



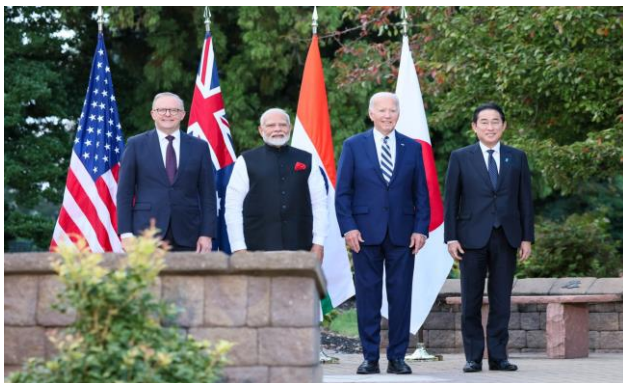
# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### September 25, 2024



Volume II, Issue 39 | September 25, 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:** Anura Kumara Dissanayake took oath as the 9th Executive President of Sri Lanka on September 23, 2024. Source: [X/@anuradisanayake](https://twitter.com/anuradisanayake)

**Southeast Asia:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, To Lam, in New York on September 23, 2024. Source: [PMO India/Official X Account](https://twitter.com/PMOIndia/OfficialXAccount)

**East Asia:** The sixth Quad Leaders' Summit Meeting was convened, in Wilmington, Delaware on September 21, 2024. Source: [Prime Minister's Office Japan](https://twitter.com/PrimeMinisterJapan)

**West Asia:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas met on the sidelines of the Summit of the Future in New York on September 22, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Narendra Modi](https://twitter.com/OfficialXHandle/NarendraModi)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Anura Kumara Dissanayake (AKD), the leader of the left-leaning National People's Power (NPP), emerged victorious in the Sri Lankan Presidential Elections held on September 21. He secured a significant mandate with 5.6 million votes, [constituting 42.3% of](#) the total, which reflects the strong backing of the public. Dissanayake [surpassed](#) both the current President, Ranil Wickremesinghe (17%), and the opposition leader, Sajith Premadasa (32.8%). This election was the first in Sri Lanka's history to require a second round of counting, as no candidate achieved the necessary 50% threshold for an outright victory. Official voter turnout was about 79.5%, lower than the 2015 and 2019 elections.

AKD was sworn in as the 9th President of Sri Lanka on September 23. He has appointed Dr [Harini Amarasuriya](#) as Prime Minister following the resignation of [Prime Minister](#) Dinesh Gunawardene. According to the reports, the Parliamentary Election is to be [held in December 2024](#). President Dissanayake appointed a [three-member Cabinet](#), which included himself, PM Amarasuriya and MP Vijitha Herath. New secretaries are also appointed for [15 ministries](#). Earlier, on September 22 the Indian High Commissioner, Santos Jha, met with then 'President Elect' Dissanayake and [extended greetings](#) from India's leadership and congratulated Dissanayake on his electoral victory, emphasising India's commitment to strengthening ties for the prosperity of both nations.

Bangladesh continues to witness targeted attacks on minorities and political opposition. On September 19, a series of arson attacks targeted over 30 houses and businesses owned by indigenous people in Khagrachhari and [Rangamati](#), resulting in the tragic loss of three lives. The attacks were a result of the death of a Bangali man, who was beaten to death by a mob after being accused of motorbike theft. Two individuals lost their lives due to the actions of unruly students, one in [Jahangirnagar University](#) and another in [Dhaka University](#). In a significant development, the Bangladesh Army Chief has, for the first time since the interim government was formed, set a specific [timeframe](#) to initiate a democratic process. He mentioned that within 18 months, there should be the initiation of a democratic process in the nation. During his visit to New York for the UNGA, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus had a meeting with President Biden on September 24. President Biden extended [ongoing U.S. assistance](#) to Bangladesh as it implements its new reform plans.

## Other Developments

[India issues notice to Pakistan seeking review of Indus Waters Treaty: What to know](#)

[Iran constructs over 10 Kilometers of wall along Afghanistan border](#)

[Russian envoy meets Amir Khan, invites him to Moscow talks](#)

[Pakistan, Russia sign MoU for cooperation in multiple sectors](#)

[Dhaka, Delhi agree to advance bilateral relations](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Prime Minister [Narendra Modi held a meeting](#) with the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and State President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, To Lam, in New York on the sidelines of the Summit of the Future at UNGA on September 23, 2024. The leaders discussed views on important regional and global issues, including the Indo-Pacific and underscored a collective role for the Global South on international platforms. They also reaffirmed the deep civilizational and cultural links between India and Vietnam. Prime Minister Modi expressed his sympathies in the face of loss and damage caused by Typhoon Yagi in Vietnam.

The [United Kingdom announced an enhanced trade partnership with Thailand](#) on September 18, 2024. This is the first deal the new Labour government made since it took office in July. The deal was signed by the Commerce Minister of Thailand, Pichai Nariphaphan, and UK Trade Minister, Douglas Alexander, in Bangkok. Under the agreement, the two countries committed to remove specific barriers to trade, focusing on areas including technology, customs and standards but does not include broad measures such as tariff cuts.

On September 20, Cambodia [withdrew from the 25-year-old Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle Area \(CLV-DTA\) agreement](#). This comes after an accusation of Cambodia ceding parts of four northeastern provinces to foreign countries. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet stated that "taking into account people's concerns about territory... we have decided that Cambodia is ending its participation in the CLV-DTA from Sept 20, 2024, onwards."

### Other Developments

[Thailand pushing for repair of key Myanmar highway](#)

[Myanmar military intensifies civilian killings and arrests, U.N. report says](#)

[US keeps missile system in Philippines as China tensions rise, tests wartime deployment](#)

## East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Modi of India, Prime Minister Kishida of Japan, and Prime Minister Albanese of Australia convened the [sixth Quad Leaders' Summit Meeting](#) in Wilmington, Delaware on September 21, 2024. The leaders announced Quad Cancer Moonshot, a new regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project, a first-ever Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission in 2025 in the Indo-Pacific, Quad Ports of the Future Partnership, and the finalization of the Memorandum of Cooperation for the Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network. Prime Minister Modi [in his remarks](#) stated that "Quad is here to stay, to assist, to partner and to complement" and pledged 40 million vaccine doses for Indo-Pacific countries.

Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida held a [Japan-India Summit Meeting](#) with Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India on September 21, 2024. The two leaders discussed ways to enhance cooperation on global governance. PM Modi expressed his gratitude for the tremendous development of Japan-India relations under the leadership of Prime Minister Kishida, and characterised India and Japan as "natural partners". PM Kishida also held bilateral meetings with US President Joe Biden and Australian PM Anthony Albanese.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry revealed on September 20 that [an agreement was reached with Japan](#) over the release of wastewater from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power centre. The two countries reached a "mutual understanding" in mid-August. The deal emphasizes on long-term international monitoring mechanism that allows stakeholders, including China, to carry out independent sampling and checks. In response, China has agreed to "adjust its import control measures and has decided to steadily restore imports of Japanese fishery products that meet its standards."

### Other Developments

[Japan protests airspace 'violation' by Russian patrol plane](#)

[Beijing slams reported US trade ban on cars with Chinese tech](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

The Israeli Air Force struck several [Hezbollah targets in Lebanon](#) on September 23, killing at least 569 people, including Ibrahim Muhammad Qubaisi, one of [Hezbollah's top commanders](#). Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned Lebanon's [civilians to get out of harm's way](#) as the IDF would conduct more strikes against Iran-backed Hezbollah's rockets and missiles arsenal. The escalation of conflict has caused tens of [thousands to flee south Lebanon](#). Amidst this, the US is [sending additional troops to the Middle East](#) to augment its existing forces.

President Biden addressed the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly on September 24. In his remarks, he attempted to [calm tensions in the Middle East](#) by stressing that "full-scale war is not in anyone's interest". A diplomatic solution is still possible, according to Biden, even as the situation between Israel and Hamas and Israel and Hezbollah has escalated. The Foreign Minister of Lebanon, Abdallah Bou Habib, criticised President Biden's address for not being strong, noting that the US is the only nation that can [make a significant difference in the Middle East](#). Meanwhile, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in his address to the UN General Assembly accused Israel of committing a genocide in Gaza and demanded a global response to [Israel's attack on Hezbollah militant group](#).

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi met the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas on September 22, on the sidelines of the UN's Summit of the Future in New York. PM Modi expressed concern regarding the [humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza](#) and the deteriorating security situation in West Asia. He reaffirmed India's support for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and the return of Israel and Palestine to the path of dialogue and diplomacy towards a two-state solution.

### Other Developments

[Remarks by President Biden Before the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly | New York, NY](#)

[' Hamas is a resistance group that is defending its lands' — President Erdogan](#)

[Prime Minister Modi meets with Crown Prince of Kuwait](#)



## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

During the [Second Armenian Global Summit](#) on September 18, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated that the Russian-led CSTO poses a threat to "Armenia's security, statehood and sovereignty". He reaffirmed that Armenia has effectively frozen its membership in the military bloc, stating that the country will only consider reinstating its activities if its questions and concerns are addressed. He further stated that the ongoing re-evaluation of Armenia's defence strategies aligns with its broader aim of diversifying its security partnerships and reducing reliance on Russian support. Pashinyan noted that Armenia's military reforms are not aggressive in nature, emphasising the need to protect its territory. [In response to Pashinyan's claims](#), Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov defended the CSTO, asserting that the alliance is designed to protect its members, not threaten them.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev signed a law ratifying the agreement to create a simplified customs corridor between member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) on [September 23](#). The move aims to boost trade and enhance economic integration among Turkic countries. According to Nurlan Bekenov, a Senate Deputy, the agreement is designed to expedite customs procedures for goods and vehicles, streamlining international trade. Key objectives include speeding up customs operations, reducing paperwork, and minimizing control measures through a risk management system.

### Other Developments

['Good Gas Agreements Made With Russia, Turkmenistan'](#)

[Armenia And Azerbaijan See Progress, But Peace Treaty Seems Distant](#)

[Tajikistan Backs UN Resolution Demanding End To Palestine Occupation](#)

[Central Asia: Facing 5 Assertive Presidents, Germany's Scholz Gets Rebuffed on Ukraine](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy's stealth frigate, INS Talwar, [arrived](#) in Mombasa, Kenya, on September 22, 2024. Both navies will engage in various professional interactions and cross-exchange visits aimed at improving cooperation and interoperability. This visit is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen maritime cooperation and align with the Joint Vision Statement 'BAHARI', released by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kenyan President William Samoei Ruto in December 2023.

Kurt M. Campbell, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, [recently stated](#) that India and the U.S. are planning to hold a "session on the Indian Ocean" to discuss concerns, which will be the first of its kind. Speaking at the House Foreign Affairs Committee Republicans, he pointed out, "This is the new frontier, working more closely with a partner like India in the Indian Ocean".

The People's Liberation Army Navy's 36<sup>th</sup> escort task force, comprising a guided-missile destroyer, a missile frigate and a supply vessel, is reportedly [conducting anti-piracy operations](#) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The mission is officially labeled as anti-piracy, but as per media reports, it coincides with China's efforts to project military strength and influence in the IOR.

### Other Developments

[5<sup>th</sup> edition of Goa Maritime Symposium \(GMS 2024\) was hosted by Indian Navy from September 23-24, 2024](#)

[India has extended crucial budgetary support to the Maldives by rolling over a \\$50 million Treasury Bill for another year](#)



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