

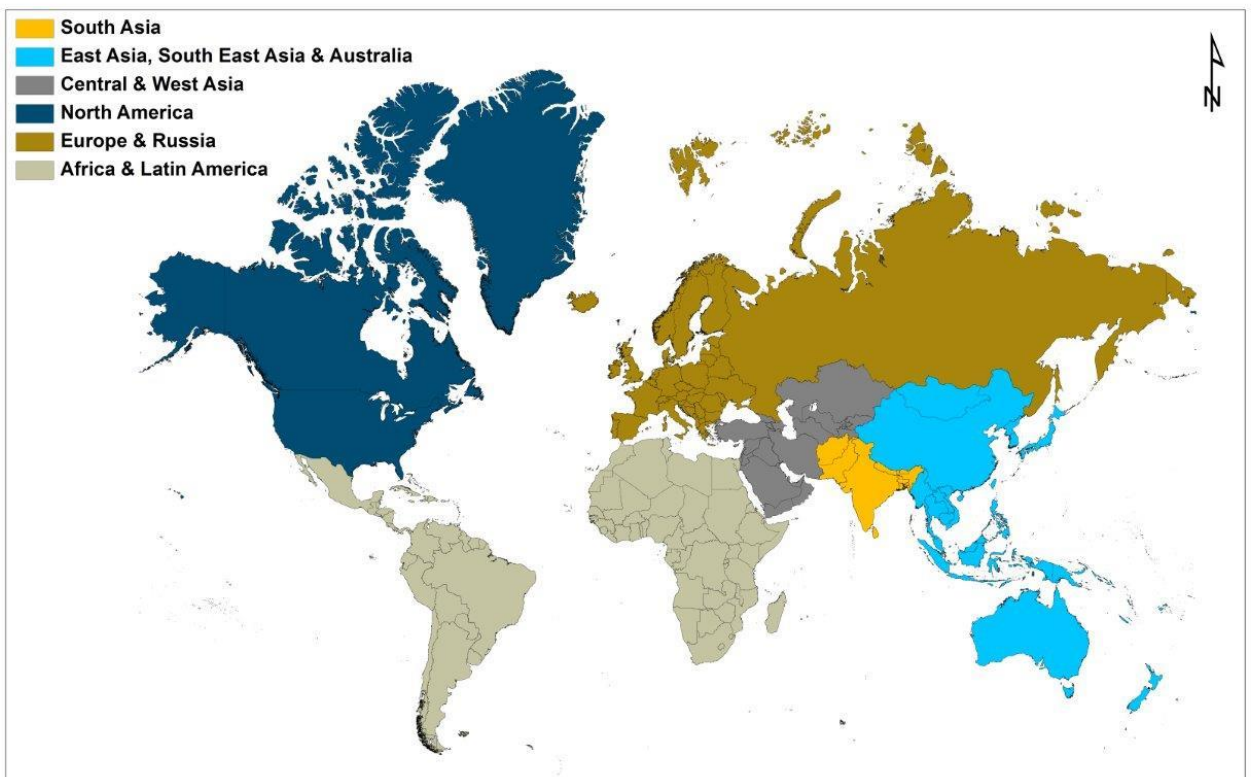


Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume 4, Issue 25

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Navy sends more ships from Eastern fleet for deployment in Indian Ocean region](#)

June 18, 2020, The Print

The Eastern and Western Naval Commands are in a 'heightened state of alertness', which means ships can be deployed on short notice.

[India Deploys More Troops Along Line Of Actual Control, Navy, Air Force Raise Alert Level](#)

June 18, 2020, NDTV

The Indian Navy has also been asked to raise its alert-level in the Indian Ocean Region where Chinese Navy has been making regular forays.

[China must respect existing agreements and refrain from unilateral action](#)

June 18, 2020, The Indian Express

The border row between India and China could not have erupted at a worse moment. The world is grappling with a once-in-a-century coronavirus pandemic and a global recession that promises to leave none unscathed.

[Danger on LAC: A sophisticated, multi-pronged strategy is needed to take on the China-Pakistan axis](#)

June 19, 2020, The Times of India

The phone conversation between foreign minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi appears to have yielded an agreement to de-escalate matters and deal fairly with the situation on the LAC. The key problem here is that there is no commonly agreed definition of the LAC, and the most pressing issue therefore is to arrive at one. But Beijing, which has demonstrated a marked propensity to change facts on the ground, may not be in a hurry to do so.

[Chinese Whispers: Media in Beijing is Blaming India for LAC Clash, and That is in No Way Surprising](#)

June 18, 2020, News 18

The Line of Actual Control (LAC) that separates India and China witnessed unprecedented violence on June 15-16. During this violence that appears to be a deliberate act of area assertion on part of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), soldiers from both sides lost lives. The Indian patrol party led by Col Santosh Babu

was ambushed by PLA units at least three times in size and also using weapons from another era. The colonel, along with 19 other soldiers, was killed in action.

[The strength of India and China's defence forces compared](#)

June 17, 2020, Business Insider

In 2020, China has the largest active military force in the world with about 2.18 million active troops. India, the United States, North Korea, and Russia rounded out the top five countries with the largest active-duty military forces, according to Statista. China ranked second in military spending, as it has done since 2008 with military outlays totalling up to \$261 billion. Whereas, India ranks third with military outlays totaling to \$71.1 billion, according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

[How India and China stack up in terms of military capability](#)

June 18, 2020, The Print

India has the third highest defence expenditure in the world, but China spends nearly four times more. It also has greater air and naval strength.

[At the high table: On India's U.N. Security Council win](#)

June 19, 2020, The Hindu

India's election to the U.N. Security Council as a non-permanent member is a significant diplomatic victory for the country, which has long been pushing for reforms at global institutions.

[India confirms participation in trilateral with China and Russia on June 23](#)

June 18, 2020, Hindustan Times

India confirmed its participation in the meeting of foreign ministers of the RIC grouping comprising Russia, India and China to be held on June 23. External affairs ministry spokesperson said that Union minister S Jaishankar will represent India in the trilateral.

Pakistan

[China, Pak possess more nuclear weapons than India: SIPRI](#)

June 15, 2020, Hindustan Times

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)'s Yearbook 2020 pegs the number of nuclear warheads in the Chinese arsenal at 320, while the

nuclear forces of Pakistan and India are estimated to have 160 and 150 weapons, respectively.

[Pak Army shells forward areas along LoC in Rajouri](#)

June 19, 2020, Outlook India

Pakistani troops shelled forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, drawing retaliation from the Indian Army.

[India Slams Pakistan For Refusing To Join Meeting To Discuss Locust Problem](#)

June 18, 2020, NDTV India

Pakistan refused to join a technical-level meeting with India to discuss the issue of locust menace, the Ministry of External Affairs said, slamming Islamabad for showing "reticent attitude" even when its own people face a threat of food security.

[Ladakh standoff: Hundreds of fake Twitter accounts from Pakistan spread lies in Chinese garb](#)

June 18, 2020, New Indian Express

Even as tensions on the border with China escalate, social media has turned into another battlefield with misinformation campaigns seeking to defame India. A private cybersecurity agency based in Kochi found that hundreds of fake accounts -- mostly from Pakistan -- are propagating false news about the situation on the India-China border.

[Pakistan unveils 7.13 trillion budget for new fiscal year, defence gets around 1.3 trillion](#)

June 13, 2020, Hindustan Times

Pakistan government unveiled a Rs 7.13 trillion (Rs 7,13,700 crore) "corona budget" for the new fiscal year, including a Rs 1.289 trillion (Rs 1,28,900 crore) defence budget which is almost 4.7 per cent higher than last year's.

Afghanistan

[US has hit agreed troop-cut target of 8,600 in Afghanistan](#)

June 18, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States has reduced its troop presence in Afghanistan to 8,600, fulfilling its obligation as part of a February deal with the Taliban, the general who oversees American forces in that region said .

[US Investigates Alleged IS Plot to Kill American Peace Envoy to Afghanistan](#)

June 18, 2020, Voice of America

U.S. officials say they are seriously investigating Taliban claims that Islamic State in Afghanistan was plotting to assassinate Zalmay Khalilzad, the American peace envoy for the country.

Bangladesh

[Students, tourists stranded in Assam during lockdown return to Bangladesh](#)

June 18, 2020, India Today

After they were stranded in Assam owing to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of novel coronavirus, 33 residents of Bangladesh have now returned to their country. The Bangladeshi nationals returned to Bangladesh through Sutarkandi International Border point in Assam's Karimganj district .

Nepal

[5 Factors Driving Anti-India Sentiment in Nepal](#)

June 18, 2020, The Diplomat

Beyond the border dispute, there are other longstanding causes of Nepali resentment toward India.

[In a first, Nepal deploys its troops at border with India](#)

June 19, 2020, India Today

After the conflict between China in India broke out in Ladakh and Sikkim sectors, Nepal started claiming that the area near Lipulekh along the Kali Nadi belongs to it.

[Nepal Parliament approves new map that includes land India claims](#)

June 18, 2020, Al Jazeera

India has rejected the map, saying it is not based on historical facts or evidence as ties strain between neighbours.

[Nepal toughens stance in its row with Delhi amid China-India standoff](#)

June 18, 2020, CGTN

The upper house of Nepal's parliament approved a new map of the country on Thursday, including land controlled by India, in a row that has further strained ties between the South Asian neighbors.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka's return to ethnic majoritarianism](#)

June 19, 2020, East Asia Forum

The voyage from Serendib to Sri Lanka through Ceylon continues to be an uninterrupted tale of opportunities lost, scorned and spurned. The brutal end to the quarter-century war with the Tamil Tiger separatists in 2009 brought an unprecedented opportunity for the government to heal the Sinhala–Tamil ethnic divide. But now a new front is opening, one against Sri Lanka's Muslim minority. Events since the Easter attacks of 2019 are reinforcing the belief that tolerance and inclusive governance are a chimeric dream.

[Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa lauds Prez Gotabaya Rajapaksa efforts to control COVID-19 outbreak successfully](#)

June 18, 2020, News on Air

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa has said that the country being able to control the COVID-19 outbreak successfully is an achievement made possible due to the correct political leadership provided by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. In a statement today, he said, Sri Lanka did not have significant experience in combating diseases such as SARS or MERS. Prime Minister Rajapaksa said, other countries like Vietnam and Hong Kong had prior experience in controlling it but Sri Lanka was able to control it despite no prior experience. He said, present government has proven that they are capable of prevailing over insurmountable odds. The country has seen just over a dozen COVID cases during this week and all of them are from navy cluster or foreign returnees.

[Sri Lanka: President Assures Free And Fair Election Under Strict Health Guidelines](#)

June 19, 2020, Eurasia Review

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa promised to create the background to hold a free and fair election while giving priority to the health protection of the people.

[President discusses rebuilding Sri Lankan economy with EU Ambassadors](#)

June, 19, 2020, BIZ

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa met with the EU ambassadors at the Presidential Secretariat. The discussion centered on rebuilding the economy after passing the COVID-19 crisis.

[Vande Bharat Mission: India repatriates 156 nationals from Sri Lanka](#)

June 16, 2020, WION

The Air India flight carrying 156 stranded Indians from Colombo under the third phase of Vande Bharat Mission today landed in India. The Indian nationals thanked the Indian government and Indian High Commission for their evacuation.

East & South East Asia

China

[Rising Indian nationalism will harm business ties](#)

June 18, 2020, Global Times

The impact of rising tensions between China and India following the latest border brawl seems to be spreading to Chinese companies in India. Chinese smartphone maker Oppo cancelled the live online launch of its flagship 5G handset in India, a development that sees seething Indians translate to rage against Chinese goods.

[Washington feeds off New Delhi's impulsiveness](#)

June 7, 2020, Global Times

Soon after a serious clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley night, the US quickly showed support to India. A US State Department spokesperson offered condolences to the families of 20 Indian soldiers who died in the clash, saying the US was "closely monitoring the situation between Indian and Chinese forces along the Line of Actual Control." Although the spokesperson also said the US supports a peaceful resolution of the current situation, it's pure diplomatic rhetoric.

[India should curb 'boycott China' voices after border clash](#)

June 17, 2020, Global Times

Following a fatal physical clash between Chinese and Indian border defense troops in the Galwan Valley region, some extreme anti-China groups and individuals in India have been promoting a China "boycott."

[Border peace basis for healthy China-India ties: Global Times editorial](#)

June 7, 2020, Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi talked to Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the phone. The two sides agreed to fairly deal with the serious clashes between Chinese and Indian troops at the Galwan Valley, and adhere to the consensus reached by their military leaders to cool the situation down.

[India needs to rid two misjudgments on border situation: Global Times editorial](#)

June 17, 2020, Global Times

Chinese and Indian troops were engaged in a serious physical clash in Galwan Valley on Monday. The Indian side said three Indian soldiers were killed. The Chinese military confirmed that clashes between the two sides have led to casualties, but did not release the exact figures. This has been the most serious clash between Chinese and Indian soldiers so far. Indian media reported this is the first time since 1975 that soldiers died in border conflicts between the two countries.

[Indian experts play with fire by challenging one-China principle](#)

June 15, 2020, Global Times

Amid China-India border disputes, some Indian experts suggested that India should "rethink" the one-China principle at a webinar. Some hawkish Indian experts, including former Indian Deputy National Security Adviser Arvind Gupta, raised the idea that India should support the "democratic movement" in Hong Kong, increase India's "economic and technological relations" with Taiwan, passively help people in Tibet "organize protests when Chinese leaders visit India," and reject joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership unless Hong Kong and Taiwan are made members. Do these Indian experts think they have explored some policy leverage that New Delhi can use to counter China? Do they think they've found an Achilles' Heel of the mainland?

[EU walks a fine line amid US-China rivalry](#)

June 15, 2020, Global Times

Shortly before talk with US State Secretary Mike Pompeo, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell said the bloc won't ally with the US against China. Instead, Borrell called for a "big, positive agenda for EU-China cooperation."

[Talks only way to resolve Sino-Indian border dispute](#)

June 19, 2020, China Daily

The brutal clash on June 15 broke the more than four decades of tranquility along the LAC, and has turned the peaceful valley in the Western Himalayas into a scuffle ground. More importantly, the clash, once again after the Doklam face-off in 2017, reflects a steady erosion of the consensus that Beijing and New Delhi reached in

the early 1990s – not allowing the border dispute to be the flashpoint of their ties and observing the LAC until a settlement is reached.

[Xi Focus: Xi chairs China-Africa summit, calls for solidarity to defeat COVID-19](#)

June 19, 2020, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on China and Africa to defeat the novel coronavirus with solidarity and cooperation. The two sides should work together to build a China-Africa community of health for all and take their comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership to a greater height.

[Chinese FM demands India's thorough investigation into border conflict incident](#)

June 17, 2020, Xinhua

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi demanded that India carry out a thorough investigation into a border conflict incident, severely punish those who should be held accountable, strictly discipline Indian frontline troops, and immediately stop all provocative actions so as to ensure that such incidents do not happen again.

[India's four types of anti-China groups imperil bilateral ties](#)

June 18, 2020, Global times

Since skirmishes broke out on the China-India border in May, Indian society is flooded with rising anti-China sentiment with celebrities, media and the public openly calling for boycott of Chinese products, "taking a revenge" or "making China pay" for deaths in the clashes, observers found. Amid the clashes at Galvan Valley, Indians' anti-China sentiment rose on social media with many posts calling for an "all-round war."

['Soft landing' expected for China-India border clash: analysts](#)

June 17, 2020, Global times

The latest border conflicts between China and India will likely see a "soft landing" just like many previous ones, despite the deadly clash, as both countries have kept a clear and careful mind to keep all frictions in check, which was highlighted by both sides' restrained statements and the fact that both countries' troops did not use guns, analysts said.

Japan

[Freedom of travel restored across Japan as coronavirus fears ease](#)

June 19, 2020, The Japan Times

Japan lifted its final restrictions on cross-prefecture travel, as the government said it believes the spread of novel coronavirus has been kept in check.

[Japan to ease entry restrictions from abroad](#)

June 18, 2020, NHK World

The Japanese government has decided to ease entry restrictions from countries and territories where coronavirus infections are deemed to be under control.

[Amid Covid, India-Japan Moon mission takes shape, Isro to lead lander tech](#)

June 13, 2020, The Times of India

Even as both the countries continue to battle Covid-19 pandemic, Japan, which will be launching a joint lunar mission with India- Lunar Polar Exploration(LPE)- that hopes to put a lander and rover on Moon's surface has, for the first time, spelled out details of the project that will see ISRO lead the lander development.

[Japan PM Abe to skip visit to Russia for WWII victory parade next week](#)

June 18, 2020, Kyodo News

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will not visit Moscow next week to attend a parade commemorating the 75th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, a government official said.

[Former top Abe aide and wife arrested in vote-buying scandal](#)

June 18, 2020, The Japan Times

Public prosecutors arrested former Justice Minister Katsuyuki Kawai and his lawmaker wife, Anri Kawai, on charges of vote-buying during her successful Upper House election bid last summer, further pushing the duo into legal trouble and presenting perhaps the biggest political challenge yet this year to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

[Japan's Abe Vows Fiscal Reform After Economy Overcomes Virus Hit](#)

June 15, 2020, Business World

Japan will resume fiscal reform once the economy overcomes the hit from the coronavirus pandemic, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, brushing aside calls by

some lawmakers to keep spending permanently with money printed by the central bank.

Korea

[S.Korea, US nuclear envoys meet](#)

June 19, 2020, Outlook

The top nuclear envoys of South Korea and the US met in Washington, after North Korea threatened to take military action against Seoul, a media report said

[South Korea unification minister quits as tensions with North mount](#)

June 19, 2020, The Guardian

Kim Yeon-chul, who did not meet any officials from Pyongyang in his 14-month tenure, takes responsibility for deterioration in relations.

[South Korea-US working group's role in question amid growing inter-Korean tensions](#)

June 18, 2020, Korea Times

Amid deteriorating inter-Korean relations, a South Korea-U.S. working group is taking flak for hampering progress in bilateral ties due to its excessively harsh standards adopted on North Korea.

[North Korea blows up a strategic building to try to blackmail the U.S. and South Korea](#)

June 17, 2020, NBC News

The destruction was a very loud wake-up call for those who still believe that Pyongyang has any interest in dismantling its nuclear arsenal.

[N. Korea's threats aimed at testing S. Korea-US alliance: ex-US official](#)

June 16, 2020, The Korea Herald

North Korea's recent threats against South Korea appear aimed at testing the South Korea-US alliance and opening up more gaps between the allies, a former senior US official said.

[South Korea seeks WTO panel on Japan's tightened export rules](#)

June 19, 2020, The Japan Times

KYODO

JUN 19, 2020ARTICLE HISTORYPRINTSHARE

SEOUL – The South Korean government has asked the World Trade Organization to set up a dispute-settlement panel over Japan's allegedly unjustified tightening of export controls on semiconductor materials, the government said.

Southeast Asia

[India Seeks To Widen Indo-Pacific Partnership With Philippines Amid China's Aggression](#)

June 13, 2020, The Economic Times

PM Narendra Modi's recent conversation with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is significant as it opens up the possibility of wider Indo-Pacific partnership between Delhi and Manila in the backdrop of China's tough posturing along the LAC and South China Sea region.

[What's Behind Duterte's U-Turn On Scrapping Us Defence Pact](#)

June 14, 2020, The Star

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is a minefield of unfathomable contradictions. But if there is one thing that he has been consistent about throughout decades in politics, it is his long-simmering resentment against the West, particularly America's influence in the Philippines.

[South China Sea Dispute Heats Up Again As Chinese Ship Rams Vietnamese Boat](#)

June 15, 2020, International Business Times

For the second time this year, a Chinese ship has rammed a Vietnamese fishing boat operating in the Paracel Islands, according to Vietnamese state media. The Friday incident appears to be a case of China enforcing a fishing ban that it unilaterally imposed on May 1.

[Blunting China's South China Sea 'New Normal' Quest Starts With the Southeast Asian Claimants](#)

June 15, 2020, The Diplomat

Beijing's continued inroads are unlikely to be reversed unless the most interested parties in the South China Sea work to get past familiar obstacles.

[EU-Vietnam Free Trade Pact May Hurt India The Most](#)

June 15, 2020, The Hindu Business Line

India's exports of footwear, garments, marine products and furniture to the European Union stand to be the worst-hit once the 27-member bloc starts dismantling its tariffs for Vietnam under the EU-Vietnam free trade agreement (EVFTA) to be operational soon.

[Three Us Navy Aircraft Carriers Are Patrolling The Pacific Ocean At The Same Time. And China's Not Happy](#)

June 15, 2020, CNN

The deployment of three 100,000-ton US Navy aircraft carriers to the Pacific Ocean for the first time in years has drawn swift reaction from China, with state-sponsored media saying Beijing will not back down to defend its interests in the region.

[China's sea moves drive US, Philippines back together](#)

June 16, 2020, Asia Times

Despite Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's best efforts to reduce strategic dependence on the United States, China's moves in the South China Sea have forced the populist leader to re-embrace his nation's long time treaty ally.

[South China Sea: Beijing Has a Major Natural Advantage In The Geopolitical Power Game](#)

June 17, 2020, The Economic Times

Hundreds of miles away from the scene of the current Sino-Indian dispute lies another perpetual theatre of war where China is a permanent player — the South China Sea, where tiffs over competing claims frequently degenerate into maritime muscle-flexing.

[Myanmar To Probe Controversial China Backed-City Project](#)

June 17, 2020, Doordarshan News

The government of Myanmar has set up a tribunal to probe the construction of a mega city project being undertaken by Chinese support in the Karen state about 15 km north of Myawaddy.

[Indonesia Says Completion Of S. China Sea Rules May Be Delayed](#)

June 18, 2020, Mainichi

Indonesia said that the completion of a so-called code of conduct being mapped out by Southeast Asian countries and China to avert clashes in the South China Sea may be delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

[China's Media Influence Has Gone Global. So Has the Pushback.](#)

June 18, 2020, The Diplomat

Beijing's campaign to control narratives about China the world over is attracting more attention – and opposition.

[Indonesia Responds To India, China's Latest Spat, Calls For Restraint Amid Pandemic](#)

June 18, 2020, The Jakarta Post

Indonesia has called for India and China, its two largest trading partners, to exercise restraint following armed conflict between the two countries over the past few days.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Russian Military Seeking to Counter Growing Chinese Role in Central Asia](#)

June 18, 2020, The Jamestown Foundation

In March 2019, Dmitry Zhelobov, a specialist on China at Russia's Urals Federal University, warned that Beijing was shifting from relying on soft power in Central Asia to using hard power. If Russia did not take this threat seriously, he added, China might have its own military bases in that region within five years, seriously undermining the Russian position there (Regnum, March 28, 2019; see EDM, April 4, 2019).

[India Needs A 'China Strategy' In Central Asia – Analysis](#)

June 19, 2020, Eurasia Review

As China continues to increase its strategic footprint in the Central Asian region, Mackinder's Heartland theory resonates quite significantly. China aims to develop its power projection capabilities by deepening its influence in Central Asia.

[Kazakh Foreign Minister Attends Groundbreaking EU-Central Asia Ministers' Meeting](#)

June 18, 2020, The Astana Times

Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Mukhtar Tileuberdi participated in the June 12th Central Asia – European Union (EU) ministerial video conference attended by High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell, as well as the Foreign Ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

[India must join hands with Central Asia for peace in Afghanistan](#)

June 15, 2020, Money Control

India will find more common ground with the CARs regarding Afghanistan than with any other country/group. This will also reduce Pakistan's influence.

West Asia

[Saudi Arabia's PIF Invests Rs 11,367 Crore in Jio Platforms](#)

June 19, 2020, Indian Express

Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia has invested Rs 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms Ltd, the digital arm of Reliance Industries (RIL). This investment values Jio Platforms at an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

[Saudi Aramco Cuts Hundreds of Jobs amid Oil Price Collapse](#)

June 18, 2020, Oilprice.com

The world's biggest oil-producing company, Saudi oil giant Aramco, has started laying off hundreds of employees—mostly foreign staff—across several divisions in response to the oil price crash.

[Syria War: New US Sanctions Target Assad Government's Foreign Backers](#)

June 17, 2020, BBC New

The US has imposed tough new economic sanctions (Caesar Act) aimed at deterring foreign business activity with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government.

[90,000 Indians to be Repatriated from UAE with Dozens More Chartered And Government Flights Cleared](#)

June 18, 2020, The National

About 90,000 Indians will be home by the month-end as dozens more chartered and government repatriation flights from the UAE have been approved. More than 450,000 Indians have registered with the consulate in Dubai and embassy in Abu Dhabi to return to their families amid the coronavirus pandemic.

[Economic Recovery to Take a Year; 59 per cent Businesses See Closure Risk: Bahrain Survey](#)

June 18, 2020, Trade Arabia

A recent survey by Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) says that around 59 per cent of businesses are facing the risk of shutting down in the next 6 months amid fears of significant layoffs if the pandemic continues.

[OPEC+ Panel Receives Plans for Extra Oil Cuts from Quota Busters Iraq, Kazakhstan](#)

June 18, 2020, S&P Global

Iraq and Kazakhstan have submitted their plans to the OPEC+ alliance on how they will implement deeper oil production cuts in the coming months, following through on pledges to make good on violating their quotas in May

[Iran Tests Cruise Missile, Claims It Can Destroy Targets 280 Kilometers Away](#)

June 18, 2020, Iran Press

The Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has successfully fired short and long-range homegrown cruise missiles produced by the Ministry of Defense in the northern Indian Ocean and the Oman Sea .

[U.S. Wants face-to-face Meeting with Iran on Prisoners](#)

June 17, 2020, Reuters

The United States would like a face-to-face meeting with Iran to discuss prisoner releases and it wants the U.N. Security Council to impose an indefinite arms embargo on the Islamic Republic, a senior U.S. diplomat said.

[In address to American Jews, Pompeo urges Israel to stand with US against China](#)

June 15, 2020, Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, speaking to the American Jewish Committee, urged Israel to stand with the United States against China. "Standing up to the Chinese Communist Party is a growing challenge to the United States, to Israel, indeed to all free people," he said in an address to the AJC's annual Global Forum.

[Jordanian FM Warns of 'Long and Violent' Conflict If Israel Pursues West Bank Annexation](#)

June 18, 2020, Times of Israel

Israeli annexation plans in the West Bank pose an "unprecedented danger" and could spark a "long and violent" conflict, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warned Thursday during a rare visit to Ramallah.

[Kuwait Mulls Increasing Expat Fees by 150%](#)

June 16, 2020, Gulf News

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Economic Affairs has proposed a 150 per cent increase in expatriate service fees. The ministry's proposal aimed at addressing the

demographic imbalance in Kuwait where expats constitute nearly 70 per cent of the population.

[Saudi Arabia Seeks to end Standoff in South Yemen amid Coronavirus Fears](#)

June 18, 2020, Saudi Gazette

In an effort to unite forces against Iran-backed Houthi militia, Saudi Arabia is making overtures to the Southern Transitional Council to join the government led by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

United States

United States

[US secretary of state Mike Pompeo condoles death of Indian soldiers in face-off with Chinese troops](#)

June 19, 2020, Hindustan Times

The United States secretary of state Mike Pompeo has condoled the death of the 20 Indian Army soldiers, who were killed in the recent face-off with Chinese troops in Galwan Valley of eastern Ladakh.

[China's Border Acts To Take Advantage Of COVID Distractions: US Official](#)

June 19, 2020, NDTV

China opening multiple fronts like the one on India border may be because of Beijing's assessment that the world is distracted due to COVID-19 pandemic and it may take advantage of it, a top American diplomat said Thursday.

[US mulling over restoring India's status under GSP: Top Trump Official](#)

June 19, 2020, Times of India

The US is mulling over restoring India's beneficiary status under its trade preference programme Generalized System of Preferences on receiving a counterbalancing proposal from New Delhi, a top Trump administration official told lawmakers on Thursday.

[Trump again threatens to cut China ties after US official ruled it out](#)

June 19, 2020, The Guardian

Donald Trump has renewed his threat to cut ties with China, a day after his diplomats held high-level talks with Beijing and his top US trade negotiator said severing the trade relationship was not a viable option.

[US says a UK trade deal 'unlikely' before November](#)

June 17, 2020, BBC

America's top trade negotiator has said a deal with the UK is unlikely before the US presidential election in November.

[U.S. Withdraws From Global Digital Tax Talks](#)

June 17, 2020, The New York Times

The Trump administration has suspended fraught international tax negotiations with European countries and warned that it will retaliate if they move forward with plans to impose new taxes on American technology companies like Amazon, Facebook and Google.

[US has hit agreed troop-cut target of 8,600 in Afghanistan](#)

June 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States has reduced its troop presence in Afghanistan to 8,600, fulfilling its obligation as part of a February deal with the Taliban, the general who oversees American forces in that region said on Thursday.

[Canada and allies meeting to discuss U.S. withdrawal from Open Skies Treaty](#)

June 18, 2020, CBC

Canada and Hungary will co-host a virtual conference of signatories to the Open Skies Treaty on July 6 to discuss the pending U.S. withdrawal from an international accord designed to build trust and prevent wars, say officials at Global Affairs Canada.

[Trump Can't Immediately End DACA, Supreme Court Rules](#)

June 18, 2020, The New York Times

The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the Trump administration may not immediately proceed with its plan to end a program protecting about 700,000 young immigrants known as Dreamers from deportation, dealing a surprising setback to one of President Trump's central campaign promises.

[Klobuchar pulls back from consideration as Biden's running mate](#)

June 19, 2020, Reuters

U. S. Senator Amy Klobuchar effectively pulled herself out of contention to be Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's running mate on Thursday, saying she felt that the historic moment required picking a woman of color.

[China Lashes Out at U.S.'s Action Against Mass Incarcerations](#)

June 18, 2020, The New York Times

China lashed out at the United States on Thursday after President Trump signed into law a bill that would allow him to impose sanctions on Chinese officials involved in the mass incarceration of more than one million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minorities in the western region of Xinjiang.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Germany's Maas urges India, China to 'de-escalate' border tensions](#)

June 18, 2020, Deutsche Welle

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called on both China and India to de-escalate tensions and peacefully resolve their Himalayan border dispute.

[UK and Europe renew calls for global digital tax as US quits talks](#)

June 18, 2020, The Guardian

Britain and other European countries are continuing to push for a global digital tax on technology companies such as Google, Facebook and Amazon, despite the US pulling out of the negotiations this week.

[Brexit deadline looms over day of Anglo-French solidarity](#)

June 18, 2020, Reuters

Prime Minister Boris Johnson told France's President Emmanuel Macron that talks on a post Brexit deal cannot drag on into the autumn, as the French leader visited London to mark the 80th anniversary of General de Gaulle's call for wartime resistance.

[Amid Brexit impasse, Germany urges no-deal preparations - document](#)

June 17, 2020, Reuters

The German government is urging other EU states to prepare for a no deal Brexit, according an internal document that casts doubt on Britain's optimism over chances of an early agreement on its future ties with the bloc.

[Bank of England pumps an extra £100bn into UK economy](#)

June 18, 2020, The Guardian

The Bank of England has announced a new £100bn stimulus package for the UK economy amid fears of a surge in unemployment in Britain's hotels, restaurants and shops following the end of the government's furlough scheme in the autumn.

[EU leaders mull COVID-19 recovery plan but divisions remain](#)

June 19, 2020, CGTN

European Union leaders gather via video-conference to discuss in detail a bloc-wide plan to help countries through the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, which is likely to send the EU into its worst ever recession.

[Hungary 'broke EU law with foreign funding rules'](#)

June 18, 2020, BBC

Hungary broke European law by restricting foreign funding of civil society organisations, the EU's top court has ruled.

[EU Moves to Shrink Chinese, U.S. Influence in Its Economy](#)

June 17, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

The European Union plans to tighten its defenses against subsidized foreign companies, marking a sharp increase in the bloc's effort to assert "strategic autonomy" from China and the U.S. while defending its economic interests.

[EU in advanced talks with Johnson & Johnson on COVID-19 vaccine deal - sources](#)

June 18, 2020, Reuters

The European Commission is in advanced talks with pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson to reserve or buy up-front doses of its COVID-19 vaccine under development, two officials familiar with the talks told Reuters.

[Germany set to pay 42% more into EU budget in coming years, report says](#)

June 15, 2020, Reuters

Germany's contribution to the European Union budget would rise by 42%, or 13 billion euros (\$14.63 billion) annually in the coming years, based on proposals from Brussels, the newspaper Die Welt said, citing government calculations.

[NATO opens probe on France-Turkey naval incident in Mediterranean](#)

June 18, 2020, Al Jazeera

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has said the military alliance will investigate French accusations that Turkey's navy failed to respond to an allied call for inspection this month in the Mediterranean.

[France commits 200 million Euros for India's COVID-19 response](#)

June 19, 2020, CNBC

France and India signed an agreement committing 200 million euros to increase the state and central governments' capacities to support India's most vulnerable people in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

[Italy Pressed on Arms Sale to Egypt Amid Torture-Murder Case](#)

June 18, 2020, The New York Times

Italian lawmakers pressed Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte over the planned sale of two frigates to Egypt even though Cairo has refused to hand over suspects in the torture and killing of a graduate student or fully cooperate in the investigation.

[Spain Unveils \\$4.8 Billion Plan for Beaten-Up Tourism Sector](#)

June 18, 2020, Bloomberg

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced a 4.25 billion-euro (\$4.75 billion) package to bolster the country's battered tourism industry.

Russia

[US says jets deployed by Russia in Libya in active use](#)

June 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States has renewed its accusations that the Russian government is deploying fighter jets in Libya in support of eastern-based renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar.

[Russia assures support to India amid violent face-off with China at Galwan Valley](#)

June 18, 2020, Zee News

India and Russia enjoy close ties and have frequently engaged at the highest level, both Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin have spoken to each other several times this year including on COVID crisis. Moscow has assured its support to New Delhi in its efforts to resolve issues with China amidst the ongoing stand-off in Ladakh, according to top sources.

[Putin Publishes Essay on 'Real Lessons' of WWII](#)

June 19, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russian president attacks European narrative of WWII, days before rescheduled Victory Day parade.

[Putin proposes UN Five to discuss common principles in world affairs](#)

June 19, 2020, TASS

Modern system of international relations is one of the most important outcomes of the World War II, world leaders must guarantee that it will be preserved and improved, Russian President said.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Honduras' president hospitalized with COVID-19 as Latin America becomes virus 'epicenter'](#)

June 18, 2020, NBC News

The president of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, was hospitalized for pneumonia, after revealing that he and his wife had tested positive for COVID-19.

[Fears mount for Latin America refugees](#)

June 19, 2020, Northwest Arkansas

The head of the U.N. refugee agency says he is "very worried" about the impact of the coronavirus in Latin America, where millions of Venezuelans have fled upheaval at home and could face hardship abroad among lockdowns and other restrictive measures to fight the pandemic.

[Brazil Is Becoming the New Epicenter of the Pandemic](#)

June 17, 2020, Medium

Brazil is now the country with the second-highest number of Covid-19 cases and deaths — only the United States has a more devastating case count. Over 100 days after the first case was confirmed in Brazil, the curve is still going up, likely far from reaching its peak. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently declared South America the new epicenter of the disease, with Brazil being the most affected in the region.

[Pirates Threaten Oil Operations In Gulf Of Mexico](#)

June 18, 2020, Oil Price.com

There is increased threat of piracy in the southern Gulf of Mexico, with oil platforms and other installations a potential target, the U.S. government has warned.

Africa

[Famine ravages Burkina Faso as farmers call for help](#)

June 16, 2020, Africa News

The landlocked West African nation of Burkina Faso has been hard hit by drought and desertification. Just east of capital Ouagadougou, once fertile land is now dry.

The area used to support generations of farmers, but families now can only scrape a living.

[Sudan says talks on Ethiopia's Nile dam did not produce deal](#)

June 18, 2020, Al Jazeera

The latest round of talks among three key Nile River Basin countries failed to resolve a contentious dispute over construction of a giant \$4.6bn hydroelectric dam in Ethiopia, Sudan's irrigation minister said .

[No breakthrough in Somalia-Somaliland talks as contentious issues postponed](#)

June 18, 2020, Somali Affairs

The talks between Somalia and Somaliland concluded evening with both parties agreeing to defer for a further 15 days negotiations on contentious issues namely foreign aid, security and airspace control.

[Burundi swears in new president](#)

June 18, 2020, Andolou Agency

Maj. Gen. Evariste Ndayishimiye was sworn in as the new president of Burundi for a seven-year term in office, renewable once.

[Kenya defeats Djibouti to win a seat at the UN Security Council](#)

June 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

After both countries failed to gain enough support at first round, Kenya won the Africa spot with 129 votes against 69.

[Xi chairs China-Africa summit, calls for solidarity to defeat COVID-19](#)

June 18, 2020, CGTN

Chinese President Xi Jinping called on China and Africa to defeat the novel coronavirus with solidarity and cooperation.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org