



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## India's Proximity Archives

### November 20, 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:** Sri Lanka's new Cabinet was sworn in on Monday, November 18, 2024, in Colombo. Source: [X/@anuradisayanayake](#)

**Southeast Asia:** US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin and Philippine Secretary of National Defence Gilbert Teodoro at the signing of the new defence pact in Manila, Philippines on November 18, 2024. Source: [U.S. Department of Defence/Official Website](#)

**East Asia:** Official family photo of the APEC Economic Leaders at a meeting held in Lima, Peru, November 16, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/APEC Peru 2024](#)

**West Asia:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the Netzarim Corridor in the Gaza Strip on November 19, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/Prime Minister of Israel](#)

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## South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

In the [general election](#) held in Sri Lanka on November 14, the ruling alliance of the National People's Power (NPP), led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, secured a decisive victory, obtaining 159 out of 225 seats and surpassing previous records set by strong governments. The party of former President Rajapaksa, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, experienced a near wipeout in the legislature, dropping from 145 seats in the 2020 general elections to just three. The election results give President Dissanayake substantial influence in the legislature, enabling him to implement his pledges for political and economic reform. A new [21-member Cabinet](#) was sworn in on November 18<sup>th</sup>. President Dissanayake kept crucial ministries like Defence, Finance, Planning, and Digital Economy under his control and appointed Harini Amarasuriya as Prime Minister once again.

Pakistan remained plagued by security issues and political turmoil. This week, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have witnessed multiple [terrorist attacks](#), resulting in the deaths of over 20 security personnel. A [comprehensive military operation](#) against terrorist groups in Baluchistan was sanctioned by the government on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has declared a new round of protests beginning [November 24](#), demanding the release of their leader, Imran Khan. International pressure is mounting on Pakistan's government due to the imprisonment of Imran Khan. Addressing concerns raised by British MPs, Foreign Secretary David Lammy assured a Labour MP in a letter that there is "no indication" of Mr. Khan facing trial in [military courts](#). With President Biden's term nearing its end on January 20<sup>th</sup>, around 50 [US lawmakers](#) have urged him to intervene with Pakistan and secure the release of Imran Khan and other political detainees. A group of 46 lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, sent the letter on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Other Developments

[A Chinese citizen killed in armed attack at Tajikistan-Afghanistan border](#)

[UN: Over two million Afghan migrants deported from Pakistan and Iran in past year](#)

[Beijing pushing Islamabad on joint security plan to protect its citizens](#)

[Inauguration of first trilateral power transaction – from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian Grid](#)

[Moody's Outlook downgrades Bangladesh's credit rating](#)

## Southeast Asia

by

Anshita Shukla

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin commenced his [two-day visit to the Philippines](#) on November 18, 2024. He held a meeting with Philippine Secretary of National Defence Gilbert Teodoro and attended the official signing ceremony for the newly established General Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA. The agreement provides a legal framework to enable enhanced and expanded sharing of information and defence technology between the two countries. The two ministers also broke ground on a new combined coordination centre at Camp Aguinaldo in Manila to further enable information sharing between U.S. and Philippine forces.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India met with the [newly elected Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto](#), on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on November 19, 2024. This was the first meeting between the two leaders. The two leaders discussed cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, defence and security, connectivity, tourism, health, and people-to-people ties. They also exchanged views on global and regional issues, while urging for giving primacy to the concerns of the Global South.

On November 19, the Chinese Foreign Ministry [defined a baseline](#) of "territorial waters" around the Scarborough Shoal, which China claims as its territory and calls Huangyan Island. The official statement accused the Philippines of "intruding" into the waters and airspace near the Scarborough Shoal and accused it of "illegal fishing". The Philippines Foreign Ministry on November 13, [protested against Beijing's](#) drawing of baselines and summoned China's ambassador to lodge an official protest. In its official statement, the ministry stated, "The said baselines infringe upon Philippine sovereignty and contravene international law".

### Other Developments

[India-Philippines mark 75 years of diplomatic ties, unveil special logo](#)

[Vietnam leader Thang calls on V-P Dhankhar, discuss ways to strengthen ties](#)

## East Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

On [November 16](#), the 31<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting was held in Lima, Peru. Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the meeting and put forth three proposals to build an Asia-Pacific community with a shared future and start a new era in Asia-Pacific development. He recommended building an open and interconnected paradigm for Asia-Pacific cooperation. Furthermore, he stated that APEC should be committed to multilateralism and an open economy, firmly upholding the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation at its core, advance regional economic integration and connectivity, and uphold stable and smooth industrial and supply chains.

On the sidelines of the APEC summit in Peru, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of respecting core interests to avoid conflict. President Xi highlighted the country's "[red lines](#)" which were "Cross-Strait peace and 'Taiwan independence' stating that they were "irreconcilable as water and fire". Outgoing US President Joe Biden reiterated the US commitment to the one-China policy, denying intentions to alter China's system, support Taiwan's independence, or engage in conflict. He said the US does not seek a new Cold War. The two presidents also [spoke positively](#) about the important role of China-U.S. economic and trade ties. They agreed to maintain the momentum in communication and strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination.

On [November 17](#), US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin III underscored the critical role that the deepening defence ties between the U.S., Australia and Japan continue to play in maintaining peace and security in the Indo-Pacific as he met with his counterparts in Darwin, Australia. The secretary met with Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles and Japanese Defence Minister Nakatani Gen as part of the 14th Trilateral Defence Minister's Meeting, where the leaders finalized new steps to further enhance defence cooperation and interoperability among the three nations. As part of the new measures announced by the three leaders in a [joint statement](#) following TDMM, Japan will increase its participation in Australia-U.S. force posture cooperation activities, including through annual trilateral amphibious training among the Australian Defence Force, Japan Ground Self defence Force's Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade and the U.S. Marine Rotational Force – Darwin. The three nations will also expand trilateral participation in key exercises.

## Other Developments

[Japan to hold regular economic security talks with U.K. under two-plus-two model](#)

['Picture says it all': Joe Biden 'missing' from G20 Summit photo as PM Modi, China's Xi Jinping take center stage](#)

[China's Relationship With Australia Has Achieved a Turnaround, Xi Tells Albanese](#)



## West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

According to reports, Israeli airstrikes in Iran on October 27 targeted an [active nuclear weapons research facility](#) in Parchin. The strikes destroyed equipment used to design explosives that could surround Uranium in nuclear devices, thereby damaging Iran's efforts to resume its nuclear weapons research. Meanwhile, during his [visit to the Gaza Nitzarim Corridor](#) on November 19, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirmed that " Hamas will not rule Gaza " and that the IDF was eliminating Hamas' military and governance capabilities. Israel continued its [airstrikes in Beirut, Lebanon](#), killing Hezbollah's media relations chief Mohammad Afif, while Hezbollah launched a [missile attack on Tel Aviv](#) that injured five people.

Rafael Grossi, Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), visited [Uranium enrichment facilities at Natanz](#) and Fordow on November 15 as part of his two-day visit to Iran. During his meeting with Mr. Grossi, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi stressed that Tehran was willing to engage in talks with the E3 (France, UK, Germany) over its nuclear programme but won't succumb to Western pressure. As of October 26, Iran's [stockpile of enriched uranium](#) has increased.

Continuing the [deepening trend of India-UAE strategic partnership](#), External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited UAE on November 14. EAM Dr. Jaishankar met UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Co-existence. The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the continuous exchange of high-level visits and the exponential growth of bilateral ties.

### Other Developments

[European powers, US seek to censure Iran at UN nuclear watchdog board](#)

[Trump team aims to bankrupt Iran with new 'maximum pressure' plan](#)

[Hamas political office in Doha has not been permanently closed, Qatar says](#)

## Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [November 13](#), on the sidelines of the COP29 summit in Azerbaijan, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, signed an agreement for a strategic partnership in developing and transporting green energy. [Calling](#) the signing of this agreement a historic event, Aliyev said that "it opens new opportunities for cooperation between the regions of Central Asia and the Caucasus". The Azeri President added that constructing an electric cable under the Caspian Sea could lead to broader regional collaboration. President Aliyev also highlighted Azerbaijan's ongoing plans to construct a cable from Azerbaijan along the bottom of the Black Sea to Europe.

On [November 14](#), the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan, the Embassy of the Netherlands, and the Kazakh government convened a [roundtable](#) in Astana to address critical transnational threats impacting both the EU and Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Roman Vassilenko, emphasized that transnational threats disregard borders and national sovereignty, posing a global challenge. "No country is immune from such issues as cyberattacks, organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in persons, or illegal migration," he stated.

On November 12, India marked another milestone in its defence export as it shipped the first [Akash weapon system battery to Armenia](#). This is the second missile system to have been exported. The Akash system, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is a surface-to-air missile (SAM), which can hit targets like fighter jets, missiles (cruise, air-to-surface), drones and other aerial assets to a range of 25km. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) stated that "This event reflects India's growing capabilities in defence technology and manufacturing".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has previously said, that the missile version of Akash to be exported will be different from the system introduced into the Indian armed forces. Defence Minister Singh highlighted that the missile system has over 96 per cent indigenous components.

## Other Developments

[Major Government Shake-Up In Armenia](#)

[Central Asia Gears Up For Another Trump Term](#)

[After Long Search, Turkmenistan Finally Finds a New Gas Customer – Iraq](#)

[Central Asian Nations See Strong Economic Progress, Expanding Trade Potential](#)

## Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy will [conduct](#) the fourth edition of the Pan-India Coastal Defence Exercise, Sea Vigil-24, on November 20-21, 2024. This exercise involves six ministries and 21 organizations/agencies and will encompass all coastal states and union territories, including Lakshadweep and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Originally conceptualized in 2018 in response to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, Sea Vigil aims to validate and enhance measures for coastal defence. The primary focus of Sea Vigil-24 is to strengthen the security of critical coastal assets, including ports, oil rigs, single point moorings, cable landing points, and other vital infrastructure.

At the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Prime Ministers Narendra Modi of India and Anthony Albanese of Australia [held their second annual summit](#), with a primary focus on strengthening bilateral relations. Both leaders expressed their commitment to advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which encompasses areas such as defence, security, trade, education, and space. Looking ahead, they outlined significant plans including the renewal of the Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation in 2025, the formulation of a maritime security roadmap, and the continuation of aircraft deployments to bolster defence ties. They also unveiled a Renewable Energy Partnership aimed at enhancing collaboration in solar energy, green hydrogen, and other sustainable energy sectors.

The 9th Edition of Exercise SANGAM-24, [a joint training exercise](#) between the Indian Navy's MARCOS (Marine Commandos) and the U.S. Navy SEALs, officially commenced in Goa. This exercise aims to enhance interoperability and facilitate combined operations between the two elite naval special forces. Since its inception in 1994, the SANGAM series has served as a vital military and diplomatic initiative, reflecting the strong partnership between the U.S. and India. This year's edition continues to build on previous exercises, underscoring both nations' commitment to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region through collaborative military efforts.

### Other Developments

[On departure from Port Nacala, Mozambique, INS Gharial conducted a joint EEZ patrol with Mozambican Armed Forces.](#)



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