

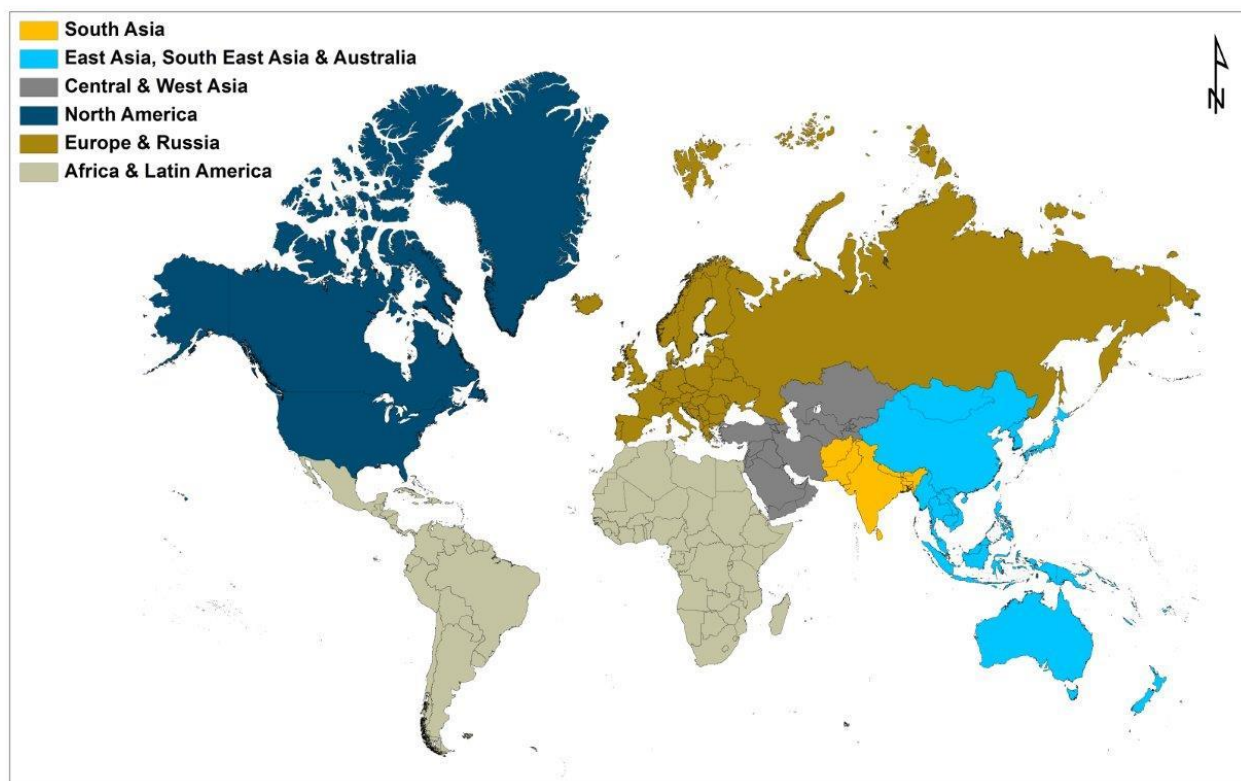


Delhi Policy Group

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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Volume 4, Issue 44

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

[India, US to sign landmark defence pact to share high-end military technology, logistics today](#)

October 27, 2020, Firstpost

India and the US will ink a landmark defence pact that will provide for sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between their militaries, officials said after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held wide-ranging talks with his US counterpart Mark T Esper.

[India acquires 11,000 extreme cold gear sets from US army](#)

October 29, 2020, The Economic Times

India activated a key foundational pact with the US last month to acquire urgently needed high-altitude systems for soldiers deployed to forward areas along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh who are likely to stay on through the winter as tensions with China continue.

[8th round of India-China military talks to focus on fixing buffer zones along LAC](#)

October 26, 2020, The Print

The next round of India-China talks is significant as any large-scale redeployment of troops will need to be carried out before passes close by October-end, when heavy winter sets in.

[Countering China is now a priority for both India and US. But only one needs the other](#)

October 28, 2020, The Print

Irrespective of who wins the American presidential election next week, India's strategic circumstance will not change. The huge — and still-growing — imbalance of power in favour of China, and its containment strategy against India, is a reality that will persist for the foreseeable future.

[No Space for Third Party": US Support For India Rattles China](#)

October 28, 2020, NDTV

China, rattled by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's strong support for India's efforts to defend its sovereignty - a reference to the military stand-off in Ladakh - has said in a statement that the "boundary question is a bilateral matter" and there is "no space" for a third party to intervene.

[Mike Pompeo's attack on China signals a shift in India's approach](#)

October 29, 2020, Hindustan Times

Chinese diplomats in New Delhi and Beijing went on overdrive, launching sharp counterattacks on the United States after secretary of state Mike Pompeo promised to support India in its confrontation with China after the India-US 2+2 strategic dialogue.

Afghanistan

[Claimed by IS, suicide attack kills 18 in Kabul](#)

October 25, 2020, Dawn

A suicide bomber struck near an education centre in the Afghan capital, killing at least 18 people in an attack claimed by the militant Islamic State (IS) group. Violence on the ground has spiked in recent weeks despite the Taliban and the Afghan government holding peace talks in Qatar to end the country's grinding war.

[Key Al-Qaeda leader Al-Masri killed in Afghanistan](#)

October 26, 2020, The News

Afghan forces have killed a top Al-Qaeda militant wanted by the United States, as the government accused the Taliban of still keeping close ties with the Islamist militant group. Abu Muhsin Al-Masri, an Egyptian national believed to be the group's number two in the Indian Sub-continent, was targeted in eastern Ghazni province, Afghanistan's intelligence agency said in a statement. The National Directorate of Security did not provide further details about the operation or when it was carried out.

['We Backed US Forces' Presence in Afghanistan': Putin](#)

October 26, 2020, Tolo News

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has said that the continued presence of US troops in Afghanistan is beneficial for overall security. "Initially, we backed US forces' presence in Afghanistan and earlier voted in favor of a respective UN Security Council resolution. I still believe that US presence in Afghanistan does not run counter to our external interests," Putin said in an interview.

[US service member dies in Afghanistan chopper crash](#)

October 28, 2020, Washington Examiner

A U.S. service member was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan that left six other crew members injured, NATO said in a statement. The crash occurred in Afghanistan's eastern Logar province and "was not the result of enemy

action," according to the statement. A spokesperson for the Taliban had previously claimed responsibility for the crash.

[Govt To Build Two More Dams on Harirod River](#)

October 28, 2020, Tolo News

The Ministry of Energy and Water of Afghanistan is working on the procurement process for two dam projects which will be built on the Harirod River in Herat province – in the west of Afghanistan. The biggest plant on the Harirod River is the Salma Dam built by India. The budget for Teerpul and Kabgan power dams will be allocated for the Ministry of Energy and Water in the next fiscal year.

Pakistan

[Pakistan to repay \\$4.4bln on foreign commercial loans in FY2021](#)

October 25, 2020, The News

Pakistan has to repay \$4.4 billion on account of foreign commercial loans during the current fiscal year of 2020/21, indicating a pressure building up on forex reserves amid uncertainty over IMF's stalled program. The country has to make total external debt repayments to the tune of \$10.3 billion during this year. It just paid out \$798 million out of it. The remaining amount of over \$9.5 billion is to be paid in 10 months period. The total external debt repayment of \$10.3 billion constitutes \$8.5 billion as principle payment of loans and \$1.8 billion as interest repayment.

[FATF keeps Pakistan on grey list till Feb 2021](#)

October 24, 2020, The News

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced to keep Pakistan on the grey list till February 2021. The FATF took the stance that Pakistan would have to comply with the remaining six items out of 27 action plans to come out from the jurisdiction under increased monitoring.

[Learning poverty in Pakistan may rise to 79pc due to Covid](#)

October 26, 2020, Dawn

A new World Bank report suggests that learning poverty in Pakistan will go up to 79 per cent as a result of school closure during the Covid-19 pandemic. Learning poverty means being unable to read and understand a simple text by age 10. Currently, 53pc of children in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple story by the end of their primary school-level education.

[Food imports grow amid wheat, sugar shortages](#)

October 26, 2020, Dawn

Increasing wheat imports along with those of tea, palm oil, spices and sugar caused a whopping jump of 56 per cent in the country's food import bill in the first quarter of 2020-21. It amounted to \$1.71 billion in the three-month period. In 2019-20, the food import bill plunged 4.31pc to \$5.42bn.

[Pak-Afghan forum adopts 140 proposals to promote trade](#)

October 28, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan and Afghanistan adopted more than 140 recommendations to promote bilateral trade and investments. The two-day Pak-Afghan Trade and Investment conference which concluded on October 27 recommended the Pakistani government to allow five-year business and residence visa to all Afghans who are willing to start businesses in Pakistan.

[55 suspects arrested over seminary bombing](#)

October 29, 2020, Dawn

The police arrested 55 suspects in Yakatoot area here over the seminary bombing, which killed eight people and injured 120. A statement issued here said the arrests came during a major crackdown, which was launched by the Rapid Response Force, Ladies Police and Bomb Disposal Unit in Dir Colony, where the bomb blast had occurred, and adjoining areas.

[ExxonMobil scraps LNG terminal plan](#)

October 30, 2020, The Express Tribune

US energy giant ExxonMobil has scrapped a plan to establish a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Pakistan. It had partnered with a consortium of Energas Terminal (Pvt) Limited that was setting up the LNG terminal in the country.

Bangalsdesh

[Bangladesh keen to have enhanced economic ties with China](#)

October 29, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh has laid emphasis on enhanced trade and investment cooperation with China amid growing interest among Chinese investors to invest in Bangladesh.

[Myanmar will take back Rohingya from Bangladesh: China](#)

October 25, 2020, Andolou Agency

Myanmar has told China it is willing to take back Rohingya refugees currently living in Bangladesh, according to the Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry.

[China-Bangladesh ties: Experts urge expansive vision to bolster trade, investment](#)

October 29, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh needs to widen its vision in relationship with China to look at broader areas of comprehensive partnership in trade and investment, said experts.

[Bangladesh, India resume air connectivity after 7 months](#)

October 28, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

The air connectivity between Bangladesh and India was resumed under the “air bubble” arrangement, after over seven months of flight suspension to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Nepal

[Stay focused on the big picture in Nepal](#)

October 27, 2020, Hindustan Times

India-Nepal ties are back in the spotlight with the visit of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief, Samant Goel, to Kathmandu last week. Mr Goel met the Nepali Prime Minister, KP Sharma Oli, who has espoused belligerent anti-Indian nationalism for domestic political ends. His visit has drawn up the predictable response in Nepal — of Indian interference in internal affairs — and has also led to criticism of Mr Oli, who is being accused by his critics of now softening up to India.

[Controversy over old map of Nepal in Oli's Dussehra greeting card](#)

October 25, 2020, The Indian Express

Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli was at the centre of a new controversy following the use of the country's old map in his Vijaya Dashami greeting card which had the national emblem and his portrait printed on it.

Sri Lanka

[China is a predator, Mike Pompeo tells Sri Lanka](#)

October 28, 2020, India Today

On the second leg of his four-nation tour, US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo is in Sri Lanka, after his visit to India, where he held bilateral meetings with his counterpart Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

[Lanka will not allow its land or maritime territory to threaten India's security: Foreign Secretary](#)

October 29, 2020, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka will follow non-alignment and will be a neutral country, maintaining friendly relations with all other countries and does not want to be caught up in the power game. Sri Lanka will not allow its land or maritime territory to be used to threaten the security of any other country and it cannot be a strategic security concern for India.

[US counters China in Sri Lanka and Maldives by driving a wedge](#)

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has laid the groundwork for an ideological contest in Sri Lanka and the Maldives that Washington is spoiling to wage against the Chinese Communist Party -- between democracy and tyranny.

[Sri Lanka Will Soon Have to Pick a Side in the China-US Rivalry](#)

October 27, 2020, The Diplomat

Colombo has been trying its utmost to balance the great powers, but that may no longer be feasible.

East & South East Asia

China

[Fifth plenary session proves China's endurance, stamina: Global Times editorial](#)

Global Times, October 29, 2020

The fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) concluded and released a communiqué. The communiqué outlines the main objectives of the 14th Five-Year Plan - to seek new achievements in six areas - and the long-term vision to realize socialist modernization by 2035. The plenary session has continued the overall plan of the 19th National Congress of the CPC, and maintained the strategic pace and spiritual outlook of China's advancement, which shows China's strong endurance and stamina amid changes.

[New economic strategy for next five years](#)

China Daily, October 30, 2020

The Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee that concluded laid out a comprehensive guideline for the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), which covers virtually every aspect of China's socioeconomic life. Among them, several are targeted at advancing new developments. As is being widely discussed, the plenum proposed the "dual circulation" development pattern as one of the key components of a new development framework. Also, new strategies for urbanization, cleaner production, and a more equitable distribution of public services have been laid out. The common thread in the guideline is to strengthen the domestic economy (or "internal circulation").

[US driven by geopolitical opportunism in the Maldives](#)

Global Times, October 29, 2020

US foreign policy has for a long time been an opportunistic use of geopolitics. This was proven once more after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the US will open an embassy in the tiny nation of the Maldives, 54 years after the two established diplomatic ties.

[Southeast Asian countries are alarmed by Pompeo's scheme](#)

Global Times, October 30, 2020

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is on the last foreign trip of his term of office. He visited India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Indonesia, and, at the last moment, Vietnam. The agenda of Pompeo's trip is very clear: coercing and

luring these countries to confront China in policy and hoping to establish a "little NATO" in Asia with a strong anti-China tone.

[Zambia debt woes expose difficulties in international assistance](#)

Global Times, October 29, 2020

Zambia has reached a deal to defer debt repayments that were due this month on a loan from the China Development Bank (CDB), the Reuters reported. Zambia's debt woes show that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international development assistance is increasing. Developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries (LDC), are facing more difficulties.

[France-Turkey frictions show secular strategies and struggles states face](#)

Global Times, October 29, 2020

Since the brutal beheading of French history teacher Samuel Paty on October 16, France has adopted a series of unprecedented stringent measures to quickly and effectively crack down on domestic terrorism. It has even attempted to contain extremism by forceful regulative measures toward specific religions. Although international public opinion generally sympathized with the victimized teacher and condemned the terrorist's atrocities, antipathy was soon triggered in the Islamic world after French officials, particularly President Emmanuel Macron, intensively expressed in public that they would fight against "Islamic separatism."

[US official attempts to deceive the world with an anti-China united front: Global Times editorial](#)

Global Times, October 24, 2020

US Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger gave a speech in Putonghua during a video conference hosted by London-based think tank Policy Exchange. Like many other high-level US officials, he attacked China's system and so-called "ambitions." Trying to be different, he focused on China's "United Front" work while giving the speech in Chinese to show his distinctive understanding of China.

[US sabotaging multilateralism, not exiting it: China Daily editorial](#)

China daily, October 28, 2020

In a recent article published in the New York Post, Kelly Craft, US ambassador to the United Nations, claimed that with all its actions, the United States was not retreating from multilateralism, but preserving the multilateral system. If that is the case, the US has an odd way of going about it. It has withdrawn from international treaties, multiparty agreements and multilateral organizations,

trod roughshod over international rules and regulations, interfered in the internal affairs of other countries, and jeopardized global trade and security.

[China, U.S. to continue military exchanges: spokesperson](#)

Xinhua, October 30, 2020

The militaries of China and the United States have agreed to hold a webinar on military humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in mid-November, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense said. Wu Qian said at a regular press conference that consultations on maritime security issues will also be held via a video conference by the end of this year.

[China to Sanction U.S. Weapons Makers Over Taiwan Sales](#)

October 26, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

China said it will sanction three American defense contractors over proposed arms sales to Taiwan, retaliating against U.S. efforts to deepen security ties with the island democracy that Beijing claims as its territory. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Monday that Beijing has decided to impose sanctions on Lockheed Martin Corp., Boeing Co.'s defense division and Raytheon Technologies Corp., as well as other U.S. entities involved in the planned \$1.8 billion weapons package.

[If China's economy is so strong, why isn't its currency stronger?](#)

October 30, 2020, The Economist

China, as its leaders like to observe, has fared better than any other big country this year. It has all but halted the covid-19 pandemic, got its economy back on track and, to top it off, reaped a cash windfall from abroad. The last has stemmed from a surge in its trade surplus, thanks in part to its factories running at full tilt, and a rush of money into its bonds, thanks in part to its growth outlook. The yuan's recent appreciation against the dollar has merely kept it in line with the yen and the euro. This raises the question, sure to rankle with officials in Beijing, of whether China is again manipulating its currency.

[Large Covid Outbreak in China linked to Xinjiang Forced Labour](#)

October 29, 2020, The Guardian

China's largest coronavirus outbreak in months appears to have emerged in a factory in Xinjiang linked to forced labour and the government's controversial policies towards Uighur residents. More than 180 cases of Covid-19 documented in the past week in Shufu county, in southern Xinjiang, can be traced back to a factory that was built in 2018 as part of government "poverty alleviation" efforts, a campaign that researchers and rights advocates describe as coercive.

[Hong Kong Police Arrest Activist Said to Seek U.S. Asylum](#)

October 27, 2020, The New York Times

The Hong Kong police on Tuesday arrested a 19-year-old activist outside the United States consulate just as he was about to seek asylum, according to an advocacy group. The activist, Tony Chung, had previously been arrested in July under a national security law imposed on the city by Beijing earlier this year. He was accused of posting a message on social media about a new political party that called for Hong Kong's independence from China. Mr. Chung has denied writing it.

[Stopping Beijing's fishing boat militia](#)

October 30, 2020, Taipei Times

China's English-language propaganda newspaper the Global Times on Wednesday reported that the Taiwanese coast guard on Thursday last week "inhumanely and savagely" drove away Chinese fishing boats that were seeking shelter from the northeast monsoon close to Penghu County's Siji Islet (西吉嶼). However, there is more to the affair than meets the eye.

Japan

[Suga and Asia](#)

October 29, 2020, The Statesman

In his diplomatic debut after taking over from Abe Shinzo as Japan's Prime Minister in September, Yoshihide Suga, with little experience in the foreign policy domain, chose visits to Vietnam and Indonesia in order to deepen ties with the two Southeast Asian nations. The twin visits need to be seen from the perspective of geostrategy and geo-economics in the evolving scenario in the Indo-Pacific region.

[Strategy for an open Indo-Pacific should not raise regional tensions](#)

October 22, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

The Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) initiative, a key vision for Japan's foreign policy agenda, should not in any way create a division or raise military tensions in the region. Japan should focus on promoting dialogue for peace through steady, if not high-profile diplomatic efforts.

[Wary of security issues, Japan's government moves to shut China out of its drone supply chain](#)

October 30, 2020, The Asahi Shiimbun

Japan may effectively shut off China from supplying drones to its government to protect sensitive information, according to six people in government and the ruling party familiar with the matter, as part of a broad effort to bolster national security.

[Japan and China both claim these islands as their own. Now the US is showing Tokyo how it can help defend them](#)

October 27, 2020, CNN

Tens of thousands of US and Japanese troops will begin a massive island-landing exercise in the Pacific this week as part of joint military operations seen as a warning to China that Washington backs Tokyo over Beijing's claim to Japanese-controlled islands.

[Japan and US begin major military exercise as concern about China grows](#)

October 26, 2020, The Times of India

Japan and the United States began air, sea and land exercises around Japan in a show of force in the face of increased Chinese military activity in the region.

[Govt clears text of India-Japan pact for cooperation in 5G, telecom security](#)

October 29, 2020, Deccan Herald

India approved the text of the proposed India-Japan agreement for cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) amid growing concern over snooping by Huawei Technologies Company and ZTE Corporation of China.

[Suga On A Mission To Vietnam And Indonesia](#)

October 24, 2020, The ASEAN Post

Newly appointed Prime Minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga certainly understands the political importance of continuity, especially in Southeast Asia. Suga recently made a first stop in Hanoi, Vietnam and continued on to his second visit in the region to Jakarta, Indonesia. Both these Southeast Asian countries are seen as key to Japan's "free and open Indo-Pacific," strategy.

Korea

[Moon's 'New Deal' visions and India-South Korea economic ties](#)

October 29, 2020, Korea Times

In September this year, India and South Korea resumed renegotiation of their landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that played a key role in spurring trade between the two sides and boosted bilateral ties.

[US Amb. Harris says S. Korea, US fought 'side by side against invasion from the north'](#)

October 30, 2020, The Korea Herald

US Ambassador Harry Harris has said that South Korea and the United States had fought together against "invasion from the north" during the Korean War, amid a controversy over Chinese President Xi Jinping's characterization of the conflict as the fight against US "imperialist invaders."

[NK blames killing of S. Korean civilian on Seoul](#)

October 30, 2020, The Korea Herald

North Korea blamed the Seoul government on its killing of a South Korean civilian, calling it an "accident" stemming from Pyongyang's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

[Biden vows not to extort South Korea with troop withdrawal threats](#)

October 30, 2020, The Korea Times

Biden vows not to extort South Korea with troop withdrawal threats she full text of a special contribution by U.S. Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden, made to Yonhap News Agency marks the first of its kind to a South Korean media company in the year of the U.S. presidential election.

Southeast Asia

[India Gives Submarine to Myanmar Amid Growing Chinese Footprint In Indian Ocean Countries](#)

October 25, 2020, VOA

India has given a submarine to Myanmar as part of a military outreach to its eastern neighbor that strategic analysts say is driven by New Delhi's bid to counter China's growing influence in Southeast Asia.

[Myanmar Will Take Back Rohingya From Bangladesh: China](#)

October 25, 2020, Andolou Agency

Myanmar has told China it is willing to take back Rohingya refugees currently living in Bangladesh, according to the Bangladeshi Foreign Ministry. In a statement, the ministry said China's top diplomat Wang Yi conveyed this information to his Bangladeshi counterpart AK Abdul Momen in a phone call.

[Thailand Government Urged To Boost Ties With China](#)

October 25, 2020, ASEAN Economist

In a report by Bangkok Post, Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce president Narongsak Puttapornmongkol was quoted as saying that China, whose economy was already on the road to recovery, may benefit Thailand's exports and its overall economy.

[China's Hand Seen in Myanmar's Insurgent Group Targeting India-Backed Kaladan Project](#)

October 26, 2020, The Hindustan Times

The Arakan Army, an insurgent group whose activities have severely affected the India-backed Kaladan multi-modal transport project in Myanmar, has benefited from the clandestine transfer and smuggling of Chinese-made weaponry, people familiar with developments said.

[ASEAN Is Failing on The South China Sea Issue](#)

October 26, 2020, The Diplomat

The 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are currently in the midst of discussions over the long-awaited Code of Conduct on the South China Sea (SCS). In August, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that he was hoping to see the completion of the Code of Conduct (COC) by 2021. But no one in ASEAN, including the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, has been able to discern whether Wang meant the beginning of 2021 or the end. While seemingly a simple issue, the ASEAN member states appear to lack the courage to seek clarification on it.

[Myanmar Receives 16 Proposals for New Yangon City Project](#)

October 26, 2020, The Irrawaddy

Myanmar says it has received 16 proposals from nine countries, including Japan, Singapore, Italy, Spain and France, to compete against a Chinese company's proposal for the New Yangon City project, which is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

[India, Japan Look To ASEAN To Tighten Continental Cybersecurity Co-Op](#)

October 26, 2020, Techwire Asia

After their recent decision to cooperate with each other in various tech and critical information infrastructure areas, Japan and India are now looking to further relations with ASEAN nations in multiple disciplines too, with Indo-Pacific cybersecurity, in particular, coming into focus.

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Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[India hosts meeting of SCO Ministers handling economy and foreign trade](#)

October 28, 2020, PIB

India today hosted the 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Ministers responsible for Foreign Economy and Foreign Trade Activities. In his opening remarks, Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal said that the current crisis due to Covid-19 is a clarion call to the SCO countries to leverage the economic strength and explore partnerships that enhance trade and investment in the region.

[Joint Statement of the 2nd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue](#)

October 28, 2020, MEA

The 2nd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in the digital video-conference format on 28 October 2020, under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India. Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the meeting. Acting Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan attended the meeting as a special invitee.

[Kazakhstan presents its investment opportunities to French investors](#)

October 30, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The development of trade, economic and investment cooperation was discussed during the Kazakhstan-French round table and meeting of Business Council of the two countries. The event was held in the video conferencing format and was attended by over 100 representatives of business community, heads of government agencies, and quasi-government organizations of the two countries, Kazakh Invest national investment promotion company reported on October 29.

[India commits \\$1 billion line of credit for development projects in Central Asia](#)

October 30, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The 2nd meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue was held in the digital video-conference format on October 28, under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister of India. Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan as well as First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic participated in the meeting. Acting Foreign Minister of

Afghanistan attended the meeting as a special invitee, India's Ministry of External Affairs reported.

[Kazakhstan and Austria discuss development of economic cooperation](#)

October 29, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

On October 28, an online meeting of the Kazakhstan-Austria Business Council was held with the participation of representatives of the business circles of the two countries, Kazakh Invest national investment promotion company reported.

[Armenian Soldiers Camouflage in Azerbaijani Military Uniforms](#)

October 28, 2020, Caspian News

Armenia's Defense Ministry issued a photo from the meeting of Defense Minister David Tonoyan showing Armenian soldiers wearing military uniforms of Azerbaijani border guards.

[Kazakhstan turns to EU Countries For Economic Boost](#)

October 27, 2020, Caspian News

Kazakhstan is eager to partner with European Union (EU) countries that can support its economy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and global economic slowdown. Prime Minister Askar Mamin held an online meeting that brought together government officials from Kazakhstan and heads of diplomatic missions of the EU countries, including Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Finland, Hungary, France and others.

[Iranian Envoy Calls Border with Azerbaijan "Border Of Friendship" Amidst Clashes Between Armenia and Azerbaijan](#)

October 25, 2020, Caspian News

Iranian Envoy Calls Border with Azerbaijan "Border Of Friendship" Amidst Clashes Between Armenia and Azerbaijan
Iran's ambassador to Baku has said that the shared border between Iran and Azerbaijan will ever remain the border of friendship, peace, and security amidst the ongoing armed clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the territories of Azerbaijan including the areas near the border with Iran.

[The United States and Uzbekistan Join Forces to Strengthen the Quality of Locally Produced Pharmaceuticals](#)

October 29, 2020, US Embassy

The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Uzbekistan, through the Ministry of Health Agency on Development of the Pharmaceutical Industry (Pharm Agency) signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement the "Promoting the Quality of Medicines Plus" program in Uzbekistan. Rebecca Black, Acting Mission Director for USAID in Uzbekistan, and Sardor Kariev, Director of the Pharm Agency, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective agencies.

West Asia

[India Slams Turkey and Pakistan for Attacks on French President Emmanuel Macron](#)

October 29, 2020, The Indian Express

India came out in support of France's President Emmanuel Macron, whom Pakistan and Turkey have targeted for strongly defending the French people's right to freedom of expression.

[India Urges Saudi Arabia to Take 'Corrective Steps' Over Depiction of J&K in Bank Note](#)

October 30, 2020, Hindustan Times

India conveyed its 'serious concern' to Saudi Arabia over the depiction of J&K in bank note. The banknote, a new 20 Riyal currency, was released on October 24 to commemorate Saudi Arabia's presidency of organizing the G-20 on November 21-22. The new Saudi currency note shows Jammu and Kashmir as a separate entity.

[India and UAE Agree to Advance Their Defence Cooperation](#)

October 29, 2020, Army Technology

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to deepen their defence cooperation via joint production and mutual trade. The two countries participated in a webinar titled, 'Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership: India-UAE Defence Cooperation', which saw participation from over 180 people.

[Bahrain, India Discuss Opportunities in Pharmaceuticals and Alternative Medicine Sector](#)

October 28, 2020, The Daily Tribune (News of Bahrain)

Bahrain and India discussed ways to enhance opportunities in pharmaceuticals and alternative medicine. This Webinar was organized by the Indian embassy and Pharmexcil with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and National Health Regulatory Health.

[India Calls for Complete Ceasing of Support to Terrorist Forces in Middle East](#)

October 27, 2020, BW Business World

Underlining that political instability, long-festering conflicts, sectarian divides, issue of refugees and terrorism continue to plague the Middle East, India called on concerned parties in the region to completely stop support to terrorist forces like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and others.

[SC Asks Centre to Take Further Steps to Bring Back Remaining Indians Stranded in Kuwait](#)

October 27, 2020, Financial Express

The Supreme Court asked the Centre to take steps to bring back remaining Indians stranded in Kuwait amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The government has said that out of 1.3 lakh citizens who had enrolled for the repatriation with its Embassy, over 87,000 have already been brought back.

[US Moves Ahead with Sale of 50 F-35 Fighter Jets to the UAE](#)

October 29, 2020, Financial Times

The US State Department has notified Congress that it intends to sell 50 F-35 fighter aircrafts to the United Arab Emirates, after Israel agreed last week to drop its objections. The notification sent to Congress indicated sales could reach \$10bn.

[President Erdogan Warns of Military Action in Syria, Decries Russian Strike](#)

October 28, 2020, AL Jazeera

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to launch a new military operation in northern Syria if Kurdish armed groups are not cleared from areas along its border with Syria.

[US Senators Push to Sell Bunker-busting Bombs to Israel](#)

October 29, 2020, AL Jazeera

Two bipartisan House legislators will introduce a bill in the US Congress this week that would require the US Department of Defence (DoD) to consider selling Israel bunker-buster bombs capable of penetrating heavily fortified underground facilities, one of the bill's sponsors announced .

[Russian Air-Strikes Kill 34 Turkey-backed Rebels in Syria](#)

October 26, 2020, WION

Air strikes by Russia killed 56 fighters from a Turkey-backed rebel group in northwest Syria. Russian warplanes also wounded 100 people when they targeted a training camp of the Faylaq al-Sham faction in the Jabal Duwayli area in Idlib province.

United States

United States

[Trump administration pushes allies to pressure China over its nuclear program](#)

October 29, 2020, CNN

The Trump administration is working to pressure NATO allies to collectively crackdown on China's nuclear program as it looks to limit Beijing's growing influence in the global arms race.

[US fighter jet intercepts aircraft near Trump rally, deploying signal flares](#)

October 29, 2020, CNN

An aircraft entered restricted air space over President Donald Trump's rally in Bullhead City, Arizona, leading to a fighter jet being scrambled to intercept it.

[Explained: In Pompeo's Indo-Pacific tour, a message to China, takeaways for India](#)

October 30, 2020, Indian Express

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo swung through three Indian Ocean countries after the 2+2 US-India talks in New Delhi earlier this week, bringing the China-US spat to India's doorstep.

[Esper to Visit Israel Amid U.S. Push to Sell F-35s to UAE](#)

October 29, 2020, Hamodia

U. S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper is set to visit Israel to meet his Israeli counterpart Benny Gantz and other high-ranking officials.

[Defense Secretary Meets with Bahraini, U.S. Military Leaders](#)

October 29, 2020, US Department of Defense

Esper met with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and thanked the Bahraini monarch for his country's stout support of American presence in the region.

[China's military rise poses the greatest foreign policy challenge to the next US President](#)

October 30, 2020, CNN

China was one of two countries, along with Russia, named in a 2018 Pentagon report as posing the most significant military challenge to the United States. Two years on and that challenge has only grown.

[The Growing Importance of South Asians in U.S. Politics](#)

October 29, 2020, Foreign Policy

Because 40 percent of immigrants from India arrived in the United States after 2010, their political impact is just beginning to be felt.

[Senate Democrats Release Report Criticizing Trump Foreign Policy](#)

October 22, 2020, Voice of America

The top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee charged that the Trump administration's foreign policy has broken with a precedent set by past U.S. presidents showcasing the U.S. as a model for democracy and freedom.

[What in the World if Trump Wins?](#)

October 27, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

The odds are against him again, but Donald Trump has every intention of winning four more years in office. In foreign policy at least, his second term would likely be even more transformative and unconventional than his first. Most second-term presidents look to make a mark in foreign policy... As unconventional a figure as Mr. Trump is, he is likely to look for trophy achievements overseas too.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[New Indo-EU pact will enable Indian talents to join research teams in Europe](#)

October 29, 2020, Times of India

The European Commission and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) signed an arrangement to enhance scientific cooperation and enable Indian social scientists to join research teams in Europe, supported by European Research Council (ERC).

[Basmati battle: Pakistan fights Indian bid for EU recognition of rice](#)

October 29, 2020, The Guardian

Pakistan's government has vowed to "vehemently" oppose an application by India for the long-grain aromatic rice to be recognised by the EU as being grown exclusively in specific regions of the Indian subcontinent.

[India backs Emmanuel Macron, criticises personal attacks on French president](#)

October 29, 2020, Hindustan Times

India has deplored personal attacks by countries such as Turkey and Pakistan on French President Emmanuel Macron for his stance on radical Islam in the wake of the beheading of a teacher in Paris, and said that there can be no justification for terrorism.

[Tunisian man beheads woman, kills two more people in Nice church](#)

October 29, 2020, Reuters

A knife-wielding Tunisian man beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in the French city of Nice before being shot and taken away by police.

['Shocked' EU leaders condemn terror attacks in France - statement](#)

October 29, 2020, Reuters

In a joint statement, the European leaders said the killings were "terrorist attacks" and showed their solidarity with France.

[Spain enters six-month state of emergency to tackle pandemic](#)

October 29, 2020, Reuters

Spain will be under a state of emergency until early May, giving regions legal backing to decide curfews and restrict travel to try and contain rampant COVID-19 contagion.

[Merkel lashes out at populists who say coronavirus is harmless](#)

October 29, 2020, Reuters

Populists who argue the coronavirus is harmless are dangerous and irresponsible, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said defending a circuit break lockdown aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

[To boost ties, Indian Foreign Secretary to visit three European nations](#)

October 28, 2020, Tribune India

India will resume the pre-Covid tempo of building contacts with Europe with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla scheduled to visit France, Germany and the UK from October 29 to November 4.

[EAM S Jaishankar Holds Virtual Meeting with Greek FM, Discusses Bilateral Issues](#)

October 29, 2020, Global Tribune

Both leaders undertook a detailed review of bilateral ties, underpinned by long-standing historical and friendly relations as well as commonality of views on major international issues of the day.

[Last Call for Transatlanticism](#)

October 26, 2020, Project Syndicate

With polls having consistently favored Joe Biden in this year's momentous US presidential election, Europeans should be preparing to seize the opportunity that would come with a new administration. But the biggest threats to the transatlantic relationship have little to do with Donald Trump, and Europeans ignore them at their peril.

Russia

[No need to amend Union State Treaty with Belarus, Putin says](#)

October 29, 2020, TASS

Russian President Vladimir Putin does not consider it necessary to amend the Union State agreement with Belarus, he told the VTB Capital Investment Forum "Russia Calling!"

[Russia ready to work with any new US administration — Putin](#)

October 29, 2020, TASS

The Russian head of state recalled that the current US administration had introduced new sanctions against Russia, its legal entities and economic operators 46 times. "This hasn't happened before yet at the same time during

the previous year the trade volume increased by 30%, as strange as it seems, despite these restrictions," Putin stated.

[The Distance Between Moscow and Russia's Far East Is Growing](#)

October 29, 2020, The Diplomat

Tensions in Siberia are growing, fueled by fears around Chinese investment and resentment at being governed from another continent.

[Russia's Putin calls for Turkish involvement in Nagorno-Karabakh talks](#)

October 30, 2020, CGTN

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Turkey should be among countries involved in talks to end fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, as Azerbaijan and Armenia again accused each other of shelling civilians in and around the mountain enclave.

[Russia Approves Bill Allowing National Law to Trump International Treaties](#)

October 28, 2020, News 18

The Russian parliament approved a bill that would give national legislation precedence over international treaties and rulings from international bodies in cases when they conflict with Russia's constitution.

[The 2000 Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and Russia](#)

October 30, 2020, Modern Diplomacy

Regarding geopolitical realignment, the global community is seeking pragmatic internationalism. The role of India and Russia is crucial in their efforts to diffuse the multipolar world system. This is also relevant for regional alliances to actively engage politically and economically, which should help bilateral relations between the two countries elevate to a higher pedestal in post-pandemic world order.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Cubans fret as US sanctions threaten Western Union closures](#)

October 29, 2020, Devdicourse

Cubans fret as US sanctions threaten Western Union closures. Cuba's government said all 407 offices could close by late November, a move that would potentially affect millions of people who depend on money sent by relatives for daily expenses if no alternatives are found.tern Union closures

[US sells oil seized from Iran to Venezuela for \\$40 million](#)

October 30, 2020, Deccan Chronicle

The United States said that it had sold Iranian oil seized on its way to Venezuela for more than \$40 million.

[Iranian plane sanctioned by US lands in Venezuela](#)

October 28, 2020, Al Monitor

A cargo plane belonging to an Iranian airline sanctioned by the United States landed in Venezuela. It is not clear what the plane brought amid continued US pressure on both Iran and its South American ally.

[India, Mexico hold 8th joint commission meeting, review cooperation in several areas](#)

October 30, 2020, Jagran Josh

During the 8th Joint Commission Meeting, India and Mexico appreciated the progress that has been made in commercial relations and bilateral trade between both nations in recent years.

[Venezuelan refinery damaged by 'terrorist attack', president says](#)

October 28, 2020, Al Jazeera

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro said that a large oil refinery suffered a "terrorist attack" as his government struggles to provide domestic fuel to the crisis-stricken nation.

[Chile Celebrates Voters' Decision to Scrap Constitution](#)

October 26, 2020, NPR.org

It started as a ripple: anger over higher subway prices. But a growing wave of protests followed, and now people in Chile have voted overwhelmingly to throw out their country's Pinochet-era constitution and create a new

document under which to live. Nearly 80% of the voters chose to form a new constitution.

Africa

[West African Oil Fortunes Diverge Along With Europe and China](#)

October 30, 2020, Bloomberg

For a glimpse of the growing disparity in the oil market's recovery, look at crude sales from West Africa.

[Sudan to join UAE, Bahrain in recognising Israel](#)

October 24, 2020, Deccan Chronicle

President Donald Trump announced that Sudan will start to normalise ties with Israel, making it the third Arab state to do so as part of US-brokered deals in the run-up to Election Day.

[US rescinds Sudan's designation as sponsor of terrorism: Trump informs Congress](#)

October 27, 2020, The Economic Times

US President Donald Trump has sent Congress a letter formally informing the lawmakers that his administration has rescinded Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

[Sudan's leader: Israel deal 'incentive' to end pariah status](#)

October 27, 2020, CGTN

Sudan's leader said that the decision to normalize ties with Israel was an incentive for President Donald Trump's administration to end Sudan's international pariah status.

[Four Killed in South Sudan-Uganda Border Skirmish](#)

October 29, 2020, VOA

Two South Sudanese soldiers and two Ugandan soldiers have been killed in a clash near the two countries' border, a South Sudanese army spokesman said.

[EU-African Union relations: joint communiqué of the AU Peace and Security Council and the EU Political and Security Committee](#)

October 26, 2020, Europa.eu

On 26 October 2020, the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (AU PSC) and the European Union (EU) Political and Security Committee (EU PSC) held their 12th Annual Joint Consultative Meeting, virtually, as part of their regular dialogue within the framework of Article 17 of the Protocol Relating to

the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and the AU – EU partnership. The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Ambassador Osama Abdelkhalek, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the AU and Chairperson of the AUPSC for October 2020 and H.E. Ambassador Sofie From- Emmesberger, Permanent Chair of the EU PSC.

[US blocks African candidate for WTO chief with eye on China](#)

October 29, 2020, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. has expressed opposition to Nigerian-born economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala for the top job at the World Trade Organization, prolonging a selection process that was expected to conclude .

[The pandemic could push 49 million Africans into extreme poverty. Here's how other countries can help](#)

October 27, 2020, CNN

It is now widely recognized that in Africa, the Covid-19 pandemic is on a different trajectory than much of the rest of the world, including the West. While relatively low levels of testing obscure the full picture, death rates have been significantly lower; health systems, while sometimes strained, have not been overwhelmed; and the latest serological studies suggest that while infection rates in Africa have been high, a great deal of these infections have been asymptomatic.



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