

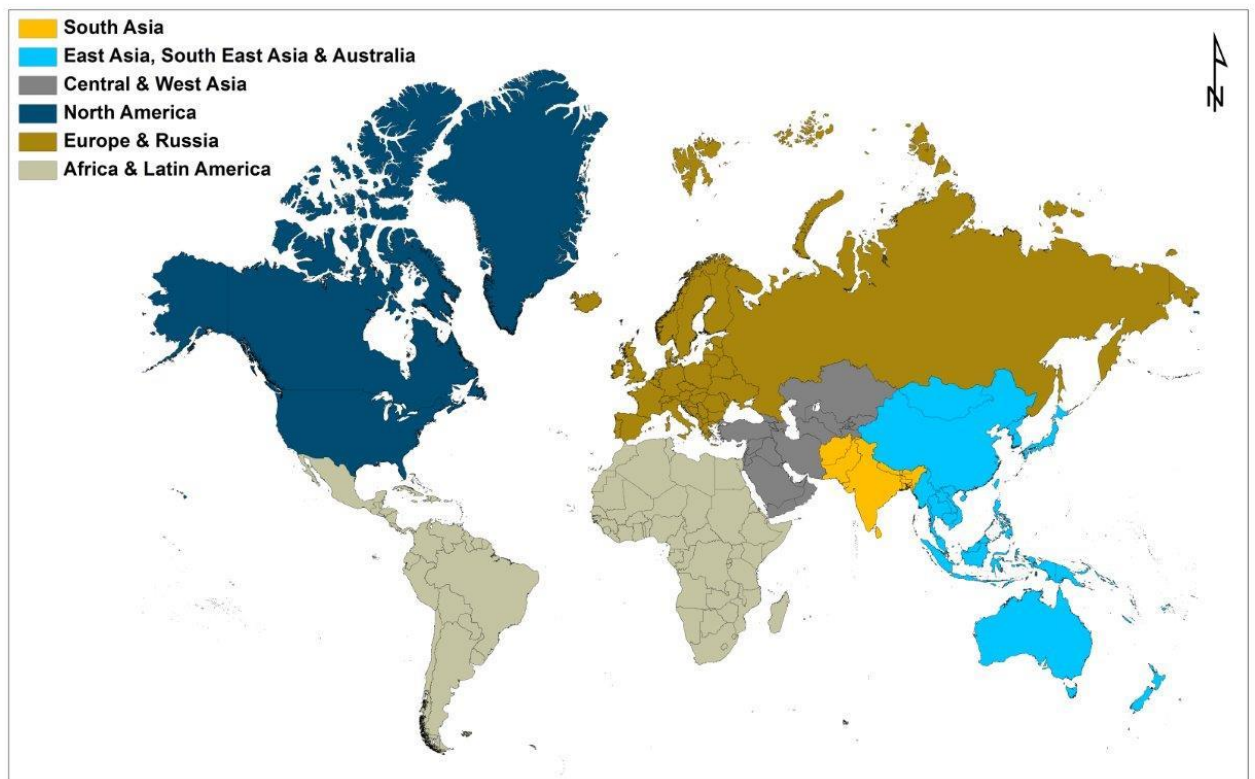


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume IV, Issue 42 | October 16, 2020

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume 4, Issue 42

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.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India and US explore pacts on technology; soft power; defence for 2+2 meet](#)

October 15, 2020, The Economic Times

India and the United States discussed concluding pacts on technology, people-to-people contact and parliamentary exchanges, besides the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for geospatial cooperation and aligning positions on security matters during the forthcoming '2 plus 2' talks between the foreign ministers and defence ministers of the two countries in Delhi on October 26-27.

[In rebuttal to China claim over Ladakh, Arunachal, India drops a clear warning](#)

October 15, 2020, Hindustan Times

India told off Beijing for its repeated complaints about infrastructure projects on the Indian side of the border with a clear warning, asserting that China should not comment on India's internal matters just as it expects other countries to steer clear of its internal affairs.

[India, China say latest LAC talks were positive, push for mutually acceptable disengagement](#)

October 13, 2020, The Print

India and China don't want situation to worsen before next month's BRICS Summit, and are said to have softened their previous stances at the meeting in Chushul.

[India reminds China of its redlines on sovereignty matters](#)

October 16, 2020, Live Mint

Amid the border standoff, New Delhi reminded Beijing that it should not cross the redlines on India's sovereignty, including the status of the Union territory of Ladakh, which China said it does not recognize. However, Indian foreign minister S. Jaishankar hoped that talks between the two neighbouring countries could arrive at a solution.

[Eye on China: India to deliver Kilo Class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy](#)

October 15, 2020, Times Now

Empowering neighbours: India will deliver Kilo Class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy. "This will be the first submarine of Myanmar Navy," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

[Narendra Modi's farm reforms could help turn India into food-export powerhouse](#)

October 16, 2020, The Economic Times

Of all the controversial reforms Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sprung on the market, the recent laws to liberalize farm sales could turn out to be the most far-reaching.

[US Official Underscores Importance Of Partnership With India For Free Indo-Pacific](#)

October 15, 2020, NDTV

Emphasising on the greater Quad cooperation, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun has underscored the importance of the US-India partnership, particularly in advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific.

[Sino-Indian Competition in the Indian Ocean Region Intensifies](#)

October 16, 2020, The Diplomat

As competition intensifies in the Indian Ocean Region, India loses touch with Sri Lanka and solidifies relations with the Maldives.

Pakistan

[Pakistan eyes \\$1.2b additional debt relief from G-20](#)

October 16, 2020, The Express Tribune

Pakistan is expected to get additional temporary debt relief of nearly \$1.2 billion after the world's richest nations agreed to extend debt-relief initiative for the 'poorest' nations by another six months to June 2021. Pakistan's participation in the debt relief initiative of the G-20 has dented its global image, as it has been clubbed with the world's poorest countries despite its better socio-economic indicators than many African nations.

[Pakistan, China may ink deal for road project](#)

October 16, 2020, The Express Tribune

Pakistan and China may sign a framework agreement for the construction of a western route road project during the upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting but chances of finalising a financing agreement for the \$6.8 billion Mainline-I (ML-I) project remain low.

[20 security personnel martyred in Ormara, Razmak attacks](#)

October 15, 2020, The Express Tribune

Seven soldiers and as many security guards were martyred while fighting off a terrorist attack on a convoy of the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) in Balochistan, hours after six army troops were martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The attack on the OGDCL convoy took place on the Coastal Highway, near Ormara, the Inter-Services Public Relations said. Earlier, the ISPR said that six troops, including an officer, were martyred in an IED blast in North Waziristan tribal district.

[Major restructuring package for power sector planned](#)

October 16, 2020, Dawn

The Pakistan government is planning to announce a major restructuring package for the power sector envisaging a freeze on average consumer tariff coupled with incentive-based lower rates for industry and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), transfer of distribution companies (Discos) to the provinces and transfer of K-Electric's majority shares to Shanghai Electric under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

[\\$1,150m accord signed with WB for two KP power projects](#)

October 16, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan signed two financing agreements worth \$1,150 million with the World Bank. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Hydropower and Renewable Energy Development Project of \$450m aims to increase renewable energy generation and strengthen the capacity of associated institutions in the province.

[Stage set for PDM power show in Gujranwala](#)

October 16, 2020, Dawn

The recently-formed Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) which comprises 11 parties including the PML-N, PPP and JUI-F has vowed to turn the Gujranwala rally into a 'big power show', asking Information Minister Shibli Faraz to resign if the venue is jam-packed. Mr Faraz had thrown a challenge to the opposition to fill the Jinnah Park since the government had allowed it to hold a public gathering there.

[IMF forecasts 1pc growth, rising unemployment](#)

October 13, 2020, Dawn

In its World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2020, the IMF projected Pakistan's growth rate at one per cent, average inflation rate at 8.8pc, current account

deficit at 2.5pc of GDP (gross domestic product) and unemployment rising by 0.6pc to 5.1pc during the current fiscal year. This is in sharp contrast with targets of 2.1pc GDP growth rate, 6.5pc inflation and 1.5pc current account deficit set by the government.

[Asia-Pacific Group keeps Pakistan on enhanced follow-up list](#)

October 12, 2020, Dawn

The Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering has retained Pakistan on its "Enhanced Follow-Up" list for a meagre progress on technical recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to fight money laundering and terror financing.

[Under-fire SAPM quits after resignation accepted](#)

October 13, 2020, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan finally allowed retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa to relinquish the additional charge of Special Assistant to PM on information and broadcasting, accepting the latter's resignation he had submitted last month in the wake of allegations regarding his family's assets and offshore businesses. Mr Bajwa, however, will continue to work as chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority.

Afghanistan

[Trump tweet gave Taliban upper hand in negotiations: Abdullah Abdullah](#)

October 15, 2020, The Express Tribune

A tweet by President Donald Trump calling for US troops to be home by Christmas has given the insurgent Taliban the upper hand in negotiations said Abdullah Abdullah. Trump posted the tweet last week, hours after his national security adviser said Washington would reduce its forces in Afghanistan to 2,500 by early next year. The Taliban has welcomed the announcement.

[US envoy says Taliban agree to reduce Afghan casualties](#)

October 15, 2020, The Express Tribune

The Taliban have promised US forces to reduce casualties in Afghanistan after a wave of violence raised questions about peace talks, a US envoy said. "At present too many Afghans are dying. With the re-set, we expect that number to drop significantly," Zalmay Khalilzad, who negotiated a February 29 deal with the Taliban to pull out US forces, wrote on Twitter.

[Copter collision leaves nine dead in Helmand](#)

October 15, 2020, Dawn

Two military helicopters evacuating wounded soldiers from fighting in southern Afghanistan collided killing nine people on board. The crash happened as the helicopters were taking off in restive Helmand province, where clashes have erupted between Afghan forces and the Taliban. Afghanistan's defence ministry said the collision was due to "technical issues".

[US launches first air strikes against Taliban since accord](#)

October 13, 2020, Dawn

The United States launched air strikes against Taliban in Afghanistan's Helmand province, after a large-scale offensive saw insurgent take over military bases in the region and close in on a key provincial capital. The strikes, carried out, marked a rare military intervention by the United States since it signed an agreement on troop withdrawal with the Taliban in February.

[US Drawdown Remains Conditions-Based: Milley](#)

October 12, 2020, Tolo News

US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley in an interview with NPR, said that US drawdown plans are conditions-based. "We have a plan, a series of responsible drawdown options that has been briefed to the president. I'm not going to go into specific numbers for the future," he said.

[Food shortages in Afghanistan as coronavirus worsens country's humanitarian crisis](#)

October 13, 2020, The Telegraph

Afghanistan's Covid-19 outbreak has pushed another five million people into food shortages, dramatically worsening the humanitarian situation in a country already racked by conflict. The arrival of the new coronavirus has seen work dry up and livelihoods shrink, the United Nation's food assistance branch was warned.

Bangladesh

[Explained: The comparison between India, Bangladesh per capita GDP](#)

October 16, 2020, The Indian Express

The International Monetary Fund's latest update on the World Economic Outlook released. In the IMF's estimation, in 2020, while India's GDP is set to reduce by 10%, Bangladesh's is expected to grow by almost 4%. This more than

doubles the level of contraction — from 4.5% — that the IMF had projected for India just a few months ago.

[How Bangladesh has tactfully approached both India and China](#)

October 14, 2020, WION

Despite being in the middle of rising Indian and Chinese competition for South Asian influence, Bangladesh has tactfully approached both the regional powers.

[Bangladesh wins and loses in China-India rivalry](#)

October 14, 2020, Asia Times

Bangladesh is in the middle of rising Indian and Chinese competition for South Asian influence, a position that could benefit or imperil the Muslim majority developing nation of over 161 million people.

[Bangladesh Buries the Sonadia Deep-Sea Port Project](#)

October 12, 2020, The Diplomat

The Bangladesh government has officially called off the development of a deep-sea port at Sonadia Island off the country's southeastern coast.

Nepal

[Oli government under pressure to speak up against China's encroachment in Nepal](#)

October 12, 2020, WION

KP Sharma Oli's government in Nepal is facing increasing heat and is under pressure from several quarters to speak up against the boundary encroachment by China.

[How China is pumping millions to push India out of Nepal](#)

October 13, 2020, Money Control

Nepal, the world's only declared Hindu nation until 2008 when it became a 'secular' republic with the ending of monarchy, has comprehensively turned its back on the world's largest Hindu nation.

[Nepal's relations with India and China are independent of each other](#)

October 16, 2020, My Republica

The basic premise of any country's foreign policy is its geography and socio-historical tradition. It was against this setting that the unifier of Nepal, King Prithvi Narayan Shah (1742-1774), laid down the guidelines of a "yam between

two boulders.” He alerted the nation to be careful, cautious, and rational, as geography is a hard reality a country cannot afford to ignore.

[Nepal withdraws textbook which includes contentious border map with India](#)

October 9, 2020, The Economic Times

Nepal has withdrawn a school textbook which included a contentious map of border areas with India that it earlier showed as part of its territory in its political map, a move being seen as a conciliatory step.

Bhutan

[India and Bhutan to boost bilateral trade](#)

October 16, 2020, Northeast Now

In a significant development, India and Bhutan decided to boost bilateral trade with the import and export of essential commodities. Officials from the Union agriculture ministry said that significant achievement has been registered in bilateral trade relations between India and Bhutan.

[Bhutan – India: A multi- dimensional relationship. interview with H.E. Amb. Ruchira Kamboj](#)

October 11, 2020, Modern Diplomacy

India and Bhutan have shared an interesting relationship for a very long time. They are geopolitical neighbours, trade partners and friends. In this conversation with Modern Diplomacy, Her Excellency Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of India to Bhutan sheds more light on the India Bhutan relationship and her work in the Indian Foreign Services.

[India-Bhutan collaborate on phase three trials of COVID-19 vaccine](#)

October 9, 2020, Zee News

India is collaborating with Bhutan for conducting Phase-3 trials of COVID vaccine candidate even as New Delhi has sent seven consignments of essential medicines to the country since March 2020 amid the pandemic.

Sri Lanka

[What does Sri Lanka moving closer to China mean for India?](#)

October 14, 2020, ORF

The short-notice Colombo visit of a high-level Chinese delegation, to be followed now by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s this month-end should be of interest as much to the Indian strategic community as to their counterparts in Sri Lanka. The question is that if the Chinese visit was a reaction

to the recent Quad Ministerial at Tokyo, and the delayed one by Secretary Pompeo, likewise, has been influenced by the latter.

[China awards Sri Lanka with USD 90 million grant to dispel 'debt trap' notion](#)

October 11, 2020, New Indian Express

China announced that it was providing a USD 90 million grant to Sri Lanka, two days after the island nation's president sought help from a visiting Chinese delegation in disproving a perception that China-funded megaprojects are "debt traps."

[Debt-trap: China's loans to Sri Lanka are not driven by benevolence](#)

October 13, 2020, WION

China is using its position at global bodies and money to dictate global terms. Sri Lanka has been looking for a financial lifeline to avoid defaults. But instead of approaching the IMF, the Rajapaksas reached out to Beijing, and made another request for a loan.

[Sri Lanka's 'India-First Policy': Should India be complacent?](#)

October 15, 2020, Financial Express

India-Sri Lanka relations get refreshed every time there is a change in the government in Sri Lanka. The new Sri Lanka PadajunaPeramuna (SLPP) dispensation in Sri Lanka, dominated by the Rajapaksas, which came to power after the presidential elections in 2019 and further consolidated its authority after scoring a resounding victory in the Parliamentary elections in August 2020 is now emphasizing its 'India-First policy' in response to India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

[India Offers \\$50 Million to Sri Lanka for Defence Upgrade](#)

October 15, 2020, The Tennessee Tribune

To counter China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal, India has offered \$50 million to Sri Lanka to upgrade its defense sector. The two countries hosted a virtual summit to deliberate on security and defense partnership, after which Indian prime minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa made a joint statement on Sep 26.

East & South East Asia

China

[Will China's rosy Q3 data boost global economy?](#)

October 15, 2020, Global Times

Given the complex and changeable macroeconomic environment and rising uncertainties in the world, faced by China's economy amid the coronavirus pandemic, many are looking forward to seeking clues from China's economic data for the third quarter, which will be released by the National Bureau of Statistics, to help gauge the actual economic situation.

[Western focus on Myanmar election shifts to whether incumbent can hold on to power](#)

October 15, 2020, Global Times

The 2020 Myanmar general elections are scheduled to be held on November 8. Five years ago the candidacy of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi excited the atmosphere. Today, critics wonder if she and her ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) will be tested if they can hold onto power.

[London follows Washington's step on security, loses autonomy](#)

October 15, 2020, Global Times

Ken McCallum, director-general of the UK's Military Intelligence, Section 5 (MI5) said that Russia, China and Iran have imposed growing "national security challenges" to the UK and emphasized that the biggest long-term challenge is presented by China. "Russia, China and Iran are one of the few diplomatically independent countries in the world, right?" Some Chinese netizens mocked. "In the context of China-US competition, the UK is following Washington even more closely on security, and is

the most hostile member to China among European countries," Cui Hongjian, director of the Department of European Studies of the China Institute of International Studies, told the Global Times.

[China strikes back at U.S. threat of sanctions on int'l financial institutions over Hong Kong](#)

October 15, 2020, Xinhua

China expressed firm opposition to and denunciation of the U.S. side creating the so-called "Hong Kong Autonomy Act," and sanctioning Chinese personnel based on it, vowing countermeasures "if the U.S. is bent on going this way."

[Tibet achieves 'major victory' in poverty relief](#)

October 16, 2020, China Daily

There is no so-called forced transfer of labor in the Tibet autonomous region, Qizhala, chairman of the regional government, said, pointing out that farmers and herdsman were eager to leave their hometowns to take up vocational training in order to enhance their skills and boost their incomes.

[US should check its reckless ambition: China Daily editorial](#)

October 15, 2020, China Daily

These are difficult times for China-US relations. And chances are things will continue to deteriorate, even plunge the world's two largest economies into a rivalry that is mutually diminishing, if no serious attempts are made to stem the free fall.

[Economic data indicate that China is capable of overcoming headwinds: China Daily editorial](#)

October 15, 2020, China Daily

The latest economic data show the central authorities' pro-growth and pro-employment policies are generating their desired effects, as market supply remains stable and industrial production and demand are steadily recovering.

Japan

[Chinese ships remain in Japanese waters near Senkakus for record time](#)

October 13, 2020, The Japan Times

Chinese Coast Guard ships that entered Japanese territorial waters near the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea over the weekend have remained there for a record length of time, the Japan Coast Guard. The two ships entered the waters near the islands, which are claimed by China, and attempted to approach a Japanese fishing boat, the coast guard said.

[Japan protests to China for entering Japanese waters](#)

October 13, 2020, CTV

Tokyo has lodged protests to Beijing over the entry of Chinese coast guard ships into Japan's territorial waters off disputed East China Sea islands and their refusal to move out for a third day, Japanese officials said.

[What did the new Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga talk about with his Chinese counterpart?](#)

October 10, 2020, The Diplomat

What did the new Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga talk about with his Chinese counterpart?The content of what was discussed has naturally been presented in different ways in China and in Japan.

[Japan, U.S. start talks on cost of hosting American troops](#)

October 16, 2020, Japan Today

Japan and the United States launched working-level negotiations on a cost-sharing agreement for hosting American troops in the Asian country, according to a source with knowledge of the situation.

[Japan to sign agreement allowing arms exports to Vietnam: Nikkei](#)

October 15, 2020, Japan Today

Japan plans to sign an agreement with Vietnam to allow it to export defense equipment and technology to the country, part of a move to strengthen defense capabilities of Indo-Pacific nations to counter Chinese maritime advances, the Nikkei newspaper reported.

[Japan tells S Korea it will skip trilateral summit over wartime labor dispute](#)

October 14, 2020, Japan Today

A trilateral summit between Japan, South Korea and China most likely will not be held this year as Tokyo has given notice that Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will not attend without concessions from Seoul in a feud over compensation for wartime labor, diplomatic sources said.

[Japan joins NASA's 8-nation space coalition for moon exploration](#)

October 14, 2020, Japan Today

NASA announced that eight countries have signed an international agreement called the Artemis Accords that outlines the principles of future exploration of the moon and beyond.

[Japan vows to boost missile defense after North Korea parade](#)

October 13, 2020, Japan Today

Japan vowed to bolster its missile deterrence capability to respond to threats by North Korean weapons that are becoming "more diverse and complex," as displayed during a military parade held by the North over the weekend.

[The persecution of the Uyghurs is a crime against humanity](#)

October 16, 2020, The Economist

The first stories from Xinjiang were hard to believe. Surely the Chinese government was not running a gulag for Muslims? Surely Uyghurs were not being branded “extremists” and locked up simply for praying in public or growing long beards? Yet, as we report in this week’s China section, the evidence of a campaign against the Uyghurs at home and abroad becomes more shocking with each scouring of the satellite evidence, each leak of official documents and each survivor’s pitiful account.

[WeChat Threatens Free Speech](#)

October 14, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

The Trump administration is pressing ahead with efforts to ban WeChat, the Chinese social-media app, appealing a preliminary injunction awarded in September to the WeChat Users Alliance. There is good reason to view this group, a self-described collection of “ordinary WeChat users” upset by the government’s ban, with skepticism. Its lawyers include two from DeHeng Law, a firm that was once owned by the Chinese state and remains a close partner of Beijing’s.

[China’s insistence that Taiwan isn’t a country starts backfiring](#)

October 13, 2020, Indian Express

The more China tells the world that Taiwan isn’t a country, the more Beijing’s adversaries are starting to treat it like one. Before celebrations for Taiwan’s National Day on Saturday, Beijing’s embassy in New Delhi was reported to have issued a letter telling India’s media not to refer to it as a country or to Tsai Ing-wen as its president. Indians responded by helping the hashtag #TaiwanNationalDay go viral while banners with the Taiwanese flag were hung outside the Chinese embassy.

[China's maritime challenge](#)

October 10, 2020, India Today

It’s December 2025 and ‘Exercise Sea Dragon’ has begun. The world’s largest navy has bided its time for decades and is now ready to project power beyond its shores. Two PLAN (People’s Liberation Army-Navy) aircraft carrier battle groups, the Shandong and Fujian, with their entourage of nuclear-powered attack submarines, cruisers and destroyers, enter the Indian Ocean through the Malacca Straits, shadowed by Indian P-8I reconnaissance aircraft. ‘Sea Dragon’ is meant to test PLAN’s responsiveness to maritime operations against a distant adversary, the official release says.

[Why did Suga choose Vietnam and Indonesia for his first official trip as prime minister?](#)

October 15, 2020, Japan Times

A natural choice for Suga is Southeast Asia. Conventional journalistic wisdom is that visiting ASEAN member states come as Japan seeks to “strengthen ties with countries in the region amid growing tensions between its main security ally the United States and its biggest trading partner, China.” It’s a very commonsensical approach.

Korea

[Korea, U.S. Clash over Defense Cost-Sharing](#)

October 16, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

The defense chiefs of South Korea and the U.S. clashed over key issues like sharing the cost of maintaining 28,500 American troops in Korea.

[Kim Jong-un Replaces Nuclear Arms Chief](#)

October 14, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has replaced the chief of the renegade country's Strategic Forces, which is in charge of nuclear weapons and missiles.

['US, South Korea hold same views on declaration of war's end'](#)

October 16, 2020, The Korea Times

There exists no difference of opinion between South Korea and the United States on the need to formally end the Korean War as part of the process to denuclearize North Korea, South Korea's national security adviser said, adding it is "common sense" that the two issues go together.

[North Korea unveils 'monster' new intercontinental ballistic missile at parade](#)

October 10, 2020, Reuters

North Korea unveiled previously unseen intercontinental ballistic missiles at an unprecedented predawn military parade that showcased the country's long-range weapons for the first time in two years.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN-India Summit Focuses On Cyber Security During Covid Pandemic](#)

October 13, 2020, NDTV

The 2nd ASEAN-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber Issues held virtually focused upon cooperation and security in the digital and cyber domain in the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic.

[What the Quad Meeting Means for ASEAN](#)

October 9, 2020, The Diplomat

Two notable “firsts” about the recent Quad ministerial meeting could have long-term implications for ASEAN centrality. For one, this was the first time that the foreign ministers of the four Quad countries held a standalone meeting. This was also the first

Quad ministerial meeting, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[China protests latest U.S. Navy mission in South China Sea](#)

October 10, 2020, The Hindu

China said it dispatched ships and planes to track the U.S. guided-missile destroyer John S. McCain as it passed near Chinese-held islands in the South China Sea.

[The next ‘Asian miracle’: Vietnam is exporting its way to prosperity, while leaving no one behind at home](#)

October 16, 2020, The Times of India

Within days of China’s announcing the first case of Covid-19, Vietnam was exhorting its 100 million citizens to identify carriers and trace contacts, contacts of contacts, even contacts of contacts of contacts. Rapid isolation of outbreaks has kept Vietnam’s death rate among the four lowest in the world – well under one death per million people.

[India's ban on import of air-conditioners to hit China, Thailand](#)

October 16, 2020, Live Mint

India imposed complete ban on import of air-conditioners with refrigerants worth \$500 million, further tightening norms on “non-essential imports” to encourage local manufacturing and check imports from China.

[Philippines Lifts Ban on Oil Exploration In South China Sea](#)

October 15, 2020, Oil Price.com

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has approved the recommendation of the country’s Energy Department to lift the moratorium on exploration in the West Philippine Sea, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said, as reported by Reuters. The service contractors of three blocks in the West Philippine Sea have already been notified that they could resume exploration in their respective licenses, Cusi added.

[Malaysia detains Chinese vessels for trespassing in territorial waters](#)

October 12, 2020, CNN

Maritime authorities in Malaysia said they stopped six Chinese fishing vessels in Malaysian territorial waters, as Beijing increases its presence throughout the South China Sea.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyzstan's turmoil and the competition for Central Asia](#)

October 15, 2020, The Interpreter

Kyrgyzstan, a former Soviet republic seen as Russia's most loyal ally in Central Asia, has been rocked by unrest after a disputed parliamentary election held on 4 October. Moscow's reactions to the Kyrgyz crisis have so far been relatively ambivalent, even though the nation hosts a Russian military base and is a member of the Kremlin-led Eurasian Union, as well as the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).

[Indian companies in talks with Kazakhstan defence industries for co-production: Sanjay Jaju \(IAS\)](#)

October 15, 2020, PSU Watch

Joint Secretary (DIP) in the Ministry of Defence Sanjay Jaju (IAS) said that several Indian companies are in talks with Kazakh defence industries for co-production and co-development in defence production, both India and Kazakhstan are looking at exploring opportunities which provide win-win solutions to the industries on both sides.

[Turkey prioritizes relations with Central Asia](#)

October 15, 2020, Andolou Agency

Turkey has prioritized relations with Central Asia and other Asian countries with its Asia Anew initiative, the country's foreign minister said. "With our 'Asia Anew' policy which we announced last year, we prioritized our relations with both our brotherly Central Asia and other regions of rising Asia," Mevlut Cavusoglu said during the opening ceremony of the International Hoca Ahmet Yesevi Turkish-Kazakh University's academic year via video link.

[How China can tighten its Belt and Road Initiative in Central Asia](#)

October 14, 2020, SCMP

This February, hundreds of residents of At-Bashy, a mountain town in Kyrgyzstan, gathered to protest against the construction of a new Chinese-funded logistics centre in the area. Holding signs reading "No Kyrgyz Land To China!", the protesters argued that locals would see few benefits from the US\$275 million project, designed to handle trade coming from the Chinese border some 140 kilometres away. Tension over the new centre had been brewing for months, with at least three previous protests. Bowing to popular pressure, the Kyrgyz government cancelled the project.

[Central Asia Can Help The Next U.S. President Balance Both Russia And China](#)

October 14, 2020, The National Interest

The next U.S. president must place Central Asia as a core component of its global geopolitical strategy to manage an increasingly multipolar world, which is big enough for all powers to trade and thrive.

[Uzbekistan, Russia discuss the development of economic cooperation](#)

October 15, 2020, Menafn.com

On 12 October 2020, the twenty-first meeting of the Uzbek-Russian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) on economic cooperation was held in Bukhara .During the event, the current state of bilateral cooperation in trade, economic, cultural, humanitarian and scientific and technical spheres, as well as new promising areas for the development of partnership were discussed.During a constructive dialogue and exchange of views on key issues on the agenda, a firm commitment was expressed on both sides to expanding multifaceted interaction in industry, agriculture, transport, energy, healthcare, banking and financial sector, and education.

[President Kovind holds telephonic conversation with President of Turkmenistan](#)

October 15, 2020, Hindustan Times

President of India Ram Nath Kovind held a telephonic conversation with the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.The leaders acknowledged the warm and cordial relations between the two countries underpinned by historical and civilizational links. They lauded the sustained momentum of cooperation in diverse areas, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector, said a release issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan.

[Reserve right to attack military facility in Azerbaijan, warns Armenia](#)

October 14, 2020, Hindustan Times

The Armenian Defense Ministry accused the Azerbaijani military on Wednesday of attacking military equipment stationed on the Armenian territory, and noted that the armed forces reserve the right for retaliation.

West Asia

[G20 Finance Ministers Pledge to Do 'Whatever It Takes' to Support Global Economy](#)

October 15, 2020, Business Standard

G20 finance ministers and central bank governors agreed in principle for the first time on a "Common Framework" to deal on a case-by-case basis with the rising number of low-income countries facing debt distress.

[Depleting Balance in Rupee-Rial Account Chokes Export of Basmati Rice, Tea to Iran](#)

October 14, 2020, The Hindu Business Line

According to estimates by industry insiders, around INR 2,000 crore, due to basmati rice exporters to Iran, is currently stuck because of a payment crisis, a consequence of the U.S. sanctions on Iran.

[Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Seeks Kuwaiti Investments in India](#)

October 12, 2020, The Economic Times

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan invited Kuwait to invest in India as he saw the oil-rich Gulf nation as an important and trusted partner in achieving energy security.

[Israel's Knesset \(Parliament\) Approves the Abraham Accord with UAE](#)

October 15, 2020, Middle East Eye

The Arab Joint List, the third largest political bloc in Israel's parliament, voted against the normalisation deal between Israel and United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the Knesset , but the agreement was still approved in a 80-13 majority vote by the Knesset.

[Iraqi Militias Say They Have Halted Anti-U.S. Attacks](#)

October 11, 2020, Reuters

An array of Iran-backed Iraqi militia groups have suspended rocket attacks on U.S. forces on condition that Iraq's government present a timetable for the withdrawal of American troops from the country.

[Pompeo: US Pleased Iraq Doing More to Protect US Embassy in Baghdad](#)

October 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States was pleased that the Iraqi government was doing more to protect the US embassy in Baghdad from Iran-backed Shiite Muslim militias but declined to provide an update on whether Washington was still considering to shut down its embassy.

[Iran Says Hackers Attacked Two of Its Key Institutions](#)

October 15, 2020, Reuters

Iran says it is on high alert for online assaults, which it has blamed in the past on the United States and other foreign states.

[Lebanon and Israel Conclude First Round of Maritime Border Demarcation Talks](#)

October 15, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Lebanon and Israel have concluded the first round of indirect talks over the demarcation of their disputed maritime borders. No details were provided about the first meeting, which was attended by US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs David Schenker.

[Oman to Introduce 5% VAT in Six Months' Time](#)

October 13, 2020, The Economic Times

Oman's ruler has issued a decree to start levying a 5 percent value-added tax (VAT) in six months' time, as the Gulf oil producer seeks to boost revenues battered by low oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic.

[Carrot-and-Stick Approach to Turkey Failing, EU Envoys Say](#)

October 14, 2020, Reuters

Despite an EU summit deal in the early hours of Oct. 2 aimed at persuading Ankara to stop exploring for natural gas in waters disputed by Greece and Cyprus, Turkey said it was restarting operations of a survey ship.

[UAE Says OPEC+ Set to Ease Oil Production Cuts as Planned](#)

October 13, 2020, Oilprice.com

The OPEC+ plans to taper the ongoing oil production cuts as of January 2021, as initially agreed, the energy minister of OPEC's third-largest producer, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

United States

United States

[China, Russia and India spewing stuff into air: Trump](#)

October 16, 2020, The Times of India

US President Donald Trump has blamed countries like China, Russia and India for adding to the global air pollution and asserted that his country has the best environmental numbers.

[India-US 2+2 meet: Mike Pompeo, Esper to visit Delhi on October 26-27, maritime deal likely to be signed](#)

October 15, 2020, The Economic Times

India and the United States are likely to sign a maritime information-sharing agreement during the 2+2 meeting during the 26th and 27th of October. The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the US Secretary of Defence Mike Esper will be flying to Delhi this year for that 2+2 meeting which is slated for later this month.

[Charting the future of India-US ties | Opinion](#)

October 15, 2020, Hindustan Times

The India-United States (US) relationship has, despite the efforts of naysayers, developed on a positive trajectory over the past two decades. Nevertheless, whatever the outcome of next month's US elections, relations between India and the US are set to enter a new, more constructive, but paradoxically more difficult phase.

[Indian-Americans Overwhelmingly Support Joe Biden, New Poll Shows](#)

October 14, 2020, The New York Times

A large majority of Indian-Americans plan to cast ballots for the Democratic ticket of former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Senator Kamala Harris, according to a survey released.

[US Secretary of State Pompeo to visit Sri Lanka amid rising anti-China provocations](#)

October 15, 2020, WSWS

Sri Lanka's secretary to the ministry of foreign affairs Admiral Jayanath Colabage announced last weekend that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will visit Sri Lanka during his scheduled trip to India at the end of this month.

[US military academics to devote half of coursework to China, says defence chief](#)

October 16, 2020, South China Morning Post

US military academics will devote half of their coursework to understanding China to more effectively counter Beijing's "aggression", US Secretary of Defence Mark Esper said.

[U.S. Moves to Protect Technologies Considered Critical to National Security](#)

October 15, 2020, Wall Street Journal

Artificial intelligence, quantum information science and semiconductors are on a new list of advanced technologies that the U.S. is aiming to protect under guidelines being released.

[U.S., French Navy Chiefs discuss maritime security and cooperation](#)

October 15, 2020, Sea Power

S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday conducted a phone call Oct. 15 with the chief of the French navy Adm. Pierre Vandier, the CNO's public affairs said in a release.

[Israel hopes to collaborate with US on anti-missile lasers](#)

October 13, 2020, Defense News

Israel's Missile Defense Organization is looking to develop directed-energy capabilities, and is in early talks with the Pentagon about collaborating on those efforts, according to agency director Moshe Patel.

[Pompeo urges Saudi Arabia to consider normalizing relations with Israel](#)

October 14, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Saudi Arabia to consider normalizing relations with Israel as he met with the Gulf country's foreign minister, also saying that Washington supports a "robust program of arms sales" to it.

[Pompeo criticizes Turkey's involvement in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict](#)

October 16, 2020, Reuters

S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Turkey's involvement in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has increased the risk in the region, reiterating his call for the issue to be resolved through diplomacy.

[Mnuchin says coronavirus aid deal unlikely before U.S. election, will keep trying](#)

October 15, 2020, Reuters

S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said he and House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi were "far apart" on another coronavirus economic relief package, and that a deal would be hard to reach before the Nov. 3 elections, but he would keep trying.

[A World of Geopolitical Opportunity](#)

October. 12, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

In some ways, America's global position is stronger than in 2016. This is not an endorsement of President Trump's foreign policy. As is often the case in U.S. history, our opportunities have less to do with anything our diplomatic establishment has or has not done than with the intersection of the dynamism of American society and the advantages of the U.S. geographical position.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU and Britain to keep talking past Johnson's Brexit deadline](#)

October 14, 2020, Reuters

The European Union and Britain are set to prolong Brexit talks past a mid-October deadline to try bridge stubborn gaps holding up a new trade agreement, according to sources and documents.

[EU to sanction Russians over Navalny poisoning, diplomats say](#)

October 12, 2020, Reuters

European Union foreign ministers backed a Franco-German plan to impose sanctions on Russians suspected of poisoning Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent, diplomats said.

[European Union leaders divided over new climate goals for 2030](#)

October 16, 2020, Hindustan Times

Leaders discussed the proposal from the bloc's executive arm on the first day of an EU summit in Brussels, and came to the conclusion that the updated goal should be achieved "collectively" to take into account the different energy mixes of member states.

[Germany, France say Turkey's 'provocation' warrants EU response](#)

October 15, 2020, Deutsche Welle

The top diplomats of Germany and France have said Turkey needs to reopen dialogue over its redeployment of a gas exploration vessel in the eastern Mediterranean or potentially face a tough response from the EU.

[Jaishankar & Portuguese counterpart hold talks, agree to boost defence, trade ties](#)

October 14, 2020, The Print

At a virtual meeting, S. Jaishankar and Augusto Santos Silva talked about ways to expand bilateral cooperation in a range of areas, including migration.

[Hardeep Puri Interacts With Envoys From EU Member States, Talks Of Opportunities Created Due To COVID-19 Disruptions](#)

October 15, 2020, Business World

Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had a video conference with Ambassador of European Union to India Ugo Astuto and envoys from 27 EU member states and outlined comprehensive steps taken by India to deal with

COVID-19 and opportunities created in the wake of disruptions caused by the pandemic.

[France and Netherlands Back EU Plans to Rein in Tech Giants](#)

October 15, 2020, Bloomberg Quint

France and the Netherlands have proposed giving European regulators powers to stop large tech platforms abusing their dominant position.

[France appoints first envoy for Indo-Pacific, to focus on cooperation with India](#)

October 14, 2020, Hindustan Times

In a sign of France's greater focus on the Indian Ocean and the increasingly assertive behaviour of China across the region, President Emmanuel Macron has appointed the country's first ambassador for the Indo-Pacific.

[India, France re-elected as president, co-president of solar alliance](#)

October 14, 2020, Business Standard

India and France were re-elected as president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at its third assembly, an official statement said.

Russia

[China and Russia win seats on UN rights council, Saudis lose](#)

Oct 14, 2020, Hindustan Times

China, Russia and Cuba won seats on the UN's premiere human rights body despite opposition from activist groups over their abysmal human rights records, but another target, Saudi Arabia, lost.

[Russia, Turkey agree on strict adherence to Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire as tensions rise](#)

October 15, 2020, CGTN

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan escalated , as both sides exchanged accusations and claims of new attacks over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, where heavy fighting is continuing for a third week despite a Russia-brokered cease-fire deal.

[EU to sanction Russians over Navalny poisoning, diplomats say](#)

October 12, 2020, Reuters

European Union foreign ministers backed a Franco-German plan to impose sanctions on Russians suspected of poisoning Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny with a nerve agent, diplomats said.

[Russia vows to 'respond in kind' to EU sanctions on Putin aides](#)

October 15, 2020, Deutsche Welle

"The EU with this step has harmed relations with our country," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, describing the EU's actions as a "consciously unfriendly step" and promising retaliation. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov responded to the sanctions by threatening that Russia would take a similar course of action.

[Putin introduces draft bill on creation of State Council to Russian parliament](#)

October 15, 2020, TASS

Russian President Vladimir Putin has introduced a draft bill on the status and formation of the State Council to the Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament). The bill also expands on the meaning of a united system of public governance.

[Russia prioritizes unconditional extension of New START – ambassador](#)

October 16, 2020, TASS

Russia prioritizes the unconditional extension of New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), Russian Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov said during a session of the US-Russia Business Council. His address was published on the embassy's Facebook.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Venezuelan coal exports rise as U.S. escalates oil sanctions](#)

October 13, 2020, Reuters

Venezuela is ramping up its production and export of coal to European nations, according to export figures and vessel tracking data, as it seeks new sources of foreign currency amid tightening U.S. sanctions aimed at toppling President Nicolas Maduro.

[Venezuela's crisis threatens nearby democracies](#)

October 14, 2020, US Embassy in Georgia

Democracy must be restored in Venezuela because undermining a democracy anywhere is a threat to democracy everywhere, experts say.

[Argentina, Running Low on Dollars, Faces Fresh Economic Turmoil](#)

October 15, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

After more than four decades selling tires for cars, trucks and buses across Argentina, Edgardo Guerrini's company now sits idle because authorities are refusing to grant import permits for his products.

[Tensions from water-sharing deal with U.S. boil over in Mexico](#)

October 15, 2020, Arkansas Online

The standoff is the culmination of long-standing tensions over water between the United States and Mexico that have recently exploded into violence, pitting Mexican farmers against their own president and the global superpower next door. Negotiating the exchange of water between the two countries has long been strained, but rising temperatures and long droughts have made the shared rivers along the border more valuable than ever, intensifying the stakes for both nations.

[Bolsonaro Weighs Huawei Ban From 5G Network, Cabinet Member Says](#)

October 15, 2020, Bloomberg

President Jair Bolsonaro is considering banning Huawei Technologies Co. from supplying components to Brazil's upcoming 5G network because he sees China as a global threat to data privacy and sovereignty, according to a senior member of his cabinet.

[Mexico's ex-defense minister detained in US on DEA orders](#)

October 16, 2020, Hindustan Times

Mexico's former defense minister, General Salvador Cienfuegos, was detained by U.S. authorities on the Drug Enforcement Administration's orders, the country's most senior military official involved in an investigation by the narcotics-fighting agency.

[Guatemala to verify report on US agents 'unauthorised' operation](#)

October 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Guatemalan government has announced it would launch a process to verify and analyse a report by a United States Senate committee, which alleged that US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel engaged in an "unauthorised" operation in Guatemala, rounding up Honduran migrants.

Africa

[South Africa's president unveils \\$60bn plan to boost economy](#)

October 15, 2020, Al Jazeera

South Africa will embark on a major public works and job-creation drive in response to the coronavirus crisis, President Cyril Ramaphosa said, unveiling a plan to return Africa's most industrialised economy to growth.

[Wang Yi: China-Africa ties will never stop moving forward](#)

October 16, 2020, CGTN

China-Africa relationship will never stop moving forward and the development of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will never pause, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed

[The Bank of Africa signs a new "Chinese" agreement](#)

October 15, 2020, CGTN Africa

The Bank of Africa, through its branch in Shanghai, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce for the Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products. (CCCME).

[UN signs new cooperation agreement with Somalia](#)

October 15, 2020, Andolou Agency

The UN signed a cooperation agreement with Somalia on working together over the next five years for achieving "peace, stability and prosperity for all Somalis," according to a UN statement.

[How Egypt perceives Ethiopia's ban of flights over Nile dam](#)

October 11, 2020, Al -Monitor

Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia have been for nearly a decade engaged in an open conflict over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which Addis Ababa is building on the Blue Nile to generate hydroelectric power.

[Sudan moves to normalise relations with Israel under US pressure, says report](#)

October 15, 2020, Middle East Eye.net

Sudan's ruling council has reportedly decided to move ahead with normalising diplomatic relations with Israel following a 24-hour deadline imposed by the United States government.

[Zimbabwe asks South Africa to extradite former minister](#)

October 12, 2020, Andolou Agency

Zimbabwe has asked South Africa to extradite a former Zimbabwean minister to be tried for abuse of power when he was a public officer, local media reported.

[Zambia resists Chinese pressure on arrears](#)

October 13, 2020, Financial Times

Zambia has said it will resist pressure from Chinese creditors to make paying arrears a condition of pursuing debt relief talks, as the southern African nation battles to restructure \$11bn of external debts. Africa's second-biggest copper producer has become a test case for the ability of poor and indebted nations to find debt relief as they grapple with the health and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Its negotiations illustrate the limitations of a G20 agreement to halt payments this year by these countries to official bilateral creditors.



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