



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives September 11, 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:

Southeast Asia: Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India with Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong of Singapore in Singapore on September 4, 2024. Source: [Flickr/MEA](#)

East Asia: Prime Minister Kishida with Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), in Seoul on September 6, 2024. Source: [Prime Minister's Office of Japan/Official Website](#)

West Asia: External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar attended GCC-India Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue in Riyadh on September 9, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Dr. S. Jaishankar](#)

Indian Ocean Region: General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India released Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations in New Delhi on September 9, 2024. Source: [PIB](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

India and the Maldives held their [5th Defence Cooperation Dialogue](#) in New Delhi on September 6. The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, while the Maldivian delegation was headed by Chief of Maldives National Defence Force General Ibrahim Hilmy. Both sides deliberated on expediting the implementation of various ongoing defence cooperation projects, capability development projects and increasing high-level exchanges. The aspect of participation in forthcoming bilateral military exercises was also discussed. On the side-lines of the dialogue, Major General Ibrahim Hilmy also [interacted](#) with Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy and Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan. Meanwhile, according to the government spokesperson of Maldives, President Mohamed Muizzu will be [visiting India](#) 'very soon'.

Border security forces of Pakistan and Afghanistan were reengaged in [intense clashes](#) from September 7, reportedly resulting in several casualties on both sides. Earlier on September 4, the conflict erupted when Taliban forces attempted to construct a security outpost in Khost provinces on the Afghan side, prompting Pakistani troops to open fire to force the other side to stop the activity. Earlier, the Taliban and Pakistani soldiers have frequently clashed at the Torkham border, resulting in casualties and financial damage.

Other Developments

[Chinese oil company to send \\$100M in equipment for oil extraction in Afghanistan](#)

[Kyrgyzstan removes Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from banned groups list](#)

[Finance and commerce adviser of Bangladesh Government Salehuddin Ahmed said the Indian Line of Credit projects would continue considering its importance for the country](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a [two-day visit to Singapore](#) from September 4- 5, it his fifth visit to Singapore. He held meetings with Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, and called on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam. The leaders' discussed ways to enhance cooperation through cross-border electricity trade and green ammonia supply chains, a joint flagship programme for skills training, enhancing cross-border data flows via the Gujarat International Finance and Tec-City (GIFT City), and cooperation in developing industrial parks in India. PM Modi oversaw the signing of [four MOUs](#) between India and Singapore in the areas of digital cooperation, education and skills development, health and medicine, and semiconductor ecosystem cooperation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an [official visit to Brunei](#) from September 3- 4, the first-ever bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Brunei. During his visit, he met with Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister in the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei and Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei. The leaders agreed to enhance cooperation between India and Brunei in areas such as ICT, fintech, cyber security, new and emerging technologies and renewable energy. The two leaders witnessed the signing of an MoU on Cooperation in the operation of Telemetry, Tracking and Telecommand Station for Satellite and Launch Vehicles.

The [14th India-Philippines Policy Consultation Talks and 5th Strategic Dialogue](#) was convened in New Delhi on September 9. The Indian delegation was led by Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Philippines delegation was led by Theresa P. Lazaro, Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs of Philippines. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in defence and security, the maritime domain, trade & investment, healthcare, education, energy, agriculture, digital and financial technology, space, connectivity, culture and people-to-people exchange.

Other Developments

[Malaysian PM Anwar visits Russia as Asian leaders defy West over Putin](#)

[Thailand's king swears in new government after turmoil](#)

East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

On September 10, Admiral Sam Paparo, Head of the US Indo-Pacific Command, held a [video telephone call with his Chinese counterpart](#) Wu Yanan of the Southern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This was the first theatre-level commander talk between the US and China. The [official readout](#) of the Chinese military stated that the two sides had an "in-depth exchange of views on issues of common concern". Admiral Paparo characterised the discussions as "constructive and respectful" and urged PLA "to reconsider its use of dangerous, coercive and potentially escalatory tactics in the South China Sea and beyond".

Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made a [two-day official visit to Seoul](#) from September 6-7, 2024. During his visit, he held a [summit meeting with Yoon Suk Yeol](#), President of the Republic of Korea. The two leaders exchanged views on enhancing bilateral cooperation and exchanges, including the possibility of facilitating smoother entry procedures of nationals of one country into the other in both Japan and the ROK and the signing of the Japan-ROK Memorandum on cooperation of protecting Japanese and Korean nationals in third countries. They shared views on the situation in North Korea and Russia-North Korea military cooperation.

The Singapore Foreign Minister [Vivian Balakrishnan made an official two-day visit to Beijing](#) from September 8-9. During his visit, he called on Cai Qi, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau (PSC) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and met with Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, Wu Hansheng, Minister of the CPC Central Committee Social Work Department, and Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC. In the meetings, the ministers took stock of bilateral cooperation, including collaboration in both traditional areas as well as new and emerging areas such as the digital and green economies, and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

Other Developments

[Xi hosts two dozen African leaders at China's biggest summit in years](#)

[North Korea's Kim vows to increase nuclear weapons arsenal](#)

[China tells US it presents 'opportunity' not 'threat'](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Continuing the deepening of India-UAE partnership, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met [Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince](#) Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi on September 9. The two leaders expressed satisfaction with the substantial progress in bilateral relations through the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). In addition to signing MoUs/agreements on nuclear cooperation, LNG supply, crude storage, and food park development, they stressed the need to explore new areas of cooperation in nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and cutting-edge technologies. Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar attended the first [India-GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting](#) for Strategic Dialogue held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on September 9.

At the India-GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar emphasised four key pillars of relations including people-to-people ties, prosperity, progress, and security. He called for an early conclusion of India-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the two sides adopted a [Joint Action Plan 2024-2028 for cooperation](#) in areas such as health, trade, security, agriculture and food security, transportation, and energy.

Ahead of his visit to Ukraine, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken informed that [Russia had received ballistic missiles from Iran](#) and imposed new sanctions on ships and companies involved in supplying weapons to Moscow.

Amidst the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, a [US-Turkish activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi](#) was killed by the IDF during a protest in the West Bank. Secretary Blinken described the killing as unacceptable and urged the Israeli security forces to make fundamental changes to their operating procedures in the West Bank.

Other Developments

[IDF releases footage of tunnel in which 6 hostages were held, executed](#)

[The Saudi Crown Prince Is Talking About An Assassination. His Own.](#)

[China, Iran tap AI to influence U.S. election, experts warn](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

A [meeting of the Secretariat of the C5+1 format](#), which brings together the Central Asian states and the United States of America, was held in Bishkek on September 3. Delegations from all Central Asian countries and the permanent co-chair from the United States, Ms. Kaitlyn Setola, participated in the event. Participants discussed key issues regarding the coordination of the Secretariat's work, enhancing cooperation between working groups, and implementing strategic projects in the fields of security, economy, energy, and the environment. The delegates emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation and institutionalizing the C5+1 platform. The Kyrgyz Republic, in its role as co-chair, highlighted the need to further strengthen the Secretariat's role and to develop concrete steps for the implementation of the roadmaps adopted at previous meetings.

During an interview with Tajikistan's state news agency, US Ambassador to Tajikistan, Manuel Micaller, articulated the strong endorsement of the United States for Tajikistan's participation in the [Trans-Caspian trade route](#), a pivotal transport corridor linking China to Europe through Central Asia, circumventing Russia. Also known as the Middle Corridor, the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route has become a significant substitute for the conventional Russian transport routes. Ambassador Micaller lauded the depth of the US-Tajik relationship and underscored critical areas of collaboration spanning education, healthcare, economic investment, and border security. Furthermore, he underscored the considerable role of the US in advancing Tajikistan's infrastructure, particularly through the construction of the Rogun hydroelectric dam. Micaller also emphasised that Tajikistan's potential involvement in the Trans-Caspian route holds the promise of profound economic transformation, facilitating access to new markets in the Caucasus and Europe.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that Islamabad will host the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of Government](#) meeting on October 15-16, marking the country's biggest gathering of top world leaders since 2012. India's participation remains uncertain, with scepticism surrounding the possibility of an Indian leader travelling to Pakistan due to high tensions between the two countries. This raises questions about the [future of the SCO](#) amid the ongoing bilateral tensions between the South Asian neighbours.

Other Developments

[Chair of the NATO Military Committee visits Mongolia](#)

[Central Asia becomes key focus for Global Economic Partnerships](#)

[Chancellor Scholz to embark on first official visit to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan](#)

[Mongolia ignores an international warrant for Putin's arrest, giving him a red-carpet welcome](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On September 9, 2024, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan unveiled the [Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations](#) during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting in New Delhi. The doctrine aims to provide essential guidance to military commanders for conducting amphibious operations in today's complex military environment. It enhances the Indian Armed Forces' capability to execute a wide range of operations in the Indian Ocean Region. It exemplifies the cohesion and integration among the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Following the earlier release of the [Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations](#), this document marks the second joint doctrine released in 2024.

On September 4, 2024, the Indian Navy and the South African Navy [signed an Implementing Agreement \(IA\)](#) to enhance cooperation in submarine rescue operations. Under the terms of the agreement, the Indian Navy will provide its state-of-the-art Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) to assist the South African Navy in emergencies involving distressed submarines. The signing of this agreement comes against the backdrop of increased submarine operations in the Indian Ocean Region, particularly amid concerns over safety following the sinking incident of the [Indonesian submarine](#) KRI Nanggala-402 in 2021.

The ultra large container vessel [MSC Claude Girardet](#) is expected to arrive at Vizhinjam International Seaport in India by September 13 or 14. The Vizhinjam seaport is rapidly emerging as a significant transshipment hub, particularly attracting vessels from the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC). The port is being positioned as a competitor to Colombo. The Vizhinjam, a deep-water facility under Adani Ports began trial operations in early July with a Maersk call. MSC Deila, MSC Kayley, MSC Suape VII and MSC Adu V have already made a port call.

Other Developments

[Indian Navy's P8I maritime patrol aircraft reached Darwin, Australia to participate in the 16th edition of Exercise Kakadu 2024](#)

[Indian Navy's frontline frigate INS Tabar, arrived in Souda Bay, Greece](#)



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