



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### October 16, 2024



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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:** A family photo of the SCO members was taken during the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government in Islamabad on October 16, 2024. Source: [X/@DrSJaishankar](#)

**Southeast Asia:** PM Narendra Modi with leaders of ASEAN member states at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR on October 10, 2024. Source: [PM Modi/Official X Account](#)

**East Asia:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 19th East Asia Summit held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on October 11, 2024. Source: [PM Modi/Official X Account](#)

**Central Asia:** The 'Interrelation of Times and Civilisations – Basis of Peace and Development' international forum was attended by Central Asian and regional leaders, on October 11, 2024. Source: [President of Russia](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

In response to escalating security concerns caused by terrorist attacks and political unrest nationwide, the federal government of Pakistan allocated a security force of more than [10,000 police and paramilitary personnel](#) to safeguard the safety of around 900 delegates attending the 23rd Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Islamabad on October 15 and 16. The summit witnessed the presence of leaders from SCO nations, including Chinese Premier Li Qiang, India's Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar, Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Iran's Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, and heads of CAR countries. In his [National Statement](#), Dr S Jaishankar emphasized the value of sincere and transparent dialogue among member states, the role of globalization and rebalancing, the importance of avoiding unilateral agendas, and the need for collaboration.

Li Qiang, the [Prime Minister of China](#), arrived in Islamabad on October 14 for a four-day official visit. During his stay, he engaged in delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif and signed 13 agreements to enhance bilateral collaboration in areas such as security, education, agriculture, human resources development, and science and technology. Pakistan PM Shabaz Sharif and PM Li Qiang inaugurated the Gwadar International Airport in a virtual ceremony. PM Li also met Pakistan military leadership as the discussions focused on defence cooperation and counter-terrorism efforts. Earlier on October 10, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, [said that](#) Beijing would work with Pakistan to protect Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

A delegation of Saudi Arabia led by its Minister for Investment Sheikh Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz Al Faleh [visited Pakistan](#) from October 9-11. During the visit both the countries have signed 27 MoUs for over USD 2.2 billion in investments in agriculture, IT, food, education, mining, health, petroleum and energy sectors.

A significant Pashtun gathering, known as Jirga, was organized by the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) in Jamrud, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from October 11-13. During the event, delegates expressed their concerns about the negative effects of militancy and subsequent anti-terrorism operations over the past twenty years, which led to the displacement of millions of people. Representatives from various political parties and professional organizations engaged in discussions at 60 distinct enclosures. The leaders issued a [final](#)

[declaration](#), setting a two-month deadline for the withdrawal of Pakistani military and associated militant groups. They also demanded the reopening of all gates along the Durand Line, allowing unrestricted movement of people and goods without passport or visa checks.

### Other Developments

[21 killed, 10 coal mines destroyed by terrorists in Pakistan](#)

[EU announces new humanitarian aid package for Bangladesh](#)

[Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman on October 14 left Dhaka for the USA and Canada on an 11-day official visit](#)

[Rajapaksa brothers opt out of Sri Lanka's November 14 general elections](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

The [21st ASEAN-India Summit](#) was convened in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on October 10. The meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sonexay Siphandone. Prime Minister Modi made his 11th participation at the Summit. In [his remarks](#), he unveiled a 10-point plan to enhance the ASEAN-India partnership. This includes organizing the ASEAN-India Women Scientists Conclave, doubling the number of scholarships at Nalanda University, reviewing the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, enhancing disaster resilience, establishing a new Health Ministers' track, launching the ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue, conducting a workshop on Green Hydrogen, and urging ASEAN Leaders to join the 'Plant a Tree for Mother' campaign.

The [44th and 45th ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings](#) were convened in Vientiane, Lao PDR, from October 8 -11 under the chairmanship of Sonexay Siphandone. The Summit included 16 meetings during which member states discussed issues like cooperation in the areas of economy, security and politics as well as environmental issues and sustainable development. The meetings resulted in the adoption of more than 90 documents "to agree on coordination and connectivity measures that help ASEAN further develop towards a strong, innovative, flexible and people-centred bloc", according to ASEAN Secretary-General, [Dr. Kao Kim Hourn](#).

On the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Summit, the [Prime Minister held a meeting](#) with Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao PDR, and PM Sonexay Siphandone, in Vientiane on October 11, 2024. During the meetings, the leaders discussed the various areas of bilateral cooperation such as development partnership, capacity building, disaster management, renewable energy, heritage restoration, economic ties, defence collaboration, and people-to-people ties. PM Modi witnessed the signing of MoUs and agreements in the fields of defence, broadcasting, Customs cooperation, and three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation. All three QIPs have a GoI grant assistance of about USD 50000 each. In addition, India will provide grant assistance of about USD 1 million to improve nutrition security in Laos.

## Other Developments

[Myanmar armed group captures another town on highway to China](#)

[Philippines says 'Chinese maritime militia' boat sideswiped fisheries vessel](#)

[Chinese navy's port call in Penang: Normal, no need to panic, says Malaysia's foreign minister](#)

## East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The [19<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit \(EAS\)](#) was convened on October 11. During his address, PM Modi stressed ASEAN's central role in the Indo-Pacific regional architecture, in India's Indo-Pacific Vision and in Quad cooperation. PM Modi also underlined the severe impact of conflicts on the Global South and highlighted that the path of dialogue and diplomacy based on a humanitarian approach must be adopted for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the world. PM Modi [stressed](#) that terrorism, along with cyber and maritime challenges, posed a serious threat to global peace and security, for which countries must come together to combat them. [Russia and China](#) were reported to have blocked a proposed consensus statement by the EAS mainly over objections to language on the contested South China Sea.

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba made his [international debut](#) at summits related to the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – a diplomatic start that saw the new leader keep a low profile after raising eyebrows over ideas such as the creation of an "Asian NATO", from October 10-11, 2024. During his meetings, where he met regional leaders and top envoys, he pledged to continue Tokyo's commitment to Southeast Asia. The prime minister also addressed regional security issues such as maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas, and North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. "We cannot accept unjust claims of maritime rights and interests or maritime activities that are not based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea," Ishiba was quoted as saying, stressing Tokyo's "serious concerns" about the "continuing militarisation and coercive activities in the South China Sea."

Chinese Premier Li Qiang left Hanoi on October 14, concluding his [three-day official visit to Vietnam](#). During his stay in Vietnam, Li and the Chinese government's high-level delegation paid tribute to late President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum in Hanoi. The two government leaders witnessed the exchange of cooperation documents between the two countries, and participated in the Vietnam-China business workshop. It was [reported](#) that Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and visiting Chinese Premier Li Qiang "exchanged sincere and frank opinions on maritime issues" and consequently, agreed to calm tensions in their [South China Sea dispute](#).





## Other Developments

[Russia, China bolster defence ties at 'substantive' talks](#)

[China says it will not renounce use of force over Taiwan](#)

[Ishiba Openness To Nuke Ban Treaty Involvement Puts Pact In Spotlight](#)

[China holds military drills around Taiwan, drawing anger in Taipei, concern from Washington](#)

## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Following injuries to two peacekeepers of the [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon](#) (UNIFIL) on October 10, the UN, and India urged the Israeli Defence Forces to ensure the [safety and security of UNIFIL personnel](#). While the IDF expressed deep concern over the injured peacekeepers, the UNIFIL [pledged to remain in all its positions](#), including those near the Israeli-Lebanese border. Amidst this, on October 9, US President Joe Biden spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirming [America's "ironclad commitment"](#) to Israel's defence and security. To defend Israel from attacks by Iran and Iran-aligned militias, the US has deployed a [Terminal High Altitude Area Defence \(THAAD\)](#) missile battery to Israel.

According to reports, Israel has assured the US that it would not [strike Iran's oil and nuclear facilities](#) in retaliation for Iran's missile attack. Moreover, PM Netanyahu informed French President Macron that Israel [will not agree to a ceasefire with Hezbollah](#) that fails to prevent the Lebanese terror group from rearmament and regrouping. Israel's Western allies have [rejected the call for an arms embargo on Israel](#) by President Macron.

Brent [Crude prices fell below USD 75/barrel](#) as fears eased about the possibility of an Israeli attack on Iranian oil facilities. OPEC+ has revised its [crude demand growth forecast downwards](#) for 2024 and 2025 due to an economic slowdown in China and a global shift toward green energy.

### Other Developments

[China urges caution in Israel-Iran tensions, calls for ceasefire](#)

[Israel will listen to US but make own decisions, PM Netanyahu's office says](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

Russian President Vladimir Putin began his visit to Turkmenistan on October 11, [speaking at the plenary meeting](#) of the 'Interrelation of Times and Civilisations – Basis of Peace and Development international forum'. The conference was attended by other regional leaders, including Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and the heads of the other Central Asian nations. During President [Putin's opening remarks](#), he stated that he wants to build "a new world order" with Russia's friends and partners. On the sidelines, President Putin held separate meetings with President of Iran [Masoud Pezeshkian](#) and the national leader of the Turkmen people, Speaker of Halk Maslahaty (People's Council) of Turkmenistan [Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov](#).

On [October 10](#), Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov made a joint statement for the media expressing satisfaction with the results of the bilateral talks. Tokayev noted the importance of the agreements reached during his official visit to Turkmenistan and the adopted bilateral documents focusing on Declaration on Strengthening Friendship and Deepening Multifaceted Strategic Partnership between Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, which is supposed to bring fraternal people closer and strengthen bilateral relations. President Tokayev stated "We also adopted the corresponding Comprehensive Program until 2027. We agreed to fill the coming period with significant events for the benefit of the two close peoples, focusing on trade."

Other Developments

[Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan to build Trans-Afghan Corridor](#)

[Azerbaijan turns down Armenia's Peace Proposal for being 'unrealistic'](#)

[Russia's Putin cements ties with Iranian President in Central Asia meeting](#)

[Tajikistan's new transmission line to boost electricity trade in Central Asia](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

Indian On October 14, 2024, India and Australia held their [4th 2+2 Secretary-level Consultations](#) in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, alongside Australian officials, Defence Secretary Greg Moriarty and Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Jan Adams. The consultations aim to strengthen ties and enhance bilateral cooperation in for a such as Quad and G20. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further advance the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and shared vision of peace, prosperity, stability, and progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

India's Ministry of Defence [signed contract](#) with the U.S. government for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B Sky/Sea Guardian High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS). This contract was signed on October 15, 2024, in New Delhi. The deal encompasses 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians, with eight each designated for the Indian Army and Air Force. The defence ministry and General Atomics Global India also [signed](#) a contract for performance-based logistics for the drones through depot-level maintenance, repair and overhaul in India. These drones will enhance the ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) capabilities of the defence forces.

The [2nd IORIS Steering Committee Policy Board](#) and Working Groups Meeting commenced on October 15, 2024, in Colombo. This initiative is part of a broader effort funded by the European Union through the CRIMARIO II project, which seeks to bolster information sharing, crisis management, and inter-agency cooperation in maritime surveillance. The discussions at this meeting will build upon previous gatherings, including the first IORIS Steering Committee meeting held in Bali in May 2023, which laid the groundwork for operationalizing regional governance structures.

### Other Development

[The first ship of the two multi-purpose vessels, built by L&T, Shipyard for the Indian Navy, was launched at L&T, Kattupalli](#)

[On 12 October, INS Tir and ICGS Veera of First Training Squadron \(1TS\) arrived at the Port of Manama, Bahrain](#)

[Zambia has officially joined the Central Corridor, enhancing its connectivity to the Indian Ocean through Tanzania](#)

[INS Talwar to participate in the eighth edition of IBSAMAR, alongside Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy.](#)



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