor With Russia Ties](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy's warship INS Teg [engaged in search and rescue operations](#) for the capsized oil tanker MV Prestige Falcon, which sank approximately 25 nautical miles southeast of Ras Madrakah, Oman, on July 15. The vessel had a crew of 16, consisting of thirteen Indians and three Sri Lankans. Search efforts commenced on the morning of July 16 and are being conducted in collaboration with Omani authorities under challenging weather conditions, including rough seas and strong winds. As of now, INS Teg has successfully rescued nine crew members, including eight Indians and one Sri Lankan.

INS Tabar, a frontline frigate of the Indian Navy, [arrived in Hamburg](#), Germany on July 17, for a three-day visit. During its stay, the crew will participate in various activities, including professional exchanges with the German Navy, visits to the German Naval Academy and public tours of the ship. On departure from Hamburg, INS Tabar will undertake a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the German Navy.

On June 24, [the First Training Squadron \(1TS\)](#) of the Indian Navy at Southern Naval Command in Kochi welcomed 76 trainees from the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) as part of a bilateral training initiative. This marks the second batch of RSNF trainees to undergo afloat training alongside Indian Navy trainees, following a similar program conducted in May-June 2023.

Other Developments

[On July 19, India-Japan Navy held their 10th Staff Talks in Tokyo.](#)

[The 7th edition of the Indian Navy's Annual Safety Review-2024 \(ASR-24\) took place at the Southern Naval Command.](#)



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