

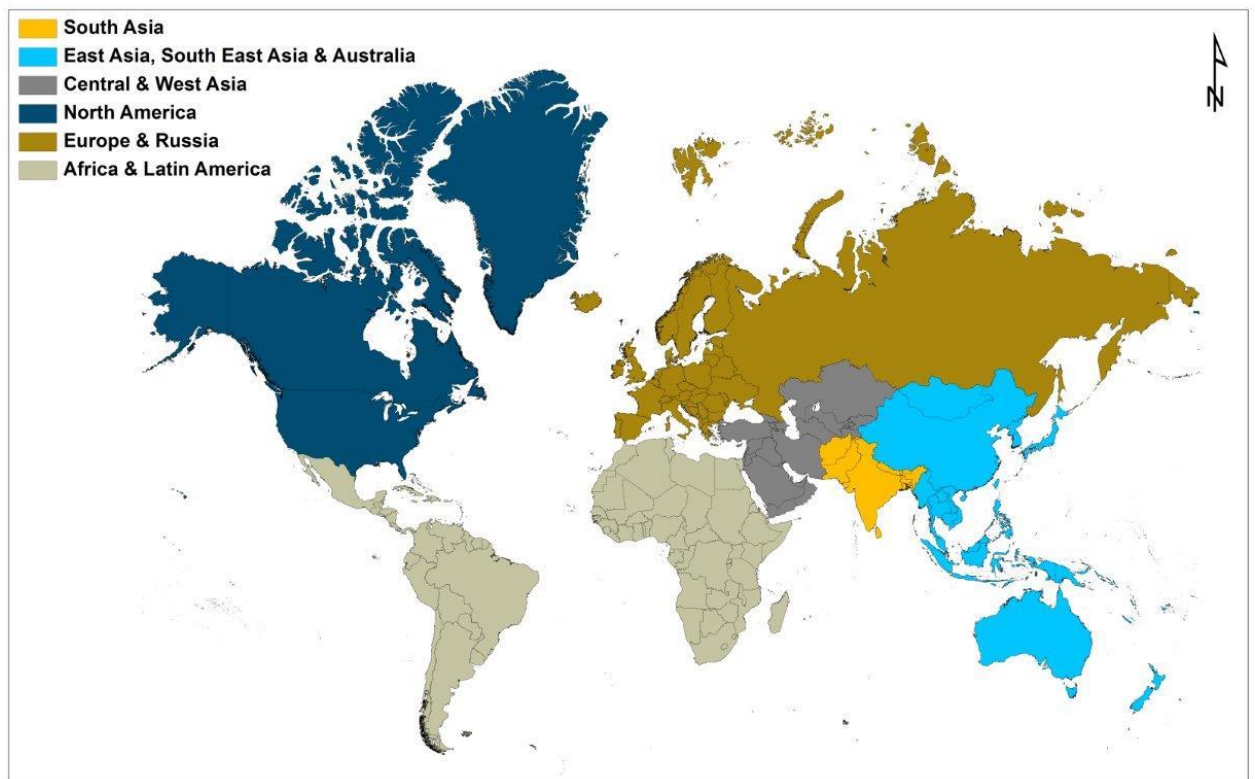


# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume V, Issue 41

### 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.

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [India, U.S. to work closely on Afghanistan: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla](#)

October 6, 2021, The Hindu

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Wednesday held talks with visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, who later said India, U.S. partnership was "indispensable" for both countries and the world.

#### [Foreign Secretary Shringla highlights PM Modi's US visit at India IDEAS Summit](#)

October 7, 2021, The Times of India

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla highlighted Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to the US and said PM Modi and US President Joe Biden reviewed the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and several contemporary regional and global issues during the visit.

#### [India-US Ties Utmost Importance to Ensure Free & Open Indo-Pacific Region: FS Shringla](#)

October 6, 2021, News 18

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla made a strong pitch for India-US bilateral ties, stressing how New Delhi considers its ties with Washington of utmost importance. "India considers its relationship with the US to be of paramount importance, not only for our respective nations but also in ensuring a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, and a peaceful and prosperous world," Shringla said at a special session of IDEAS Summit organised by US India Business Council.

#### [India clears defence buys worth ₹54,000 cr in less than month](#)

October 4, 2021, Hindustan Times

In a major push to self-reliance in defence, India has signed contracts and cleared projects worth almost ₹54,000 crore in less than a month to boost military capability with locally produced weapons and systems, including transport planes, tanks, helicopters, airborne early warning systems and counter-drone weapons.

#### [General Rawat's visit 'historic'; says US defence secretary Austin](#)

US defence secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday described the recent visit of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat to the Pentagon as "historic" and said they have reaffirmed their enduring commitment to a free and open Indo Pacific.

## Pakistan

### [Balochistan crisis deepens as three ministers, two advisers resign](#)

October 7, 2021, Dawn

Political crisis in Balochistan deepened when a group of disgruntled ministers, advisers and parliamentary secretaries submitted their resignations to the provincial governor after an embattled Jam Kamal Khan Alyani ignored the 24-hour deadline set by his opponents for him to step down as chief minister.

### [Pakistan wants broad, long-term and stable relations with US, Qureshi tells visiting American official](#)

October 8, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan wants broad-ranging, long-term and stable relations with the United States to promote economic cooperation and establish peace in the region. He made the comments during a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman who is on a two-day visit to Pakistan. The two sides discussed bilateral relations, Afghanistan and the regional situation during the meeting.

### [In military shuffle, Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum replaces Lt Gen Faiz Hameed as top spymaster](#)

October 6, 2021, Dawn

Lieutenant General Nadeem Ahmed Anjum has been appointed as the new director-general of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Meanwhile, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, formerly the ISI director general, has been posted as the Peshawar corps commander.

### [Govt debt goes up by 11.5pc to Rs39.7tr](#)

October 6, 2021, Dawn

The central government's total debt increased by 11.5 per cent in August this year from August 2020 while the external debt (in terms of rupees) increased by 8pc in the first two months of 2021-22. The State Bank of Pakistan's latest report on government's total debts showed the external debts also increased significantly by Rs1.3 trillion in a year's time mainly on account of appreciation of US dollar against local currency.

### [High-powered cell formed to investigate offshore firm owners](#)

October 5, 2021, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan formed a high-powered cell to investigate if any irregularity had been committed by the 700 Pakistanis named in the Pandora

Papers including federal cabinet members, politicians, retired generals, owners of media houses and others in establishing offshore companies.

### [Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan fall sharply since Taliban takeover](#)

October 3, 2021, Dawn

The flow of Afghan transit trade and Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan saw a deeper drop since the Taliban took control of Kabul in August. The flow of cargo fell by 16 per cent in August 2021 and a further decline of 73pc in September from last year, which many experts attributed to the uncertainty in the wake of the takeover of Afghanistan.

### [Five security personnel martyred in terrorist attack](#)

October 3, 2021, Dawn

Four Frontier Corps soldiers and a sub-inspector of Levies Force were martyred when terrorists targeted their vehicle in the Spinwam area of North Waziristan tribal district.

### [Govt offers pardon to TTP groups seeking patch-up](#)

October 2, 2021, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan offered general pardon to the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) provided the banned group laid down weapons, disclosing that the government was in talks with some groups of the outfit seeking reconciliation.

### [North Waziristan group declares 20-day truce](#)

October 2, 2021, Dawn

A militant group active in North Waziristan tribal district announced a 20-day cessation of hostilities to pursue peace with the government. The Shura Mujahideen of North Waziristan, headed by commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur, announced the ceasefire following negotiations held with the government intermediaries some two weeks ago.

### [Saudi Arabia to provide \\$3.6 bn facility for purchasing oil on deferred payments](#)

October 2, 2021, The News

Federal Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin said that Saudi Arabia will provide a \$3.6 billion facility for purchasing oil on deferred payments over a period of two years.

### [PM Imran Khan discusses Afghanistan with Tajik president](#)

October 3, 2021, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan held telephonic conversation with President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan and thanked him for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the recent visit to Dushanbe on 16-17 September. According to the Prime Minister Office, the two leaders exchanged views on the follow-up to the talks held in Dushanbe last month.

## **Afghanistan**

### [Afghanistan: Deadly attack hits Kunduz mosque during Friday prayers](#)

October 8, 2021, BBC

A suicide bomb attack on a mosque in the Afghan city of Kunduz has killed at least 50 people, officials say, in the deadliest assault since US forces left. The Islamic State group said it was behind the attack. Sunni Muslim extremists have targeted Shias who they see as heretics.

### [Cash airlifts planned to bypass Taliban, help Afghans](#)

October 8, 2021, Dawn

As desperate Afghans resort to selling their belongings to buy food, officials are preparing to fly in cash for the needy while avoiding financing the Taliban government. Planning for the cash airlifts is going ahead against the background of a rapidly collapsing economy where money is short, although diplomats are still debating whether Western powers can demand that the Taliban make concessions in return.

### [Afghanistan to start issuing passports again after months of delays](#)

October 6, 2021, Dawn

Afghanistan will start issuing passports to its citizens again, a senior official said, following months of delays that hampered attempts by those trying to flee the country after the Taliban seized control in August.

### [Deadly blast rocks Kabul after Taliban hold victory rally](#)

October 4, 2021, Dawn

Taliban supporters and senior figures held their first mass rally near Kabul on October 3, but their show of strength was overshadowed by a deadly bomb blast near a mosque in the Afghan capital. No foreign government has yet recognised the former rebels' rule, though their hold on power within the country is becoming stronger, seven weeks after they took Kabul.

### [Taliban raid IS hideout north of Kabul](#)

October 2, 2021, Dawn

Taliban fighters raided a hideout of the militant Islamic State (IS) group north of the Afghan capital, killing and arresting an unspecified number of militants, a Taliban spokesman said. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in mid-August, there has been an increase in attacks by IS militants targeting Taliban members.

### [British envoy visits Kabul, holds talks with Taliban](#)

October 6, 2021, The News

Taliban officials tweeted pictures of the first meeting between Simon Gass, Britain's special representative for Afghanistan, and deputy prime ministers Abdul Ghani Baradar and Abdul Salam Hanafi. The two sides discussed how Britain can help Afghanistan battle terrorism and a deepening humanitarian crisis -- and provide safe passage for those who want to leave the country, a UK government spokesperson said.

### [Russia to invite Taliban to international talks on October 20](#)

October 8, 2021, The News

Russia will invite the Taliban to international talks on Afghanistan scheduled for October 20 in Moscow, the Kremlin's envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov said. The talks will follow a G20 summit on Afghanistan on October 12 that will seek to help the country avoid a humanitarian catastrophe in the wake of the Taliban takeover.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Probe reveals mass trafficking of women from Bangladesh](#)

October 8, 2021, The Hindu

Investigation into the international prostitution racket busted by the Hyderabad city police revealed a mass trafficking of women from Bangladesh to the country.

### [Bangladesh naval ship arrives on 5-day visit](#)

October 4, 2021, Millenium Post

A Bangladeshi naval ship arrived in Visakhapatnam on Sunday on a five-day visit as part of commemorative programmes to mark the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of the war of liberation of that country.



## **Nepal**

### [Nepal, India sign accord on Kathmandu-Raxaul railway](#)

October 7, 2021, The Kathmandu Post

Nepal on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding with India in New Delhi to prepare a detailed project report for a proposed \$3.15 billion railway linking Kathmandu with the Indian border town of Raxaul in the south.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [As China looms, India looks to refresh ties with Lanka](#)

October 2, 2021, The Times of India

While the government remains disappointed that Sri Lanka reneged on an agreement with India and Japan to develop the East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo port, it sees as a "useful step" Lanka's decision to enter into a \$ 700 million deal with the Adani group for developing another terminal at the same port.

### [Shringla visits Trincomalee oil tank farm, key India-Sri Lanka economic partnership link](#)

October 3, 2021, The Hindu

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Sunday visited the World War II-era oil storage facility in the strategically advantaged port district of Trincomalee in Sri Lanka's east coast, which has been a key bilateral economic partnership link for decades.

### [India, Sri Lanka begin 12-day military exercise](#)

October 4, 2021, The Times of India

The eighth edition of a bilateral joint exercise 'Mitra Shakti' between the Indian Army and the Sri Lanka Army began on Monday at Combat Training School, Ampara in Sri Lanka.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Can India tell US' true intention when Washington is courting it?](#)

October 7, 2021, Global Times

During her visit to India to attend the India Ideas Summit on Wednesday and Thursday, the US diplomat said, "We will challenge China where we must - where it undermines interests of ours and our partners and allies or threatens rules-based international order," adding that the US and India are "like-minded" in that regard.

#### [PLA presence around Taiwan 'targets secessionism, foreign forces'](#)

October 7, 2021, Global Times

While the people of the Chinese mainland have been celebrating the October 1 National Day and enjoying the weeklong national holidays, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has conducted massive military actions in the airspace near the island of Taiwan to deter secessionism and foreign forces, especially the US, who support the secessionist authorities in the island, and the latest remarks made by US senior officials and the secessionist Taiwan authorities showed that the tensions are unlikely to ease.

#### [Joint statement of China and Russia on strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons](#)

October 8, 2021, Global Times

The Russian Federation and China reaffirm their conviction that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BWC) is essential as a pillar of the international peace and security, and their determination to safeguard the authority and effectiveness of the Convention. Today, as in 1975, the objective of the BWC remains relevant: to rule completely out the possibility of biological agents being used as weapons.

#### [Lao capital station of China-Laos Railway makes debut](#)

October 7, 2021, Xinhua

The China-Laos railway station in the Lao capital Vientiane made its debut. The Vientiane Station, the largest and most important station of the China-Laos railway, is built by China Railway Construction Group Co., Ltd. The station will consist of three platforms with five track lines and two additional platforms with two lines reserved.

### [Xi urges new PM of Japan to boost ties](#)

October 5, 2021, China Daily

President Xi Jinping sent a message to Fumio Kishida, congratulating him for his success in being elected Japan's 100th prime minister.

### [Senior Chinese diplomat to meet with US national security advisor](#)

October 6, 2021, China Daily

Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met the US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Zurich, Switzerland, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced.

### [Science Closes in on Covid's Origins](#)

October 6, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Based on the scientific evidence alone, an unbiased jury would be convinced that SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus escaped after being created in a laboratory using accelerated evolution (a.k.a. gain of function) and gene splicing on the backbone of a bat coronavirus. The odds enormously favour a lab leak, far more significantly than the 99% confidence usually required for a revolutionary scientific discovery

### [Changing China: How Xi's 'common prosperity' may impact the world](#)

October 7, BBC

China says its policies aimed at narrowing the widening wealth gap are precisely what it needs in this moment of its economic trajectory - but critics say it comes with even greater control of how business and society will be governed.

### [China's Central Bank Governor Vows More Fintech Crackdown](#)

October 7, 2021, Bloomberg

China will continue taking steps to curb monopolistic behaviour among internet platform companies and strengthen the protection of consumer privacy and data security, central bank Governor Yi Gang said. "We will continue to cooperate with anti-monopoly authorities to curb monopolies and actively deal with algorithm discrimination and other new forms of anti-competition behaviour," Yi said.

### [French senators arrive in Taiwan amid tensions with China](#)

October 6, 2021, AP News

A group of French senators arrived in Taiwan for a five-day visit Wednesday following a large Chinese show of force with fighter jets near the self-ruled island, and Beijing warned the trip will hurt its ties with France.

## [Taiwan and the Fight for Democracy](#)

November/December 2021, Foreign Affairs

The story of Taiwan is one of resilience—of a country upholding democratic, progressive values while facing a constant challenge to its existence. Our success is a testament to what a determined practitioner of democracy, characterized by good governance and transparency, can achieve. Yet the story of Taiwan is not only about the maintenance of our own democratic way of life. It is also about the strength and sense of responsibility Taiwan brings to efforts to safeguard the stability of the region and the world.

## **Japan**

### [Japan PM Kishida, Russia's Putin agree to advance peace treaty talks](#)

October 7, 2021, Kyodo News

Japan's new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he spoke by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday and they agreed to advance negotiations for a postwar peace treaty between their countries.

### [Japan protests against India's import restriction on ACs with refrigerants at WTO](#)

October 5, 2021, Hindu Businessline

Japan has raised concerns at the WTO over India's import prohibition on air conditioners with refrigerants arguing that New Delhi's citing of the Montreal Protocol in justification of its action was not fully valid as the ban also applied on types of refrigerants not covered under the international environment protection treaty.

### [India, Japan to hold 3-day bilateral maritime exercise from October 6](#)

October 8, 2021, The Indian Express

The fifth edition of the India-Japan Maritime Bilateral Exercise (JIMEX) between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF), will be held in the Arabian Sea from October 6 to 8, a statement from the Indian Navy said.

### [Top Japan, U.S. diplomats affirm ties under PM Kishida](#)

October 7, 2021, Kyodo News

The top diplomats of Japan and the United States agreed in phone talks to strengthen their bilateral alliance and continue making efforts toward a free and open Indo-Pacific region after Fumio Kishida became Japan's new prime minister this week.

### [With "Strong" Message On China, Biden Dials New Japan Prime Minister](#)

October 5, 2021, NDTV

New Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday that he received a "strong" message from President Joe Biden about the United States' commitment to defending the disputed East China Sea islets known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan.

### [Japan signals more active role on China's tough stand on Taiwan](#)

October 5, 2021, Reuters

Japan's new government signalled on Tuesday a more assertive position on China's aggressive posture towards self-ruled Taiwan, suggesting it would consider options and prepare for "various scenarios", while reaffirming close U.S. ties.

## **Korea**

### [North Korea Hints It's Ready to Talk, Just Not With the US](#)

October 5, 2021, VOA

After nearly two years of international isolation worsened by a severe pandemic lockdown, North Korea is hinting it may finally be ready for dialogue — just not with the United States.

### [Food Situation In North Korea Appears "Perilous", Experts Warn](#)

October 8, 2021, NDTV

North Korea's food situation remains perilous according to analysts and a United Nations expert who raised doubts this week about its harvest, and there are signs that it is receiving large shipments of humanitarian aid from China.

### [North and South Korea restore cross-border hotline](#)

October 4, 2021, News 18

North and South Korea restored their cross border hotline, a step that Seoul could help improve relations after Pyongyang sparked global concern with a string of missile tests in recent weeks.

### [South Korea aims high on defence exports](#)

October 5, 2021, Janes.com

South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) is aiming to position the country as one of the world's top exporters within a few years.

## Southeast Asia

### [Is ASEAN at Fault for Rising Indo-Pacific Tensions?](#)

October 7, 2021, The Diplomat

Through its dithering and lack of unity, the bloc has opened a space for further interference from outside powers.

### [Piyush Goyal stresses on re-negotiation of FTA with ASEAN to stop misuse](#)

October 8, 2021, Zee Business

The minister urged his ASEAN counterparts to support the effort for early conclusion of scoping exercise and commencement of the trade pact review.

### [ASEAN 'disappointed' with Myanmar military's peace commitment](#)

October 4, 2021, Al Jazeera

Myanmar's military has made no significant progress in implementing a Southeast Asian roadmap for peace following their coup or given any feedback on the work of a regional envoy in the country, Indonesia's foreign minister has said.

### [Covid gave sense of urgency to a move by India to rework ASEAN ties: Jaishankar](#)

October 7, 2021, Live Mint

The covid-19 pandemic has given a new sense of urgency to a move by India to re-work its ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar said.

### [China and Thailand top the list of countries exported by Myanmar in 11 months of 2020-21 FY](#)

October 7, 2021, Eleven Myanmar

China topped the list of top ten countries exported by Myanmar with US\$4,760.55 million, followed by Thailand with US\$3,002.05 million in 11 months of the 2020-21 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Inflation in Kazakhstan hits five-year peak](#)

October 4, 2021, Eurasianet

Global inflation combined with Kazakh government crisis spending is driving up consumer prices at the fastest rate in five years. Inflation in September rose 8.9 percent in year-on-year terms, the highest level since late 2016, according to official data.

#### [Kazakh Rights Commissioner Meets People Demanding Release Of Relatives From Chinese Custody](#)

October 4, 2021, RFE/RL

Kazakhstan's human rights commissioner, Elvira Azimova, has held a rare meeting with a group of people whose relatives are being held in custody in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang and who have asked for the Central Asian country's government to help secure their release.

#### [Taliban Said To Have Rearmed Tajik Militants And Moved Uyghur Fighters From Chinese Border](#)

October 4, 2021, RFE/RL

The Taliban has provided Tajik militants based along the border with Tajikistan with new military vehicles, weaponry, and other equipment over the past two weeks, security sources in Tajikistan and northeastern Afghanistan say, amid an ongoing military buildup on both sides of the frontier.

#### [Kyrgyzstan, Centerra sit down as Kumtor problems pile up](#)

October 5, 2021, Eurasianet

Authorities in Kyrgyzstan say they have held talks with the country's largest private investor for the first time since seizing its flagship Kumtor gold mine in May. Problems piling up at the high-altitude mine, plus trouble unloading bullion on international markets, may have forced Bishkek to the table.

#### [Controversy And Confusion Again In Kyrgyzstan's Parliamentary Elections](#)

October 5, 2021, RFE/RL

Suspicious of election irregularities that marred two previous parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan triggered revolutions that ousted two separate presidents. The Central Asian country will go to the polls again on November 28, and there are already accusations of misuse of funds and gerrymandering,

the practice of redrawing electoral districts in a way that gives one political party or candidate an advantage.

#### [Families of Tajik political prisoners plead for international help](#)

October 6, 2021, Eurasianet

Days after one of Tajikistan's highest-profile political prisoners was attacked in a prison hospital, his family and several others are pleading with the international community for support, saying they fear their loved ones will be killed in prison.

#### [Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan stand united on Afghanistan](#)

October 6, 2021, Eurasianet

Neighboring Afghanistan topped the agenda as the leaders of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan met in Tashkent this week and cemented their shared position on the need for engagement with the Taliban government. That marks these two countries out from Afghanistan's other Central Asian neighbor, Tajikistan, which has given the Taliban a frosty reception.

#### [Uzbekistan foreign minister jets into Afghanistan for talks](#)

October 7, 2021, Eurasianet

Tashkent has upped the ante in its mission to engage with the Taliban leadership by dispatching its foreign minister to Kabul for the first face-to-face talks with the new Afghan government. On October 7 Abdulaziz Kamilov led a delegation to the Afghan capital for discussions, Uzbekistan's Foreign Ministry confirmed in a statement.

## **West Asia**

#### [India Buys Four Israeli Herons, to Upgrade Them with Missiles as Army, IAF, Navy Ramp Up Drone Inventory](#)

September 28, 2021, News 18

Defence sources said a contract to this effect has been signed and that the drones should arrive by the end of this year. The initial plan was to lease the four drones from Israel, India later decided to buy them instead.

#### [Kuwait Lawmakers Condemn 'Atrocities' against India's Muslims](#)

September 30, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Members of the Kuwaiti National Assembly have condemned the atrocities committed by the Indian authorities and Hindu extremist groups against the Muslim community.



[Qatar-Pak-Turkey Nexus Behind Twitter Trend Against India, Ultimate Target Was Saudi Arabia: Report](#)

October 02, 2021, News 18

The #BoycottIndianProducts trend on Arabic Twitter was the handiwork of Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Egypt with troll handles in Qatar, Turkey and Pakistan fuelling the campaign against India, a report by Disinfo Lab has claimed.

[India, Oman Ink Pact to Boost Maritime Security Cooperation](#)

September 27, 2021, The Economic Times

India and Oman inked an agreement for the exchange of white shipping information and to boost maritime security cooperation in reflection of growing cooperation between the two sides. The pact was signed by Chief of Navy Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and his Omani counterpart Admiral Saif bin Nasser bin Mohsen Al-Rahbi in Muscat.

[Expo 2020 Dubai: India's Participation Will Boost UAE Ties, Says PM Modi](#)

October 01, 2021, Khaleej Times

India's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai will go a long way in strengthening its "deep and historical relations with the UAE", the country's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

[Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020, says India to Drive Next Phase of Global Growth](#)

October 01, 2021, Times Now

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Friday (October 1) inaugurated the India Pavilion at Dubai Expo 2020, featuring an innovative kinetic facade made up of 600 individual colourful blocks. Among the 192 participating countries, India has the biggest pavilion in the expo.

[UAE to Invest \\$75bn in India, Partner On Clean Energy: Union Minister Piyush Goyal at Dubai Expo 2020](#)

October 03, 2021, Hindustan Times

The UAE government has committed to invest \$75 billion from their sovereign funds in India and the two partners have a shared vision for clean energy as they are working together to start manufacturing of equipment for solar power, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said in Dubai.

### [OPEC Says India Will Be Hooked on Oil For Years To Come](#)

September 29, 2021, Business Standard

Indian motorists will struggle to move away from gasoline- and diesel-powered cars over the next quarter of a century, suggesting the nation's push toward as electric vehicles may not be a complete success, OPEC said.

### [OPEC Boss Says World Can't Afford to Underinvest in Oil](#)

October 01, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

OPEC's secretary-general said consumers should brace for more energy shortages unless the world boosts investment in new oil-and-gas development, the cartel's first, full-throated response to increasing calls to limit such spending.

### [Top Al-Qaeda Leader Salim Abu-Ahmad Killed in US Strike in Syria: Reports](#)

October 01, 2021, Hindustan Times

According to a Pentagon official, Salim Abu-Ahmad, a senior leader of the al-Qaeda terror outfit, has been identified as killed in a US drone strike in Syria last month.

### [US Issues Hezbollah-related Sanctions in Coordination With Qatar](#)

September 29, 2021, AL Jazeera

The Biden administration, in coordination with Qatar, has imposed sanctions on several alleged Hezbollah financiers based in the Gulf region, accusing them of providing and facilitating material support to the Lebanese group.

### [Iran Asked U.S. To Unfreeze \\$10 Billion To Show Goodwill, Iran Official Says](#)

October 03, 2021, Reuters

Iran's foreign minister said that U.S. officials tried to discuss restarting nuclear talks last month, but he insisted Washington must first release \$10 billion of Tehran's frozen funds as a sign of goodwill.

## United States

### United States

#### [India, US ready to compete with China: US diplomat](#)

October 7, 2021, Hindustan Times

The US and India are like-minded partners, and the two are ready to compete vigorously with China, US deputy secretary of state Wendy Sherman said, cautioning "economic coercion" could hamper efforts to build a strong international economy -- a message seemingly aimed at Beijing.

#### [India-US ties consequential enough for bigger purpose: MEA Jaishankar](#)

October 7, 2021, Hindustan Times

External affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday India and the United States had focussed on a relationship that not only expanded steadily but was now consequential enough to be imbued with a bigger purpose.

#### [Piyush Goyal calls for India, US to expand strategic partnership to economy and trade](#)

October 7, 2021, The Print

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called for India and the US to expand their strategic partnership into a more comprehensive economic and trade partnership.

#### [No interest in returning to days of a hyphenated India & Pakistan: US Deputy Secy of State](#)

October 7, 2021, The Print

US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman Thursday said Washington has "no interest" in going back to the days hyphenating India and Pakistan, and that her trip to Islamabad is only for "specific and narrow purpose".

#### [Ex-US NSA's Warning For India Amid "Extremely Dangerous" Situation In South Asia](#)

October 7, 2021, NDTV

America's "humiliating" troop withdrawal from Afghanistan resulting in the Pakistan-backed Taliban capturing power in Kabul has created an "extremely dangerous" situation in South Asia where India could suffer a cycle of sectarian violence similar to the one seen in the Middle East, a former US NSA has said during a key Congressional hearing.

### [CIA Chief Burns Forms China-Focused Group in Pivot Toward Asian Rival](#)

October 8, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

CIA Director William Burns said on Thursday he is establishing a major organization within the agency focused on China, expanding and coordinating intelligence gathering against what top U.S. officials have described as a multipronged threat from Beijing. The newly announced China Mission Centre, part of an agencywide pivot toward China, will bring together case officers who recruit spies, intelligence analysts, technology experts and other specialists in a single unit.

### [Biden's Biggest Tests Aren't in Washington](#)

October 4, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Political junkies are fixated on the stalemate over two (two!) trillion-dollar-plus spending bills whose failure could derail Joe Biden's presidency. But the Biden administration also faces two must-win international tests this fall. Failure at the United Nations climate conference in Glasgow or the Iran nuclear negotiations in Vienna would sandbag a presidency still struggling to find its feet.

### [US 'concerned' by China's incursion into Taiwan's defence zone](#)

October 4, 2021, BBC

The US has said it is "very concerned" by China's "provocative" actions after Taiwan claimed some 93 Chinese military planes had flown into its air defence zone in the past three days..

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [EU leaders seek unity on how to face China, US, at Slovenia meeting](#)

October 5, 2021, France 24

The 27 heads of state and government are set to converge on Brdo Castle in the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia, the country that currently holds the EU's rotating presidency.

#### [We need more, EU and U.S. urge China ahead of climate summit](#)

October 7, 2021, Reuters

The United States and European Union's climate envoys urged China to step up its targets to cut emissions on Thursday, adding to the pressure on the world's biggest emitter ahead of the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

#### [EU leaders caught in either-or argument over European defence strategy](#)

October 6, 2021, Euractiv

Amid disunity over the way forward on European defence, EU leaders discussed on Tuesday night (5 October) whether the bloc should enhance its capacity to act independently and/or strengthen its partnership with NATO, but with no clear result.

#### [Despite French push, EU leaders divided over common defence strategy](#)

October 6, 2021, Thomson Reuters

European Union leaders failed to overcome divisions over whether to develop an independent defence force despite anger at the chaotic withdrawal of Western forces from Afghanistan and new impetus from France after it was excluded from a U.S. geostrategic pact.

#### [Polish court says some EU treaty articles unconstitutional, deepening row with Brussels](#)

October 7, 2021, Euractiv

Poland's highest court ruled on 7 October that parts of EU treaties are incompatible with the Polish constitution, challenging a key tenet of European integration in a sharp escalation of a dispute between Brussels and Warsaw.

### [European Parliament calls for increased EU cybersecurity capacity](#)

October 7, 2021, Euractiv

In a resolution on the state of the EU cyber defence capabilities, the European Parliament called on the European Commission and EU member states to increase spending and staff dedicated to cyber defence.

### [Could a 'strategic reserve' ease Europe's gas crisis?](#)

October 7, 2021, Euractiv

European governments are scrambling for solutions to protect households from higher energy bills, as gas and electricity costs hit record highs across the continent ahead of the winter heating season.

## **Russia**

### [Russia's FSB Unveils Broad List of Topics That Could Result In 'Foreign Agent' Label](#)

October 1, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia's main domestic security service has published a 60-point list of non-secret topics that could result in people or organizations being designated as "foreign agents" if they cover or write about them.

### [Russian Health Minister Says WHO Has Lifted Barriers for Sputnik V Approval](#)

October 2, 2021, Sputnik News

Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said that the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 was well on its way to being approved by the World Health Organisation. "All barriers have been lifted as of today. We do not see any obstacles to continuing our work. This was confirmed by the WHO director-general", Murashko told reporters in Geneva.

### [Russian Gas Begins Filling Nord Stream 2 Pipeline To Germany](#)

October 4, 2021, RFE/RL

The operator of Russia's Nord Stream 2 has begun filling the controversial Baltic Sea pipeline to Germany with gas. Nord Stream 2 AG, a Switzerland-based company owned by a subsidiary of Russian gas giant Gazprom, said in a statement on October 4 that the first string of the pipeline would be gradually filled to build inventory and pressure.

### [Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation Chief to Meet With Lavrov in Russia](#)

October 4, 2021, Sputnik News

Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO), Robert Floyd, told Sputnik that he will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and officials from the state nuclear corporation Rosatom during his visit to Moscow from 4-6 October.

### [Russia Test Fires Hypersonic Missile From Submarine](#)

October 4, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia said on October 4 that it had launched a new hypersonic cruise missile from a submarine, the latest test of emerging weapons President Vladimir Putin has dubbed "invincible." Moscow has in recent years touted the development of weapons that it hopes will give it the edge in any arms race with the United States at a time of growing tensions with the West.

### [NATO to Expel Eight Russian Diplomats, Allegedly over Claims of 'Undisclosed Espionage'](#)

October 6, 2021, Russia Today

Officials from NATO have reportedly decided to slash the size of the permanent Russian delegation working to build ties with the US-led military bloc at its headquarters in Brussels, revoking the credentials of eight envoys. The eight diplomats "thought to be undeclared intelligence officers" will be told to pack their bags, and two other positions will be scrapped.

### [Blinken, Lavrov Discuss Iran Nuclear Deal As Tehran Signals Talks 'Days' Away](#)

October 6, 2021, RFE/RL

The top U.S. and Russian diplomats have discussed their shared interest in the restoration of the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced his conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during a visit to France on October 6.

### [Putin Blames Europe for Gas Price Crisis](#)

October 6, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Europe was to blame for the current energy crisis after soaring gas prices spurred accusations that Moscow is withholding supplies to pressure the West. "They've made mistakes," Putin said in a televised meeting with Russian energy officials.

## [Poll: Trust In Putin Drops To Lowest Levels Since 2012](#)

October 7, 2021, RFE/RL

A new opinion poll indicates that Russians' trust in President Vladimir Putin has dropped to its lowest level in nearly a decade. The Levada Center survey released on October 6 found 53 percent of respondents saying they trusted Putin, down from 71 percent in September 2017.



## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [Argentina's statistics bureau finds 4 out of 10 people are poor](#)

October 4, 2021, MercoPress

The latest data from Argentina's National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (Indec) show that the poverty index has reversed a meager 1.4% during the first half of 2021. It represents a slow comeback from the 42% registered in the previous semester and still far from the 32.2% of five years ago and even farther away from the 24.7% of a decade ago.

#### [Three LatAm Presidents among scores of leaders and celebrities singled out by "Pandora Papers" research](#)

October 4, 2021, MercoPress

Current Presidents Sebastián Piñera of Chile, Guillermo Lasso of Ecuador and Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic were listed on the so-called "Pandora Papers" among the world leaders and celebrities who have money saved in tax havens, according to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ).

#### [Argentine FM needs to solve international mess to rebuild credibility](#)

October 5, 2021, MercoPress

Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero is to travel to Brasilia by the end of the week in a move to patch things up between President Alberto Fernández and his Brazilian colleague Jair Bolsonaro, ahead of the upcoming Mercosur summit.

#### [Argentina now sells gas to Chile and Brazil](#)

October 6, 2021, MercoPress

Argentina is now in a position to sell gas to neighbouring Chile and Brazil thanks to the Gas Plan and Vaca Muerta's potential, it was announced. The new state of things allows Argentina to take advantage of the ongoing energy crisis, which Argentina may now circumvent as prices hit US \$ 30 per million BTU in Europe and Asia.

#### [Uruguay off UK's Red List, but surprising FCDO comment on the country's Covid-19 situation](#)

October 8, 2021, MercoPress

From 4 am on Monday 11 October, Uruguay will no longer be on the Red List for entering England. As to UK citizens planning to travel to Uruguay, the

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against all but essential travel to the whole of Uruguay based on the current assessment of COVID-19 risks.

[Brazil: Bolsonaro's situation looks worse by the hour and Lula sets up shadow cabinet](#)

October 7, 2021, MercoPress

The Brazilian Senatorial Committee investigating President Jair Bolsonaro's management of the COVID-19 crisis described the head of state's "insane" and in "denial" of reality. "The CPI (Parliamentary Investigations Commission) revealed the insane acts of the president and an insensitive and cruel government that understood the pandemic as a flu (...) Denialism is proven there" said Senator Simone Tebet. The CPI report will be released on October 15 with a detailed description of all the evidence garnered.

## **Africa**

[Kenyatta named in 'Pandora Papers' finance investigation](#)

October 3, 2021, Africa Times

President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya is among world leaders whose financial dealings are detailed in the new "Pandora Papers" investigative report released Sunday. The report, billed as the largest investigation in journalism history, involves more than 600 journalists from 150 news outlets around the world, according to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). It is based on two years' worth of careful scrutiny of leaked records from 14 firms that handle offshore financial dealings.

[Google commits \\$1 billion in new funding to Africa's digital future](#)

October 6, 2021, Africa Times

Google announced a US\$1 billion commitment to the continent's digital transformation during the company's first-ever Google for Africa livestream event. The investment, planned across the next five years, will support several initiatives. They include completion of Equiano, an undersea cable meant to improve Internet speeds and drive down the costs of connectivity for Africans.

[Former enemies, Ethiopia and Eritrea are fighting on the same side in Tigray war](#)

October 7, 2021, The African Report

The first reason that Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 was that he had initiated successful peace talks with the East African country's existential rival, Eritrea. The benefits of the peace

process had been immediately obvious to the region and the international community.

### [France/Morocco: Visa problems intensifying tensions between Rabat and Paris](#)

October 7, 2021, The African Report

At the end of September, Gabriel Attal, France's government spokesman, announced that the country would be reducing, by half, the number of visas that it grants to Moroccans. He explained that this was in response to the low number of laissez-passer passes that the kingdom had issued to its nationals, who were obliged to leave French territory (138 passes for 3,301 people that were in the country illegally).

### [The Algeria – France crisis and its impact on operations in the Sahel](#)

October 5, 2021, The African Report

Saïd Chengriha, Algeria's chief of staff, is said to be leading the counterattack against Paris. The general has had many grievances against France for several months. However, the French authorities' reaction to the Pegasus affair, which was considered too timid and perceived as a desire to stifle the scandal to please Morocco, has not gone down too well.

### [DRC: 'Record' high foreign reserves – How did they get there and how long will they last?](#)

October 5, 2021, The African Report

"The Democratic Republic of Congo calls on the IMF to accelerate its effective provision of resources, without forgetting the imperative of alleviating African countries' debt," President Félix Tshisékédi told the United Nations General Assembly on 21 September in New York. Although he welcomed the \$33bn that had been approved under Special Drawing Rights (SDR) for the continent, he urged developed countries to "reach \$100bn in SDRs" for Africa.



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