

SPECTRUM

Tracking Strategic Shifts Worldwide and Their Impact on India

30 May to 5 June 2026

1. U.S.–Israel–Iran Tensions Raise Risks to Global Energy Security

The continuing confrontation involving the United States, Israel and Iran has heightened concerns over the security of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of global oil supplies transit. Any disruption to shipping or energy infrastructure could rapidly affect international energy markets and insurance costs for commercial vessels. For India, which relies heavily on Gulf energy imports and hosts a large expatriate community in the region, a prolonged crisis could increase crude oil prices, fuel inflation, complicate economic recovery efforts and require contingency planning for the safety of Indian nationals.

2. Quad Shifts from Dialogue to Strategic Implementation

The recent Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi highlighted a growing emphasis on practical cooperation in maritime security, critical minerals, resilient supply chains, undersea cable protection and emerging technologies. The grouping appears increasingly focused on developing implementation mechanisms rather than merely issuing political statements. This trend directly supports India's objective of strengthening its position in the Indo-Pacific, reducing dependence on China-centric supply chains and enhancing maritime domain awareness across the Indian Ocean Region, where strategic competition continues to intensify.

3. Russia–Ukraine War Enters a New Escalatory Phase

The Russia–Ukraine conflict witnessed another round of escalation with long-range strikes, drone warfare and continued Western military support to Kyiv. The conflict is increasingly shaping military doctrines worldwide, particularly regarding unmanned systems and precision warfare. For India, the war continues to have implications for energy markets, defence procurement and diplomatic balancing between Russia and Western partners. The conflict also offers important operational lessons for India's ongoing military modernization and future battlefield preparedness.

4. U.S.–China Technology Rivalry Deepens

Washington's tightening restrictions on advanced semiconductor and artificial intelligence technologies, coupled with Beijing's countermeasures, indicate that technological competition has become a central pillar of great-power rivalry. The contest is increasingly extending beyond trade into national security and strategic industries. India stands to benefit as multinational firms seek alternative destinations for manufacturing and technology investments, but it must also navigate growing pressure to align with competing technological ecosystems while safeguarding its own strategic autonomy.

5. China Expands Economic Security Controls

China's latest measures to regulate outbound investments in strategic sectors reflect a broader effort to protect critical technologies and prepare for a more fragmented global economic environment. These developments signal that economic decoupling between major powers may continue for years. For India, this creates opportunities to attract foreign investment in electronics, advanced manufacturing and critical mineral processing, while simultaneously requiring New Delhi to strengthen domestic industrial capabilities to capitalize on shifting global supply chains.

6. Maritime Competition Becomes the Defining Indo-Pacific Challenge

Across the Indo-Pacific, strategic attention is increasingly focused on sea lanes, ports, undersea infrastructure, critical mineral transport routes and naval modernization. China's expanding maritime presence and growing regional responses have made maritime security a central geopolitical issue. This development is particularly significant for India because its geographic position places it at the heart of the Indian Ocean. As regional powers seek reliable security partners, India's naval capabilities, island partnerships and maritime infrastructure are becoming increasingly important instruments of national influence and regional stability.

7. Myanmar President's Visit to New Delhi Reinforces India's Act East Strategy

Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing's visit to New Delhi marked an important step in revitalizing bilateral ties amid growing regional competition and instability. Discussions focused on border security, connectivity projects, trade, maritime cooperation and critical minerals. For India, the visit is strategically significant as it strengthens engagement with a key neighbour that serves as India's gateway to Southeast Asia, helps counter expanding Chinese influence, supports stability in the Northeast, and advances critical connectivity initiatives such as the Kaladan Multimodal Project and the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway.