

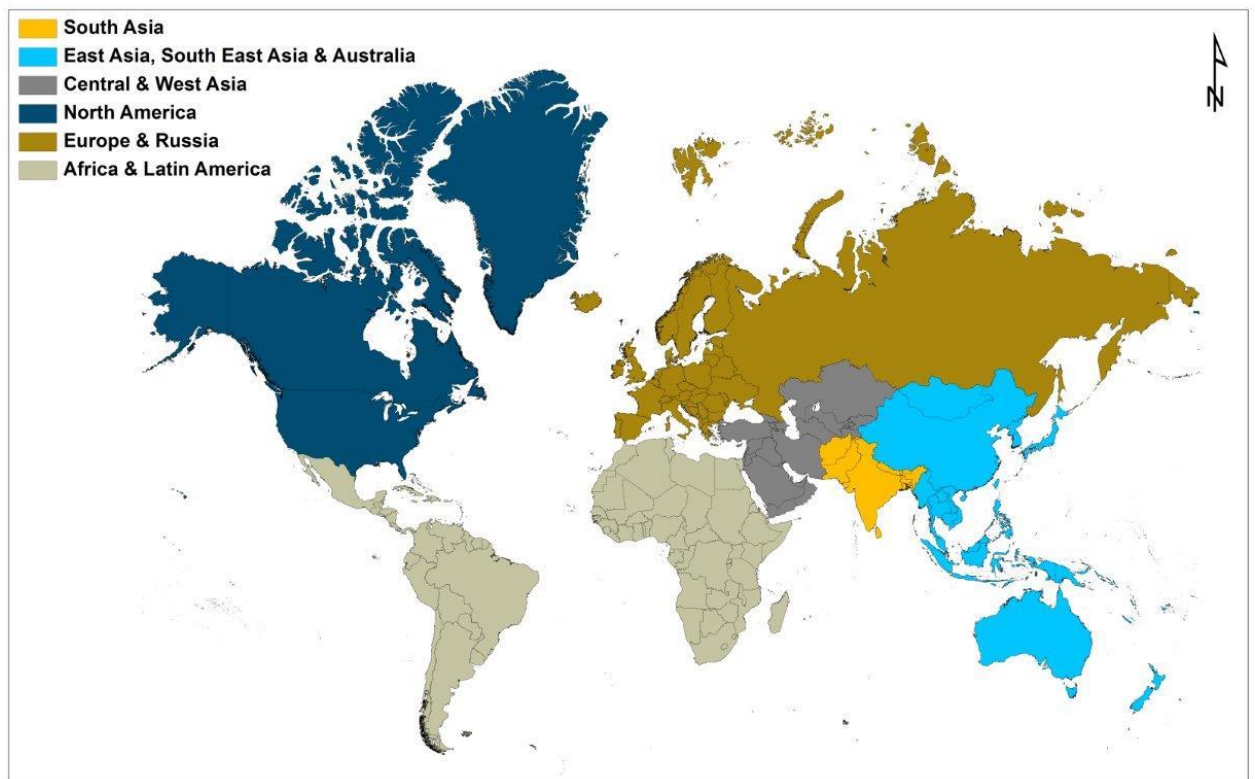


Delhi Policy Group

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

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[DRDO, IAF successfully flight-test indigenous Long Range Bombs; Defence minister Rajnath Singh lauds feat](#)

October 29, 2021, Hindustan Times

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday successfully flight tested an indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) from an aerial platform, the ministry of defence said in a statement.

[India, Israel to form task force for 10-year defence cooperation plan](#)

October 29, 2021, India Today

India and Israel will form a task force that will formulate a ten-year plan for defence cooperation, the Ministry of Defence said.

[India to soon achieve Rs 3500 crore exports in defence sector says Rajnath Singh](#)

October 29, 2021, The Times of India

India will soon achieve the target of Rs 3500 crore exports in the aerospace and defence sector, under the leadership of PM Modi.

[All about Indian Navy's latest stealth warship Tushil](#)

October 30, 2021, Hindustan Times

The latest warship is expected to be commissioned into the Indian Navy in mid-2023 followed by its sister ship at the end of that year.

[Six Indian naval ships arrive in Sri Lanka to boost bilateral defence cooperation](#)

October 25, 2021, The Print

The 4-day visit marks a milestone in bilateral relations' history wherein for the first time such a large number of Indian Navy ships visited Sri Lanka, Indian High Commission said.

[India determined to protect legitimate rights in its territorial waters: Rajnath Singh](#)

October 27, 2021, The Hindu

The Defence Minister said that maritime linkages enabling the exchange of goods, culture and goodwill were foundational for mutual prosperity in the past, and continue to remain as such even today.

[India sees France as indispensable to peace, stability of Indo-Pacific: Jaishankar](#)

October 29, 2021, The Economic Times

India sees France as a resident power in the Indo-Pacific, indispensable to its peace and stability, and a premier partner for New Delhi in the region, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday. Addressing the 'Ambition India 2021' conference being held at the French Senate in Paris via video conferencing, Jaishankar said the India-France partnership must help safeguard interests, protect the commons and uphold international law and multilateralism.

[India's support to Africa has always been without any conditionalities or hidden agenda: Jaishankar](#)

October 28, 2021, Deccan Herald

India's support to Africa has always been without any conditionalities or hidden agenda, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday, taking a swipe at China.

['China's foray into Myanmar, Bangladesh is not in India's interest', says Bipin Rawat](#)

October 24, 2021, Scroll

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said that China's foray into Myanmar and Bangladesh does not suit India's interest. Rawat added that the two neighbouring countries have received the largest military aid from China. He said that Beijing has also made investments in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Maldives "to gain strategic foothold" in South Asia.

Pakistan

[No deal with US on use of airspace, says FO](#)

October 24, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan Foreign Office conceded that Pakistan was discussing 'counterterrorism cooperation' with the United States but emphasised that no agreement had been concluded on the use of its airspace so far.

[Exports to Afghanistan in local currency under study](#)

October 24, 2021, Dawn

Fearing disruptions in export proceeds, Pakistan government has decided in principle to look into various options including allowing exports of additional

items in local currency to Afghanistan on land routes owing to non-availability of tradable currency through banking channels.

[Chinese power firms offered part payments](#)

October 23, 2021, Dawn

The government is convincing Chinese companies — engaged in various power projects — to receive capacity payments in instalments instead of full amounts, as it would be convenient for it to clear pending dues.

[Two cops, as many TLP workers die in Lahore clashes](#)

October 23, 2021, Dawn

Two policemen and as many workers of the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) were killed and several others injured after fierce clashes erupted between the TLP protesters and law enforcement agencies at Chauburji Chowk on October 22.

[Taliban offer wheat, instead of money, to tackle hunger, unemployment](#)

October 25, 2021, Dawn

Afghanistan's Taliban government launched a programme to tackle hunger, offering thousands of people wheat in exchange for labour. The scheme will be rolled out around Afghanistan's major towns and cities and employ 40,000 men in the capital alone, the Taliban's chief spokesman said at a press conference in southern Kabul.

[Government yields to TLP, frees 350 activists](#)

October 25, 2021, Dawn

In what appears to be another total surrender before the violent protesters marching towards the capital, the federal government released more than 350 activists of the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), besides announcing that the cases against others would be withdrawn by Oct 27.

[Standoff on ISI chief ends, Anjum named new spymaster](#)

October 25, 2021, Dawn

The three-week-long impasse between Prime Minister Imran Khan and the military leadership over the appointment of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) director general finally came to an end with the former notifying army chief's pick Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum as the new DG ISI.

[PM meets Saudi crown prince](#)

October 26, 2021, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan met Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the sidelines of the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) Summit in the Saudi capital on October 25.

[Saudi govt revives \\$3bn support to Pakistan](#)

October 27, 2021, Dawn

Saudi Arabia has agreed to revive its financial support to Pakistan, including about \$3 billion in safe deposits and \$1.2bn to \$1.5bn worth of oil supplies on deferred payments. An agreement to this effect was reached during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to the kingdom this week.

[Govt decides to treat TLP as militant outfit](#)

October 28, 2021, Dawn

A day after a meeting of the country's civil and military leadership, the government decided to crush the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) by all means and resolved that army, Rangers and police would stop participants of its long march from entering the federal capital.

[Eight embrace martyrdom as terrorist attacks rise in KP](#)

October 28, 2021, Dawn

Eight security personnel including four soldiers were martyred and another wounded in cross-border attack, ambush and bomb explosions in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in two days.

[At least 4 policemen martyred, over 250 injured as TLP workers clash with law enforcers near Muridke](#)

October 27, 2021, Dawn

At least four policemen were martyred and over 250 injured as thousands of workers of the proscribed Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) clashed with law-enforcement personnel near Sadhoke in Punjab's Gujranwala district on October 27.

[Pakistan, Russia to sign SHA for gas pipeline in Nov](#)

October 29, 2021, The Express Tribune

During the fourth Russia-Pakistan Joint Technical Committee meeting on Pak Stream Gas Pipeline, the two countries discussed the draft of Shareholders Agreement (SHA) of the scheme. The two parties agreed to continue working on the draft SHA during the next week. They further reached a consensus to resume negotiations in Islamabad from the week beginning November 8, 2021.

[PM Imran Khan chairs NSC meeting as protests by proscribed group continue](#)

October 29, 2021, The News

A meeting of the Pakistan National Security Committee (NSC) was held to review the law and order situation in the country, with a specific focus on the protests by a proscribed organisation. The meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, was attended by the top civil and military leadership, including all services chiefs.

Afghanistan

[U.S. Increases Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan By \\$144 Million Amid Crisis](#)

October 28, 2021, RFERL

The United States announced it is providing nearly \$144 million in new humanitarian assistance to help stem the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

[Iran Hosts Conference with Afghanistan's Neighbors](#)

October 27, 2021, RFERL

Representatives of the countries bordering Afghanistan have met in Tehran to discuss how to coordinate actions in response to the change in government in the war-torn country. The foreign ministers of the six nations bordering Afghanistan and Russia all participated in the conference on October 27.

[Pentagon Official Raises Doubts About Taliban's Ability to Fight Islamic State in Afghanistan](#)

October 27, 2021, RFERL

A senior Pentagon official said it is unclear whether the Taliban has the capability to fight the Islamic State extremist group effectively, even if it is clear that the two groups are "mortal enemies." Colin Kahl, undersecretary of defense for policy, told a congressional committee on October 26 that the U.S. intelligence community has assessed that the Taliban is "highly motivated" to go after Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-K). But he added: "Their ability to do so, I think, is to be determined."

[Turkmen team due in Kabul as Taliban back TAPI pipeline](#)

October 28, 2021, Dawn

Officials from Turkmenistan will visit Kabul this week to discuss continuing work on the TAPI pipeline linking the energy-rich Central Asian country through Afghanistan to Pakistan and India, the Taliban government said on October 27. "We have been working hard for some time and we are ready to

take pride in starting work on the TAPI project," Mohammad Issa Akhund, the acting minister of mines and petroleum in the new Taliban government, said in a statement.

[Eight Orphan Children Found Dead from Starvation In Kabul](#)

October 27, 2021, RFERL

An ethnic Hazara political leader and former member of Afghanistan's parliament says the bodies of eight orphan children who **starved to death** have been found on the west side of Kabul.

[Russian-Led CSTO Stages More Counterterrorism Drills on Tajik-Afghan Border](#)

October 23, 2021, RFERL

Members of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) have completed another joint counterterrorism training exercise in Tajikistan near the border with Afghanistan. The exercise on October 23 presented a scenario in which columns of vehicles transport militants across the border from Afghanistan into Tajikistan.

[Tajikistan Approves Construction of New Chinese-Funded Base as Beijing's Security Presence in Central Asia Grows](#)

October 27, 2021, RFERL

Tajikistan has approved the construction of a new Chinese-funded base near the country's border with Afghanistan as Tajik officials warn of growing threats emanating from its southern neighbour. In a separate development, the Tajik government has offered to transfer full control of a pre-existing Chinese military base in the country to Beijing and waive any future rent in exchange for military aid from China.

[30 Cases of Violence Against Afghan Reporters Cited: ANJU](#)

October 27, 2021, Tolo News

More than 30 cases of violence against journalists were recorded since the Islamic Emirate swept into power, the Afghanistan National Journalists Union said. The journalists expressed their deepest concern over the ongoing situation of the media in Afghanistan and called on the Islamic Emirate officials to form a way for journalists to deal with the safety issues as well as to provide access to information.

[Islamic State in Afghanistan could be able to attack U.S. in 6 months-Pentagon official](#)

October 27, 2021, Reuters

The U.S. intelligence community has assessed that Islamic State in Afghanistan could have the capability to attack the United States in as little as six months, and has the intention to do so, a senior Pentagon official told Congress.

[Russia tells Afghan neighbours to say no to U.S., NATO presence](#)

October 27, 2021, Reuters

Russia's top diplomat told Afghanistan's neighbours to refuse to host U.S. or NATO military forces following their withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Kremlin is worried by the risk of Islamist militants spilling into Central Asia from Afghanistan and bristles at the idea of the West gaining a foothold in a region that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

[Top Chinese diplomat meets Taliban deputy head in Doha](#)

October 26, 2021, Anadolu Agency

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with the Taliban's deputy head, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, and other key officials for talks over the recent situation in Afghanistan in Qatar's capital Doha. According to a statement by the Taliban-run Foreign Ministry in Kabul, the Afghan side said Afghanistan's soil would not be used against China and expressing gratitude for its humanitarian assistance.

[Around 100 Indians, including their children and spouses, yet to be evacuated from Afghanistan: NGOs write to PMO, MEA](#)

October 24, 2021, Hindustan Times

Nearly 100 Indian nationals, including their children and spouses, and more than 200 Afghans are yet to be evacuated from Afghanistan. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Office and senior officials of the ministry of external affairs (MEA), the India World Forum (IWF) and many other humanitarian NGOs sought evacuation of stranded Hindu and Sikh citizens from Afghanistan's capital Kabul.

[US should have pushed ex-Afghan president Ghani harder, says Khalilzad](#)

October 25, 2021, Dawn

The United States did not put enough pressure on former Afghan president Ashraf Ghani to share power with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, who recently resigned as US envoy to Afghanistan, said in an interview.

Bangladesh

[Payra Bridge built by Chinese firm opens to traffic in Bangladesh](#)

October 24, 2021, Xinhua

The mega Payra Bridge in southern Bangladesh, built by a Chinese firm, officially opened to traffic. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the bridge, constructed over the Payra river some 200 km south of capital Dhaka, paving the way for local people to travel to other parts of the region without ferry.

[Bangladesh, China ink US\\$ 1127m loan for Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway](#)

October 28, 2021, The Daily Star

Bangladesh and China have signed an agreement of USD 1126.99 million for construction of the Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway project -- aiming to reduce traffic congestion.

[India's relations with Bangladesh a 'role model' in international affairs: Shringla](#)

October 23, 2021, The Hindu

Foreign Secretary's remarks silent on the recent attacks on the minority Hindu community. India's relations with Bangladesh is a "role model" in international affairs, said Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardshan Shringla on Saturday.

Nepal

[Nepal-India bilateral security meet concludes: training and capacity building discussed: Nepal Army](#)

October 29, 2021, The Economic Times

The 14th meeting of the Nepal-India Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues, which commenced on Thursday and saw deliberations on crucial matters like training and capacity building between the two nations, concluded in Bengaluru on Friday, a statement issued by the Nepal Army said.

[India, Nepal discuss mutual security concerns](#)

October 28, 2021, The Hindu

Mutual security concerns, training and capacity building requirements of defence forces of Nepal and bilateral cooperation in disaster management were some of the key issues that figured prominently at a meeting between India and Nepal.

[India, Nepal hold bilateral meet, discuss mutual security concerns, disaster management](#)

October 29, 2021, India Today

Mutual security concerns, training and capacity building requirements of defence forces of Nepal and bilateral cooperation in disaster management were some of the key issues taken up at a meeting between India and Nepal.

Sri Lanka

[Amid fertilizer row, China blacklists Sri Lankan bank](#)

October 29, 2021, The Hindu

China has blacklisted a top state-owned bank in Sri Lanka, citing a "vicious" Letter of Credit "default" in relation to a recent order for organic fertilizer placed by Colombo with a Chinese company. Last week Sri Lankan authorities rejected the consignment that they found to be contaminated.

[Sri Lanka Navy ship SLNS Samudura takes part in naval exercise with Royal Navy's HMS Kent](#)

October 25, 2021, Colombo Page

Royal Navy's type 23 frigate HMS Kent arrived at the port of Colombo on 23rd October 2021 for replenishment.

[Sri Lanka Navy takes delivery of ex-US Coast Guard Cutter Douglas Munro](#)

October 27, 2021, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) formally took the delivery of the EX-United States Coast Guard Cutter, USCGC Douglas Munro, provided by the United States to Sri Lanka Navy, in a ceremony held at the U.S. Coast Guard Base Seattle, Washington on 26th October 2021, the Navy media unit said.

[Six Indian Naval Ships Arrive in Sri Lanka to Boost Defence Cooperation](#)

October 25, 2021, NDTV

For the first time, the six ships of the Indian Navy's first training squadron have arrived in Sri Lanka on a four-day visit to further bolster the bilateral defence cooperation and to enhance the interoperability of the two forces, officials said.

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi talks with UK PM ahead of COP26, underscores China's pledges on climate change](#)

October 29, 2021, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping held a phone conversation with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference, COP26, which opens in Glasgow, Scotland on Sunday. Xi reiterated China's determination in fulfilling its promises on cutting emissions in tackling climate change and stressed the principle of a common but differentiated responsibility.

[China's top market regulator to classify internet platforms, improve risk management](#)

October 30, 2021, Global Times

China's top market regulator will classify internet platforms into super, large, medium and small, based on their user scale, business type and capacity. Experts said the move indicates a new starting point for China's internet governance.

[Gas stations, truck drivers bear brunt of diesel shortage, price hikes](#)

October 29, 2021, Global Times

Gas stations in many parts of China are running out of diesel after supply constraints posed by the booming demand for coal transportation and factories using diesel to generate electricity.

[China 'has fulfilled' WTO obligations](#)

October 28, 2021, Global Times

China should not assume responsibilities outside its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Chinese officials and WTO experts said on Thursday, noting that China acknowledges concerns raised by some of its trading partners and will further open up its economy to the world.

[Xi speaks over phone with UK PM](#)

October 29, 2021, China Daily

President Xi Jinping spoke over the phone with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Xi stressed that for China-Britain relations to achieve sound development, mutual trust is the foundation, understanding is the precondition, and proper management of differences is the key.

[China to strengthen tax reforms to attain 'common prosperity': Xinhua](#)

October 25, 2021, The Hindu

China will "strengthen adjustments" in tax collection to boost revenue and reform the country's income distribution, but in a targeted and accurate way, as part of efforts to achieve long-term "common prosperity", State-run said.

["Interference In Internal Affairs": China On US, Taiwan Military Contacts](#)

October 28, 2021, NDTV

Beijing said Thursday it opposed military ties between Washington and Taiwan, after President Tsai Ing-wen confirmed a small number of US troops are present on the island.

[US-Taiwan military links anger China](#)

October 29, 2021, Hindustan Times

A small number of US forces are in Taiwan to train with Taiwanese soldiers, President Tsai Ing-wen said in an interview with CNN earlier on Thursday, confirming the presence of American troops on the island.

[Chinese Workers Say They Are Lured Abroad and Exploited for Belt and Road Jobs](#)

October 27, 2021

Chinese laborer Zhang Qiang set off for Indonesia in March to work for a Chinese steelmaker. Six months later, he was wading through the waters off Malaysia's shores with four other men, fleeing what he called a scam. "I felt we were cheated, yet also felt I was helpless," Mr. Zhang said in an interview from Malaysia, where the men were detained by local authorities.

[China's Weapon Tests Close to a 'Sputnik Moment,' U.S. General Says](#)

October 27, 2021, The New York Times

China's testing of a hypersonic missile designed to evade American nuclear defenses was "very close" to a "Sputnik moment" for the United States, Gen. Mark A. Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Wednesday in the first official confirmation of how Beijing's demonstration of its weapon capabilities had taken American officials by surprise.

Japan

[As oil races toward \\$100, India, US and Japan tell OPEC+ enough is enough](#)

October 30, 2021, Business Standard

For the past year, oil consuming countries have become increasingly anxious at crude's resurgence: first to \$50 a barrel, then \$75 and now to more than \$85. And when Vladimir Putin, one of the leaders of the OPEC+ cartel, warned that \$100 a barrel was a distinct possibility, the alarm bells really started ringing.

[Japan looks to renewables; role of nuclear power elusive](#)

October 30, 2021, Japan Today

Japan aims to increase its reliance on renewable energy in achieving net-zero emissions, but the role of nuclear power to be played toward that end appears to be elusive even in the government's energy plan approved by the cabinet last week ahead of Sunday's general election.

[Kishida faces his first big test as PM in Sunday's elections](#)

October 30, 2021, Japan Today

In his first big test as prime minister, Fumio Kishida's ruling party is expected to lose seats in Sunday's national parliamentary elections, while still maintaining a majority.

[Japan defense minister warns of Crimea-style invasion of Taiwan](#)

October 23, 2021, Nikkei Asia

In a veiled reference to China's recent aggressive moves on Taiwan, Japan's defense minister pointed to Russia's annexation of Crimea as an example of how an invasion can begin without deploying troops.

[China-Russia flotilla displays "show of force": Japan defense chief](#)

October 26, 2021, Kyodo News

Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi said Tuesday a joint Chinese and Russian naval flotilla seen recently around Japan displays an unprecedented "show of force" that underscores the growing list of security challenges in the region.

[USS Carl Vinson operates in South China Sea with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force](#)

October 28, 2021, Navy Times

The aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and a Japanese helicopter destroyer have teamed up to operate in the South China Sea — the first time the Vinson and Japanese forces have done so during the Vinson's 2021 deployment.

Korea

[South Korea Relaxes Restrictions in First Step Towards "Living with Covid"](#)

October 29, 2021, NDTV

South Korea said it will drop all operating-hour curbs on restaurants and cafes and implement its first vaccine passport for high-risk venues, such as gyms, saunas and bars, as it tries to "live with COVID-19".

[South Korea expresses interest in investing in Assam](#)

October 29, 2021, The Economic Times

South Korea has expressed its interest in investing in healthcare, food processing, infrastructure, and tourism sectors in Assam, and bringing Korean companies to Assam.

[North Korea food crisis: Leader Kim Jong Un asks people to 'eat less' until 2025](#)

October 28, 2021, Wion

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has asked the people of his country to eat less until 2025 in a bid to combat the food crisis.

[China's New Land Borders law Is a Nightmare for North Korean Refugees](#)

October 29, 2021, The Diplomat

Although the main focus of China's new land law relates to territorial disputes with neighboring countries like India, it also contains specific language applicable to the influx of outside populations.

Southeast Asia

[Biden Vows to Stand With Southeast Asia in Defending Freedom of Seas, Democracy](#)

October 27, 2021, NDTV

President Joe Biden said on Wednesday the United States would stand with Southeast Asian allies in defending freedom of the seas, democracy and human rights and backed efforts to hold the Myanmar junta accountable to its commitments to peace.

[Aukus reveals much about how the West really sees Southeast Asia](#)

October 29, 2021. The South China Morning Post

For the US, the pact revitalises its 'pivot to Asia', for the UK it projects a 'global Britain', and for Australia, it poses more questions than answers, including about nuclear proliferation. It also betrays unfortunate assumptions about the

region's ability to maintain its own security and highlights America's one-dimensional focus in competing with China.

[Are Southeast Asian nations meeting their climate commitments?](#)

October 27, 2021, Deutsche Welle

As one of the regions most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, Southeast Asia knows the extent of the risk more than most. But is the region doing enough to take the problem seriously?

[China's aggression in South China Sea faces strong global pushback](#)

October 29, 2021, The Economic Times

Tensions in the South China Sea (SCS) region is worsening following China's continued military aggression but this has led to a pushback from the USA and other global powers. India, Australia and besides key European powers are also concerned over the impact of China's aggressive policies on the use of the South China Sea as a major global gateway for trade.

[ASEAN could tap India's vibrant technology and startup scene, says Singapore PM](#)

October 29, 2021, The Hindu

Speaking at the annual India-ASEAN summit on Thursday, Lee said that digital transformation and public health cooperation are priority areas Singapore is committed to pursuing as coordinator for ASEAN-India relations.

[ASEAN-India Summit: Flags that the core security issues in the South China Sea remain unresolved](#)

October 29, 2021, The Times of India

The Indian PM in his address at the ASEAN-India Summit highlighted the significance of the concept of free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific in the current security environment. In this respect his two points were noteworthy. First, India's Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN's Outlook for the Indo-Pacific are the framework of the shared vision and mutual cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Second, there is a special role of ASEAN in India's Act East Policy, which is the basis of India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). These indicate India's approach in the coming period especially in the South East Asia and the South China Sea (SCS).

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[India's Central Asian outreach](#)

October 25, 2021, The Hindu

The dramatic developments in Afghanistan have catalysed new geostrategic and geoeconomic concerns for the region. The evolving situation has also thrown up renewed challenges for India's regional and bilateral ties with Central Asia and the Caucasus, prompting India to recalibrate its rules of engagement with the region.

[China, Russia Working Together on Security Threats in Central Asia](#)

October 27, 2021, VOA

Eyes in Beijing and Moscow are trained on Central Asia, prompted by the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The security threat in Afghanistan and the desire to shut off Central Asia from other powers, such as the U.S., is motivating Beijing and Moscow to cooperate and gloss over their differences, according to Emil Avdaliani, director of Middle East Studies at Georgian think tank Geocase.

[Beijing Changes Its Approach to Economic Expansion in Central Asia](#)

October 28, 2021, The Jamestown Foundation

China has quietly but dramatically changed its economic approach to the countries of Central Asia—a shift with enormous consequences not only for the region but for Beijing's relationship with Moscow.

[Taliban Takeover Spurs Central Asian Diplomatic Activity](#)

October 29, 2021, VOA News

Central Asian republics are stepping up their diplomatic activity in the face of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, seeking to balance fears of increased extremist activity in the region against the risk of an economic collapse that could send refugees flooding across their borders.

[Uzbekistan's Rocky Road to Reform](#)

October 27, 2021, The Moscow Times

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is pursuing an agenda focused on getting the economy on track while showing no appetite for democratic change.

[Xi Jinping calls for close cooperation, says China-Uzbekistan ties at highest level](#)

October 27, 2021, CGTN

Chinese President Xi Jinping eyes closer cooperation with Uzbekistan, describing the bilateral ties as being at the highest level during a phone conversation with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

[India, Kyrgyzstan NSAs are on the same page on Afghanistan](#)

October 26, 2021, Hindustan Times

India's national security advisor Ajit Doval held a dialogue with his Kyrgyz counterpart Lieutenant General Marat Imankulov where they discussed the regional security environment with a special reference to Afghanistan. The secretary of the security council of the Kyrgyz Republic was in India for the first strategic dialogue between the National Security Council Secretariats of the two countries.

West Asia

[Dubai Signs Deal to Build Infrastructure in Kashmir](#)

October 18, 2021, Reuters

Dubai has signed an accord to build infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian government said.

[Dubai's Investment in Jammu & Kashmir "a Major Success for India": Former Pakistan Ambassador Abdul Basit](#)

October 22, 2021, The Economic Times

Pakistan's former envoy to India Abdul Basit has said the Government of Dubai signing an MoU with the administration of Jammu and Kashmir for promoting industrial development in the Union Territory is "a major success for India" and a setback to Prime Minister Imran Khan's foreign policy.

[RIL Shareholders Pass Resolution to Add Saudi Aramco Chairman as Director](#)

October 21, 2021, Business Standard

Reliance Industries Ltd said that a required majority of its shareholders have passed the resolution to appoint Saudi Aramco Chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan as an independent director to the conglomerate's board.

[Israel, India to Resume Free Trade Talks](#)

October 18, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

Israel and India intend to sign a free-trade agreement by the middle of 2022, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, announced.

['India-Israel-UAE-U.S. Quad to Focus on Economic Cooperation' Says Israeli Envoy](#)

October 19, 2021, The Hindu

The newly announced quadrilateral meeting between India-Israel-UAE-U.S. is a forum for economic cooperation for the moment, said Israel's Deputy Chief of Mission Rony Yedidia-Clein, adding that more cooperation and high-level visits would follow as Israel and India mark 30 years of full diplomatic ties in 2022.

[Indian PM Modi Meets CEOs of Global Oil Companies, Calls for Increasing Storage Facilities](#)

October 20, 2021, Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the need to enhance storage facilities for crude oil during his virtual meeting with the chief executives of global oil majors.

[Taliban ask Iran to Facilitate Afghan Dry Fruits Export to India Through Chabahar](#)

October 13, 2021, The Times of India

Reportedly Tehran has agreed to evaluate Taliban's proposals for the transportation of Afghanistan's trade cargoes and export of fresh and dried fruits to India via Chabahar port.

[US Should Lift Sanctions to Prove it wants Talks](#)

October 19, 2021, The Indian Express

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said that the United States should lift sanctions imposed on his country to prove it is serious about restarting stalled nuclear talks in Vienna.

[Israel Said to Approve \\$1.5 Billion Budget For Potential Strike on Iran](#)

October 19, 2021, The Times of Israel

Israel has approved a budget of some 5 billion new Israeli Shekels (\$1.5 billion) to be used to prepare the military for a potential strike against Iran's nuclear program.

[US Demands Israel Explain Terror Listing of Palestinian NGOs](#)

October 22, 2021, The Times of Israel

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz had announced that half a dozen civil society groups were being designated as terror organizations, saying that they had effectively operated as an arm for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror group.

[Israel Says Russia Agreed to not Hamper IDF Air Campaign over Syria](#)

October 22, 2021, The Times of Israel

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed during their meeting in Sochi that the two nations would continue to implement the so-called deconfliction mechanism that works to prevent Israeli and Russian forces from clashing in Syria, a senior Israeli official said.

[Turkey To Expel U.S. Envoy and Nine Others, President Erdogan Says](#)

October 24, 2021, Reuters

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said that he had told his foreign ministry to expel the ambassadors of the United States and nine other Western countries for demanding the release of philanthropist Osman Kavala.

United States

United States

[US firm First Solar announces \\$684mn India investment](#)

October 30, 2021, Hindustan Times

The announcement came at the fourth annual meeting of the Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF), a US initiative which was co-hosted for the first time in South Asia.

[Indo-US joint military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' concludes in Alaska](#)

October 30, 2021, India TV

The 17th Edition of India-US joint exercise Yudh Abhyas 21 on Saturday concluded at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska after a validation exercise.

[Ensure Afghanistan Is Not Used As Terrorists' Safe Haven: India, US To Taliban](#)

October 29, 2021, NDTV

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan on August 15, two weeks before the US' complete troop withdrawal on August 31 after a costly two-decade war.

[The US Navy is going underground as NATO increases its focus on its northern border with Russia](#)

October 30, 2021, Yahoo News

The US Navy set up a new facility in a cave system in northern Norway in October, reflecting the increased focus that the US and its NATO allies have put on the alliance's northern borders with Russia.

[Washington committed to helping Taiwan defend itself: US official](#)

October 29, 2021, The Economic Times

The top U.S. representative in Taiwan, Sandra Oudkirk, said on Friday that the United States is committed to helping Taiwan defend itself amid heightened tensions between Taipei and Beijing.

[Grant that waiver: India's defence ties with Russia shouldn't be sanctioned by the US. China's the main threat](#)

October 28, 2021, The Times of India

Recently, two US senators who are co-chairs of the India Caucus, wrote to President Joe Biden explaining why he should insulate India from the fallout of CAATSA (Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act). Enacted in the US in August 2017, it aims to prevent revenue flowing to the

Russian government. It's a crude tool that hurts both friend and foe. India is an ally that fell within CAATSA's purview as it had signed an agreement with the Russian government in 2016 to buy the S-400 air defence system.

[U.S. trade chief Tai says she aims to reduce U.S.-China tensions](#)

October 28, 2021, Reuters

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said on Thursday that her engagement with China is aimed at reducing the temperature of a trading relationship between the world's two largest economies that has become dangerously heated.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[In Europe, Confusion Reigns About the U.S.](#)

October 25, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

After almost two years of Covid-induced absence from Paris and Berlin, I returned to the old world to make a surprising discovery: Europe no longer understands the United States. Between Washington's shift to the Indo-Pacific, the lingering effects of the Trump presidency (along with fears of a return in 2024), and confusing signals emanating from the Biden administration, neither the Germans nor French know what to expect anymore. That uncertainty further complicates the difficult task of recasting the Atlantic alliance for a turbulent new era.

[EU, China climate chiefs to meet face-to-face ahead of COP26 talks](#)

October 26, 2021, Reuters

European Union green policy chief Frans Timmermans will meet China's top climate envoy Xie Zhenhua face-to-face for the first time on Wednesday ahead of the COP26 summit, as pressure grows for tougher action to curb global warming.

[EU Parliament to defy China on Taiwan trip](#)

October 29, 2021, EU Observer

MEPs are going to Taiwan despite Chinese threats of new sanctions over EU contacts with Taipei.

[12 EU countries slam Israel's settlement expansion](#)

October 29, 2021, EU Observer

A group of 12 EU countries on Thursday called on Israel to reverse its plans to build 3,000 new settler homes in the West Bank, Reuters reported. "We call on both parties to build on steps taken in recent months to improve cooperation and reduce tensions," says the joint statement signed by the foreign ministries of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden.

[Macron tells Australian PM Aukus deal broke trust](#)

October 29, 2021, EU Observer

French president Emmanuel Macron told Australian PM Scott Morrison that the scrapping of a multibillion-dollar submarine contract "broke the relationship of trust" and said Canberra should propose "tangible actions" to heal the

diplomatic rift, The Guardian writes. In mid-September, Australia announced that, instead of French submarines, it would work with the US and the UK to acquire at least eight nuclear-propelled submarines in a partnership to be known as Aukus.

[France and UK on edge of fishing sanctions-war](#)

October 28, 2021, EU Observer

A French government spokesman has threatened "systematic customs and sanitary checks on products brought to France and a ban on landing seafood" at French ports, a major UK gateway to EU markets, saying Britain had granted French fishermen just half the licences agreed under Brexit. A French minister also warned on cutting electricity to British Channel Islands. The UK threatened to hit back at any sanctions with a "calibrated response".

[China's Foreign Minister Tries Again to Win Europe Back](#)

October 29, 2021, The Diplomat

China's foreign minister is limiting his European tour to friendlier ground, in hopes of halting a downward slide in China-Europe relations.

[US Was "Clumsy" In Submarines Deal: Joe Biden to France's Macron](#)

October 29, 2021, NDTV

"We have no better ally than France," Joe Biden said in the first meeting with Macron since the row erupted last month.

Russia

[India's stealth warship launched in Russia](#)

October 30, 2021, Hindustan Times

The warship, named Tushil, is part of an over \$2.5-billion deal with Russia for four more Krivak/Talwar class stealth frigates for the Indian Navy.

[Energy cooperation as the backbone of India-Russia ties](#)

October 28, 2021, The Hindu

India has been at the forefront of the transformation of global energy and striving to diversify its trade relations. With its abundant energy sources and appetite for trade diversification, Russia could be an ultimate long-term partner. But the bilateral ties require more support from both government and corporate leaders to grasp its potential in this field.

[U.S. senators file bill to exempt India from sanctions over Russia deal, citing China](#)

October 29, 2021, Reuters

Three Republican U.S. senators said on Friday they filed legislation to exempt India from sanctions for purchasing a Russian S400 missile defense system, citing the importance of working with allies to stand up against China.

[Russia launches railway sector project under Make in India initiative](#)

October 29, 2021, The Economic Times

Signaling what could herald Indo-Russian cooperation in the railways sector Russia's Sinara Transport Machines (STM) has recently launched work to assemble RTM-32 machine sets at the production site of San Engineering & Locomotives in India.

[US senators urge Biden to avoid India sanctions over Russian deal](#)

October 27, 2021, Al Jazeera

India signed \$5.5bn deal with Russia in 2018 for the surface-to-air missile systems for defence against long-time adversaries Pakistan and China.

[China is ramping up coal imports from Russia – but not Australia](#)

October 27, 2021, CNBC

As China tries to resolve its power shortage, the country is also ramping up its coal imports – bringing in three times as much coal from Russia compared to last year, China customs data show.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Blinken says the US has plans to curb Amazon deforestation](#)

October 23, 2021, MercoPress

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken Thursday announced while on an official trip to Colombia that his country would launch a regional pact to reduce deforestation throughout the Amazon. Blinken's words came a few weeks before the UN environmental summit in Glasgow, Scotland, and were regarded as an effort to mitigate one of the leading causes of global warming.

[Climate change tops agenda during encounter between Argentine, US officials](#)

October 25, 2021, MercoPress

Argentina's Secretary of Strategic Affairs Gustavo Beliz and US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan held a meeting in Washington DC to discuss the climate change agenda and the current negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, it was reported. Beliz and Sullivan agreed "on the promotion of a shared agenda and a strategic dialogue centred on innovation, technology and climate change." They also "ratified the will of their respective presidents, Joseph Biden and Alberto Fernández, to promote common actions aimed at facilitating the fastest recovery in Argentina," according to a press statement.

[Brazilian financial markets get shaky after Bolsonaro insists on increasing social spending](#)

October 23, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro Friday insisted he would not take any adventurous steps as he expressed his full support for Economy Minister Paulo Guedes amidst a rocking financial market. The parity rate between the Brazilian real and the US dollar kept falling Friday as the Government injected more money into the local market through the Auxílio Brasil program which replaces the Bolsa Família created by the opposition Workers' Party (PT).

[Fuel goes up in Brazil amid international surge in crude oil](#)

October 25, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's oil company Petrobras Monday decreed an increase in the price of gasoline of 7.04% at refineries and 9.15% in the case of diesel fuel, it was announced. These adjustments were to impact the price consumers pay at pumps. President Jair Bolsonaro had already warned Sunday this was coming. During an event in Brasília, he stated that "unfortunately, due to the figures of

oil prices abroad and the dollar here in the next few days, starting tomorrow, unfortunately we will have a fuel price increase.”

[Brazil's Central Bank increases Selic rate above expectations](#)

October 28, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's Central Bank (BCB) Monetary Policy Committee (Copom) decided once again Wednesday to increase the basic Selic interest rate from 6.25% to 7.75% annually, in what turned out to be the sharpest rise since December 2002, it was announced. The new index also meant an end to the sequence of 1% increases decided in the two previous meetings. It also leaves the Selic at its highest level since September 2017, when it reached 8.25%.

[Brazilian minister expects reopening of China beef market: negotiations in final phase](#)

October 29, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's Minister of Agriculture, Tereza Cristina, denied that diplomatic relations with China are strained and said that she does not see the continuation of the Chinese ban on Brazilian beef, which has lasted for nearly two months, as a political act. “Technical conversations with Chinese officials continue and the exchange of information necessary for the reopening of the market which is in its final phase” said Minister Cristina.

Africa

[Global leaders condemn coup attempt in Sudan](#)

October 25, 2021, Africa Times

World leaders including President Emmanuel Macron of France were quick to respond to the news of Monday's coup attempt in Sudan and demanded the release of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok. “France utterly condemns the attempted coup d'état in Sudan,” said Macron. “I express our support to Sudan's transitional government and call for the immediate release of the prime minister and civilian leaders and for their integrity to be respected.”

[First African vaccine facility to be built in Rwanda](#)

October 26, 2021, Africa Times

BioNTech is moving forward with plans to build vaccine manufacturing facilities on the African continent, with an announcement Tuesday that Rwanda has been chosen for the first site. Dr. Daniel Ngamije, the health minister for Rwanda, said the first facility will be built at the Kigali Special Economic Zone (KSEZ), next to the Kigali Innovation City. It is expected to begin producing mRNA vaccines by mid-2022.

[Ahead of COP26, World Bank calls for climate action in Africa](#)

October 27, 2021, Africa Times

On the shores of the coastal Senegalese city of Saint Louis, climate change is no longer a distant threat. It is already a current issue impacting its people. Hundreds of them have had to flee the devastating effects of rising sea levels and erosion, losing their livelihoods, aspirations, and opportunities.

[Sudan's revolutionaries prepare for Saturday showdown with military](#)

October 29, 2021, The African Report

In what is being billed as the biggest popular mobilisation in Khartoum since protesters triggered the ousting of Sudan's long-standing leader Omar al-Bashir in April 2019, hundreds of thousands are due to march through the capital on Saturday in protest at General Abdul Fattah al-Burhan's military coup on 25 October.

[Africa: Who will be attending COP26?](#)

October 27, 2021, The African Report

Several of the continent's heads of state will travel to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), one of the first major face-to-face meetings to take place since the start of the Covid-19 crisis.



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