



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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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

[Pentagon Worries About Chinese Buildup Near India](#)

December 15, 2021, Foreign Policy

The U.S. Defense Department is newly concerned about China's further military buildup near the demarcation line across its Himalayan border with India, a senior defense official told Foreign Policy, after Beijing deployed long-range strategic bombers to the area last month in another apparent warning to New Delhi.

[Standing Committee on Defence recommends three aircraft carriers for Navy](#)

December 16, 2021, The Economic Times

Making a strong recommendation that the Navy should have three aircraft carriers, the standing committee on defence has suggested that future acquisition plans need to take into consideration the requirement to enhance combat capabilities. The committee also went into the details of winter clothing for troops posted on the northern borders and bulletproof jackets for soldiers but the replies of the government have been deemed as classified and were redacted from the reports.

[India Seeks Its Own Solar Industry to Counter China](#)

The Wall Street Journal, December 15, 2021

Until recently, one of India's largest renewable energy developers was focused on building massive solar farms using cheap panels imported from China. Now, in an abrupt turn, ReNew Energy Global PLC and its compatriots are planning to make the panels and components themselves, part of an all-out campaign by India to break China's lock on the solar supply chain.

[India votes against UN bid to 'securitise' climate action](#)

Deccan Chronicle, December 14, 2021

India late on Monday evening voted against a UN Security Council (UNSC) draft resolution on climate change and security co-authored by Ireland and Niger that sought to link climate change and security. According to reports, the draft resolution was also vetoed by Russia. New Delhi argued that the draft resolution sought to put the responsibility on combating climate change on the UNSC when commitments already exist under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adding that the motive was so that "decisions can be taken without involvement of most developing countries without recognising consensus" and that "a few states will have a free hand in deciding on all climate-related issues".

[The growth of India's defence exports](#)

December 16, 2021, The Hindu

How much have the defence sales from India increased in the past five years? What are the factors which contributed to the growth?

The story so far: India's defence exports have increased from ₹1,521 crore in 2016-17 to ₹8,434.84 crore in 2020-21. The figure stood at ₹10,745 crore in 2018-19. The Government has set an ambitious target to achieve exports of about ₹35,000 crore (\$5 billion) in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025.

[India Must Immediately Develop Hypersonic Cruise Missiles: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh](#)

December 14, 2021, NDTV

"In order to maintain a minimum credible deterrence, we (India) have to immediately think about hypersonic cruise missile development. It will be a revolutionary step in our defence sector and we all have to put our efforts into it," Rajnath Singh said.

[French defence minister in India to discuss security, cooperation](#)

December 17, 2021, Mint

French defence minister Florence Parly visited India on Friday to discuss issues ranging from maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, to industrial and technological partnership in line with the "Make in India" programme, and cooperation on counter terrorism.

Pakistan

[EU panel chides World Bank over Pakistan energy woes](#)

December 11, 2021, Dawn

A European think tank has blamed the World Bank for a role in Pakistan's energy sector problems over the decades and for rushing through a long-term power generation plan based on dirty and expensive fuels under its 'prior actions' of loan programmes.

[ADB okays \\$685m loans for Pakistan](#)

December 11, 2021, Dawn

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved two policy and project loans worth \$685 million for Pakistan's energy sector reforms and improvement of health and civic facilities.

[SSGC to suspend gas supply to non-export industries from 11th](#)

December 11, 2021, The News

The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) announced that the gas supply to the non-export industries of Sindh and Balochistan will be suspended from December 11 to ensure supply to domestic consumers. A statement issued by the SSGC spokesperson said that the decision has been made in line with the gas load management plan approved by the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division).

[Pakistan sets up Afghanistan Relief Fund](#)

December 11, 2021, The News

Pakistan has established "Afghanistan Relief Fund" for receiving donations from both domestic and international donors to help the war-ravaged country in a bid to avert a humanitarian crisis.

[Sialkot lynching case: Court remands 18 more in police custody for 15 days](#)

December 14, 2021, The News

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Gujranwala granted 15-day physical remand of 18 more accused in Sri Lankan citizens Priyantha Kumara killing case. The Punjab government decided to hold trials of all the suspects named in the case inside the prison and asked its administration to make the necessary arrangements for it.

[Pak-Saudi military exercise Al-Kassah-III begins](#)

December 14, 2021, The News

The opening ceremony of exercise "Al-Kassah-III Joint Military Counter IED" was held at the King Khalid Military City Hafar Al-Batin, Saudi Arabia. The Royal Land Saudi Forces and Pakistan Army troops practiced various drills, including counter IED operations, searching of routes, compound clearance, vehicle clearance, explosive handling and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). This is the third joint military exercise of the Al-Kassah series between the two countries for enhancing EOD skills in the counter IED domain adopting best practices.

[Gwadar sit-in ends as govt accepts demands](#)

December 17, 2021, The News

After over a month of protests from the people of Gwadar who were demanding their fundamental rights, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman, the leader of the sit-in, has decided to call off the protest after negotiations with the government.

[Pakistan reaches out to US after skipping Democracy Summit](#)

December 14, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan has reached out to the United States with a message that skipping the Democracy Summit does not mean the country has joined any bloc or has no interest in the bilateral relationship with Washington. Days after Pakistan declined invitation for the democracy summit, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi spoke to US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman and explained Pakistan's position regarding its decision not to attend the summit.

[Deadlines for 5 projects extended](#)

December 16, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan has extended project completion deadlines of five Chinese power plants having a generation capacity of 3,600 megawatts amid slow progress on other issues hindering new Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

[OIC-CFM: Over 24 FMs, P5 envoys confirm participation](#)

December 17, 2021, The Express Tribune

More than two-dozen countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have confirmed their participation at the foreign ministerial level in the upcoming extraordinary session on the current Afghan situation. Senior diplomats from the permanent members of the UN Security Council, including the US, will also join the crucial meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Islamabad on December 19.

Afghanistan

[World Bank says donors approve release of \\$280 million for Afghanistan](#)

December 12, 2021, The News

Donors agreed to transfer \$280 million from a frozen, trust fund to the World Food Program (WFP) and UNICEF to support nutrition and health in Afghanistan, the World Bank said as it seeks to help a country facing famine and economic freefall. The World Bank-administered Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund will this year give \$180 million to WFP to scale up food security and nutrition operations and \$100 million to UNICEF to provide essential health services, the bank said in a statement.

[Taliban seek world's 'mercy and compassion' to help Afghans](#)

December 14, 2021, The News

Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers are committed in principle to education and jobs for girls and women, a marked departure from their previous time in

power, and they seek the world's "mercy and compassion" to help millions of Afghans in desperate need, a top Taliban leader said in a rare interview.

[US sets up commission on Afghanistan failures](#)

December 16, 2021, The News

The US Congress voted to set up a commission to assess the failures of the 20-year war in Afghanistan following the Taliban's victory. The commission was part of a \$768 billion annual defense package passed by the Senate 89-10 after similarly overwhelming approval last week by the House of Representatives.

[Afghan Taliban reject TTP's claim it's part of IEA](#)

December 12, 2021, Dawn

The Afghan Taliban have rejected the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claim that it is a 'branch' of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), the regime in charge in Kabul, asserting that the two organisations do not share the same objectives.

[Taliban behind 72 extrajudicial killings, says UN](#)

December 15, 2021, Dawn

The UN said there were "credible allegations" of more than 100 extrajudicial killings in Afghanistan since the Taliban took power in August, with most carried out by the country's new rulers. United Nations deputy rights chief Nada Al-Nashif said she was deeply alarmed by continuing reports of such killings, despite a general amnesty announced by the Taliban after their August 15 takeover.

[Evacuation of Indians and Afghans under 'Operation Devi Shakti' and shipment of humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan](#)

December 11, 2021, MEA India

A special flight from Kabul to New Delhi, chartered by the Government of India, arrived at the IGI airport at New Delhi on December 10. The flight brought 10 Indians and 94 Afghans, including members of Afghan minority community. The minority community members carried with them 2 Swaroops of Guru Granth Sahib and some ancient Hindu manuscripts.

In view of the challenging humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Government of India has dispatched humanitarian assistance consisting of medical supplies on the return flight. These medicines handed over to the representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Kabul.

Bangladesh

[India-Bangladesh close bond based on age-old ties of kinship, culture, says President Kovind](#)

December 17, 2021, The Print

The President, before concluding his trip to Dhaka, noted that the country is committed to assisting Bangladesh in its efforts to achieve strong economic growth.

[Both China and U.S. are fighting in Bangladesh for political loyalties](#)

December 15, 2021, The Northlines

In Bangladesh, China backs the ruling Awami League (AL) while Western countries, led by the US and the EU, are becoming increasingly more supportive of the main opposition outfit, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

[Chinese firms linked to CPEC projects evade tax commitments in Bangladesh](#)

December 18, 2021, Business Standard

China has suffered another blow as Chinese companies have violated the laws of the land in Bangladesh causing loss to the exchequer.

Nepal

[China-Nepal freight train service launched, links Qinghai, Kathmandu](#)

December 16, 2021, Global Times

The China-South Asia freight train service linking Haidong, Northwest China's Qinghai Province and Nepal has been launched, beefing up the country's ever-expanding rail freight network, which has made the China-Europe freight train service a calling card of the country's logistics prowess despite the pandemic.

[China's Land Border Law Consequences for Nepal, China](#)

December 15, 2021, Daily Excelsior

China has enacted a new "Land Borders Law" in October 2021. The law aims to strengthen civil-military contact and coordination in order to safeguard China's territorial sovereignty and land borders. Although China has stated that this law will have no effect on current border accords and cooperation, it contains various sections that could further scare small and weak neighbouring governments such as Nepal and Bhutan.

[Some forces out to spoil India-Nepal ties but Modi govt wouldn't let it happen: Rajnath Singh](#)

December 15, 2021, The Print

Addressing a ceremony in Dehradun, Defence Minister Rajanath Singh said India won't let its relations with Nepal get jeopardised or snapped even if 'we have to keep our heads bowed'.

Sri Lanka

[Beijing bares it in Jaffna, warms up to Tamils in Sri Lanka](#)

December 17, 2021, The Indian Express

Days after announcing that a Chinese solar company had found a new client in the Maldives because security concerns of a "third party" had led to the suspension of its project on three islands off Jaffna peninsula, Ambassador Qi is touring Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated Northern Province, wooing an ethnic minority that has traditionally been close to India.

[Why India should stop looking at every Sri Lankan move through the China lens](#)

December 17, 2021, The Economic Times

During Sri Lankan Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa's visit to India earlier this month, the two nations reportedly agreed to work out a cooperation package that involves broad-based engagement across sectors like food, energy and investments, and an offer of currency swap to address Sri Lanka's balance of payments crisis.

East & South East Asia

China

[Editor of Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece retires](#)

December 16, 2021, Al Jazeera

Hu Xijin has retired as editor-in-chief of the Communist Party's Global Times newspaper, where he has been one of China's most influential propagandists over the past 16 years.

[India rebalances between US, Russia, but China strategy remains unchanged](#)

December 15, 2021, Global Times

Since Narendra Modi began his second term as India's prime minister in 2019, one of the defining features of India's foreign strategy has been upgrading relations with the US, Japan and Australia as well as promoting the "Indo-Pacific" strategy to balance China.

[US Senate passes massive war budget, escalates provocations over Taiwan question](#)

December 16, 2021, Global Times

The US Congress passed a national defense bill which created a new record of \$770 billion budget, with \$7.1 billion allocated toward beefing up the US position against China, as well as provisions concerning the island of Taiwan including inviting it to a multilateral naval exercise.

[China reveals upgraded J-15 fighter jet; key aircraft carrier roles expected](#)

December 16, 2021, Global Times

China recently revealed an upgraded version of the J-15 ship-borne fighter jet that has just wrapped up test flights, with reports saying the new aircraft received enhancements in its missile pylons, the infrared search and track system, the radar and the wings.

[Russia's Putin, China's Xi hail ties amid tensions with West](#)

December 15, 2021, Al Jazeera

Leaders hold virtual summit as Putin declares Russia-China relations 'a proper example of interstate cooperation'.

[China-Cambodia trade volume exceeds \\$10b](#)

December 17, 2021, CGTN

Bilateral trade volume between China and Cambodia rose 45.9 percent to \$10.98 billion in the first 10 months of this year, hitting the target of \$10 billion, China's Ministry of Commerce said. The two countries had previously committed to reaching the \$10 billion threshold by 2023.

[Xi Jinping Doesn't Know What to Do After Popping a Real-Estate Bubble](#)

The Wall Street Journal, December 16, 2021

Xi Jinping wants you to know he's got China's economy under control—a point he re-emphasized last week when the Communist Party released its top-level economic strategy for next year. However, China's economy has reached a perilous phase. Data for November, released this week, show investment and consumption slowing. New home prices are gliding downward, and property investment is letting up. The one bright spot, an uptick in industrial production, isn't all that bright.

[China was already facing an economic slowdown in 2022. Now here comes Omicron](#)

December 15, 2021, CNN

China's economy is still struggling with real estate woes and fallout from sporadic Covid-19 lockdowns. Throw the global spread of the Omicron variant into the mix and it could be looking at a sharp slowdown next year. Government data released Wednesday showed trouble spots for the world's second largest economy in November. Residential housing prices fell for a third consecutive month, a sign that an ongoing property crisis continues to deepen.

[Xi Jinping's Leadership Style: Micromanagement That Leaves Underlings Scrambling](#)

The Wall Street Journal, December 15, 2021

Earlier this year, Xi Jinping issued brief instructions to education officials in Beijing. China's leader wanted to reform the country's \$100 billion private tutoring industry, which the state worried was helping well-to-do families gain advantages for their offspring and creating anxiety among families that couldn't afford the help. Education officials drafted a plan that included new limits on tutoring for children up to the equivalent of ninth grade, said people familiar with the effort. The plan was too soft, Mr. Xi said, in a one-sentence note to the education ministry, according to the people.

[China urges 'hardest-hit' solar firms to fight against US, India trade restrictions](#)

South China Morning Post, December 15, 2021

The US House of Representatives passed legislation that would ban goods coming from the Xinjiang region. India earlier this year announced a 40 per cent levy on imports of solar modules to cut dependence on foreign supplies

[US hits China with new trade curbs and sanctions over forced Uyghur labour](#)

The Guardian, December 17, 2021

The United States has unleashed a volley of actions to censure China's treatment of the Uyghur minority, with lawmakers voting to curb trade and issuing new sanctions on Beijing. The United States has been ramping up pressure on China amid a crop of disputes, with president Joe Biden's administration a day earlier targeting producers of painkillers that have contributed to America's addiction crisis.

Japan

[Japan's Foreign Ministry to create senior post for Taiwan-related issues](#)

December 17, 2021, The Japan Times

The Foreign Ministry said Friday it will create a post for a senior official who will exclusively deal with issues related to Taiwan, as tensions escalate between the self-ruled democratic island and China. The ministry revealed the plan at a meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Foreign Affairs Division, according to Masahisa Sato, a House of Councillors lawmaker.

[Kishida maiden visit to U.S. to be delayed to 2022](#)

December 17, 2021, Nikkei Asia

The Japanese government looks to have failed in securing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's first visit in office to Washington within the year and will now explore opportunities in January or beyond. Most of Japan's new leaders have received invitations to the White House within weeks of assuming office, and Tokyo had hoped to squeeze in a visit after the extraordinary Diet session here ends on Dec. 21.

[Japan's foreign minister should visit China: Taro Kono](#)

December 14, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Taro Kono, public relations chief of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, expressed concern regarding the mounting opposition toward Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi's planned first visit to China. "Diplomacy is not something you do by lobbing slogans at each other," the former foreign and defense minister said in a speech Monday in Tokyo. "If the foreign ministers can't talk, that is definitely not an ideal situation."

[Kishida reverses government's position on cash handout](#)

December 13, 2021, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida formally acknowledged on Monday that the administration will permit municipalities to distribute ¥100,000 handouts fully in cash by the end of the year, reversing their original plan that would allocate only half in cash within this year and the other half in coupons next spring for eligible households with children up to 18 years old.

[U.S.-Japan alliance needs stronger deterrence, top diplomats say](#)

December 12, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken agreed on Saturday on the need to fortify their countries' alliance amid a tougher regional security environment, a Japanese government official said. Hayashi and Blinken held talks on the sidelines of a meeting of Group of Seven foreign ministers in the English city of Liverpool.

Korea

[South Korean media consumption top reason for execution in North Korea: Report](#)

December 15, 2021, NK News

The plurality of public executions in North Korea under Kim Jong Un have been a consequence of watching or distributing South Korean videos, according to a new research report published on Wednesday. The investigation by the Seoul-based Transnational Justice Working Group (TJWG) aims to map public execution sites over the past 10 years, and it follows new laws introduced in North Korea in 2020 that increase penalties for consuming or sharing South Korean media.

[South Korea deploys 30mm wheeled anti-aircraft gun](#)

December 15, 2021, The Korea Times

South Korea's military has started deploying a homegrown 30 mm-caliber wheeled anti-aircraft gun for field operations under a project to replace decades-old Vulcan cannons, the state arms procurement agency. Developed in 2019, the new gun will supplant the 20mm cannons that the country's Army, Air Force and Marine Corps have operated for over 40 years, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said.

[Korea, Uzbekistan promise stronger ties for raw material trade, energy infrastructure](#)

December 17, 2021, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in and his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev pledged to strengthen their two countries' cooperation in rare metal trading and energy infrastructure, as part of Moon's bid to improve the industrial stability of Korea, which has few raw materials and is thus vulnerable to impacts on global supply chains.

[Seoul has 'much more to offer' in the global chip supply chain: US diplomat](#)

December 17, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea is an essential partner in the global semiconductor supply chain and has much more to offer, a visiting senior US diplomat in charge of economic and trade policy said Friday. Jose Fernandez, US undersecretary of state for economic growth, energy and the environment, made the remark at the start of the sixth Senior Economic Dialogue with Second Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-moon.

[S. Korea's ICT exports hit a new monthly high in Nov.](#)

December 14, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea's exports of information and communication technology (ICT) products touched a new monthly high in November on brisk global demand for chips and displays, data showed Tuesday. Outbound shipments of ICT products reached \$21.49 billion last month, up 30 percent from a year earlier, according to the data from the Ministry of Science and ICT.

Southeast Asia

[US plans ASEAN summit, weighs new sanctions against Myanmar](#)

December 15, 2021, Al Jazeera

US secretary of state says the proposed summit will cover issues such as Myanmar, climate change, COVID-19 and investment.

[Indonesia cites strong US commitment as Blinken starts ASEAN tour](#)

December 13, 2021, Al Jazeera

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to deliver a speech Tuesday in Jakarta on Washington's approach to Indo-Pacific.

[Vietnam seeks India's partnership for Fourth Industrial Revolution](#)

December 17, 2021, The Economic Times

Vietnam is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) has opened up a plethora of opportunities. To celebrate five years of CSP, President of the National Assembly of Vietnam Vuong Dinh Hue is visiting India. In a wide ranging interview with ET's Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury Hue suggested promotion of investments including in the digital sphere to usher in Fourth Industrial Revolution in Vietnam.

[Parliamentary delegation led by National Assembly of Vietnam chairman meet LS Speaker Om Birla](#)

December 16, 2021, India Today

A Parliamentary delegation led by the Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in New Delhi.

[Indonesia and India Discuss Joint Military Production](#)

December 14, 2021, The Defense Post

During a recent meeting between India's deputy national security adviser Pankaj Saran and Indonesian defence minister Prabowo Subianto, it was revealed that the nations are discussing the joint production of military vehicles and equipment.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakh President Gives Awards To Predecessor's Close Associates, Relatives](#)

December 13, 2021, RFE/RL

Kazakh President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev has awarded close associates and relatives of his predecessor, Nursultan Nazarbaev, who continues to wield power ahead of the 30th anniversary of the former Soviet republic's independence.

[Uzbekistan begins flights to secluded Sokh enclave](#)

December 13, 2021, Eurasianet

Regular scheduled flights from the capital of Uzbekistan's Fergana region to the nearby exclave of Sokh got underway on December 12, providing residents a valuable lifeline out of seclusion.

[Former Kyrgyz President In Bishkek Again For Questioning Over Kumtor Mine](#)

December 14, 2021, RFE/RL

The ousted first president of independent Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akaev, has arrived in Bishkek for the second time since August for questioning in connection with an investigation into possible corruption around one of the world's biggest gold mines.

[Tajik President's Daughter Becomes Ambassador To UK](#)

December 15, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon on December 15 appointed his third daughter, Ruhshona Rahmonova, to be the country's ambassador to Britain. Several other close relatives of Rahmon, who has nine children, occupy important official positions or control lucrative businesses in Tajikistan.

[Kazakhstan: New Baikonur launch facility to be named after Nazarbayev](#)

December 15, 2021, Eurasianet

A rocket launch facility set to begin construction next year in southern Kazakhstan is to be named after former president Nursultan Nazarbayev, a senior official has said. The Nazarbayev Start, which is being built jointly with Russia at the Baikonur cosmodrome, will accommodate new-generation craft designed to have a reduced environmental impact.

[Kazakhstan Tightens Security To Prevent Mass Protests On Independence Day](#)

December 16, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Security measures have been beefed up in Kazakhstan's largest city, Almaty, to prevent mass protests as the country marks the 30th anniversary of

independence. Almaty's Republic Square and major streets nearby were cordoned off by police on December 16, while Internet access was blocked in the area.

West Asia

[Saudi Arabia Bans Tablighi Jamaat, Calls It 'One of The Gates of Terrorism'](#)

December 12, 2021, The Economic Times

Saudi Arabia has banned the Tablighi Jamaat, terming it a "danger to society" and "one of the gates of terrorism".

[General Rawat Was A True Leader, True Friend of Israel: Prime Minister Bennett](#)

December 09, 2021, The Economic Times

Describing General Bipin Rawat as a "true leader and true friend" of Israel, the country's top leadership has expressed condolences to the government and people of India at the "tragic and shocking loss" of its first Chief of Defence Staff who died in a helicopter crash.

[PM Modi May Visit UAE, Kuwait in January 2022 To Strengthen Ties](#)

December 08, 2021, Hindustan Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to open his foreign visit calendar in 2022 with trips to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, both trusted allies, early in January.

[PM Modi Could Announce India-UAE CEPA in Jan 2022 During Proposed UAE Trip](#)

December 10, 2021, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi could announce India's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the UAE during his proposed visit to the Gulf country early January.

[US Sanctions on Iran Have No Bearing on India's Chabahar Port Project: Government](#)

December 10, 2021, The Indian Express

The US sanctions on Iran have not affected India's Chabahar port project, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar told Lok Sabha.

[US Combat Role in Iraq Complete; Invitation From Iraq Reaffirmed To Advise, Assist, Enable](#)

December 09, 2021, US Central Command (CENTCOM)

Combined Joint Task Force – Inherent Resolve, the international force charged with maintaining the enduring defeat of Daesh, announced today that it has

completed its transition to a non-combat mission before year's end as agreed. The new mission is to advise, assist, and enable Iraqi forces.

[CENTCOM General Says US Troops To Remain in Iraq, Warns of Increased Attacks From Iran-backed Militias](#)

December 10, 2021, India Today

The top US commander for the Middle East has said the United States will keep the current 2,500 troops in Iraq for the foreseeable future, and he warned that he expects increasing attacks on US and Iraqi personnel by Iranian-backed militias determined to get American forces out.

[G7 Urges Iran To Agree Nuclear Deal, Warns Russia Against Invasion of Ukraine](#)

December 12, 2021, France 24

The G7 said time was running out for Iran to agree a deal to curb its nuclear ambitions, and warned Russia of "massive" consequences if it invades Ukraine.

[Israel, US To Discuss Military Drills To Prep For Worst-Case Iran Scenario, US Says](#)

December 09, 2021, The Times of Israel

Israeli and American military leaders are set to discuss possible military drills to practice destroying Iranian nuclear facilities in a potential worst-case scenario, a senior US official said.

[Israeli PM Naftali Bennett Begins First Official Visit To UAE](#)

December 12, 2021, AL Jazeera

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has arrived in the United Arab Emirates to meet the Gulf state's de facto ruler, in the first-ever visit to the UAE by an Israeli prime minister. PM Bennett will meet Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan.

[Saudi Crown Prince's Gulf Tour: A New Start for Cooperation](#)

December 12, 2021, Asharq AL-Awsat

The final statements on the five stops of the tour confirmed the common points agreed upon by the leaders of the six countries to enhance the security and stability of the Gulf region, develop their economies, and achieve Gulf visions.

[US Congress Allows Saudi Arabia Weapons Sale to Proceed](#)

December 08, 2021, AL Jazeera

The United States Senate has blocked a resolution that would have banned a \$650m sale of missiles and missile launchers to Saudi Arabia.

[Halliburton Says The World is Entering a Period of Oil Scarcity](#)

December 06, 2021, Reuters

Oilfield services firm Halliburton said the world was headed for a period of oil scarcity following years of underinvestment in fossil fuel development.

United States

United States

[US Senate overwhelmingly passes massive defence spending bill](#)

December 15, 2021, Al Jazeera

Legislation, which still needs President Joe Biden's final approval, authorises \$777bn in United States defence spending.

[US Navy tests laser weapon in Gulf of Aden](#)

December 15, 2021, Al Monitor

The USS Portland fired the prototype laser at a floating training target, the Navy said in a statement.

[US, Israel convene economic policy group for 1st time under Biden administration](#)

December 16, 2021, The Times of Israel

US says both sides discussed bilateral ties, building on 'normalization agreements,' and strengthening Palestinian economy; Israeli readout leaves out latter

[China Market falls on Sino-US trade tension](#)

December 17, 2021, Business Standard

The Mainland China share market finished session lower on Friday, 17 December 2021, on renewed Sino-US trade tension after the US sanctioned more Chinese tech companies and added others to a blacklist for alleged human rights abuses in the far-west Xinjiang region.

[Trudeau orders ministers to take harder line on U.S. trade](#)

December 17, 2021, jwn energy

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is instructing his top economic ministers to take tough positions on trade issues amid growing disputes with the U.S., potentially signaling a more protectionist approach from Canada.

[US Naval support site in Italy locked down on report of shooting](#)

December 17, 2021, Business Standard

A US Navy support site in Naples, Italy, was put on lockdown Thursday after reports of gunfire on the premises. Base spokesman Lt Cmdr Matthew Comer said the Naples support site was put on lockdown around 6:25 pm (1725GMT) after reports of audible gunfire. The reports were still being verified.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[China getting more and more aggressive: French Defence Minister on Indo-Pacific](#)

December 17, 2021, The Hindu

The French Defence Minister said China is a major country and there are areas where cooperation can be envisaged and developed including in fighting against climate change.

[EU countries agree to take in 40,000 Afghan refugees](#)

December 9, 2021, Al Jazeera

Group of 15 EU member states agree to resettle Afghans, with Germany accepting the bulk of new arrivals, commissioner says.

[EU institutions agree priorities for 2022 for a resilient and reinvigorated EU](#)

December 16, 2021, EU Council

On Thursday, European Parliament President David Sassoli, Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša, on behalf of the Presidency of the Council, and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen signed the Joint Declaration on EU legislative priorities for 2022. The Declaration sets out the institutions' shared vision for a transformed, more resilient Europe. It demonstrates the institutions' determination to enable the EU to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic and the dramatic consequences of climate change and other global crises.

[Ready to provide additional Rafale jets to India: France](#)

December 17, 2021, Hindustan Times

Indo-France industrial and technological partnership is expected to form an integral part of the talks today between defence minister Rajnath Singh and his French counterpart Florence Parly.

[EU Leaders Fail to Agree on Energy Amid Carbon Price Dispute](#)

December 17, 2021, Bloomberg

European Union leaders failed to reach a deal on how to react to the unprecedented gas crisis that sent energy prices to record levels after Poland and the Czech Republic demanded stronger action to cap the costs of pollution.

[Russia Ukraine: EU warns Moscow of 'severe cost' of aggression](#)

December 17, 2021, BBC

EU leaders have warned Russia that action against Ukraine will result in "massive consequences" and a "severe cost" amid worries over the build-up of Russian forces on the Ukrainian border.

[U.S. Pushes EU to Ready Russia Sanctions on Energy and Banks](#)

December 17, 2021, Bloomberg

The Biden administration is pushing European Union allies to finalize a broad package of sanctions against Russian banks and energy companies that could be imposed jointly with the U.S. if the Kremlin attacked Ukraine, according to people familiar with the discussions.

Russia

[India may be first foreign buyer of Russia's advanced S-500 air defense system](#)

December 13, 2021, TASS News Agency

India may be the first foreign buyer of Russia's most advanced S-500 'Prometei' anti-aircraft missile system, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov told the RBC TV Channel.

[Russia Vetoes UN Resolution Linking Climate Change To Global Security](#)

December 14, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia has vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution that sought to formally link climate change and global security. The resolution, drafted by Niger and Ireland, called for "information on the security implications of climate change" to be addressed by the Security Council.

[Putin Hails Russia-China Ties as '21st Century Example' in Talks with 'Friend' Xi](#)

December 15, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed Moscow's ties with Beijing as an "example for the 21st century" during talks with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Putin spoke with Xi by videoconference for the second time this year as their countries continue to see high tensions with the West over a range of thorny military and political issues.

[Cooperation with Chinese, Indian intelligence is of particular value – SVR director](#)

December 15, 2021, TASS News Agency

The Russian foreign intelligence has the closest relations with the agencies of the CIS and SCO countries, while the cooperation with India and China is of

particular value, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), Sergey Naryshkin said in an interview.

[Kremlin Says Moscow Handed Security-Guarantee Proposals To U.S.](#)

December 15, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia has presented the United States with a set of proposals for binding Western security guarantees during a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Karen Donfried in Moscow on December 15, the Kremlin said.

[Russia Moves to Abolish Regional 'Presidency'](#)

December 15, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian lawmakers passed legislation abolishing regional presidencies in a move analysts described as the end of Russia as a "federation." The move, which needs President Vladimir Putin's signature to become law, directly affects the republic of Tatarstan east of Moscow, where the regional leader holds the formal title of "president."

[Russia Developing New Hypersonic Strategic Systems, Strategic Missile Forces Announce](#)

December 17, 2021, Sputnik News

Russia is developing new hypersonic strategic systems that will replace the Avangard glide vehicles when the United States finds an antidote for them, Col. Gen. Sergei Karakaev, the commander of the Strategic Missile Forces, said.

[Putin: Russia Ready to Share Its Developments With Other Countries Amid Spread of Omicron Strain](#)

December 17, 2021, Sputnik News

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia was ready to deliver the Russian Sputnik Light COVID-19 vaccine to other countries to be used as booster doses amid the spread of the Omicron variant.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Argentina's Economy Posts Strong Third Quarter Rebound](#)

December 17, 2021, Bloomberg

Argentina's economy rebounded in the third quarter as a vaccination campaign picked up momentum and the government spurred activity by shedding most of its Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

[Russia Seeks Long Sentences for Accused Argentina Embassy Cocaine Smugglers](#)

December 17, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia's state prosecutor is seeking harsh prison sentences for the four defendants in a high-profile case of smuggling cocaine from the Russian Embassy in Argentina, the RBC news website reported.

[Dozens of Central American migrants killed in Mexico crash](#)

December 10, 2021, Al Jazeera

Truck crash in southern Mexican state of Chiapas in one of the worst road accidents to hit the country in recent years.

['They can go take a walk': IMF closes its Brazil office after govt criticism](#)

December 17, 2021, Hindustan Times

The move came after Guedes, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's ultra-liberal economy guru, said the IMF was overly pessimistic in its forecasts on Brazil and was no longer welcome.

Africa

[Sahel conflict calls for coordination between African and international partners](#)

December 8, 2021, Africa Times

Senegalese foreign minister Aissata Tall Sall recently called on China to become more involved in the Sahel region, specifically expressing a hope that Beijing will be a "strong voice" in combatting the rising tide of terrorism in the region. The appeal certainly has its logic, given Beijing's expanding influence in Africa and the increasingly urgent need to address the terrorist threat in the area.

[Climate change is fueling new violent conflict in Africa, U.N. says](#)

December 16, 2021, Yahoo News

Violent confrontations over increasingly scarce water in Africa have broken out in northern Cameroon, causing more than 30,000 people to flee into neighboring Chad, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency. Since Sunday, 22

people have been killed and 30 others seriously injured in fighting between fishermen and farmers, which follows an eruption of violence in August, which led to 45 deaths and forced 23,000 Cameroonians to leave their homes.

[Descendants of African slaves in US visit Angola](#)

December 16, 2021, Africa News

It was a winding road that brought the Tucker family from the United States to Angola. They are descendants of the first Africans taken from Angola to America.

[Ethiopia's President hints at national dialogue to end conflict](#)

December 17, 2021, Africa News

Ethiopia is seeking more collaboration with other African countries to help its struggle with the ongoing internal conflicts. The Ethiopian Deputy president Sahle Zewde visited Ivory Coast on Thursday and met with President Alassane Ouattara.

[Niger: Thousands flee homes following threats from jihadist groups](#)

December 16, 2021, Africa News

Only 7 months after their return to their lands under the supervision of the defence and security forces and the guarantees of the president of the republic Bazoum Mohamed, the people of Anzourou are again leaving their villages.

[Kenya's Economy is Showing Resilience as Output Rises Above Pre-Pandemic Levels Driven by a Rebound in the Services Sector](#)

The World Bank, December 14, 2021

Kenya's economy has demonstrated resilience to the COVID-19 shock, with output in the first half of the year rising above pre-pandemic levels. In 2021 as a whole, gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 5%, one of the faster recoveries among Sub-Saharan African countries.



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