

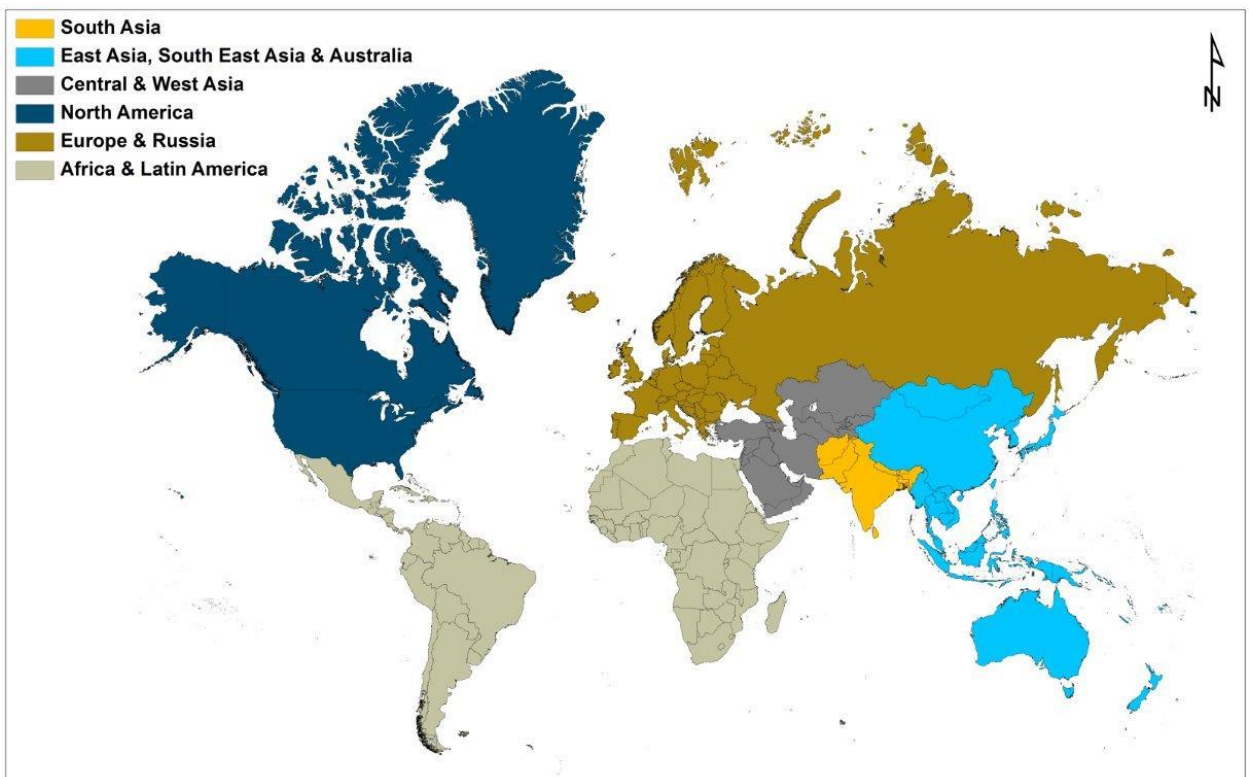


Delhi Policy Group

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 international and strategic 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 military modernisation.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India – Australia: Indo-Pacific maritime powers ink MLSA for access to military bases](#)

June 4, 2020, Financial Express

“There is great potential in the future of the India-Australia relationship particularly in the maritime domain. The geographic location of both countries relative to each other provides the ability for effective Maritime Domain Awareness over a large swath of the Indo-Pacific” opines an expert.

[At virtual bilateral meet, India and Australia sign seven agreement](#)

June 4, 2020, Hindustan Times

The two sides also unveiled a “shared vision for maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific” and signed seven agreements focused on crucial areas such as defence and rare earth minerals.

[In 40-minute phone call, Trump invites PM Modi to G7 meet, discusses China standoff](#)

June 2, 2020, Hindustan Times

PM Modi commended President Trump for his creative and far-sighted approach, acknowledging the fact that such an expanded forum would be in keeping with the emerging realities of the post-Covid world.

[Amid India-China Tension, Govt To Send 11,000 Workers To Complete Projects Near China Border](#)

June 1, 2020, Indian Defence News

Amid tensions at the Indo-China border, the central government has started preparing to complete the ongoing projects in the border area. The Border Road Organisation (BRO) has appealed to the Railways to provide 11 special trains to transport around 11,000 workers from Jharkhand for road construction near the borders in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

[LAC standoff: India eyes 4-pronged plan for Lt-Gen level talks with China](#)

June 5, 2020, The Times of India

India will take care to ensure that any restoration of status quo ante does not take place on China's terms during the Lt-General-level meeting to be held in a bid to de-escalate the month long troop confrontation in eastern Ladakh.

[Recent reforms in the Indian Defence Sector](#)

June 1, 2020, Financial Express

India with the second largest armed forces and with the fifth largest defence budget in the world aims to achieve self-reliance in defence production.

[Air activity up; India reinforces troops along entire LAC before talks with China](#)

June 4, 2020, The Economic Times

Air activity in the Sino-Indian border has gone up significantly while Indian troops have reinforced positions along the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the air force is on alert ahead of a key meeting on Saturday to resolve the month-long border stand off in eastern Ladakh.

[India will get its growth back, govt taking all measures to boost economy: PM Modi](#)

June 2, 2020, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India will get its growth back and added that the government has already started taking steps towards boosting the economy with eased guidelines under the 'Unlock 1' strategy.

[Pakistan must end terror, attempts to create discord with Afghanistan won't succeed: India](#)

June 5, 2020, The Times of India

This follows concerns expressed by India over a report submitted by the UNSC's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace and stability in Afghanistan.

[G-12 must include respect for human rights, adherence to international law, multilateralism in trade and security](#)

June 5, 2020, The Indian Express

President Trump is not doing India a favour by wanting to invite it into the new group. As the world's largest free market democracy India deserves to be a member of not just a G-12 but of even a new G-7.

[After US, France, South Korea, Singapore & Australia, India now looking to ink military logistics pact with Japan](#)

June 4, 2020, The Times of India

India is fast inking reciprocal military logistics pacts with like minded countries to extend its strategic and naval operational reach in the entire IOR and beyond, with an eye firmly on China's expansionist behaviour in the Indo Pacific.

[Modi-Morrison summit can help plug a gap in India's diplomatic tradition](#)

June 4, 2020, The Indian Express

It is only by building a series of overlapping bilateral and minilateral platforms for regional security cooperation that Delhi and Canberra can limit the dangers of the growing geopolitical imbalance in the Indo-Pacific.

[Rajnath Singh says 'sizeable number' of Chinese troops have moved into Ladakh](#)

June 3, 2020, Scroll

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh admitted on Tuesday that a "sizeable number" of Chinese troops have moved into eastern Ladakh, PTI reported. He said India was taking all steps necessary to deal with the situation. This is the first admission by the Centre that Chinese troops have encroached upon Indian territory.

Pakistan

[Pakistan, India battling worst locust attack in 30 years](#)

June 2, 2020, The News

In Pakistan, the desert locusts have entered from Iran, and have already devoured considerable quantities of crops in over 60 districts in all provinces, including Balochistan in the southwest. The country is intensifying efforts to combat the plague with pest control systems, including spray aircraft. Among Indian states affected by the desert locusts, one of about a dozen species of short-horned grasshoppers, are northwestern Rajasthan, northern Punjab, western Gujarat and central Madhya Pradesh.

[Qatar refuses to invest in Pakistan's three major airports](#)

June 2, 2020, The News

The Qatar Investment Authority has excused from investing in Pakistan airports mainly because of deviation from model of 2017 by authorities concerned in Pakistan under which they don't want to hand over airport operations to

professional management. Now authorities in Pakistan desire to outsource individual services like parking services, tuck shop services, restaurant services, so that they could retain operational control.

[Pharma firm plans to import Covid-19 treatment drug from Bangladesh](#)

May 30, 2020, Dawn

A local pharmaceutical company plans to import a generic version of Remdesivir a broad spectrum antiviral medication that has shown to reduce recovery time in Covid-19 patients from a Bangladesh-based manufacturer.

[Pakistan plans to raise \\$1.5bn in Eurobonds, officials say](#)

May 30, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan plans to raise \$1.5 billion through Eurobonds to bridge a balance of payments gap for the financial year beginning July 1. With the country's fiscal deficit likely to rise as high as 9.4 per cent and a shortfall in revenues due to Covid-19 economic losses, Pakistan desperately needs funds to stave off balance of payment pressure caused by dwindling foreign reserves and a current account deficit.

[Two High Commission officials expelled by India](#)

June 1, 2020, Dawn

India expelled two officials of the Pakistani High Commission in Delhi accusing them of espionage — a charge. The officials were identified as Abid Hussain Abid, 42, an assistant in the Pakistani mission, and Mohammad Tahir Khan, 44, a clerk. Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a statement said they were "apprehended today by Indian law enforcement authorities for indulging in espionage activities".

Afghanistan

[Afghan Govt Releases 164 Hizb-e-Islami Prisoners](#)

May 29, 2020, Tolo News

The Afghan government released 164 members of Hizb-e-Islami from Bagram and Pul-e-Charkhi jails, members of the commission implementing the peace deal between Hizb-e-Islami. However, some of those released from the jails claimed to be members of the Taliban.

[Taliban maintains close ties with al-Qaeda, despite peace deal – UN](#)

June 2, 2020, DW News

The Taliban in Afghanistan still maintains close relations with the terror network al-Qaida, despite having signed a peace deal with the US agreeing to tackle militant groups, a United Nations report released on June 1. According to the report, a number of important al-Qaida members were killed over the past months but several prominent leaders remain active in Afghanistan. In particular, the report noted that the Taliban continues to operate with ally and guerrilla insurgent group – the Haqqani network.

[Ghani, Pompeo Discuss Peace Efforts](#)

June 2, 2020, Tolo News

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and US Secretary of United State Mike Pompeo discussed the Afghan peace process via video conference on June 1. They also discussed the next steps towards peace, including the release of prisoners, the analysis and location of negotiations, and other peace-related measures. Both sides emphasized the need for joint cooperation on reporting during the peace negotiations.

[Afghanistan's Tiny Hindu And Sikh Minority Mull Leaving Their Country](#)

June 4, 2020, RFERL

The ultra-radical Islamic State (IS) militants claimed attack for the March 25 attack on a Gurdwara or Sikh temple in Kabul. The group also owned the July 2018 attack that killed 17 people in the eastern city of Jalalabad. Following to the attack Many Sikhs and Hindus have decided to leave Afghanistan once the travel restrictions imposed because of the coronavirus pandemic are over. Since its emergence in eastern Afghanistan in 2015, IS has emerged as a lethal threat to religious minorities and Afghans in general. Thousands of Afghans have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced because of the group's attacks or efforts to control territory.

[After Ceasefire, Taliban Average '30 Attacks Per Day': Sources](#)

June 4, 2020, Tolo News

The Taliban initiated on average 30 attacks on the Afghan security forces each day after the Eid-ul-Fitr ceasefire, amid persistent calls by the international community for the Taliban to extend the ceasefire. Initially, there was hope that the Eid ceasefire would be extended to help facilitate the intra-Afghan talks.

Bangladesh

[4.5 km of Bangladesh's Padma Bridge visible as Chinese firm continues construction despite COVID-19](#)

May 31, 2020, Global Times

The construction of Bangladesh's largest Padma Bridge is still underway despite the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, with the 30th span installed on Saturday.

[4.3 magnitude earthquake hits India-Bangladesh border](#)

June 3, 2020, The Economic Times

A moderate intensity earthquake, measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale, rocked the India- Bangladesh border on Wednesday morning but there were no reports of any damage, officials said.

Nepal

[Hong Kong belongs to China: Nepal](#)

June 3, 2020, The Hindu

Nepal came out strongly in favour of the 'one China policy', and said it considers Hong Kong to be an "integral" part of China.

[Delhi must focus on India's relations with Nepal](#)

June 2, 2020, The Indian Express

It should bet that the logic of Nepal's economic geography, its pursuit of enlightened self-interest, and Kathmandu's natural balancing politics, will continue to provide a strong framework for India's future engagement with Nepal.

[Nepal's map move](#)

June 2, 2020, Tribune India

India and Nepal have had traditionally good relations, bound by cultural and linguistic commonalities. A landlocked country, Nepal has looked up to its neighbour to boost its economy, accessing its ports and highways for connectivity. Therefore, any development in India affects Nepal, like the long lockdown and closure of all means of transport.

[World Bank approves \\$100 million credit to reform Nepal's energy sector and boost recovery from Covid-19 crisis](#)

June 3, 2020, The Kathmandu Post

The World Bank on Wednesday approved a \$100 million development policy credit to continue support to Nepal in improving the financial viability and governance of the electricity sector and recovering from the Covid-19 crisis.

Bhutan

[Cabinet approves MoU between India and Bhutan on cooperation in the areas of environment](#)

June 3, 2020, Northeast Now

Taking head environment cooperation with Bhutan, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday gave its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Royal Government of Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of the environment.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka's Election Commission to Decide Date For Parliamentary Polls on Monday](#)

June 5, 2020, India.com

Sri Lanka's National Elections Commission Chairman Mahinda Deshapriya said on Thursday that the fresh date for the parliamentary elections would be announced .

[INS Jalashwa Brings Home Nearly 700 Stranded Indians From Sri Lanka](#)

June 3, 2020, NDTV

A senior police official said returnees were being sent to their respective districts in Tamil Nadu through specially arranged government buses and they have been advised to remain in home quarantine for two weeks.

East & South East Asia

China

[Can Washington expand G7 in anti-Beijing move?](#)

June 4, 2020, Global Times

The US, this year's host country for the G7 summit, reportedly intends to form a "G11" by inviting South Korea, Australia, Russia and India to attend the meeting that has been postponed until at least September. But how well the US has maintained its global leadership capacity is in question, as is whether or not it will be able to use the summit as a platform to promote its anti-China agenda.

[India plays with fire spicing up G7 expansion](#)

June 5, 2020, Global Times

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded positively to US President Donald Trump's proposal of expanding G7 into a G11 or G12 that includes India.

[PLA holds intensive landing, naval drills in 'warning to secessionists'](#)

June 4, 2020, Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been holding frequent and intensive amphibious landing and naval drills in what analysts said are sending warnings to Taiwan secessionists.

[Talk of nuclear tests aims to spark arms race: China Daily editorial](#)

June 3, 2020, China Daily

The current US administration has assumed a predominantly disruptive role when it comes to global governance. According to the White House's understanding of American "greatness" and its approach to regaining it, the US staying true to its arms control commitments is probably viewed as being synonymous with American weakness.

[Border test for amity of neighbors: China Daily editorial](#)

June 4, 2020, China Daily

Tensions have risen again along the border between China and India as thousands of Chinese and Indian troops have reportedly moved in to face each other since early May at three or four locations, after India began building a road through the disputed area, with dozens of soldiers on both sides having been hurt during scuffles and stone-throwing.

[Chinese premier delivers speech at global vaccine summit](#)

June 5, 2020, Xinhua

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said that China will continue to support the core role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating vaccine research, while making its contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

[China urges Britain to stop meddling in Hong Kong affairs](#)

June 3, 2020, Xinhua

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson urged Britain to stop meddling in affairs of Hong Kong which is a special administrative region of China.

Japan

[Travel restriction poses challenges for Japanese firms with international workforce](#)

June 5, 2020, The Japan Times

Companies with many foreign workers are struggling with Japan's strict entry restriction imposed on foreign nationals aimed at curtailing the spread of the coronavirus, throwing cold water on its attempt to lure global talent, especially high-skilled professionals, amid a workforce shortage in the graying nation.

[Xi's Japan visit further pushed back as US-China tensions burn](#)

June 5, 2020, Nikkei Asian Review

Japan had regarded Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Tokyo as a symbol for restoring bilateral relations. It formed the linchpin of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's strategy to establish a level of cooperative ties with China while maintaining a warm personable relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump.

[Japan, China, S. Korea, ASEAN to Team Up for Solid Supply Chains](#)

June 5, 2020, Nippon.com

Japan, China, South Korea and ASEAN member states at a videoconference among their economic ministers on Thursday agreed to build solid supply chains at a time when the movement of people and goods has been hampered by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

[Japan vows \\$300 mil. to COVID-19 vaccine project](#)

June 6, 2020, NHK

Japan's Prime Minister Abe Shinzo has pledged 300 million dollars to help an international organization develop a coronavirus vaccine.

Korea

[Kim Jong-un's Sister Demands Crackdown on Propaganda Leaflets](#)

June 4 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister Yo-jong, has threatened to scrap a military agreement with Seoul if South Korea takes no action against the floating of anti-regime leaflets across the border.

[S. Korea to provide \\$4.9 million for UN aid project for N. Korea](#)

May 27, 2020, The Korea Times

South Korea will provide US\$4.9 million for a U.N. aid project for North Korea aimed at enhancing understanding of global statistical principles in the communist nation, the unification ministry said.

[S. Korea conducted Dokdo defense exercise this week](#)

June 5, 2020, The Korea Herald

South Korea conducted an annual military exercise on and around its easternmost islets of Dokdo earlier this week, sources said Friday, amid renewed tensions with Japan that has laid claims to the East Sea outcroppings.

[Military admits security failure over illegal Chinese entrants on small boats](#)

June 5, 2020, The Korea Herald

Military radars, coastal CCTVs and other surveillance equipment captured a small rubber boat smuggling a group of Chinese into South Korea last month, but guards on duty failed to notice it until after the Chinese reached the shore and fled, officials said.

Southeast Asia

[Singapore PM says China can't take America's security role in Southeast Asia](#)

June 4, 2020, The Print

The U.S. security presence “remains vital to the Asia-Pacific region,” and China would be unable to take over that role in Southeast Asia even with its increasing military might, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

[The Politics of Pandemic in Southeast Asia](#)

June 2, 2020, The Diplomat

No government is likely to fall as a result of its COVID-19 response, the impact on politics is still significant.

[ASEAN Must Make the Best of Its New Centrality in China's Diplomacy](#)

June 4, 2020, The Diplomat

The countries of Southeast Asia have the rare chance to leverage Beijing's language of interdependence in addressing pressing issues, such as the Belt and Road and South China Sea.

[US protests China's East Sea claims at UN](#)

June 3, 2020, VN Express

The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. recently sent a diplomatic note to Secretary General António Guterres protesting China's claims in the South China Sea.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[What Are the Implications of China's Growing Security Role in Central Asia?](#)

June 3, 2020, The Diplomat

China's rise in Central Asia has been swift.

[Russian Influence Grows in Central Asia](#)

May 29, 2020, Teh Jamestown Foundation

The Russian Federation is strengthening its economic integration with several Central Asian states. At the beginning of April, the authorities of Uzbekistan and Russia agreed to set up an economic cooperation program in May that would take into account the influence of the novel coronavirus pandemic on their trade. According to the official joint declaration, enterprises of the two countries plan to implement projects worth \$7.3 billion over the short term. At the end of 2019, bilateral trade turnover had already increased by 17 percent compared to 2018 (Sputnik-Uzbekistan, April 3).

[Central Asia's Diverse COVID-19 Responses](#)

May 27, 2020, Project Syndicate

Having recognized the COVID-19 threat early on, some of Central Asia's governments were slow to prepare for the coronavirus's eventual arrival. And with the pandemic's biggest, mainly economic challenges still to come to the region, the real problems may lie ahead.

[Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan border dustup prompts rapid-reaction diplomacy](#)

June 1, 2020, Eurasia Net

Violence among residents on the border of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan over the weekend has left dozens hurt and prompted a bout of rapid, high-level diplomacy between the leaders of the two nations.

[The Race to Secure Tajikistan's Afghan Border](#)

June 4, 2020, Stratfor

Sustained protests and altercations with security forces in southwestern Tajikistan highlight the great challenges the Central Asian state faces in ensuring the withdrawal of U.S. troops in nearby Afghanistan doesn't prompt a surge of violence within its own borders.

West Asia

[Gulf Region to Suffer Worst Recession in 2020 Due to Oil Price Crash, Coronavirus: IIF](#)

June 02, 2020, S&P Global

The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will suffer from the worst recession ever in 2020 due to the oil price crash and the coronavirus pandemic, the Institute of International Finance said in a report on June 2.

[Oil Investors on Edge after OPEC+ Talks Hindered by Iraq Hurdle](#)

June 04, 2020, Bloomberg News

Oil slipped after a long-running feud over Iraq and other laggard's commitment to cuts rattled the OPEC+ alliance.

[Iran Signs Two-Year Contract with Iraq to Export Electricity: IRNA](#)

June 04, 2020, The New York Times

Iran has signed a two-year contract with Iraq to export electricity to the neighbouring country, Iranian state news agency IRNA on Thursday (June 04) quoted the country's Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian as saying.

[Kuwait Wants to Bring Down Migrant Population from 70% to 30%](#)

June 04, 2020, The Economic Times

Kuwait's prime minister has said the country's expatriate population should be more than halved to 30% of the total, as the coronavirus pandemic and a slump in oil prices send shudders through Gulf economies.

[US Pushing for Saudi Arabia, UAE to End Airspace Ban Against Qatar: Report](#)

June 04, 2020, Middle East Eye

The Trump administration doesn't want Qatar paying flyover fees with funds 'going into Iran's coffers.

[9 Killed in Alleged Israeli Airstrikes in Syria - Report](#)

June 05, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

At least nine people were killed in alleged Israeli airstrikes targeted Syrian defense factories near the city of Masyaf in northwest Syria on Thursday (June 04) night, according to Syrian reports.

[Keel Laying of Pakistan 1st Corvette Held in Turkey](#)

June 04, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The keel laying ceremony of the first of the four MILGEM Ada class corvettes, to be built by Turkey for the Pakistan Navy, was held in Istanbul.

United States

United States

[Why Trump wants the G7 to look more like a G11](#)

June 4, 2020, CNN

Trump is now proposing the addition of South Korea, Australia, Russia and India to this year's event, scheduled to take place at Camp David in the fall. He also discussed the G7 summit this week with President Jair Bolsonaro.

[Chinese, Iranian Hackers Targeted Biden And Trump Campaigns, Google Says](#)

June 4, 2020, NPR

Almost exactly four years after Russian operatives hacked into the email accounts of prominent Democrats ahead of the 2016 election, Google confirmed on Thursday that foreign adversaries are still at it.

[Defence Secretary talks to Rajnath Singh, says Pentagon](#)

May 29, 2020, Deccan Herald

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper has talked to his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh and reiterated his support for a "strong and enduring" bilateral defence partnership, the Pentagon said Friday.

[Pentagon chief opposes Trump threat to deploy military at protests](#)

June 3, 2020, The Guardian

The US defence secretary has opposed Donald Trump's threatened use of the Insurrection Act to allow active duty troops to be deployed in American cities.

[Antifa: Trump says group will be designated 'terrorist organisation'](#)

May 31, 2020, BBC

The US will designate the anti-fascist group Antifa a terrorist organisation, President Donald Trump says. The president accused Antifa of starting riots at street protests over George Floyd's death.

[US Naval Forces Northern Command completes Vigilant Osprey homeland defense exercise](#)

June 5, 2020, Navy Recognition

U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command (NAVNORTH) units completed U.S. Northern Command-led exercise Vigilant Osprey, a major service-integrated

homeland defense exercise aimed to strengthen operational partnerships with allied nations on May 31, 2020.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU-China summit: What really happened?](#)

June 4, 2020, Deutsche Welle

The EU and China have postponed a hotly anticipated summit, blaming COVID-19. But with infections down, the economy reopening, and China under fire over its clampdown on Hong Kong – is the pandemic the real reason?

['It's time to open up': EU Home Affairs Commissioner on coronavirus travel bans](#)

June 4, 2020, Euronews

The European Commission is calling on EU member states to lift all border checks within the bloc by the end of June, Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told Euronews.

[Euro jumps as ECB increases stimulus](#)

June 4, 2020, Reuters

The euro jumped to a 12-week high against the U.S. dollar on Thursday after the European Central Bank increased stimulus to shore up economies hurt by the coronavirus pandemic.

[UK and EU officials remain far apart on core issues as Brexit talks falter](#)

June 4, 2020, Financial Times

The latest round of talks between the EU and UK on their post-Brexit relationship looks to have made little progress, increasing the pressure on Boris Johnson and EU leaders to try to thrash out a way forward when they meet later this month.

[UK and EU clash over British share of Covid fund](#)

June 4, 2020, Politico

London and Brussels are embroiled in a new Brexit row over up to €300 million in U.K. contributions to the EU's emergency coronavirus fund.

[Germany's Angela Merkel unveils stimulus package to kickstart economy](#)

June 3, 2020, Deutsche Welle

German Chancellor Angela Merkel says governing parties have agreed on a €130 billion stimulus package to help revive the virus-hit economy. Under the wide-ranging measures, value-added tax will be temporarily slashed.

[UK consumer confidence touches new decade low as COVID hits economy - GfK](#)

June 5, 2020, Reuters

British consumer confidence in late May fell to its lowest level since the global financial crisis over a decade ago as people worried about a rise in unemployment and falling house prices caused by the coronavirus crisis, a survey showed on Friday.

[Germany will need two years to recoup growth lost in recession, Bundesbank says](#)

June 5, 2020, Reuters

Germany's economy will shrink significantly this year and may need two years to make up the lost ground, its central bank said on Friday, joining a number of forecasters predicting only a slow recovery from a coronavirus-induced recession.

Russia

[Explained: Why an oil spill in Russia's Arctic region has become a cause for worry](#)

June 4, 2020, The Indian Express

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a state of emergency on Wednesday after 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil to spilled into a Ambarnaya river, turning its surface crimson red.

[China long haul: After Trump-Modi call, India briefs Russia](#)

June 5, 2020, The Indian Express

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the situation on the India-China border with US President Donald Trump, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has "updated" Russian Ambassador Nikolay Kudashev on the "recent developments" on the situation along the LAC, The Indian Express has learnt.

[Moscow says expanding G7 summit 'step in the right direction' but China's presence needed](#)

June 2, 2020, Tass

The diplomat pointed to such an effective format, in her view, as the G20, in which both the G7 and BRICS member countries are represented.

[U.S. Defense Secretary Esper Invited To Moscow Military Parade](#)

June 2, 2020, Rferl.org

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has invited U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper to a military parade in Moscow later this month, the Defense Ministry says.

[Vladimir Putin signs Russia's nuclear deterrent policy](#)

June 2, 2020, The Indian Express

By including a non-nuclear attack as a possible trigger for Russian nuclear retaliation, the document appears to send a warning signal to the US.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Brazil, Mexico see record deaths as Covid-19 rages across Latin America](#)

June 4, 2020, India Today

Brazil and Mexico reported record daily coronavirus death tolls as governments in Latin America battled to fortify their defenses against the pandemic with fresh lockdown orders and curfews.

[China overtook Brazil as Argentina's largest trading partner in April](#)

June 4, 2020, Buenos Aires Times

Argentina recorded a surplus of US\$98 million with China in April, compared to a US\$351 million deficit in the same month of the previous year, says CERA business chamber.

[US sanctions four shipping firms for transporting Venezuelan oil](#)

June 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States Treasury Department on Tuesday said it had sanctioned four shipping firms for transporting Venezuelan oil, the latest escalation in Washington's effort to depose socialist President Nicolas Maduro by cutting off the OPEC nation's crude exports.

[Cuba rejects new U.S. sanctions](#)

June 4, 2020, Cuba News

The Cuban foreign minister described as "shameful and criminal" the strengthening of the economic, financial and commercial embargo the Washington government applies to the Caribbean country in the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Africa

[Racial unrest impedes U.S. bid to counter China in Africa](#)

June 4, 2020, The Print

African animosity towards US has been fuelled by Trump's derogatory reference to African countries and his plans to quit WHO -- headed by a former Ethiopian health minister.

[UN Security Council votes to move toward ending UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur](#)

June 4, 2020, The Globe and Mail

The UN Security Council voted unanimously to move toward ending the joint UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's vast western Darfur region and replacing it with a civilian mission focusing on the country's democratic transition.

[In fresh sign of warming ties, Israeli airliner enters Sudan's airspace](#)

June 4, 2020, The Times of Israel

An El Al plane flying from Argentina crossed through Sudan's airspace on Thursday, the first Israeli airliner to do so, in another sign of warming ties between the Jewish state and the Arab African country, which had long been hostile to Israel.

[Sudan Deepens Work With IMF in Step to Reopen Economy](#)

June 3, 2020, Bloomberg

Sudan is seeking its first staff-monitored International Monetary Fund program since 2014 as the one-time pariah works toward reintegrating with the global economy.

[India evacuates over 180 nationals from Sudan as coronavirus travel bans continue](#)

June 4, 2020, Arab News

The Indian Embassy in Khartoum announced the evacuation of 189 nationals stranded in Sudan due to COVID-19 travel regulations, Sudan's state news agency SUNA reported.



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