



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



India's Proximity Archives

November 27, 2024



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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. and Divya Rai, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

Cover Image:

South Asia: On November 22, 2024, General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, met with Nepal's Prime Minister, K.P. Sharma Oli, in Kathmandu. Source: [X/@IndiaInNepal](#)

Southeast Asia: Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh greeted by Defence Minister of Lao PDR, General Chansamone Chanyalath (Chair of ASEAN), at 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Lao PDR, on November 21, 2024. Source: [PIB](#)

East Asia: PM Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Suk Yeol held a bilateral meeting in Seoul on November 25, 2024. Source: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia Twitter Account](#)

West Asia: President Biden announced a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah on November 26, 2024. Source: [Official X Handle/President Biden](#)

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South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Political turmoil in Pakistan persisted as the opposition party, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) initiated protests, declaring them a [“final call” for](#) the release of their imprisoned leader, Imran Khan. On November 26, Imran Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur led thousands of protesters into Islamabad. Skirmishes have left dozens injured, with six security personnel losing their lives. The Government sought help from the Army following a confrontation in the federal capital, which ended with the PTI leadership and supporters retreating from the Red Zone on November 27. The Government has [ruled](#) out negotiations with the PTI and has shown no willingness to release Imran Khan.

Pakistan is experiencing widespread lawlessness across its provinces. Over a hundred people were [killed in violent clashes](#) between two tribes in the Kurram district, fueled by sectarian tensions. Fifty people were killed when [a convoy of about 100 vehicles](#) transporting passengers from Peshawar to Parachinar was attacked on November 21. The main Peshawar Highway has been closed for several days, and internet and mobile services have been suspended.

Protests by [various groups](#) and students are causing widespread disruption in Bangladesh's major cities. Students from two colleges clashed, leaving [many injured](#). Bangladesh police arrested Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a leader in the Hindu community, on November 25th. He was the spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote and the principal of Pundarik Dham, and had been at the forefront of protests advocating for the protection of the Hindu minority. The bail plea of Chinmoy Krishna Das has been turned down by a court in Chattogram. In a press release, the [Indian Ministry of External Affairs](#) voiced strong concern over the arrest and denial of bail for Shri Chinmoy Krishna Das.

India's Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi [visited Nepal](#) from November 20-24 during which he held high-level meetings with the President of Nepal, Shri Ram Chandra Paudel; Prime Minister, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli; and Defence Minister, Mr. Manbir Rai. He also held discussions with General Ashok Raj Sigdel, COAS, Nepali Army, along with other senior military officers on various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation. General Dwivedi, was conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by the President of Nepal during the visit.

Other Developments

[Russia security chief meets Taliban officials](#)

[Freight train arrives in Afghanistan from China as Beijing looks to increase ties](#)

[Taliban govt bans 'un-Islamic' books from Afghanistan shelves](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V

India reiterated its [commitment to a rule-based international order](#) and peaceful coexistence in the Indo-Pacific region during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's address at the [11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus \(ADMM-Plus\)](#) held in Vientiane, Laos, on November 21, 2024. He emphasised India's policy of resolving international conflicts through dialogue and peaceful negotiations, advocating for collaboration on global challenges. Minister Singh further [expressed](#) India's preference for a Code of Conduct that aligns with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982). He stated, "Sustainable solutions can only be achieved when nations engage constructively, acknowledging and respecting each other's perspectives."

The [18th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting \(ADMM\)](#) convened in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 20, 2024, under the theme "ASEAN Together for Peace, Security and Resilience". The 18th ADMM adopted several key documents, including the Vientiane Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting on ASEAN: Together for Peace, Security and Resilience. When addressing the meeting, [Malaysian Defence Minister](#) Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin stated, "During its term as ASEAN chair next year, Malaysia plans to establish a platform for more open and progressive defence dialogue with its strategic partners." He further presented Malaysia's proposal to streamline ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mechanisms, aiming to enhance the region's collective response to crises and disasters for the benefit of all member states. He stated that the theme of the meeting was a fitting one as Mohamed Khaled emphasised Malaysia's commitment to ensuring all member nations enjoy regional stability and security.

Senior Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on November 26. Minister Lee is on a [six-day official visit to China](#) to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Singapore and China's flagship government project, Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), and to meet Chinese leaders. It was the first meeting between the two statesmen since Minister Lee assumed his new role as senior minister, after [stepping down as prime minister in May](#). Commending the remarkable achievements Singapore made during Lee's tenure as prime minister, Xi spoke highly of [Lee's long-time support for China-Singapore cooperation](#). As one of the foreign leaders who has visited China the most, Lee's visit as an old friend holds special significance for the bilateral ties

between China and Singapore, as well as for the relations in the regional and global contexts.

Other Developments

[US Readies For Taiwan Crisis Deployments In Japan And Philippines](#)

[Is Myanmar A Threat To Asean Centrality? Singapore Warning At Defence Talks Underscores Worry](#)

[Secretary-General Of ASEAN Briefs The 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus On Recent Developments In ASEAN](#)

[Rebel Group Takes Key Myanmar Border Town, Rare Earth Mining Hub In Setback For Military Regime](#)

East Asia

by

Divya Rai

On November 25, Malaysia and South Korea [elevated](#) their relations to a Strategic Partnership during a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul. The announcement was made during Prime Minister Anwar's official visit from November 24 to 26. The leaders identified four key areas for enhanced cooperation and signed three MoUs on higher education, carbon capture and storage and cooperative approaches of the Paris Agreement. The joint statement reaffirmed their commitment to work closely during Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and the Republic of Korea's APEC Chairmanship. Both leaders emphasized the need to finalise a Free Trade Agreement by 2025.

China's Defence Minister Dong Jun is [currently under](#) investigation as part of an extensive anti-corruption probe targeting the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This marks a significant development, as Dong is the [third](#) consecutive serving or former Chinese defence minister to face such scrutiny for alleged corruption, following the recent dismissals of his predecessors Li Shangfu and Wei Fenghe. The ongoing anti-corruption campaign within the PLA has intensified over the past year, with at least nine generals and various defence industry executives [removed](#) from their positions. Dong Jun, who was appointed in December 2023, succeeded Li Shangfu, who was removed from his position just seven months into his tenure.

China's Defense Minister Dong Jun recently [declined](#) a meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Laos, primarily citing U.S. actions regarding Taiwan as the reason for his refusal. This decision highlights the ongoing tensions between the two nations, particularly in light of a recent U.S. arms sale to Taiwan, which included advanced surface-to-air missiles valued at \$2 billion. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin stated that it was unfortunate and detrimental to regional dynamics. The two had previously met in May 2024 during the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Taiwan reported on Monday that it had [detected](#) a Chinese balloon over waters to the northwest of the island, marking the first sighting since April. The latest balloon was detected at 6:21 PM on November 24, approximately 111 kilometres northwest of Keelung City, flying at an altitude of 10,058 meters. It entered Taiwan's air defence identification zone and vanished from radar by 8:15 PM,

according to the defence ministry. In addition to the balloon sighting, the ministry reported that 12 Chinese military aircraft and seven naval vessels were observed around Taiwan in the 24 hours leading up to 6 AM on November 25.

Other Developments

[Chinese Defence Minister met Rajnath Singh on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus at Vientiane, Lao PDR](#)

[JAXA Halts Epsilon S rocket engine tests after explosive setback](#)

[South Korea boycotted Japan's memorial for wartime labourers, highlighting historical tensions](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

Israel's security cabinet approved a [ceasefire agreement with Lebanon's Hezbollah](#) on November 26, brokered jointly by France and the US. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked President Biden for the US' role in achieving the ceasefire and reaffirmed the [IDF's freedom of action in the face of any threats](#) from Lebanese territory. With Hezbollah out of the picture, Netanyahu vowed to [ratchet up pressure on Hamas](#) and secure the release of remaining hostages held in Gaza. Meanwhile, the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) rejected Israel's requests challenging the court's jurisdiction over the situation in the State of Palestine. On November 21, the ICC issued arrest warrants for Israel's PM Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

On November 20, the [US vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution](#) for an "immediate, unconditional, and permanent" ceasefire in Gaza. A statement by Robert Wood, Deputy US Ambassador to the UN, informed that Washington would only support a resolution that explicitly calls for the immediate release of all hostages as part of a ceasefire.

China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran held the second meeting of their Trilateral Joint Committee in Riyadh on November 20. The three countries [welcomed progress in Saudi Arabia-Iran relations](#), and Riyadh and Tehran pledged to consolidate their friendly ties, as per the Beijing agreement. They condemned Israeli military actions in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran, and reaffirmed support for a comprehensive political solution to the Yemen issue in accordance with the UN charter.

The [International Atomic Energy Agency](#) (IAEA) passed a resolution on November 21 ordering Iran to improve its cooperation with the agency regarding its nuclear program. Iran criticised the IAEA's resolution as unjust and politically motivated and pledged to [deploy more advanced centrifuges](#) to accelerate its nuclear program.

Other Developments

[World reacts to ICC arrest warrants for Israel's Netanyahu, Gallant](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

The [29th United Nations Climate Change Conference \(COP29\)](#), held in Baku from November 11–22, 2024, underscored the critical role of Azerbaijan and [Kazakhstan](#) in advancing [Caspian Sea](#) regional energy transitions. Both countries leveraged their positions along the [Middle Corridor](#) to present ambitious renewable and nuclear energy strategies. Furthermore, as the host and chair of COP29, Azerbaijan positioned itself as a renewable energy connector between Central Asia and Europe. Azerbaijan prioritised key renewable energy projects to align with its goal of achieving a 30% renewable share in its electricity mix by 2030. Among these is the operational Garadagh Solar Power Plant, a 230-megawatt (MW) facility developed by the UAE's Masdar. Complementing this is the planned Alat Solar Project, a 400-MW solar installation [expected](#) to be operational by 2027. These projects aim to bolster domestic electricity supply and expand Azerbaijan's capacity to export renewable energy.

On [November 22](#), President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev instructed the Prime Minister, the Head of the Executive Office of the President, the heads of all law enforcement agencies and akims (mayors) to take urgent measures to ensure the security of the main military and civilian facilities in connection with the escalation of the situation around Ukraine. Following the President's instructions, Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov convened an operational meeting to discuss the implementation of urgent measures to ensure the security of the main military and civilian facilities.

A joint military exercise, codenamed "[Aras Joint Exercise](#)," has commenced between Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Ground Force and the Azeri Armed Forces. The large-scale drill, involving special units and elite divisions from both nations, marks a substantial step in enhancing security cooperation and strengthening counter-terrorism efforts between Iran and Azerbaijan. The four-day exercise, which began on Sunday, is taking place in the challenging high-terrain regions of Aslanduz County, situated within Iran's northwestern Ardabil province. Rapid reaction units from both the IRGC Ground Force and the Republic of Azerbaijan's military are actively participating in the collaborative maneuvers. The current joint military exercises are a direct outgrowth of prior discussions between high-ranking military officials from both countries. On November 19, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces,

and Major General Farid Aliyev, an Azeri commander, met in Tehran for the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on Military and Defense Cooperation

Other Developments

[Saudi Arabia And Tajikistan Sign Agreement To Establish Joint Business Council](#)

[Astana To Host CSTO Collective Security Council Session On November 28](#)

[Putin to talk energy ties on visit to Kazakhstan, Kremlin says](#)

[President Sadyr Japarov meets with President of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

[India begins export of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket launchers to Armenia](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

The seventh edition of the bilateral military exercise between the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) and the Indian Navy 'Exercise Ekatha' was [concluded](#) on November 23, 2024. The exercise was held at MNDF Northern Area Command in Lh. Maafilaafushi. The Indian Navy's Marine Commando, the MNDF's Marine Corps, and operatives from the Special Operations Group participated in the exercise, which aims to enhance interoperability, address common threats, and promote bilateral cooperation.

The [third edition](#) of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania was held in Goa on November 26, 2024. The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The Tanzanian delegation was headed by Land Forces Commander Maj Gen Fadhil Omary Nondo. This meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation through various initiatives, such as enhancing training partnerships and fostering collaboration in maritime and defence industries.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [met](#) his Australian counterparts Minister for Defence Industry & Capability Delivery of Australia Mr Pat Conroy, on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Lao PDR. Both sides discussed shared interests, especially stability and security in the Indian Ocean region. They agreed to take defence engagements to the next higher level.

The maintenance and repair of Maldivian Coast Guard (MCGS) CGS Huravee and Mauritius Coast Guard vessel MCGS Valiant [is being undertaken](#) at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, respectively. These refits are conducted at no cost to the host countries by the Indian Navy.

Other Developments

[The second India-Japan Joint Service Staff Talks \(JSST\) concluded on November 20, 2024, in New Delhi](#)



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