



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

February 12, 2025



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Delhi Policy Group

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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, Jayantika Rao T.V, Divya Rai and Arshiya Chaturvedi, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

Cover Images:

South Asia: President Xi Jinping held talks with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, in Beijing, on February 5, 2025. Source: [Embassy of PRC in India](#)

Southeast Asia: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on February 6, 2024. Source: [Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of India](#)

East Asia: US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba met in Washington DC on February 7, 2025. Source: [Website/Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan](#)

Indian Ocean Region: The Indian Navy's Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX-25) is taking place in the Indian Ocean Region from January to March 2025. Source: [X/@indiannavy](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

On February 6th, the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs [summoned the Indian High Commissioner](#) to Dhaka in response to a virtual address by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accusing Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor to Bangladesh's caretaker government, of plotting against her life. Earlier, the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was demolished by a mob, despite the police being present at the scene. The residences of several Awami League leaders across the country were also targeted by protesters. Over [1,300 individuals](#) with purported connections to gangs associated with the [Awami League](#) were detained during a significant nationwide security operation called "Operation Devil Hunt". India's Ministry of External Affairs summoned [Bangladesh High Commissioner](#) on February 7 to express its displeasure regarding Bangladesh's recent attempts to connect India to its internal affairs.

India stated that Sheikh Hasina's recent speech only represented her personal views. India protests Bangladesh's continued negative portrayal of India in official statements, despite several high-level meetings aimed at fostering a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship. India also [regretted the destruction](#) of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman's historic home, emphasising its significance to Bangladeshi national identity and the country's freedom struggle.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari [visited China](#) from February 4-8, during which he held meeting with President Xi Jinping. A joint statement announced that both countries reaffirmed their long-standing strategic partnership and would explore new avenues for collaboration under CPEC 2.0. Pakistan and China also agreed to strengthen [intelligence sharing](#) and security cooperation, signing agreements to collaborate further in science and technology, media, clean energy, and socioeconomic development.

Other Developments

[UN Security Council raises alarm over rising IS-K threat from Afghanistan](#)

[Uzbekistan has transferred to the United States seven Black Hawk helicopters that Afghan army pilots flew to the Central Asian state while fleeing the Taliban in 2021](#)

[Chief of Defence Forces of the Maldives Armed Forces, Major General Ibrahim Hilmy visited Pakistan on February 7.](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

President Xi Jinping [met](#) with Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was in China for an official visit on February 6, 2025. President Xi said that this year marks the 50th anniversary of China-Thailand diplomatic relations as well as the "Golden Jubilee of China-Thailand Friendship" and as such the two sides should build on past achievements and work together to advance the building of the China-Thailand community with a shared future to deliver more benefits to the two peoples, the region and the world at large. Xi added that China supports Thailand's role as co-chair of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation and congratulated Thailand on becoming a BRICS partner country. Prime Minister Shinawatra reassured President Xi that [ensuring the safety of foreign visitors in Thailand](#) is a government priority.

The Philippines' National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has recommended filing [criminal charges against Vice President Sara Duterte](#) over an alleged threat to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and others, the agency's head said on February 12. At the same time, Philippine lawmakers voted to impeach VP Duterte, paving the way for a senate trial that could see her removed from office. The [House has charged](#) her with "violation of the constitution, betrayal of public trust, graft and corruption and other high crimes". However, the Philippine Senate can act on the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte only on [June 2](#), when Congress resumes after the midterm elections.

Other Developments

[India seeks to push pace of defence cooperation with Southeast Asia](#)

[Vietnam political shuffle could signal revival of southern faction](#)

[Indian, ASEAN economies set to deliver robust growth in coming years: HSBC Report](#)

East Asia

by

Arshiya Chaturvedi

Japanese Prime Minister, [Shigeru Ishiba travelled to the United States to meet President Donald Trump](#) on February 7th. The two leaders deliberated on issues such as enhancing security cooperation and underscoring deterrence strategies, particularly in the context of the larger Indo-Pacific peace and security agenda. Economic relations were also in critical focus. PM Ishiba reaffirmed Japan's commitment towards US-Japan economic ties by increasing investment in the US, fostering business and industrial partnerships, and collaborating on advanced technologies such as AI and semiconductors and energy security. Both leaders also recognised the importance of strengthening coordination with allies.

[The Ministry of National Defence, Taiwan](#) on February 7th reported to have spotted six Chinese Balloons near Taiwanese territory at altitudes ranging from 4.88 km to 6.10 km, with one balloon directly flying over the island. This is the highest recorded number for the year, as per the Agence France-Presse's military data. These balloons are frequently spotted over Taiwanese waters, which the Taiwanese ministry has described as part of China's "gray zone" harassment tactics. The reports also provided details of nine Chinese military aircraft, six warships, and two official vessels detected operating near Taiwan's territorial air and sea boundaries during the same period.

[President Xi Jinping met with the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea \(ROK\)](#), Woo Won-shik on February 7 at Harbin. Won-Shik was in China to attend the opening ceremony of the Ninth Asian Winter Games. In the meeting, emphasis was made on the importance of enhanced bilateral cooperation highlighting the shared history and interests of both countries. President Xi while noting that 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the liberation of the ROK underscored the steady development of China-ROK diplomatic ties over the last 30 years and the need to continue deepening this collaboration for mutual growth and regional peace. He also called for ROK's support in hosting the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting this year and after. Speaker Woo acknowledged China's critical role in ROK's economic development and foreign policy considerations. He argued for enhancing economic and trade cooperation, ensuring the stability of global industrial and supply chains, expanding personnel exchanges and fostering strong friendship between the two nations. Woo, in resonance with the

Chinese premier, expressed support for jointly commemorating the 80th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and reaffirmed the ROK's commitment to work alongside China on regional and global initiatives, including the APEC meetings.

Other Developments

[Following the U.S.-Japan summit, where leaders from both countries reaffirmed commitment to North Korea's denuclearization, Kim Jong Un declared that the country's nuclear weapons are non-negotiable and meant for combat use against adversaries.](#)

[In addition to imposing retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports, China's MOFCOM has also filed a WTO complaint against U.S. tariffs, calling them discriminatory and protectionist.](#)

[Japan signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\), reaffirming its commitment to global AI governance in alignment with the principles of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Hamas announced on February 10 that it intends to delay the [release of Israeli hostages](#) scheduled for February 15 "until further notice" in response to alleged Israeli violations of the ongoing ceasefire agreement. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cautioned that unless Hamas releases hostages, "[intense fighting](#)" will resume until Hamas is dismantled. President Trump also demanded the [release of Israeli hostages by February 15](#) or he would cancel the ceasefire and "let hell break out" in Gaza.

President Trump met Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on February 11. During their meeting, Trump reiterated that the [US would take control of Gaza](#) and rebuild it, while the Palestinians would be relocated to Jordan and Egypt. King Abdullah reiterated his steadfast opposition to the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank. Nevertheless, he hailed President Trump as a leader capable of bringing stability, security, and prosperity to the Middle East, while informing that the Arab states would develop their own plan for Gaza. Egypt will host an [emergency Arab Summit on February 27](#) to discuss the developments in Palestine.

Earlier, during a television interview, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu suggested creating a [Palestinian state in Saudi Arabia](#). The Saudis "categorically rejected" Israeli rhetoric emphasising Palestinian right to their land and that they are not intruders or immigrants who can be expelled at will by Israeli occupation.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty on February 10 in Washington DC. Secretary Rubio reaffirmed the importance of [close cooperation between the US and Egypt](#) to advance post-conflict planning for the governance and security of Gaza, emphasising that Hamas will not be allowed to control Gaza or threaten Israel in the future. While Egypt's Foreign Minister rejected President Trump's Gaza plan, he expressed Cairo's willingness to work with the US toward comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

Other Developments

[Netanyahu says Iran axis 'smashed', endorses Trump's Gaza plan in Newsmax interview](#)

[Iranian President says U.S. is not sincere over readiness to engage](#)

[Hamas leaders defiant in Iran: Palestinians 'like olive trees, steadfast in their land' - analysis](#)

[Syrian Interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa concludes landmark visit to Turkey](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono and his Uzbekistan counterpart, Bakhtiyor Saidov, co-chaired the [2nd Joint Commission on Bilateral Consultation \(JCBC\)](#) on February 11. Sugiono and Saidov agreed to boost bilateral cooperation in various sectors. They will release a joint statement on February 12. During the meeting, both countries reaffirmed their commitment to promote cooperation and investment in various strategic sectors, including infrastructure, mining, and tourism. Sugiono and Saidov also pushed for the creation of a bilateral trade agreement between the two nations. As a concrete step in strengthening bilateral cooperation, the two countries agreed on a [2025-2026 Action Plan](#).

Hours after China's retaliatory tariffs on US energy imports went into effect on Monday (February 10), a group of Chinese oil and gas executives flew to Kazakhstan to explore new trade opportunities. On [February 10](#), a Chinese business delegation organised by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and led by CCPIT Chairman Ren Hongbin departed for Kazakhstan for a four-day economic and trade exchange. Representatives from 32 domestic companies, including CITIC Group and China National Petroleum Corporation, are participating. The representatives were part of a larger delegation led by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), [a semi-official trade group](#), which involved more than 30 companies in sectors including energy, petrochemicals and industrial machinery, according to the report by Yuyuan Tantian, a social media account affiliated with CCTV.

On [February 11](#), European Union (EU) chief [Antonio Costa](#) announced that the organisation will meet with Central Asian leaders for the first time in April as part of its increased attempts to distance itself from Russia. Following a phone conversation with Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the president of Kazakhstan, Costa confirmed the April meeting in Samarkand. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, will accompany Costa. Costa stated that Kazakhstan "is an important partner of the EU, and we will continue to strengthen trade and connectivity links." Astana's "principled stance in supporting a rules-based international order" was another thing he praised.

Other Developments

[Turkmenistan to ship gas to Turkey under long-awaited deal](#)

[Chabahar Port is 'Golden Gateway' to Central Asia: Iranian Ambassador](#)

[Competition for Control of Rare Earths Triggering Great Power Conflict in Central Asia](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The Indian Navy's capstone Theatre Level Operational Exercise, TROPEX-25, [is taking place](#) in the Indian Ocean Region from January to March 2025. This exercise involves the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Indian Coast Guard. A total of 65 Indian Naval ships, 9 submarines including the INS Vikrant, Visakhapatnam and Kolkata Class destroyers, Kalvari Class submarines, and over 80 aircraft are participating. TROPEX-25 integrates diverse aspects of combat operations, cyber and electronic warfare, live weapon firings, and amphibious exercises, enhancing synergy and jointness among the Services.

The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS), consisting of INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera, [arrived at](#) Changi Naval Base in Singapore on February 6, 2025. This visit is a part of the squadron's Long-Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and promoting mutual understanding. The squadron had previously visited Singapore in October 2023. The Senior Officer, 1TS, along with the Commanding Officers of INS Sujata and ICGS Veera, met with Col Rinson Chua Hon Liat, Commander, Maritime Training and Doctrine (MTDC), to discuss maritime issues of mutual interest.

The [15th edition](#) of Aero India, Asia's largest aerospace and defence exhibition, commenced on February 10, 2025, at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the five-day event, organised by the Ministry of Defence. The theme for the 15th edition is, "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities. The event saw a diverse range of participants, including government officials, industry leaders, Air Force personnel, defence experts, startups, and academics from around the world. A Russian Su-57 performed an aerobatic display for the first time in India at Aero India 2025. This event serves as a global platform for showcasing aerospace innovation and strengthening relations among like-minded countries.

Other Developments

[AMAN-2025, a multinational naval exercise hosted by the Pakistan Navy, commenced at Pakistan Navy Dockyard in Karachi](#)

[The Indian Navy's Chiefs' Conclave 2025 took place at Naval Headquarters in New Delhi](#)

[Italian Naval Ship ANTONIO MARCEGLIA engaged in a PASSEX exercise with Sri Lankan navy's SLNS Sayura](#)

[General Saïd Chanegriha, Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Defence, Chief of People's National Army Staff, Algeria visited Goa](#)

[INS Tushil arrived at Port Victoria, Seychelles, during its maiden passage around the west coast of Africa](#)



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