



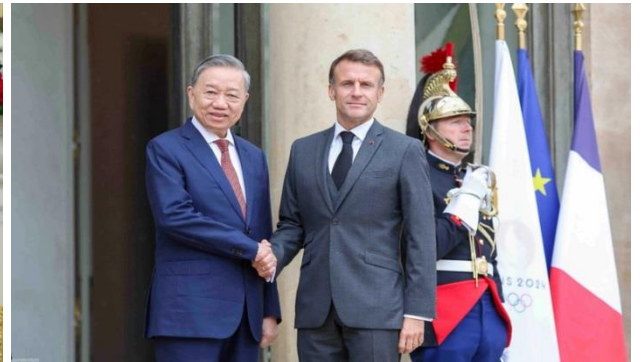
Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

October 9, 2024



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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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.

Cover Image:

South Asia- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, President of Maldives in New Delhi on October 7, 2024. Source: [Flickr/MEA](#)

Southeast Asia- General Secretary, Presiden To Lam and French President Emmanuel Macron, Paris, France, October 7, 2024. (Source: [Government News/Official Website](#))

West Asia- The 12th meeting of India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force (HLTF) on investments was held in Mumbai on October 7, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Piyush Goyal](#)

Indian Ocean Region- INS Vikramaditya and ITS Cavour, the Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) of the Indian Navy and Italian Navy, held their first-ever joint operations from October 1 to 6, 2024. Source: [Indian Navy Twitter](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

From October 6-10, Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, the President of Maldives, [visited India](#) and engaged in bilateral talks with Prime Minister Modi, during which both countries agreed to embrace the shared vision of their "Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership." The vision [document](#) provides a way forward to enhance relationships through political exchanges and cooperation in the following sectors; development, trade and economy, digital and financial, energy, defence and security, capacity building and training, regional and multilateral fora. During a joint press conference, Prime Minister Modi emphasized that both leaders [had](#) extensive talks on defence and security cooperation. They also [signed five Memorandums](#) of Understanding (MoUs) and inaugurated several development projects. India agreed to provide [financial support](#) of more than ₹6,300 crore to the Maldives.

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar [visited Sri Lanka](#) on October 4 October, where he called on President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, met with Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and held discussions with Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath. EAM also met former President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Leader of SJB, Sajith Premadasa. During the meetings, EAM Dr Jaishankar conveyed India's firm commitment to advance bilateral cooperation based on its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and SAGAR outlook. In this context, he assured India's ongoing development assistance to the projects such as the modernisation of the Kankesanthurai port and converting the ongoing projects under Line of Credit to Grant. [President Dissanayake](#) will likely undertake his first official overseas visit to New Delhi soon.

On October 4, Moscow hosted the 6th meeting of the [Moscow Format of Consultations](#) on Afghanistan with the participation of special representatives and senior officials from Russia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Acting Foreign Minister of the Taliban Amir Khan Muttaqi took part in the event as the chief guest. In the [Joint Statement](#), the parties expressed deep concern over the security situation related to terrorism in Afghanistan, noting that all terrorist and separatist groups based in Afghanistan continue to pose a serious threat to global and regional security. The parties called for strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels. Meanwhile, Zamir Kabulov, Russia's Special Representative for Afghanistan, stated in a [press conference](#)

that Russia will soon remove the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from its list of terrorist organisations.

Other Developments

[Sri Lanka reaches debt-restructuring agreement](#)

[Blast kills two Chinese near Pakistan's Karachi airport](#)

[US restructures Afghan diplomacy team](#)

[Nepal, India, Bangladesh sign tripartite agreement to facilitate cross-border electricity trade](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

Vietnam's Party General Secretary and State President, [To Lam, commenced an official visit to France](#) on October 7, 2024. During his visit, he is scheduled to hold meetings with the President of the French National Assembly, the National Secretary of the French Communist Party (PCF), and representatives from the France-Vietnam Friendship Association. On October 8, President Lam met with French President Emmanuel Macron and officially upgraded the Vietnam-France relations to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". The two leaders discussed ways to enhance security and defence cooperation between the two countries.

The Philippines, US, Australia, Canada, France, and Japan commenced the joint naval exercises, [Sama Sama 2024](#), off the coast of the Philippines' northern Luzon Island on October 7, 2024. The exercises will focus on anti-submarine, anti-surface and anti-air warfare. "The intent of these exercises is not to ruffle feathers. It's tailored for interoperability", remarked US Rear-Adm Camicata. The exercises will involve a thousand sailors and personnel and the participation of the US Navy's Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Howard, Canada's Halifax-class frigate HMCS Vancouver and a CH-148 Cyclone helicopter, while Japan's Force Shin Maywa US-2 amphibious aircraft and Kawasaki P-1 maritime patrol aircraft.

On October 2, [Vietnam lodged a protest against China](#) over the attack on a Vietnamese fishing boat in the South China Sea. The official statement by the Foreign Ministry of Vietnam alleged that the Chinese law enforcers beat the Vietnamese fishermen and took away their fishing equipment when their boat was operating near Hoang Sa. Vietnam's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Pham Thu Hang stated that "Vietnam is extremely concerned, indignant and resolutely protests the brutal treatment by Chinese law enforcement forces of Vietnamese fishermen and fishing boats operating in the Hoang Sa archipelago of Vietnam".

Other Developments

[Cambodia says it would welcome US Navy at port expanded with China's help](#)

[Myanmar to send a rep to ASEAN summit for the first time in three years](#)

[Philippines' Marcos signs law to revitalise country's defence industry](#)

East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [October 6](#), the leaders of China and North Korea vowed to enhance bilateral cooperation on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. China's President Xi Jinping said in his message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, "I attach great importance to the development of the China-DPRK relations," and China was ready to continue to "write a new chapter" of relations through strengthened communications and cooperation. Similarly, in his message to Xi, Kim pledged to "steadily strive to consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and China as required by the new era".

Speaking at a concert ahead of Taiwan's National Day celebrations, [Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te](#) said, "it is absolutely impossible for Communist China to become Taiwan's motherland because the island's government is older". Lai said, "recently, our neighbour, the People's Republic of China, just celebrated its 75th birthday on October 1 and in a few days, the Republic of China will celebrate its 113th birthday." Therefore he [stated](#), that "the Republic of China may be the motherland of the people of the People's Republic of China." Furthermore, Lai noted the two governments' different political roots and delivered a lesson in comparative history.

Other Developments

[South Korea Agrees To Pay 8.3% More To Host U.S. Forces](#)

[Taiwan President Is Escalating Tensions, China Says Ahead Of Key Speech](#)

[Ishiba's 'Asian Nato' Dead On Arrival As New Pm Set For Diplomatic Debut](#)

[India Does Not Share Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba's View Of 'Asian NATO', Says Jaishankar](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On October 8, Hezbollah launched more than [100 rockets targeting the Israeli port city of Haifa](#) as the IDF extended its ground invasion into southwestern Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed that the [successor to slain Hezbollah chief](#) Hassan Nasrallah was also killed in an airstrike in Beirut. While the US State Department stressed the importance of a diplomatic solution to the ongoing conflict, it informed that [Hezbollah has changed its tone](#) and is seeking a ceasefire with Israel because it has been "battered". [PM Netanyahu and President Biden](#) are scheduled to discuss Israeli plans to strike Iran on October 9.

Yemen's Houthis also launched [two missiles against Jaffa in Central Israel](#) which were intercepted by the Israeli air force. [Brent crude prices](#) are currently hovering around USD 77.4 per barrel in the wake of the Iranian missile attack on Israel. Meanwhile, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) condemned the [escalation of violence in Lebanon](#) and the occupied Palestinian territories. It urged all involved parties to exercise self-restraint and refrain from violence. There are reports that the Gulf nations have assured Iran of their [neutrality in the Iran-Israel conflict](#).

The 12th meeting of the [India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force](#) (HLTF) on investments was held on October 7 in Mumbai. Both sides pledged to deepen their collaboration and investments for the development of food parks, while the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) plans to establish a subsidiary in GIFT City in Gujarat. To facilitate seamless cross-border transactions, the two countries plan to interconnect their national payment platforms - UPI (India) and AANI (UAE).

Other Developments

[India, UAE to set up food corridor at USD 2 billion investment: Piyush Goyal](#)

[Oil prices steady after sliding on potential Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire](#)

[White House loses trust in Israeli government as Middle East spirals](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [October 8](#), Kazakhstan's Central Referendum Commission officially announced results of the national referendum on October 6, revealing 71.12% support for the construction of a nuclear power plant. Of the 7.82 million people who voted, 5.56 million people (71.12%) backed the proposal. "Thus, the referendum is deemed valid, and the proposal has been approved," said CEC Chairman Nurlan Abdirrov. While the government has framed the plant as essential for diversifying the energy mix, ensuring energy security and reducing reliance on coal, constructing a nuclear power plant has sparked varying opinions nationwide. Some have raised concerns about its economic feasibility, potential environmental risks, and long-term nuclear waste storage.

On [October 3](#), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan expressed deep concern over the rapidly escalating situation in the Middle East. In an official statement, the Foreign Ministry highlighted the potential dangers posed by the intensifying conflict, warning that further escalation could result in unprecedented security risks and have far-reaching consequences for the international community. The ministry urged all parties involved to exercise maximum restraint and avoid actions that could further aggravate tensions in the region. It emphasized the importance of preventing a full-scale conflict and stressed that a peaceful resolution must be sought in accordance with international laws and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Other Developments

[Putin To Meet Iran President in Turkmenistan on Friday](#)

[Jaishankar To Visit Pakistan For SCO Summit, First By An Indian Foreign Minister Since 2015](#)

[Armenia Hopes To Sign Peace Articles With Azerbaijan Within A Month, President Says](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Indian Navy and the Italian Navy held [historic first-ever joint operations](#) involving Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) from both nations, INS Vikramaditya and ITS Cavour, alongside INS Visakhapatnam and ITS Alpino, from October 1 to 6, 2024. The exercise marked a significant milestone in bilateral defence cooperation. It comprised a harbour phase focused on professional exchanges and planning, followed by an intense sea phase on October 5 and 6, which included large-force engagements, air combat missions, helicopter operations, search-and-rescue missions, coordinated weapon firings, and joint manoeuvres, all aimed at enhancing interoperability and demonstrating command and control capabilities.

The United Kingdom officially agreed to [transfer sovereignty](#) of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, to Mauritius, marking a significant shift in a long-standing sovereignty dispute. This decision, announced on October 3, 2024, allows the UK to retain authority over Diego Garcia for an initial period of 99 years, ensuring the continued operation of the U.S. military base critical for regional security. [Historically](#), the Chagos Islands were separated from Mauritius in 1965, leading to the forced removal of around 1,500 Chagossians to establish the base. The agreement has garnered international support, including from the U.S., which views it as essential for global operations.

On October 7, 2024, Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and President of Maldives H.E. Dr. Mohamed Muizzu [met in New Delhi](#) to review and strengthen their bilateral ties, emphasizing their historically close relationship. Both leaders acknowledged the importance of their countries' relationship and a vision for a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, focusing on mutual benefits and regional stability.

Other Developments

[The 28th edition of the Maritime Exercise Malabar 2024 is being hosted by India from October 8 to 18 in Visakhapatnam.](#)

[Japan JS Ariake and India INS Shakti conducted joint naval exercise in Bay of Bengal](#)

[Indian Naval Ships Tir, Shardul and Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera of First Training Squadron \(1TS\) arrived at Muscat, Oman on October 05, 2024](#)



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