



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume IV, Issue 48 | November 27, 2020

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume 4, Issue 48

ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Another 26/11-like attack in India almost impossible: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh](#)

November 26, 2020, Deccan Herald

A 26/11-like terror strike in India is almost impossible as the national security architecture has been significantly bolstered in the last few year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said.

[India now working on 1,500-km range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile](#)

November 24, 2020, The Print

India began a series of tests of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, even as work goes on to extend its range. ThePrint has learnt that India is working on a 1,500-km range version of the system that can be launched from land, water or air.

[Indian Navy inducts two American drones on lease, could add more later](#)

November 25, 2020, The Print

In a first, India has inducted two American drones – Sea Guardian, unarmed version of the deadly Predator series – into the Navy on lease under the emergency procurement in the backdrop of the tensions with China in Ladakh.

[China, India in 'candid, in-depth communication' to disengage troops in eastern Ladakh: Chinese military](#)

November 26, 2020, Tribune

China and India have maintained "candid and in-depth communication and coordination" to promote disengagement in areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh after the eighth round of talks to resolve the current standoff, the Chinese military said.

[Indian Navy's MiG-29K trainer aircraft crashes into the Arabian sea; one pilot rescued, another missing](#)

November 27, 2020, Hindustan Times

The Indian Navy's MiG-29K trainer aircraft crashed into the sea after which one pilot has gone missing and one pilot has been rescued, officials said. The naval force confirmed that the accident occurred at 5 pm.

[India Leases 2 Maritime Surveillance Drones From US: Report](#)

November 26, 2020, The Diplomat

While the U.S. has evinced interest in selling armed and unarmed drones to India, a variety of reasons is preventing the country from going ahead with the purchases. India Leases 2 Maritime Surveillance Drones From US: Report

[After Six Years, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka to Revive Trilateral Maritime Security Forum](#)

November 27, 2020, The Wire

After a gap of six years, the trilateral maritime security dialogue will be revived, with a meeting of the top security leadership of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Pakistan

[Pakistan joins Saudi-led initiative for digital cooperation](#)

November 27, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan joined the Digital Cooperation Organisation (DCO), a Saudi-led initiative, aimed at promoting digital cooperation among member states. Besides Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, other members of the DCO are Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and the UAE.

[Razak in talks with key players to finalise Preferential Trade Agreement with Kabul](#)

November 27, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan has launched consultation with stakeholders to initiate formal negotiations with Afghanistan for reduction of duty and taxes under the proposed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The proposed PTA is estimated to enhance volume of bilateral trade to nearly \$5 billion in the next five years from the current less than \$2bn. The negotiations are scheduled to be completed by end of January 2021.

[Pakistanis join final trials for China-made vaccine](#)

November 26, 2020, The Express Tribune

Thousands of volunteers are flocking to research hospitals across Pakistan as the country to join final-stage clinical trials of a Chinese-made vaccine for the coronavirus. It is the first time Pakistan has participated in such a trial. The vaccine is being developed by CanSinoBio and the Beijing Institute of Biotechnology China.

[Kashmir not on agenda of OIC foreign ministers' meeting](#)

November 26, 2020, Dawn

The Kashmir dispute has not been included in the agenda of the two-day meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) being held in Niger's capital Niamey from November 27. The OIC statements, both in English and Arabic, made no specific mention of Kashmir in the agenda announced in Riyadh.

[Shuffle in top brass as six major generals promoted](#)

November 26, 2020, Dawn

Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa kept his core team intact as he reshuffled several key positions in the military bringing in new commanders for five of the 11 theater commands. Another reshuffle is expected in coming days to fill the remaining vacancies.

[UAE visa suspension for Pakistan, others due to security concerns: report](#)

November 25, 2020, Dawn

The United Arab Emirates has temporarily stopped issuing new visas to citizens of Pakistan, Afghanistan and several mostly Muslim majority countries over security concerns. Last week, the Foreign Office said the UAE had stopped processing new visas for Pakistani citizens and those of some other countries.

[Riots in Gilgit-Baltistan over election results](#)

November 24, 2020, The News

The workers of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and police clashed here, as the former protested against the unofficial results of Gilgit-Baltistan A-2, Gilgit-2 constituency. The PPP workers termed the results rigged and held a protest. Demonstrations were also staged in several areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, including Skardu and Chilas.

[Three Daesh commanders killed in Bajaur](#)

November 24, 2020, The News

The security forces spotted and killed Zubair, the operational commander of Daesh for Pakistan, in the Tangi area of Bajaur tribal district along with Azizur Rahman aka Fida, the commander for Karachi. Zubair, who was the right-hand man of Daud Mehsud, was stated to be the "wali" or governor of Daesh for Pakistan.

[PNS Zulfiqar visits Aqaba port of Jordan](#)

November 23, 2020, The News

Pakistan Navy ship Zulfiqar (with embarked helicopter) visited the Aqaba port, Jordan, as part of Pak Navy's overseas deployment to Mediterranean/Red Sea. Pakistan Navy ship after sailing from the Aqaba Port conducted passage exercise with RJNF fast attack craft Al Hassan (P 102), and two patrol crafts.

[Pakistan balks at IMF demands over \\$6 billion loan](#)

November 22, 2020, The News

Talks between Pakistan and the IMF to restart a \$6b loan programme have stalled over Prime Minister Imran Khan's refusal to introduce unpopular measures. Formal discussions to release a tranche of funding have been pushed back over concerns from Islamabad that instituting the reforms tied to the loan would provoke a backlash from the hard-hit middle class.

[US to launch regional funds for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan](#)

November 21, 2020, Dawn

US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said that Washington will soon announce a high-level meeting of representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan to encourage trade and development in that region. The United States, which will also participate in the meeting, is also launching a fund to encourage investments in the South and Central Asian region.

Afghanistan

[Pompeo Meets With Taliban, Afghan Negotiators To Press Cease-Fire](#)

November 21, 2020, RFERL

U. S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on Taliban leaders to swiftly negotiate a permanent cease-fire in Afghanistan after a meeting on November 21 in Qatar. Pompeo also called for a reduction in violence, a State Department spokesman said in a statement after Pompeo met Taliban deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and other members of the group's negotiating team.

[Japan pledges \\$720 million for Afghan reconstruction](#)

November 25, 2020, Japan Times

Japan pledged some \$720 million (¥75 billion) over the next four years for Afghan reconstruction at an international conference in Geneva that brought together some 100 countries and international organizations to help the war-torn country recover from years of violence. Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, in his statement, said, "Japan continues to stand with the Afghan

government and its people. We will work on providing assistance from 2021 to 2024, maintaining the amount comparable to the past four years, which was \$180 million per year."

[Foreign aid to Afghanistan could reach \\$12bn over four years, some with conditions](#)

November 25, 2020, The National News

Foreign donors at a conference pledged a projected \$12 billion in civilian aid to Afghanistan over the next four years, but many made it conditional on protecting human rights and making progress on peace talks in a major shake-up for the country's economy. Ville Skinnari, Finland's minister for development co-operation and foreign trade whose government co-organised the conference, said donors had pledged \$3bn for next year, with annual commitments expected to continue at about the same level through to 2024. "This would amount to \$12 billion," he said.

[Germany Starts Reducing Troops in Kunduz: Report](#)

November 25, 2020, Tolo News

Germany is reducing its military presence in the northern province of Kunduz that was planned by NATO's mission in Kabul in late summer, Germany's military said. A spokesman for Germany's Joint Operations Command said the reduction is not a reaction to the United States' announcement last week that it will cut US forces in Afghanistan to 2,500 from 4,500 by mid-January. Germany started to redeploy its around 100 troops from the camp in Kunduz, which is located inside a larger Afghan base, about a week ago.

[13 Australia Soldiers Face Dismissal Over Afghan Killings](#)

November 27, 2020, Tolo News

Australia has told 13 special forces soldiers that they face dismissal in relation to a report on alleged unlawful killings in Afghanistan. A report published last week found that at least 39 unarmed Afghan civilians and prisoners were killed by 19 Australian soldiers in Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

[India, Bangladesh to hold virtual summit on December 17](#)

November 23, 2020, Hindustan Times

In July, India provided 10 railway locomotives to Bangladesh, days after the first container train made its way to the Bangladeshi side and the first shipment of goods was sent from Kolkata to Tripura via Chattogram port. The two sides are

setting up a new mechanism to review progress on bilateral projects, with five such ventures.

[Four MoUs likely between India, Bangladesh in December during Modi-Hasina summit](#)

November 25, 2020, New Indian Express

India and Bangladesh will sign four memorandum of understandings during the virtual summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina in mid-December.

[Defence Hardware: India keen to work with Bangladesh](#)

November 21, 2020, The Daily Star

India is keen to work with Bangladesh on defence hardware platforms like Akash missile, radars, mortars, artillery guns and ammunitions, said Raj Kumar, secretary (defence production) of Indian defence ministry.

Nepal

[India, Nepal Agree to Advance Ties as Foreign Secretary Meets Nepalese Top Leadership](#)

November 26, 2020, News 18

India and Nepal agreed to step up efforts to advance mutual cooperation as Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla met the country's top leadership and held "productive" talks with his Nepalese counterpart on a range of bilateral issues. Shringla was accorded a warm welcome on his maiden visit to Nepal at the invitation of Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal, amid a strain in bilateral ties following a bitter border row between the two countries.

[India, Nepal discuss border issues during Foreign Secretary Shringla's visit](#)

November 27, 2020, India Today

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla arrived in Kathmandu for a two-day visit in what is being seen as a major visit to mend ties after the border controversy broke out between the two nations.

Sri Lanka

[Ajit Doval To Arrive Today In Sri Lanka To Participate In Regional Maritime Dialogue](#)

November 27, 2020, NDTV

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval will arrive in Sri Lanka for a high-level regional maritime dialogue beginning, Lanka's military spokesman said.

[Sri Lanka, China to focus on 'poverty alleviation'](#)

November 24, 2020, The Hindu

Sri Lanka and China will expedite ongoing development cooperation projects, and increase trade and investment, with "a special focus" on poverty alleviation and livelihoods generation, Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said.

Maldives

[A tale of two bridges: India and China vying for influence in the Maldives](#)

November 26, 2020, CNN

In the heart of the Indian Ocean, a 2.1-kilometer (1.3-mile) bridge snakes out of an idyllic atoll, linking the Maldives' capital Malé with its international airport.

East & South East Asia

China

[UK undermines trust with China, may ruin FTA talks](#)

November 26, 2020, The Global Times

As the due date of leaving the EU draws near, the UK recently signaled an intention to reset its diplomatic relations, including with China. The UK seems inclined to take a more aggressive path towards China at a cost of obstructing a free trade agreement talks with the world's second largest economy, among others.

[Chinese military urged to modernize theories, organization, weapons to reach PLA's 2027 centennial goal](#)

November 26, 2020, The Global Times

The Chinese military was urged to modernize military theories, organizations, personnel and weapons and equipment in order to reach its centennial goal by 2027 recently set by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the Chinese Ministry of National Defence said. It marked the first time that the country's defence ministry explained the goal after it was unveiled in the country's new development plan for the next five and 15 years approved at a key Party meeting in late October and a new military outline released in early this month stressed design on future warfare.

[China calls for healthy, stable military ties with U.S.](#)

November 26, 2020, Xinhua Net

China expects the United States to work with China in maintaining the healthy and stable development of the military-to-military relationship between the two countries, a Chinese military spokesperson said at a press conference.

[Japan's report on China security untenable: spokesperson](#)

November 27, 2020, Xinhua Net

A Chinese military spokesperson criticized a Japanese report for making groundless comments on China's national defence and military modernization.

[Xi calls for cultivating closer China-ASEAN community with shared future](#)

November 27, 2020, Xinhua Net

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for cultivating a closer community with a shared future for China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

[China calls on India to safeguard border peace and stability with sincerity](#)

November 27, 2020, Xinhua Net

China expects India to safeguard peace and stability along the border between the two countries with a sincere attitude and through positive actions, a Chinese military spokesperson said.

[Amphibious landing ships, stealth missile boats conduct exercises in South China Sea](#)

November 25, 2020, The Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy recently sent three Type 071 amphibious dock landing ships, and multiple Type 022 stealth missile boats to two exercises in the South China Sea, sending a strong message of deterrence to Taiwan secessionists and forces with ulterior motives, analysts said.

[Xi congratulates Joe Biden on election as US president](#)

November 25, 2020, The Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message to Joe Biden to congratulate him on election as US president.

[Chinese FM's S.Korea trip yields 10-point consensus](#)

November 26, 2020, The Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has made fruitful achievements in his tour to South Korea which started, reaching a ten-point consensus on issues ranging from anti-pandemic cooperation and advancing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to cultural exchanges and a blueprint for future bilateral ties.

[The Truth About Chinese Bonds](#)

November 26, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Here's some advice for investors trying to make sense of recent turmoil in China's domestic bond market: Good luck. Beijing appears to be gearing up for what could become one of its most consequential financial reforms, at a time when the economy is recovering from the pandemic. China's roughly \$15 trillion domestic bond market has been upset by the defaults of two state-owned borrowers. Yongcheng Coal and Electricity Holding Co., owned by Henan's provincial government, recently defaulted on a \$152 million bond. Huachen Automotive Group, BMW's joint-venture partner owned by Liaoning province, missed a similar payment last month.

[U.S. Puts Tariffs on Chinese Twist-Ties](#)

November 25, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

The Trump administration has imposed a small but ground-breaking set of tariffs, penalizing Chinese twist-ties on grounds that Beijing undervalued its currency to gain market share for the products. While the tariffs apply only to twist-ties, the ruling by the Commerce Department Tuesday could potentially set a precedent for other companies that competed with Chinese imports to seek tariffs against their competitors' products.

[China sends a message with Australian crackdown](#)

November 25, 2020, Financial Times

For a glimpse of the future in a world dominated by China, a good starting point is Australia. Beijing's embassy in Canberra last week handed the local media a short document detailing 14 grievances that China says are the cause of its rapidly deteriorating relations with Australia. The document contains many familiar complaints: Beijing says Canberra has been interfering in its sovereignty through critical statements on Taiwan, Hong Kong, the South China Sea and Xinjiang, and has unfairly excluded Chinese companies like Huawei from Australia's 5G telecommunications network.

[Pope says for first time that China's Uighurs are 'persecuted'](#)

November 24, 2020, The Guardian

Pope Francis has for the first time called China's Muslim Uighurs a "persecuted" people, something human rights activists have been urging him to do for years. In the wide-ranging book *Let Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future*, he said: "I think often of persecuted peoples: the Rohingya, the poor Uighurs, the Yazidi" in a section where he also talks about persecuted Christians in Islamic countries.

[China's Surveillance State Sucks Up Data. U.S. Tech Is Key to Sorting It.](#)

November 24, 2020, The New York Times

At the end of a desolate road rimmed by prisons, deep within a complex bristling with cameras, American technology is powering one of the most invasive parts of China's surveillance state. The computers inside the complex, known as the Urumqi Cloud Computing Center, are among the world's most powerful. They can watch more surveillance footage in a day than one person could in a year. They look for faces and patterns of human behavior. They track cars. They monitor phones.

Japan

[Japan, China need to step up dialogue on bilateral disputes](#)

November 27, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

Building a healthy relationship with China is a priority for Japan that goes a long way toward determining the nation's future course.

[Japan and Australia put aside wartime baggage to counter China's rise](#)

November 24, 2020, The Japan Times

In this virtual era, symbols have assumed greater significance. Last week's visit to Japan by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison was very symbolic and therefore a very big deal. Morrison was the first foreign leader to visit the country since Yoshihide Suga became prime minister, a meeting that took on even more importance and signalled real purpose at a time of COVID-19, with all the associated risks and inconvenience. The interest is mutual: Morrison was the first foreign leader Suga called after succeeding Shinzo Abe as prime minister.

[Japan rejects China's proposal for easing tensions over isle sovereignty](#)

November 27, 2020, Japan Today

Japan will not accept China's proposal to ease bilateral tensions over the sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands, the government's top spokesman said, dismissing it as part of an attempt to advance Beijing's claims to Tokyo's territory.

[China, Japan to cooperate in reviving virus-hit economies](#)

November 25, 2020, Japan Today

The foreign ministers of Japan and China agreed to cooperate in fighting the coronavirus and reviving their pandemic-hit economies, while trying to avoid actions that provoke tensions over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

[Japan pledges \\$720 mil for Afghan reconstruction at int'l conference](#)

November 25, Japan Today

Japan pledged some \$720 million over the next four years for Afghan reconstruction at an international conference in Geneva that brought together over 80 countries and international organizations to help the war-torn country recover from years of violence.

[China's top diplomat arrives in Japan amid regional tensions](#)

November 24, 2020, Japan Today

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Tokyo marking the first such high-level trip since Japan picked a new leader in September and amid mounting concerns over Beijing's growing assertiveness in the region.

Korea

[Moon's adviser calls for S. Korea to break away from 'US or China' framework](#)

November 27, 2020, The Korea Herald

South Korea should work together with Australia, Canada and Japan to form regional economic or security frameworks so as to create a new order free from the burden of choosing sides between the United States and China, an adviser to President Moon Jae-in said.

[NK's trade with China drops 70% this year](#)

November 27, 2020, The Korea Herald

North Korea's trade with China shrank by over 70 percent this year, with the North shutting down borders with its main trade partner in January in hopes to fend off COVID-19.

[Police halt breakup of anti-THAAD protesters in Seongju](#)

November 27, 2020, The Korea Times

The defence ministry's latest attempt to bring non-weapon materials and construction equipment onto a Terminal High Altitude Area defence (THAAD) base in central South Korea ran into fierce protests from local residents and civic activists opposed to the deployment of the American missile defence system.

[Over 70 percent South Koreans support Seoul's role as 'facilitator' in nuclear talks with Pyongyang](#)

November 27, 2020, The Korea Times

A majority of South Koreans agree that Seoul should play the role of a "facilitator" to push the stalled nuclear negotiations forward between the United States and North Korea, a survey showed.

[North Korea publishes picture album featuring weapons under leader Kim Jong-un](#)

November 24, 2020, The Korea Times

North Korea published a picture album showing off an intercontinental ballistic missile and other weapons, amid its unusually long silence on the U.S. election results.

Southeast Asia

[South China Sea: Us Vows Support To Philippines And Vietnam Over Row With China](#)

November 23, 2020, WION

US President Donald Trump's administration is stepping up its challenges to Beijing's maritime claims in the dispute-rife South China Sea.

[Indonesian Navy to Move Combat Squad's HQ to Natuna Islands](#)

November 23, 2020, Benar News

Indonesia's navy chief said it would move its combat squad's headquarters to the Natuna Islands to protect Jakarta's territorial interests near the South China Sea, amid incursions in national waters by Chinese and Vietnamese fishing boats.

[China Bags Cambodian Airport Contract In Blow To French Operator](#)

November 23, 2020, Nikkei Asia

A major portion of Cambodia's new international airport in Phnom Penh will be built by a Chinese state-owned company, leaving the French operator of the capital's current gateway facing an increasingly uncertain future.

[China To Boost Financial Cooperation With Singapore](#)

November 24, 2020m, Hans India

China will strengthen cooperation with Singapore to promote greater financial connectivity, according to officials. Chen Yulu, vice governor of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), made the remarks at the China-Singapore (Chong qing) Connectivity Initiative Financial Summit 2020 held in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, Xinhua news agency reported

[Philippine Navy Takes Delivery Of Eight ScanEagle UAV](#)

November 25, 2020, Naval News

The Philippine Navy took delivery of a ScanEagle Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) from the United State at the US Embassy in Manila. According to local media the UAS consists in eight Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAV).

[American NSA's Visit To Vietnam, Philippines Represents 'Cold War Mentality': Chinese Embassies](#)

November 25, 2020, WION

The United States National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien recently assured Vietnam and the Philippines of support against China's "aggressive" actions in the South China Sea.

[Vietnam – India: Increasing Trade and Investment Relations](#)

November 25, 2020, Vietnam Briefing

The year 2020 marks the 42nd anniversary of India-Vietnam bilateral trade. Vietnam and India have shared strong bilateral relations historically, and for the past two decades, trade between the two countries has risen considerably. These economic ties have materialized into several Indian investments in Vietnam in various sectors.

[Malaysian Navy Vessels, Chinese Ship Reported In South China Sea Standoff](#)

November 26, 2020, FMT

The China Coast Guard (CCG) and Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) are reportedly involved in a standoff over hydrocarbon exploration 44 nautical miles off the coast of Sarawak in the South China Sea.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[China diversifies in Central Asia](#)

November 23, 2020, Eurasia Net

Beijing has changed course. It now rarely funds major infrastructure projects in Central Asia. Instead the People's Republic has shifted to manufacturing: a bus factory here, a cement plant there. When Beijing does lend, it is still from its policy banks (China Development Bank and China Eximbank), but preferably after securing joint funding from local partners or other countries.

[Azerbaijani FM, foreign counterparts mull regional security, Karabakh peace deal](#)

November 27, 2020, Azer News

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has discussed with his counterparts from Italy, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia the latest regional situation and the implementation of a Russia-brokered peace agreement signed by Azerbaijan and Armenia to end the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Kazakhstan, China discuss post-COVID industrial, investment cooperation](#)

November 25, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The third Kazakhstan-China forum on industrial and investment cooperation was held in Beijing as part of the 12th China Overseas Investment Fair. The event, organized by the China Overseas Development Association and Kazakh Invest national investment promotion company, was attended by over 200 representatives of Kazakh and Chinese government and quasi-government sectors, as well as members of business community of the two countries, Kazakh Invest reported on November 25.

[Amid rising crises, Turkmenistan strengthens its military and international outreach](#)

November 21, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

As Turkmenistan faces economic, healthcare and security problems, the isolationist country seems to have realized the need for more international cooperation to resolve the pressing issues.

[Azerbaijan Regains Control Over Kalbajar District Following Withdrawal Of Armenia's Troops](#)

November 26, 2020, Caspian News

The armed forces of Azerbaijan entered the district of Kalbajar, a territory that was returned to the country by Armenia under the tripartite ceasefire statement signed between the two countries and Russia on November 9.

[Russia, Turkmenistan Join Forces to Improve Maritime Transport in the Caspian Sea](#)

November 25, 2020, Caspian News

Russia and Turkmenistan have agreed to strengthen regional transportation and logistics capabilities via the body of water that separates their borders, the Caspian Sea.

[Return of Great Game in Post-Soviet Central Asia](#)

November 23, 2020, News Click

China was careful to balance its accumulating presence in Central Asia with its improving relations with Russia through the 1990s, while also retaining its strategic relationship with Pakistan.

West Asia

[Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Snubs Pakistan on Kashmir Again](#)

November 26, 2020, WION

For months, Pakistan has been demanding discussion on Kashmir and wanted the OIC to raise the issue. It wanted its members to join its propaganda drive against India; however, the OIC has snubbed Pakistan.

[EAM Jaishankar Discusses Cooperation between India and UAE in Post-Covid Era with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince](#)

November 26, 2020, The Economic Times

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has discussed the advancement of strategic cooperation between India and the UAE in the post-COVID era with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during his visit to the Gulf kingdom.

[India, Bahrain Agree to Increase Defence and Maritime Security Cooperation](#)

November 26, 2020, Outlook

India and Bahrain agreed to further strengthen their historic ties, including in areas of defence and maritime security, as External Affairs Minister S.

Jaishankar and his Bahraini counterpart discussed bilateral issues as well as regional and global matters of mutual interest.

[India Bahrain Set for Health Trade Boom Amid Growing Demand](#)

November 23, 2020, The Week

Speaking at a webinar highlighting opportunities between the two countries, India's Ambassador to The Kingdom of Bahrain Piyush Srivastava said, "India's position as the 'pharmacy of the world' can be further strengthened through new Gulf partnerships."

[EAM Jaishankar Hails Contributions of Indian Diaspora in Bahrain for Strengthening Bilateral Ties](#)

November 25, 2020, Hindustan Times

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar virtually interacted with the members of the Indian diaspora in Bahrain via video conference and appreciated their valuable contributions to the strengthening of the bilateral ties.

[Iran Tells Iraqi Factions 'No Attacks' on U.S. Targets Until Trump is Gone'](#)

November 24, 2020, Middle East Eye

Terrified that Donald Trump could launch a new Middle East war, Iran dispatched one of its top generals to Baghdad last week to order allied Iraqi factions to cease all attacks until Joe Biden is in the White House.

[Israelis Pay Respects to Victims of 26/11 Mumbai Attacks, Condemn 'Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorism'](#)

November 26, 2020, Hindustan Times

Israelis held ceremonies to pay respects to the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, demanding that the perpetrators of the carnage be brought to justice and condemning "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism".

[Israel, India Partners in Quest for Future with Low Carbon: PM Netanyahu](#)

November 27, 2020, Business Standard

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his country is India's partner in its quest for a future with low carbon and pollution levels, and exuded confidence that solar energy would constitute over 25 per cent of his country's energy supply by 2030.

[Israeli PM Netanyahu Met Saudi Crown Prince, Pompeo in Saudi Arabia](#)

November 23, 2020, Reuters

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu travelled to Saudi Arabia and met its crown prince, an Israeli official said, in what would be the first publicly confirmed visit there by an Israeli leader as they close ranks against Iran.

[Israeli Air-Strike Killed at Least 19 Pro-Iran Fighters in Syria](#)

November 26, 2020, The Times of Israel

Airstrikes likely carried out by Israel killed at least 19 pro-Iran militia fighters in war-torn eastern Syria, a war monitor said.

[France, EU Lawmakers Push for Sanctions on Turkey Next Month](#)

November 26, 2020, Reuters

The European Parliament urged the EU to impose sanctions on Turkey after President Erdogan this month paid a visit to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north of Cyprus.

[UAE Halts New Visas to Citizens of 13 Mostly Muslim States: Document](#)

November 25, 2020, Reuters

The United Arab Emirates has stopped issuing new visas to citizens of 13 mostly Muslim-majority countries, including Iran, Syria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to a document issued by a state-owned business park.

United States

United States

[Aspects of Trump's foreign policy were good for the U.S. Biden should keep them.](#)

November 25, 2020, The Washington Post

Biden is right to scrap Trump's destructive unilateralism and insulting attitude toward democratic allies. Yet Trump has been heading in the right direction by downsizing the nation's military commitments in the Middle East and pulling back on foreign trade. Biden would be wise to follow Trump's lead when it comes to ending the nation's forever wars and standing up to China on trade.

[Trump, Still Claiming Victory, Says He Will Leave if Electors Choose Biden](#)

November 26, 2020, The New York Times

President Trump said that he would leave the White House if the Electoral College formalized Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s election as president, even as he reiterated baseless claims of fraud that he said would make it "very hard" to concede.

[Trump says coronavirus vaccine deliveries to begin next week](#)

November 27, 2020, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump said that delivery of the coronavirus vaccine would begin next week and the week after.

[US lawmaker expresses concern over Chinese construction along Indian border](#)

November 26, 2020, Defence Aviation Post

Expressing concern over reports of China's illegal construction activities along the Indian border in Ladakh, US lawmaker Raja Krishnamoorthi has said that America will always continue to stand with India and oppose any "revisionist efforts" by the Chinese government or anyone else to challenge the peace and stability in the region.

[India-US extend MoU for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years](#)

November 25, 2020, Defence Aviation Post

Extending the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on nuclear energy for 10 more years, India and America have issued a joint statement on November 24, saying, "Marking the tenth year of cooperation between the United States and India at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) and the signing of the extension, for an additional ten years

Concerning Cooperation with the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership.”

[Biden's gender parity pledge could be watershed moment for women in national security](#)

November 25, 2020, defence News

The Biden-Harris team preparing to take over the White House in January could provide a historic flow of women into key national security leadership roles.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Bhutan establishes formal ties with Germany](#)

November 25, 2020, The Hindu

Bhutan announced that it had established diplomatic relations with Germany, increasing the restricted number of capitals that Thimphu has formal ties with to 53 states and the EU.

[France, EU lawmakers push for sanctions on Turkey next month](#)

November 26, 2020, Reuters

The European Parliament urged the EU to impose sanctions on Turkey after President Tayyip Erdogan this month paid a visit to the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north of Cyprus.

[Poland, Hungary moving deeper into isolation in EU - senior EU diplomat](#)

November 26, 2020, Reuters

Poland and Hungary are moving deeper into isolation in the 27-nation European Union by blocking the EU's 2021-2027 budget and recovery fund needed to pull the EU out of a recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a senior EU diplomat said.

[U.K. and EU Ready to Resume Brexit Talks Roiled by Virus](#)

November 27, 2020, Bloomberg Quint

U.K. and European Union negotiators are poised to resume face-to-face trade talks this weekend after key officials involved in the discussions were forced into quarantine.

[Sunak says on Brexit deal: its preferable but not at any cost](#)

November 26, 2020, The Reuters

British finance minister Rishi Sunak said that a Brexit deal was preferable, but that London should not stretch for an accord at any cost.

[France's new national security bill could jeopardize freedom of expression](#)

November 26, 2020, Washington Post

As critics have argued, the "global security bill," which received a first-reading adoption by the National Assembly on Nov. 24, jeopardizes the freedom of the press and could herald the introduction of a ubiquitous surveillance system.

[The imminent Biden presidency reawakens Europe's defence debate](#)

November 27, 2020, The Economist

As Europeans prepare for an American presidency under Joe Biden, it has exposed old cracks within the European Union over how far Europe should, or could, do more to defend itself.

[Europe must seize opportunity for stronger defence cooperation, says EDA chief](#)

November 27, 2020, Euractiv

With the pressure in the EU's strategic environment mounting, the bloc should not miss the opportunity of starting to use all the tools at hand to increase its defence cooperation, Jiří Šedivý, chief executive of the European Defence Agency (EDA) told EURACTIV in an interview.

[Europe still needs U.S., NATO for security - German defence minister](#)

November 17, 2020, Reuters

Europe will not be able to provide for its own security without U.S. and NATO help for decades to come, Germany's defence minister said, rejecting French President Emmanuel Macron's call for an independent European defence strategy.

Russia

[Russia's Top Diplomat Accuses West of Meddling in Belarus](#)

November 26, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russia's foreign minister accused the West of interfering in Belarus as he met strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko who has faced months of protests over his disputed re-election.

[Russia Test-Fires 'Tsirkon' Hypersonic Missile](#)

November 27, 2020, The Moscow Times

The Russian military has test-launched its vaunted Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile for at least the third time this year, the defence Ministry announced.

[US actions on global arena cause crisis in the UN - Russian diplomat](#)

November 27, 2020, TASS

The policy of the United States in the international arena provokes crisis in the UN and undermines the world order, Russia's first deputy permanent representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky said.

[Kremlin says it's wrong to presume Russia refuses to accept Biden 'win'](#)

November 26, 2020, TASS

The Kremlin believes that it's absolutely wrong to view the lack of congratulations from the Russian president as a refusal to accept Joe Biden's projected victory.

[Russian ambassador to Egypt issues responds to criticism of bilateral relations](#)

November 26, 2020, TASS

Russian Ambassador to Egypt Georgy Borisenko has issued an open letter to the Egyptian daily Al-Shorouq to respond to a critical article by its editor-in-chief Emad El Deen Hussein entitled A New Pause with the Russian Friend.

[Russian envoy calls on UN to analyze damage done to countries by unilateral sanctions](#)

November 26, 2020, TASS

Russia calls on the United Nations to monitor damage done to various countries by the United States' and the European Union's unilateral sanction imposed in bypassing the United Nations Security Council, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzya said at a UN Security Council informal meeting on the issue of illegal unilateral sanctions.

[Putin calls for solving North Korea's nuclear problem through talks](#)

November 24, 2020, TASS

The Korean Peninsula's nuclear problem must be resolved exclusively by diplomatic means through talks, Russian President Vladimir Putin said as he received credentials from newly-appointed foreign ambassadors, including the new ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sin Hong Chol.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Venezuela Arrests Oil Workers To Cover Up Bad Press About PDVSA](#)

November 22, 2020, Oil Price

Venezuela's regime has recently arrested oil workers or retired oil workers who have dared to expose the corruption and mismanagement at its state oil firm PDVSA and its dire financial, operational, and working conditions, Argus reports. Venezuela's military intelligence and its national intelligence service Sebin have arrested in recent weeks two people, one of whom a retired PDVSA worker, who had openly criticized the dangerous working conditions and the corruption at the state oil firm.

[Citgo 6: US oil executives convicted of corruption in Venezuela](#)

November 27, 2020, BBC

Six US oil executives have been jailed after being found guilty of corruption by a court in Venezuela. The men all worked for Citgo, a US refining company owned by Venezuela's state oil firm, and were arrested in the capital Caracas three years ago.

[Guatemala's controversial budget 'shelved' amid protests](#)

November 24, 2020, BBC

The Speaker of Congress in Guatemala has said a controversial budget that triggered protests during which parts of the Congress building were set on fire will be shelved.

[China competes in the dredging of Paraguay/Parana Waterway which handles 90 million tons of grains](#)

November 25, 2020, Merco Press

A Chinese company entered the competition to manage a section of the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, joining four European companies seeking to win the concession to deepen the draft and provide maintenance on approximately 1,238 kilometers of the river course beginning in 2021.

[Colombian navy captures fully submersible sub for drugs transport; possible origin North Korea or Iran](#)

November 26, 2020, Merco Press

At the beginning of this month, the Colombian Navy made its latest capture of a submarine from one of the drug barons. The sub was significantly different from the others captured. This one, unlike its predecessors, was fully

submersible rather than semi-submersible, and it was powered by an electric engine.

[Beijing accused Eduardo Bolsonaro of harming relations between Brazil and China](#)

November 26, 2020, Merco Press

China's embassy in Brazil said a son of President Jair Bolsonaro had harmed relations between the two countries with critical comments about telecommunications equipment firm Huawei.

[Mercosur/EU trade deal: "time is pressing," cautions Uruguay](#)

November 25, 2020, Merco Press

Uruguayan foreign minister Francisco Bustillo leaves this week for Spain the first of a round of European countries ahead of the coming Mercosur summit to be held next month, under the presidency of Uruguay. Finalizing the Mercosur/European Union trade agreement is the focus of the trip.

Africa

[Tensions in Build-up to Ghana Polls](#)

November 26, 2020, All Africa.com

Ghanaians will be going to polls on December 7, 2020 for presidential and parliamentary elections. This will be the country's eighth consecutive poll since returning to democracy nearly 30 years ago. Although 12 candidates are vying for the top job, the contest is mainly between incumbent Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and his predecessor John Mahama of the main opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC).

[Southern Africa: President in Crucial SADC Troika Meeting](#)

November 27, 2020, All Africa

President Mnangagwa is expected to join other Heads of State and Governments in Botswana for a one-day SADC Extraordinary Organ Troika Summit that will focus on emerging terrorism threats in the region particularly in Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

[Nigeria Ranked 3rd Most Terrorised Country Worldwide](#)

November 26, 2020, All Africa

Nigeria has been ranked third most terrorised country in the world by the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report, which stated that death attributed to Boko Haram in Nigeria increased by 25 percent from 2018 to 2019.

[UK slashes aid budget, threatens Nigeria with sanctions](#)

November 26, 2020, The Africa Report

It has been a busy week for Her Majesty's Government. The UK is cutting the overseas aid budget, while parliamentarians have accused Nigerian leaders of corruption and inaction, and threatened sanctions, while also pointing a finger at the facilitating role the UK financial services industry has played in the looting.

[Algeria – France: Macron interview raises hackles](#)

November 26, 2020, The Africa Report

The recently published interview with French President Emmanuel Macron has offended Algerians on several fronts, whether it's his show of support for Abdelmadjid Tebboune, his vision of the Hirak movement or his reference to Algeria's supposed urban-rural divide.

[Ethiopia to launch 'final phase' of offensive in Tigray region, says PM](#)

November 26, 2020, Reuters

The Ethiopian military will begin the "final phase" of an offensive in the northern Tigray region, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said, after an ultimatum expired for Tigrayan forces to surrender.

[West Africans are dying trying to reach the Canary Islands](#)

November 27, 2020, The Economist

This year at least 529 migrants are known to have died trying to reach the Canary Islands from Africa. Almost 400 more, in nine missing boats, are presumed dead. The true total is probably higher still. Migrants are casting off in boats along the whole coast, from Morocco to Guinea (see map). The risk of dying on the Canarian route may be six times higher than making the shorter trip to Europe across the Mediterranean. Despite such danger, more than 18,000 migrants have arrived in the Canary Islands this year, ten times more than in the comparable period last year. About 9,000 have arrived in the past 30 days.



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