



# 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.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [India, ASEAN focus on freedom of navigation in South China Sea](#)

November 13, 2020, The Economic Times

India and the Asean states discussed the prevailing situation in the South China Sea and affirmed the necessity of freedom of navigation amid Beijing's aggressive posturing in the vital sea lane.

#### [US-India defence and security partnership will continue to remain a 'high priority' under Biden, says Obama-era official](#)

November 12, 2020, Business Insider

US President-elect US President-elect Joe Biden was an early supporter of the India-US relationship and his administration will continue to prioritize the defence and security partnership with New Delhi, a key area which has progressed during Donald Trump's tenure as President, a senior official from the Barack Obama era administration said.

#### [India, China pushing for settlement of 'other outstanding issues' besides Ladakh](#)

November 13, 2020, India Today

India and China remain engaged in resolving the current crisis at the border but are also pushing to settle "other outstanding issues" said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) .

#### [China Says Fish Imports From Indian Firm Suspended As Coronavirus Found](#)

November 13, 2020, NDTV

China's customs office said it will suspend imports from India's Basu International for one week after detecting the novel coronavirus on three samples taken from the outer packaging of frozen cuttlefish.

#### [India In Historic Technical Recession, RBI Says in First "Nowcast"](#)

November 12, 2020, NDTV

India's economy probably shrank for a second straight quarter, according to a team of economists including Michael Patra, the central bank's deputy governor in charge of monetary policy, pushing the country into an unprecedented recession.

[India asks Pakistan to deliver justice in 26/11 case after new list of 'Most Wanted' names accused](#)

November 13, 2020, India Today

India asked Pakistan to "deliver justice" in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case after Islamabad released an updated 'book on Most Wanted / High Profile Terrorists' listing several Pakistani nationals involved in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. This comes ahead of the 12th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attack this year.

[Russia warns: India-China faceoff may be misused](#)

November 13, 2020, The Indian Express

In what is being seen as a veiled reference to the US, Russia said that any escalation in the border tension between India and China amid global turbulence and unpredictability would further trigger regional instability in Eurasia, and the friction can be "misused by other players in their geopolitical purpose".

[Cohesive, responsive ASEAN must for security, growth in region: PM Modi](#)

November 13, 2020, The Indian Express

Against the backdrop of aggressive moves by China in the region, including the Ladakh standoff, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday placed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the centre of India's Act East policy and said that a "cohesive and responsive ASEAN" is essential for "security and growth for all in the region". "The Strategic Partnership between India and ASEAN is based on our shared historical, geographical and cultural heritage. Since the beginning, the ASEAN Group has been at the centre of our Act East policy," Modi said in his opening remarks at the virtual summit between India and the 10-nation ASEAN as its co-chair.

## **Pakistan**

[Pakistan engaged in talks to settle Reko Diq dispute: official](#)

November 12, 2020, The News

Pakistan is actively engaged in negotiations with parties involved in a dispute over the \$5.97 billion award against the country in the Reko Diq litigation. The World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes committee issued the order on Oct 30, saying Pakistan had not obtained an irrevocable bank guarantee or letter of credit for 25pc of the award a condition laid out by the committee in September for keeping the stay of enforcement in place.

### [Iran to open another border point for trade](#)

November 12, 2020, Dawn

Iran announced the opening of a border crossing point with Pakistan for facilitating trade. The announcement was made by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Javad Zarif during his meetings in Islamabad. He was on a two-day visit to Pakistan, leading a senior delegation comprising political and economic experts.

### [Three JuD activists convicted of terror financing](#)

November 12, 2020, Dawn

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) judge convicted three leaders of the Jamatud Dawa of terror financing in two more cases registered by the Counter Terrorism Department. Many leaders of the JuD have already been convicted in many FIRs of terror financing while trial proceedings in several others are pending adjudication. JuD chief Hafiz Saeed has already been sentenced to jail terms in two of the FIRs.

### [Army chief reaffirms support to Iran in matters of regional security](#)

November 11, 2020, The Express Tribune

Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa reaffirmed Pakistan's support towards Iran in matters of mutual interest and regional security. During a meeting held with Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the army's General Headquarters, the army chief and the foreign minister discussed matters of mutual interest, including Afghan reconciliation process and Pakistan-Iran border management and border markets.

### [No CPEC Authority Chairman at present, NA panel told](#)

November 11, 2020, Dawn

The Pakistan government told a parliamentary panel that there was no chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority at present as members of the National Assembly had challenged the legal status of the defunct agency and the functioning of its top management.

### [Pakistan may not get \\$2 bn rollover from Saudi Arabia](#)

November 10, 2020, The News

Saudi Arabia has indicated that it might refuse a rollover of \$2 billion to Pakistan. Islamabad has already started exploring options to manage the amount from other avenues to avert the dwindling foreign currency reserves. On the issue of \$2 billion loan deposits from the UAE, there is no new development so far, as its maturity will become due after a couple of months.

### [ADB to lend \\$300m to Pakistan](#)

November 10, 2020, The Express Tribune

The Asian Development Bank will lend \$300 million to support Pakistan's fragile foreign exchange reserves after Islamabad met almost all the conditions related mainly to lowering barriers to imports. The \$300 million is part of the \$800 million budgetary support programme and the regional lender has already disbursed the first tranche in August last year.

### **Afghanistan**

#### [Australia appoints Afghanistan war crimes prosecutor](#)

November 12, 2020, Daily Mail

Australia announced the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate alleged war crimes by Australian special forces in Afghanistan after media uncovered evidence of civilians and prisoners being killed. Prime Minister Scott Morrison, citing allegations of "serious and possibly criminal misconduct", appointed the prosecutor to deal with the issue domestically and forestall any move by the International Criminal Court.

#### [Al Qaeda bomb-maker killed in Afghanistan](#)

November 11, 2020, Dawn

A bomb-maker who trained Taliban militants before switching allegiance to Al Qaeda has been killed in western Afghanistan. The National Directorate of Security said Mohammad Hanif was a close aide to Asim Omar, who headed Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and was killed in a joint US-Afghan operation in 2019. Hanif, originally from Karachi, had "close relations" with the Taliban and helped train militants in making car bombs and improvised explosive devices.

#### [Delegates Offer New Solutions to Resume Talks](#)

November 11, 2020, Tolo News

The Afghan republic negotiating team has offered four new alternatives to the Taliban to end the delay in the start of direct peace negotiations between the two sides in Doha. The Taliban has been insisting on the US-Taliban agreement to be the basis for the talks and Hanafi jurisdiction as religious basis for the negotiations. The two key points have delayed the start of peace negotiations in Doha. One of the four solutions offered by the negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is the inclusion of the Afghan government in the US-Taliban agreement if the Taliban insists to put it as the basis for the talks.

### [Trump's new Pentagon sets up clash over Afghanistan pullout](#)

November 11, 2020, Politico

President Donald Trump's decapitation strike on the Pentagon this week is raising fears that the U.S. will accelerate the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, putting newly installed leaders on a collision course with top generals and others who are urging a more deliberate drawdown.

### [Taliban Calls on U.S. President-Elect Biden To Stick To Doha Peace Deal](#)

November 10, 2020, RFERL

The Taliban has called on U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to stick to a February peace agreement between the militant group and the United States, describing its implementation as the "the most reasonable and effective tool" for ending the war in Afghanistan. The Taliban itself remains committed to the deal's implementation, the militant group said in a statement on November 10, a day after Afghan Vice President Sarwar Danesh blamed the insurgents for a lack of process in the ongoing intra-Afghan peace negotiations in the Qatari capital, Doha.

### [Deadly Kabul Attacks Expose Possible Divisions Within the Taliban](#)

November 7, 2020, RFERL

Major Afghan cities have been largely spared from the deadly militant attacks that once struck them regularly. The Taliban agreed to stop bombing urban centers under a landmark peace deal signed with the United States in February. The militant group largely complied, shifting its focus to the vast countryside, where it has wreaked havoc for months. But a spate of deadly militant attacks in Kabul has shattered the relative calm in the heavily fortified capital, prompting accusations by Afghan officials that the Taliban had broken its pledge.

### [IMF extends \\$320m credit facility to Afghanistan](#)

November 7, 2020, The National News

The International Monetary Fund approved the extension of \$320 million in credit to Afghanistan to help the country navigate the health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and a post-pandemic economic recovery. The 42-month arrangement will help the Central Asian country "anchor economic reforms and catalyse donor financing", the fund said in a statement.



## **Bangladesh**

### [Indian Army Gifts 20 Trained Military Horses, 10 Mine-Detection Dogs to Bangladesh](#)

November 11, 2020, NDTV

The Indian Army gifted 20 fully-trained military horses and 10 mine-detection dogs to Bangladesh as part of the country's efforts to further strengthen bilateral ties.

### [Incident of Attack On Hindu Homes Taken Up With The Bangladesh Govt: MEA](#)

November 7, 2020, Republic

Following the shocking vandalization of Hindu homes in Bangladesh, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that the Indian High Commission in Dhaka was in contact with the local government and was closely monitoring the matter.

### [Bangladesh: The dilemma over the Indo-Pacific Strategy](#)

November 10, 2020, ORF

US Deputy Secretary of State Stephan Biegun, during his visit to Bangladesh in October this year, observed that his country is looking towards Bangladesh as a key partner in its Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS). During his visit, Biegun met top Bangladeshi leaders, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdul Momen and officials.

### [Bangladesh and US navies conduct a naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal](#)

November 9, 2020, Navy Recognition

Ships from the Bangladesh Navy meet with USNS Millinocket (T-EPF 3) in the Bay of Bengal as part of the sea phase of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Bangladesh 2020. The exercise demonstrates the U.S.'s continuing commitment to work with the Bangladesh military to address shared maritime security concerns in the region and strengthen partnerships to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

## **Nepal**

### [India-Nepal launch construction of 3rd integrated check post to boost trade](#)

November 12, 2020, Hindustan Times

India and Nepal launched the construction of a Rs 147.12-crore integrated check post (ICP) at Nepalgunj to streamline and boost cross-border trade, weeks ahead of a visit to Kathmandu by foreign secretary Harsh Shringla to take forward bilateral ties.

### [Foreign secretary Harsh Shringla to visit Nepal](#)

November 11, 2020, Hindustan Times

Foreign secretary Harsh Shringla is set to visit Nepal this month to take forward bilateral ties that were rocked by a border row earlier this year, people familiar with developments said on condition of anonymity .

### [Timely shot in the arm for India-Nepal ties](#)

November 10, 2020, Tribune India

The civilisational closeness between India and Nepal has many positives but comes with its own challenges. A critical one is identity politics with anti-India positioning by the political leaders. Playing of the China card vis-a-vis India has also been part of the Nepali political playbook. With a large proportion of its population overseas, Nepal has seen globalisation giving rise to a feeling of expanded options, especially beyond India, its biggest economic and societal partner.

### [Nepal and China reach consensus on announcing height of Everest](#)

November 12, 2020, The Kathmandu Post

In a major breakthrough, Nepali and Chinese officials have reached a consensus on announcing the official height of Everest, which straddles the two countries.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Sri Lanka Repaid \\$4.2 Billion, Avoided Foreign Debt Default, Says PM Rajapaksa](#)

November 12, 2020, News 18

Sri Lanka has repaid USD 4.2 billion in foreign debt and avoided sovereign default, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said while presenting the 2020 budget in Parliament. Rajapaksa, who is also the Finance Minister, said the government had been able to stabilise the rupee against depreciation. "We were able to stabilise the exchange rate, which was steadily depreciating then at around the Rs 185 (to the US dollar) and to service the foreign debt of 4,200 million dollars, averting the country being classified into a debt default status, he said.

### [Economic Interdependency, the Framework for India-Sri Lanka Relations](#)

November 11, 2020, The Wire

Governments on both sides have changed several times since work began 18 years ago on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement between Sri Lanka and India. One constant has been the failure to complete the agreement.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China holds meet with Pak, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh to jointly fight Covid](#)

November 13, 2020, Hindustan Times

China has hosted a high-level virtual meeting with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka to build up "political consensus" in containing the Covid-19 pandemic and boosting economic development.

#### [US Commerce Department not to enforce TikTok ban pending further legal developments](#)

November 13, 2020, China Daily

The US Commerce Department that it will not enforce an order to ban popular video-sharing app TikTok "pending further legal developments," citing a recent ruling by a federal district court.

#### [China's latest unmanned combat systems to enter service, aim to win future wars for PLA: reports](#)

November 12, 2020, Global Times

Scientists at a Chinese military university have in the past few years been focusing on developing unmanned combat systems intended to win future wars, and their efforts are beginning to bear fruit. Recent reports show multiple types of unmanned equipment, including an amphibious combat platform and a combat vehicle with a new design concept, that are about to enter military service.

#### [China resolutely opposes external forces interfering in the internal affairs of SCO member states: Xi](#)

November 10, 2020, Global Times

We must firmly support relevant countries in smoothly advancing major domestic political agendas in accordance with law; maintaining political security & social stability, and resolutely oppose external forces interfering in internal affairs of member states under any pretext: Xi

#### [China aims for more FTAs in further foreign trade development](#)

November 10, 2020, Global Times

To adapt to the changing international and domestic trends, China will pursue international cooperation and competition as well as innovative development in foreign trade, one of the driving forces of the nation's economic growth.

### [China, African countries need to build stronger community with shared future: Chinese FM](#)

November 15, 2020, Xinhua Net

China and African countries need to strengthen solidarity and build a stronger community with a shared future, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

### [Xi Focus: Xi addresses 3rd Paris Peace Forum](#)

November 12, 2020, Xinhua Net

Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech via video at the third Paris Peace Forum, calling for joint efforts to fight COVID-19, promote recovery and safeguard peace.

### [A creeping crackdown is under way in Hong Kong](#)

November 13, 2020, The Financial Times

Five months after China imposed an oppressive national security law on Hong Kong, any hope this would not be followed by a creeping crackdown is gone. The city government this week ousted four pro-democracy lawmakers from its legislative council, or de facto parliament, after Beijing's top legislative body gave it the power to remove "unpatriotic" politicians without going through the courts....Having in effect dismantled the "one country, two systems" model Hong Kong was promised in 1997, China no longer seems bothered with keeping even an appearance of democracy.

### [Trump Bars Americans From Investing in Firms That Help China's Military](#)

November 12, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump signed an executive order prohibiting Americans from investing in a group of Chinese companies the U.S. says supply and otherwise support China's military, intelligence and security services. The order blocks American companies and individuals from owning shares directly or through funds that include any of 31 companies identified by the U.S. as aiding the modernization of the People's Liberation Army, or PLA, and China's intelligence and security services.

### [China's President Xi Jinping Personally Scuttled Jack Ma's Ant IPO](#)

November 12, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Chinese President Xi Jinping personally made the decision to halt the initial public offering of Ant Group, which would have been the world's biggest, after controlling shareholder Jack Ma infuriated government leaders, according to Chinese officials with knowledge of the matter. The rebuke was the culmination of years of tense relations between China's most celebrated

entrepreneur and a government uneasy about his influence and the rapid growth of the digital-payments behemoth he controlled.

### [On Taiwan: A missile race to save the world](#)

November 09, 2020, Taipei Times

America's latest arms sales to Taiwan offer real hope: it is possible to prevent a major war in Asia for most of the 2020s. However, Taiwan, the United States and its allies must win an ongoing missile race with the People's Republic of China (PRC). In doing so the democracies can also counter the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) dictatorship's ambition to impose a cruel hegemony first on Asia and then the world.

## **Japan**

### [Japan and South Korea top officials agree to work on mending ties](#)

November 13, 2020, The Japan Times

Senior officials from Japan and South Korea agreed over the telephone to continue dialogue and closely cooperate to mend bilateral ties that have sunk to a historic low over a wartime labour dispute, the Foreign Ministry said.

### [ASEAN summit begins online meetings with regional leaders](#)

November 13, 2020, Japan Today

Vietnam's prime minister highlighted challenges Southeast Asian nations and others faced this year as he opened a regional summit that is again largely being held online due to the pandemic.

### [Australian PM Morrison to visit Japan next week](#)

November 12, 2020, Japan Today

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison will travel to Tokyo next week to meet his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga against the backdrop of increasing tensions with China.

### [Suga, Biden agree to strengthen Japan-U.S. alliance in phone talks](#)

November 12, 2020, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and U.S. President-elect Joe Biden agreed to strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance and work together on battling the coronavirus pandemic and climate change in their first phone talks.

[S Korean spy chief proposes Olympic summit with U.S., N Korea, Japan: report](#)

November 12, 2020, Japan Today

South Korea's spy chief has proposed a summit of the leaders of the United States, Japan and the two Koreas during the Tokyo Olympics next year, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported.

[Japan, U.S. start formal talks on costs to host American troops](#)

November 11, 2020, Japan Today

Japan and the United States held negotiations in Washington on the cost-sharing agreement for Tokyo's hosting of American troops, the Japanese government said .

## **Korea**

['South Korea to donate \\$10 million for COVID-19 vaccine support to developing nations': Moon](#)

November 13, 2020, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in held a summit with leaders of Southeast Asia's Mekong River nations via video links, in which he promised to contribute US\$10 million to help provide new coronavirus vaccines to developing nations.

[South Korea completes deployment of K-9 howitzer](#)

November 13, 2020, The Korea Times

South Korea has completed the deployment of the K-9 self-propelled howitzer, about 20 years after it was first put into force in the country, the arms procurement agency said.

[Moon announces 'New Southern Policy Plus strategy'](#)

November 12, 2020, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in announced a more advanced version of his New Southern Policy for promoting ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during a video-linked Korea-ASEAN summit, Cheong Wa Dae said.

[North Korea estimated to have up to 60 nuclear warheads: think tank](#)

November 11, 2020, The Korea Times

North Korea is believed to have up to 60 nuclear warheads that can threaten regional stability, according to a recent estimate by a research institute affiliated with the U.S. National Defense University.

### [Half of South Koreans expect no major change in inter-Korean ties after US election](#)

November 11, 2020, The Korea Times

Nearly half of South Koreans believe that there will be no major impact on inter-Korean relations when U.S. President-elect Joe Biden takes office early next year, a poll showed.

### [Korea to Sign China-Led Mega FTA](#)

November 13, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

Korea will sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership led by China with a dozen other countries.

## **Southeast Asia**

### [ASEAN summit gets under way amid 'major power rivalries'](#)

November 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Southeast Asian leaders kicked off a multilateral summit that is expected to address tensions in the South China Sea and tackle plans for a post-pandemic economic recovery in a region where rivalry between the United States and China has been rising.

### [Aung San Suu Kyi's party confirmed winner in Myanmar election](#)

November 13, 2020, Al Jazeera

The governing party of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has won enough parliamentary seats to form the next government, official results showed, in a poll disputed by the military-aligned opposition and criticised by rights groups.

### [India, Philippines to sign deal on BrahMos missile during summit next year](#)

November 12, 2020, Hindustan Times

India and the Philippines are looking to sign an agreement on the BrahMos cruise missile during a planned summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Rodrigo Duterte next year, making the Southeast Asian country the first customer for the weapons system developed jointly by New Delhi and Moscow.

### [India imposes anti-dumping duty on clear float glass from Malaysia](#)

November 11, 2020, The Economic Times

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on clear float glass imported from Malaysia at up to \$326 per metric tonne, for five years. Separately, it revoked

anti-dumping duty imposed on acrylic fibre originating in or exported from Thailand.

[The Impact of COVID-19 on Terror Financing in Indonesia](#)

November 11, 2020, The Diplomat

By choking off the flow of donations from sympathizers, the pandemic has forced Islamic State-affiliated groups to tighten their belts.

[ASEAN eyes code of conduct for disputed South China Sea](#)

November 12, 2020, Andolou Agency

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) expressed its hope for an “effective and substantive” code of conduct for all activities in the South China Sea.



## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State](#)

November 10, 2020, Ministry of External Affairs of India

20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020 (in Video Conference Format). The Meeting was chaired by the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation. Other SCO Member States were represented by their Presidents, while India and Pakistan were represented at the level of Prime Minister. Other participants were: Secretary General of the SCO Secretariat, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, the Presidents of the four Observers (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia) of the SCO.

#### [Uzbekistan's rise as the transport and logistics hub of Central Asia](#)

November 12, 2020, Euro News

Uzbekistan is expanding its transport infrastructure to further its aim of becoming a transport and logistics hub for Central Asia.

#### [Enhanced Partnership and Co-operation Agreements \(EPCAs\) with Uzbekistan](#)

November 12, 2020, EU Reporter

The EU strategy revolves around 'Investing in Regional Cooperation', 'Partnering for Resilience', and 'Partnering for Prosperity'. Investing in Regional Cooperation stresses the importance of an integrated Central Asian market, working together on common goals and interests such as environmental sustainability and fighting terrorism.

#### [Uzbekistan to Host Chinese Vaccine Trials](#)

November 9, 2020, The Diplomat

Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical, a Chinese company, will run some of its phase three trial in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent.

#### [US funding to support upcoming elections in Kyrgyzstan](#)

November 13, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The U.S. Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic on November 12 announced the intention of the United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to provide timely assistance for the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Kyrgyzstan in support of the Kyrgyz people as they choose their next representatives in government.

### [Kazakhstan Adds Russian-Made Fighters and Helicopters to Aircraft Fleet](#)

November 12, 2020, Caspian News

Kazakhstan received last week the next batch of Su-30SM multirole fighter – an aircraft manufactured by IRKUT which is a subsidiary of Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), the country's defense ministry said.

### [Ceasefire Brings an End To Armenia-Azerbaijan Fighting In Karabakh Region](#)

November 11, 2020, Caspian News

According to the trilateral statement, Armenia will return to Azerbaijan the occupied Kalbajar district by November 15, the occupied parts of Aghdam district by November 20, and the occupied Lachin district by December 1.

## **West Asia**

### [India Welcomes Normalisation of Relations between Sudan and Israel](#)

November 09, 2020, India.com

India welcomed the removal of Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism and the country's normalisation of relations with Israel. India's relations with Sudan are historic and special and forged on the basis of shared values and close people-to-people contacts, said the Ministry of External Affairs.

### [US State Dept. Approves UAE's Purchase of F-35 Jets, MQ-9 Drones](#)

November 11, 2020, Defence News

In a statement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the package, which comes with an estimated price tag of \$23.37 billion, includes up to 50 F-35s worth \$10.4 billion, 18 MQ-9Bs worth \$2.97 billion, and \$10 billion worth of air-to-air and air-to-ground munitions.

### [Mike Pompeo to Visit Golan Heights, West Bank Settlement on Trip to Israel: Report](#)

November 12, 2020, The Hill

Pompeo will be the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit the Golan Heights and West Bank territories, which are considered by the international community to be illegally occupied by Israel.

### [Biden Team Considers Options on Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

November 10, 2020, Financial Times

Joe Biden has said he will return to the multi-party 2015 deal (JCPOA) that limited Iran's nuclear programme, as long as Iran also returns to strict compliance, as a "starting point for follow-on negotiations".

### [Egypt: Several Dead in Sinai Helicopter Crash](#)

November 12, 2020, Deutsche Welle

A UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter belonging to a US-led international peacekeeping force crashed in Egypt's Sinai region, killing eight people, including six Americans, officials said. One wounded US service member was airlifted to a hospital in Israel by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

### [Saudi King Urges World to Take 'Decisive Stance' Against Iran](#)

November 12, 2020, AL Jazeera

Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud urged the world to take "a decisive stance" to address efforts by Iran to develop nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in his annual address to the top government advisory body.

### [Iraq Boosted Oil Exports in October Despite OPEC+ Quota](#)

November 03, 2020, Oilprice.com

Iraq exported an average of 2.876 million bpd last month, up by more than 200,000 bpd from September, data from the oil ministry showed, as quoted by Iraq Business News. Adding exports from Kirkuk, in Kurdistan, the daily average stood at 2.968 million bpd.

### [This Isn't Obama's Middle East](#)

November 09, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Even in the closing weeks of America's presidential campaign, the grisly murder of French schoolteacher Samuel Paty made an impression. As part of a civics lesson, Mr. Paty showed his class of 13-year-olds the Charlie Hebdo caricatures of the prophet Muhammad. Soon afterward, Mr. Paty was attacked and beheaded in the street. President Emmanuel Macron, whose government has been moving right on law and order as the electoral competition with Marine Le Pen of the National Rally heats up, announced a series of measures aimed at limiting what he called "Islamist separatism."

## United States

### United States

#### [Biden Wins Arizona, Padding His Electoral College Margin Over Trump](#)

November 13, 2020, The New York Times

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. has narrowly won Arizona, capturing the state's 11 electoral votes and strengthening his Electoral College margin.

#### [Republican Senators Say Biden Should Get Intelligence Briefings](#)

November 12, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Some Senate Republicans backed giving President-elect Joe Biden access to classified White House intelligence briefings, saying such a step wouldn't undercut President Trump's efforts to challenge the election result.

#### [President-elect Biden speaks with leaders of France, Germany, Ireland and UK](#)

November 11, 2020, The Hindustan Times

US President-elect Joe Biden had congratulatory calls with leaders of France, Germany, Ireland and the United Kingdom, during which in addition to bilateral issues they discussed efforts to address global challenges like Covid-19 together.

#### [Trump bans U.S. investments in firms linked to Chinese military](#)

November 13, 2020, Reuters

The Trump administration unveiled an executive order prohibiting U.S. investments in Chinese firms that Washington says are owned or controlled by the Chinese military, ramping up pressure on Beijing after the U.S. election.

#### [Donald Trump fires Mark Esper, defence secretary who opposed use of troops on US streets](#)

November 10, 2020, First Post

US President Donald Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark T Esper, upending the military's leadership at a time when Trump's refusal to concede the election has created a rocky and potentially precarious transition.

#### [Top policy, intelligence civilians resign amid Pentagon shakeup](#)

November 11, 2020, Defense News

The Pentagon confirmed the resignations of the department's top civilian officials for policy and intelligence, a day after Defense Secretary Mark Esper was forced out by President Donald Trump.

[US-India defence and security partnership will continue to remain a 'high priority' under Biden, says Obama-era official](#)

November 12, 2020, Business Insider

US President-elect Joe Biden was an early supporter of the India-US relationship and his administration will continue to prioritise the defence and security partnership with New Delhi, a key area which has progressed during Donald Trump's tenure as president, a senior official from the Barrack Obama-era administration has said.

[Where President-elect Joe Biden stands on national security issues](#)

November 8, 2020, Defense News

Biden is no stranger to international leadership and has a long track record on international relations and national security issues. The news item illustrates a few of his selected positions and how they differ from Trump.

[Biden's foreign policy will be similar to Obama's, says Lavrov](#)

November 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said he believes US foreign policy under Joe Biden would be similar to that seen under President Barack Obama, especially on Iran and climate change.

[Election 2020 and American foreign policy](#)

November 11, 2020, The New Indian Express

Much of Asia will be closely watching President-elect Biden's appointments to see if there will be a shift in the China policy of the US.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Britain moves to protect its defense industry from foreign influence](#)

November 12, 2020, Defense News

Defense and space industries are among nearly twenty sectors named by the British government in the introduction of new legislation on Nov. 11 aimed at tightening regulations allowing it to block potentially hostile direct foreign investment.

#### [UK, U.S. agree to stand up for common values, says PM Johnson](#)

November 11, 2020, Reuters

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he and U.S. President-elect Joe Biden agreed in a call that the United Kingdom and United States should stand together once more in defending their values in the world.

#### [U.K. Sets Plan to Keep Up With New York as Financial Center After Brexit](#)

November 9, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

U. K. Treasury chief Rishi Sunak outlined a review of finance rules, including possible changes to make it easier for companies to raise money in London, aimed at keeping the country's vast financial sector competitive with New York after Brexit.

#### [Europeans Push Tougher Stance on Asylum, Borders After Terrorist Attacks](#)

November 10, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

European leaders called for a tougher asylum regime for the continent and stronger border protection to help stop the spread of Islamist extremism following a string of terrorist attacks in three countries.

#### [Germany's Merkel urges European border reform after terrorist attacks](#)

November 10, 2020, Reuters

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it was urgently necessary for Europe to reform the open-border Schengen area in light of recent terrorist attacks.

#### [U.S. and France play catch-up on Karabakh after Russia deploys troops](#)

November 12, 2020, Reuters

France and the United States are expected to send diplomats to Moscow soon to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Russia said, two days after the Kremlin deployed troops to the ethnic Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan to secure a truce.

### [Germany sees better relationship with U.S., but issues remaining](#)

November 12, 2020, Reuters

Germany's foreign minister said relations with the United States will improve under U.S. President-Elect Joe Biden, but there are still enough disagreements with European partners to suggest that not everything would be different.

### [Renewed Prospects for an India – Europe Railway Line](#)

November 12, 2020, The Maritime Executive

The Trump administration had imposed sanctions on Iran that discouraged India's participation in developing a railway line from a port in southeastern Iran to connect to Tehran. A new president suggests that this could change.

### [European Strategic Complacency Is Not an Option](#)

November 13, 2020, Project Syndicate

There has been much talk of achieving "European strategic autonomy," but what does that mean in practice? Autonomy should not imply total independence or isolation from the rest of the world. Rather, it refers to an ability to think for oneself and to act according to one's own values and interests. The European Union needs to achieve this kind of autonomy, while at the same time strengthening our alliances and preserving our commitments to multilateralism and openness.

## **Russia**

### [Kremlin says cause for sanctions against Russia over Navalny 'more than dubious'](#)

November 13, 2020, TASS

The Kremlin considers the cause for sanctions against Russian high-ranking officials over the incident with blogger Alexey Navalny "more than dubious," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview.

### [Shipbuilders to deliver cutting-edge corvette to Russian Navy on December 25](#)

November 12, 2020, TASS

The Severnaya Shipyard (part of the United Shipbuilding Corporation) is set to deliver the Project 20385 lead corvette Gremyashchiy to the Russian Navy on December 25, Shipyard CEO Igor Orlov said.

[Putin decrees to send 1,960 peacekeepers to Karabakh, rotate personnel every six months](#)

November 12, 2020, TASS

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on measures for maintaining peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area that stipulates sending 1,960 peacekeepers and rotating them at least every six months, according to the information posted on the government's legal information web portal.

[Russia imposes retaliatory sanctions against German, French officials](#)

November 12, 2020, TASS

Russia is introducing mirror-like sanctions against representatives of governing structures of Germany and France in the case of Russian opposition figure Alexey Navalny, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

[Lavrov labels Washington's recent remarks on New START extension as 'fidgety comments'](#)

November 12, 2020, TASS

The latest remarks of US President Donald Trump's administration regarding an extension of the Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) are fidgety, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

[Russia's Ingushetia Region on Brink of Bankruptcy](#)

November 12, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russia's southern region of Ingushetia is about to become the first ever region in the country to go bankrupt.



## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [Will Venezuela's Economic Crisis Remove Maduro From Power?](#)

November 12, 2020, Oil Price.com

In desperation, Maduro's autocratic regime has turned to Iran, another pariah state, for assistance. The collapse of Venezuela's once-mighty oil industry has not only caused the Latin American country's economy to implode, but it has triggered massive gasoline and other shortages.

#### [Venezuela: Oil Output Falls as Tankers Approach](#)

November 12, 2020, Venezuelanalysis

The Venezuelan oil sector continues to struggle under the weight of US sanctions.

#### [New Bolivian government reestablishes diplomatic ties with Venezuela and Iran](#)

November 12, 2020, Merco Press

Bolivia's new president, Luis Arce, has moved swiftly to restore ties with Iran and Venezuela, receiving the credentials of ambassadors from the two countries, just three days after his socialist party retook the reins of power.

#### [Brazil to extend emergency financial aid](#)

November 13, 2020, The Siasat Daily

According to Guedes, by the end of 2020, the government will have spent more than 600 billion reals (\$110 billion), or 10 per cent of the GDP, to help poor or low-income households struggling with the pandemic's impact on the economy.

#### [Brazil trial of China's Sinovac vaccine not affected by suspension](#)

November 13, 2020, Deccan Herald

The two-day suspension of a late-stage clinical trial in Brazil for a Covid-19 vaccine developed by China's Sinovac has not impacted the study, the head of the Sao Paulo institute running the trial said.

#### [Chile To Reopen Borders After 8 Months Of Covid-Linked Closure](#)

November 13, 2020, Business World

Chile will allow foreign citizens to enter the country starting from November 23 after eight months of the closure over the COVID-19 pandemic, the government said in a bulletin.

### [Peru clashes over President Vizcarra's impeachment](#)

November 13, 2020, BBC

Clashes have broken out in the Peruvian capital, Lima, between security forces and protesters angry at the impeachment of President Martín Vizcarra.

## **Africa**

### [Vaccine diplomacy and the US-China rivalry in Africa](#)

November 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

Earlier this year, the China-United States global rivalry escalated, as both countries deployed their diplomatic arsenals to try to sway the competition for 5G contracts. The US managed to get the United Kingdom to rescind a deal with China's Huawei to set up the country's 5G network, which was seen as a major win for Washington.

### [Ethiopia names new Tigray head as conflict boils](#)

November 13, 2020, Reuters

Ethiopia sought to tighten its grip on the rebellious Tigray region by appointing a new local leader during a military offensive that has killed hundreds and shaken the wider Horn of Africa region.

### [Ethiopia: Thousands flee to Sudan as Tigray conflict escalates](#)

November 11, 2020, The Indian express

Those fleeing conflict also included at least 30 armed Ethiopian troops seeking protection as the fighting escalated in northern Ethiopia, where Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has launched a military offensive against Tigray's regional government, which the federal government considers illegitimate.

### [India Providing 270 Metric Tonnes of Food Aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea: MEA](#)

November 12, 2020, News 18

India is providing 270 metric tonnes of food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea as part of its assistance to friendly countries to overcome natural calamities and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said the INS AIRAVAT left Mumbai on October 24 on a visit to this region with this aid comprising wheat flour, rice and sugar.

### [India welcomes removal of Sudan from state sponsors of terrorism list](#)

November 9, 2020, The Economic Times

India welcomed the removal of Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism as well as the normalisation of relations between the African nation and Israel.

### [UN votes to crack down on Somalia's al-Shabab extremists](#)

November 12, 2020, The Ridgefield Press

The U.N. Security Council voted to prevent the sale or shipment to Somalia of components of improvised explosive devices if there is "significant risk" they may be used to manufacture the often-deadly devices that are increasingly being used in attacks by al-Shabab extremists.

### [Somalia: The new oil and gas frontier](#)

November 9, 2020, The Africa Report

The launch of the 2020 Somali Bid Round after ratification of the Petroleum Law and Resources Revenue Sharing Agreement, the establishment of the Somali Petroleum Authority (SPA) and an internationally competitive Production Sharing Agreement, all potentially herald a flurry of activity which Somalis hope will replicate the extraordinary offshore exploration success enjoyed by Guyana in recent years.

### [Kenya walked into the dragon's trap. It holds a message for South Asia | Opinion](#)

November 13, 2020, Hindustan Times

Zambia has finally received a six-month reprieve from China Development Bank on repayment of its debt due in October, the government in Lusaka announced last month after a desperate SOS that it was on the verge of a default. Lusaka had already been attempting to restructure and refinance its Chinese debt when SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, first reached Africa and rapidly spread across the world, infecting over 52 million and wreaking havoc on global economies. It has only gotten worse.

### [Ethiopia's Escalating Military Offensive Raises Specter of Civil War](#)

November 12, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Ethiopia is widening a military offensive against the restive regional government of Tigray and arresting thousands across the country, dashing hopes of a quick, negotiated end to the conflict and feeding fears of a full-blown civil war. More than 500 Ethiopians have been killed in fighting across the northern Tigray province in recent days, according to state television, while some 11,000 people have fled into Sudan, where authorities are making provisions for 100,000, according to the United Nations.



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