



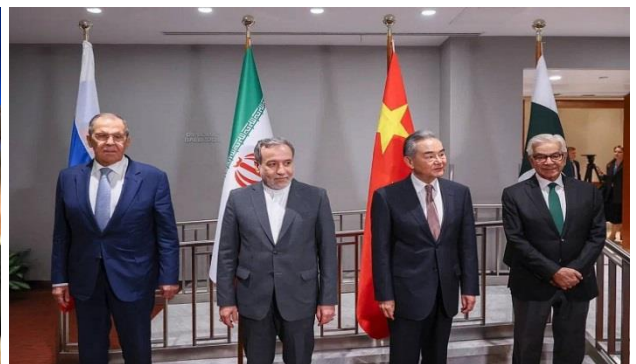
Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

October 2, 2024



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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:

Southeast Asia: Vietnam's President Lam with U.S. President Joe Biden, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York on September 25, 2024. Source: [President Biden/Official X Account](#)

South Asia: On September 27, the foreign ministers of the regional quartet – Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan – held their third meeting on the Afghanistan agenda on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. Source: [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation](#)

East Asia: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Director of China's Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met in New York on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly. Source: [Official X Handle/Lin Jian \(@SpoxCHN_LinJian\)](#)

Indian Ocean Region: 2nd edition of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) seminar on Illegal, Unreported, & Unregulated (IUU) Fishing conducted at Naval War College, Goa. Source: [Indian Navy Twitter](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

South Asian leaders – India's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar; Nepal's Prime Minister, K.P. Sharma Oli; Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif; Bhutan's Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay; and Maldives President, Dr. Mohammad Muizzu – travelled to New York to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). During his address at the UNGA, [Dr. Jaishankar emphasised](#) the importance of UN reforms and stated that it is crucial to include all regions of the world in decision-making processes regarding significant global issues. Bhutan's Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay, expressed his commitment to supporting [India's bid for a permanent](#) seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The heads of state from the UK, France, Portugal, and Russia also expressed their support for [India's permanent seat](#) on the UNSC in their speeches.

The third [quadrilateral Meeting](#) of Foreign Ministers China, Iran, Pakistan, and Russian, on Afghanistan was held on September 27 on the sidelines of the UNGA. The joint statement highlighted the shared concern of all the countries regarding the presence of terrorist organisations in Afghanistan, posing a threat to regional stability. They emphasised the need to enhance counter-terrorism collaboration at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

On the sidelines of UNGA, Professor Yunus, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, engaged with the leaders and officials from the UN and International Financial Institutions. The [Chinese foreign minister](#) characterised Yunus as a "trusted friend of the Chinese people" during their meeting. Ajay Banga, the President of the [World Bank](#) (WB), promised to provide \$3.5 billion in support of the reform efforts undertaken by Bangladesh's interim government. Professor Yunus urged for the [revival of SAARC](#) during a meeting with Pakistan's PM Shabaz Sharif. President of the [European Commission](#) Ursula Von der Leyen has assured Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus that "Bangladesh can count on Europe's support" in its reform drive. [US Secretary of State](#) Antony Blinken provided reassurance that the United States would aid Bangladesh in reclaiming the billions of dollars that were allegedly stolen and sent out of the country by individuals connected to the previous regime.

Other Developments

[Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu says never followed "India Out" agenda](#)

[World Bank Provides \\$1.7 Billion in Aid to Afghanistan](#)

[Taliban face threat of ICJ hearing over treatment of women and girls](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The [8th India-Indonesia Foreign Office Consultations](#) were convened in New Delhi on September 26, 2024. The Indian delegation was led by Jaideep Mazumdar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and the Indonesian delegation was led by Abdul Kadir Jailani, Director General for Asia-Pacific and African Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides reviewed bilateral ties including political exchanges, defence and security, maritime domain, trade & investment, healthcare, connectivity, science and technology, space, tourism, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

Vietnam's President To Lam held a [bilateral meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden](#) in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2024. The two leaders discussed opportunities to advance cooperation on a range of economic, technology, security, and diplomatic issues. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific – especially in the South China Sea. President Lam remarked that "Vietnam will continue to firmly implement its foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, multilateralism and diversification".

On September 25, the Philippines reported that a Chinese navy helicopter [shadowed and approached a Philippines fisheries bureau aircraft](#). The Philippines aircraft was on patrol near the disputed Scarborough Shoal and completed its mission despite the hindrance. This comes after the Philippine defence minister told China to withdraw vessels from its EEZ and accused the country of meddling in its defence activities. Regarding the U.S. mid-range missile launcher for training, Philippines Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro stated, "China is saying that they are alarmed, but that is interference into our internal affairs".

Other Developments

[Indonesia formally requests to join Trans-Pacific trade pact](#)

[Myanmar junta bombs opposition-held town hours after talks offer](#)

East Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

A Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) [JS Sazanami \(DD-113\)](#) sailed south through the Taiwan Strait on September 25, 2024, for the first time. The guided-missile destroyer was accompanied by a Royal Australian Navy (RAN) destroyer and a Royal New Zealand Navy fleet oiler. The fleet headed to the South China Sea for joint exercises. China responded strongly to the activity with [Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian](#) stating that “China is highly vigilant about the political intentions of Japan’s actions and has lodged stern representations with Japan”. This comes a week after China’s Liaoning aircraft carrier, accompanied by two destroyers, sailed between two Japanese islands near Taiwan for [the first time](#).

The Philippines, United States, Australia, Japan and New Zealand conducted a [Maritime Cooperative Activity \(MCA\)](#) within the Philippines’ Exclusive Economic Zone in the South China Sea, on September 28, 2024. The exercises included training on routine multilateral surface operations, deck landings, hoisting, and search and rescue. The aim of the exercise was to enhance cooperation, interoperability, and combined capabilities in the maritime domain, contributing to peace, and stability, and upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Chinese Foreign Minister [Wang Yi held a meeting with the US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken](#), on the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly, in New York on September 27, 2024. The two sides discussed counternarcotics cooperation to disrupt the flow of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals into the United States, military-to-military communication, and talks on artificial intelligence risk and safety. The contentious issues in bilateral relations of technology, human rights, Taiwan and people-to-people exchanges were also discussed.

Other Developments

[Ishiba becomes Japan’s PM and announces Cabinet line-up, which includes 2 women](#)

[Russia’s Lavrov says North Korea’s nuclear status is a ‘closed issue’](#)

[Taiwan reports surge of Chinese warplanes off its coast](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Hezbollah's leader [Hassan Nasrallah was killed in an Israeli airstrike](#) in Beirut, Lebanon on September 27. US President Joe Biden stressed that [Nasrallah's death is a "measure of justice"](#) for the thousands of Americans, Israelis, and Lebanese civilians who were victims of Hezbollah terrorist attacks over the years. Meanwhile, Iran launched around 200 [ballistic missiles towards Israel](#) on October 1, which could result in a direct conflict between Iran and Israel. The [Israeli military pledged to respond](#) to Iran's "severe and dangerous escalation", while the US reaffirmed its unwavering support for Israel's defence and security. The US has moved three additional F-15E, F-16, and A-10 aircraft squadrons to the Middle East to [mitigate the risk of a broader regional conflict](#).

As part of its efforts to strike a decisive blow against Hezbollah, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) began a [limited ground incursion into southern Lebanon](#). [Russia](#) and [China](#) opposed Israel's infringement of Lebanon's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, and urged Tel Aviv to take concrete steps to de-escalate the conflict. Saudi Arabia expressed concern over the developments in Lebanon without referring to Nasrallah's killing, while the [UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar have remained silent](#).

Amidst the escalation of tensions in West Asia, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on September 30. PM Modi reaffirmed [India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism](#) and stressed the need to prevent regional escalation of the conflict while ensuring the safe release of hostages.

Other Developments

[In the Arab world, split reactions to Nasrallah's killing reflect Hezbollah's divisiveness](#)

[7 dead in suspected terror shooting, stabbing in Tel Aviv amid Iran missile attack](#)

[US bases would be target if the US joins any response against Iran, Iraqi armed groups say](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

During the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly Debate, [Turkmenistan defined its strategic partnership](#) priorities with the UN, highlighting peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, and humanitarian issues. According to the ministry, these priorities were presented by Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov on September 25. Meredov said that Turkmenistan aims to strengthen peace and trust in the field of security by advancing mechanisms of preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding. The minister also highlighted the importance of supporting Afghanistan in its economic recovery and addressing humanitarian issues, citing the construction of the strategic Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and other infrastructure projects.

During the Sustainable Development and Security in the Eurasian Space conference on September 30, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev put forward the idea of [indivisible Eurasian security](#) as the cornerstone for establishing a multipolar global order. Tokayev emphasised the growing significance of diplomacy in the midst of unprecedented geopolitical instability. He stressed the urgent need for a détente and a new constructive dialogue agenda within the international community. According to Tokayev, the concept of a comprehensive, indivisible Eurasian security has the potential to form the basis for creating a fair, multipolar, and sustainable world order.

Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan [welcomed](#) Prime Minister of Belarus Roman Golovchenko, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Olzhas Bektenov, and Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin on September 30. They arrived in Armenia to participate in the regular session of the Council of Ministers of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and the Third Eurasian Economic Forum being held in Yerevan, Armenia. [During the plenary opening session](#) on September 30, the participants discussed the infrastructure and agricultural logistics, law enforcement practice and antitrust regulation in cross-border markets, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) online trading platforms, technical regulation of online trade in the EAEU, as well as the prospects and advantages of the EAEU single electricity market. The Eurasian Intergovernmental Council approved a Roadmap for the implementation of the transport policy of the Eurasian Economic Union member states for 2024-2026 at a meeting in Yerevan on October 1.

Other Developments

[China In Eurasia Briefing: Beijing Flexes Its Muscles At The UN General Assembly](#)

[Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan discuss border delimitation and demarcation](#)

[CSTO commences military drills in Kazakhstan as Armenia declines participation](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The [2nd edition of the Indian Ocean Rim Association \(IORA\) seminar](#) on Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing took place at the Naval War College in Goa on September 25, 2024. This significant event gathered delegates from 17 IORA member countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Somalia, South Africa, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tanzania. The seminar addressed the growing challenges posed by IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), discussing its economic, environmental, and security implications. Participants also engaged in dialogues to identify legal gaps and collaborative strategies among member states to combat this issue effectively.

On October 1, 2024, the Houthis [launched](#) an explosive-laden drone that struck the Panama-flagged oil tanker Cordelia Moon, located approximately 110 kilometers off the port city of Hodeida, Yemen. This attack resulted in damage to one of the tanker's ballast tanks, as confirmed by the multinational Joint Maritime Information Center and private security firm Ambrey. In addition to the drone strike, a missile targeted another vessel, identified as the Liberian-flagged bulk carrier Minoan Courage, which was also en route to the Suez Canal and had armed security on board. There were no reported injuries or significant damage from this missile strike.

Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs Minister Taye Atske Selassie [addressed](#) the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 28, 2024, expressing grave concerns over recent actions in the Horn of Africa. In his speech, Taye highlighted the urgent need to establish a new framework for inclusive maritime security engagement in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. He urged for equal participation from all countries in the region to enhance collaboration and ensure stability, particularly in light of rising threats from terrorism and piracy. He also defended Ethiopia's recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somalia, asserting that it is grounded in the current political realities in Somalia.

Other Development

[5th Missile Cum Ammunition Barge was delivered on September 25, 2024, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai](#)

[Indian Naval Ship \(INS\) Talwar conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Kenyan Navy Ship \(KNS\) Shujaa](#)

[On September 30, 2024, three ships from the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron—Tir, Shardul, and the Indian Coast Guard ship Veera—arrived at Bandar Abbas port in Iran for a Long-Range Training Deployment](#)



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