

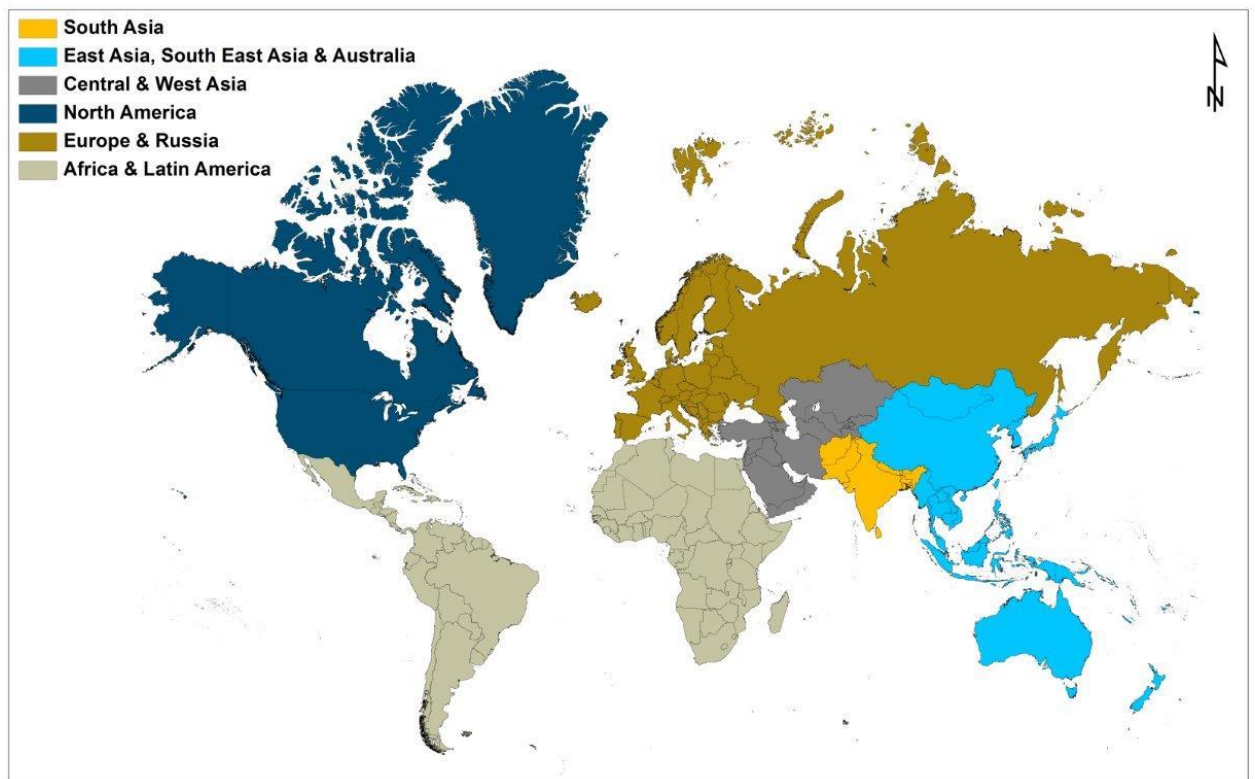


Delhi Policy Group

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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ABOUT US

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Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	9
Central & West Asia	9
United States	19
Europe & Russia	22
Africa & Latin America	24

South Asia

India

[The shifting trajectory of India's foreign policy](#)

November 2, 2020, The Hindu

The Third India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministers of India and the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defence took place in Delhi on October 26-27.

[Say no to debt-trap diplomacy: Harsh Shringla](#)

November 3, 2020, The Times of India

As China's BRI continues to provoke allegations of debt-trap diplomacy, India has again underscored the significance of sustainable and transparent infrastructure development.

[Trump or Biden, India-US ties will remain 'strong and robust' – Foreign Secy Shringla in UK](#)

November 5, 2020, The Print

Foreign Secretary Harsh V. Shringla said there is going to be "some more excitement" before the final outcome of the tightly fought US Presidential elections is known, even as he noted that US-India relations have come a long way.

[Crisis on LAC worst in decades, India response firm & mature: Shringla](#)

October 31, 2020, The Indian Express

India has dealt with the "worst crisis in decades" on its border with China with "firmness and maturity", Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told an audience in Paris.

[India-China Ties Have Come Under "Severe Stress": Foreign Minister S Jaishankar](#)

November 1, 2020, NDTV

The ties between India and China have come under "severe stress" and the agreements inked by both sides over the last few years must be respected to restore normalcy in relations, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said amid the eastern Ladakh border row.

[Jaishankar seeks high-end technology from Baltic nations](#)

November 5, 2020, Tribune India

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a virtual conference with five Ministers from Baltic countries as India continues with its drive to position itself in the centre as the world emerges from the Covid dislocation and Chinese aggression.

[Second batch of Rafale aircraft arrives in India, Defence Minister congratulates IAF](#)

November 4, 2020, India Today

IAF said in a tweet that the second batch of Rafale aircraft arrived in India . "Second batch of IAF #Rafale aircraft arrived in India at 8:14 pm on 04 Nov 20 after flying non-stop from France," the Indian Air Force (IAF) stated.

[Quadrilateral Malabar begins, Australia says 'natural partners' with India](#)

November 5, 2020, Defence Aviation Post

The Malabar naval drills, being held in a quadrilateral format this year with the US, Japan and new entrant Australia, kicked off in the Bay of Bengal, with frontline warships and submarines participating in complex exercises that include surface and anti submarine warfare.

[Japan lures 2 firms from China to India: As global supply chains shift, India needs to grab its opportunity](#)

November 6, 2020, Times Now

According to the latest reports, the Japanese government has struck a deal with two companies – Toyota-Tsusho and Sumida – which will see it offer financial assistance to shift their manufacturing bases out of China to India, under a recent subsidy-based programme to reduce the nation's supply-chain reliance on China. The announcement followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with global investors where he reiterated his intent to transform India into a global manufacturing hub in the coming years.

Pakistan

[Two law firms shortlisted to fight for Pakistan's Basmati](#)

November 1, 2020, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to pick one of the international law firms short-listed for fighting Pakistan's case in the European Union to fight after India applied for 'an exclusive' GI (Geographical Indications) tag for the Basmati rice.

[36.2kg of heroin seized at Port Qasim](#)

November 3, 2020, The News

Personnel of the Pakistan Model Customs Collectorate (Exports) have seized 36.2 kilograms of heroin which was found concealed in an export consignment destined to Montreal, Canada. The value of the heroin is estimated to be Pakistan Rs361 million in the international market.

[Circular debt of power sector touches Rs2.3tr, PAC told](#)

November 3, 2020, The News

Pakistan's circular debt of the power sector had reached at Rs2.3 trillion and the record increases witness in circular debt of Rs1.139 trillion, which is almost double in last two years of the PTI government. It was informed that an increase of Rs116 billion was witnessed in last three months, while in first six months of fiscal year 2018-19, it was increased by Rs288 billion and Rs198 billion in last six months of the fiscal year of 2018-19, and similarly the circular debt increased by Rs243 billion first six months of fiscal year 2019-20 and Rs294 billion in last six months of fiscal year of 2019-20.

[Zalmay Khalilzad, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa discuss Afghan peace](#)

November 3, 2020, The News

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad called on Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), at the GHQ here on November 2. They discussed the regional security situation, Afghan peace process with particular reference to border management and way forward for lasting peace in Afghanistan.

[Bank manager shot dead by security guard allegedly over blasphemy in Punjab's Khushab](#)

November 6, 2020, Dawn

A bank manager was shot dead by its security guard allegedly over blasphemy allegations in Punjab's Khushab district. In July, a US citizen of Pakistani origin on trial over blasphemy allegations in Peshawar was shot dead in a courtroom by a teenager who told bystanders he killed him for insulting the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

[Pakistan-EU security dialogue next year](#)

November 5, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan and the European Union agreed to commence their bilateral security dialogue from next year. Pakistan and the EU had last year inked a Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) to provide a framework for greater cooperation and stronger ties between the two sides. Collaboration in the sphere of peace and

security, through a structured security dialogue, was at the time of signing of the SEP described as its essential pillar. The new security dialogue under the SEP has replaced the earlier series of annual counterterrorism and non-proliferation and disarmament dialogues.

[FC seizes 300kg opium in Mashkel](#)

November 5, 2020, Dawn

The paramilitary Frontier Corps, south Balochistan, has confiscated a huge quantity of opium along with arms and ammunition in the Mashkel area near the border with Iran in Washuk district.

[Pakistan, China discuss strategic cooperation, pace of projects](#)

November 5, 2020, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi talking to the newly-appointed Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, who called on him here stressed the need to speed up the completion of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects at Gwadar, enabling the Gwadar Port to achieve its potential. The Foreign Minister maintained that CPEC was a transformational project and hoped that the Ambassador will fast track CPEC projects and promote industrialization in Pakistan.

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

November 6, 2020, Dawn

An anti-terrorism court convicted three leaders of Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) in two cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department. Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf were present in the court as Presiding Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar announced the sentence in the FIRs registered last year. Iqbal and Ashraf had been awarded a collective imprisonment of 16 years in each FIR under different sections of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 while Makki had been sentenced to one-year imprisonment in an FIR with a fine of Rs 170,000.

[Donor-funded power projects stalled, turning into 'white elephants'](#)

November 6, 2020, Dawn

Majority of the foreign funded power projects are moving at a snail's pace, resulting in non-disbursement of committed international funds despite payment of commitment charges. A meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Foreign-Funded Projects (NCCFFP) noted that eight out of 14 key projects in power sector had become "problematic" or 'partially-satisfactory'. The total funds committed by foreign lending agencies and

bilateral creditors for these projects stood at \$3.42 billion but more than \$3.030bn could not be disbursed due to slow progress by authorities concerned.

[Russian troops arrive for drill with Pakistan military](#)

November 6, 2020, Dawn

Russian troops arrived in Islamabad on November 5 to participate in the joint Russian-Pakistani military exercise codenamed Druzhba 5. The two-week-long drills would formally commence on November 8 in Tarbela. Some 70 Russian troops and officers are participating in the exercise that would continue till Nov 21. Almost an equal number of soldiers are participating from Pakistan side.

Afghanistan

[Gunmen Storm Kabul University, Killing at Least 19](#)

November 2, 2020, The New York Times

Three gunmen laid siege to Afghanistan's largest university on November 2, taking hostages, killing at least 19 people and wounding more than a dozen. It was the second deadly assault with mass casualties on an education center in the capital in just over a week. The three assailants were killed after Afghan security forces and American troops moved to root them out, ending the siege after six hours.

[Afghan-Taliban Delegations Agree on Third Party Mediation](#)

November 1, 2020, Khaama Press

The Afghan government and the Taliban have agreed that Qatar will play a role in facilitating peace talks and advising negotiators to both sides. After the government and the Taliban failed to resolve their differences, it was decided that Qatar should play a mediative role.

[Taliban Aims Multipronged Offensive at Second Afghan City](#)

November 5, 2020, RFERL

An offensive by Afghanistan's Taliban militants appears to be aimed at reclaiming Afghanistan's second city, which once served as the capital for the hard-line movement nearly a quarter-century ago. Hundreds of insurgents, civilians, and soldiers have reportedly been killed and thousands of villagers have so far been displaced during nearly 10 days of fighting around the city of Kandahar, capital of a key province by the same name. In a concerted move, large numbers of Taliban fighters forced outnumbered Afghan troops to retreat from parts of several rural districts.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh Signs Deal With India For 30 Million Doses Of COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

November 5, 2020, NDTV

Bangladesh signed a deal with the Serum Institute of India to buy 30 million doses of a potential coronavirus vaccine being developed by British drugmaker AstraZeneca.

[Realities of Bangladesh-India relations](#)

November 4, 2020, The Daily Star

In an interview published by The Daily Star on October 27, Dr Ahsan Mansur, while discussing the recent IMF revelation that Bangladesh is set to surpass India in terms of per capita GDP, said something very interesting. He said, "in the recent Indian political narrative", one highly influential political leader and the current home minister and BJP head, labelled Bangladeshis as "termites and alleged that poor Bangladeshis were invading India by migrating en masse." We suspect he is not alone in holding this view and propagating it. The IMF disclosure debunks the myth of Bangladesh always being the poor, underperforming, help-needing, threat-posing neighbour and should make him, and others who may harbour similar views, reassess their positions.

Nepal

[India's best friend in Nepal](#)

November 3, 2020, Hindustan Times

With Army Chief General MM Naravane visiting Nepal, the importance of one element of the special relationship between the two countries merits emphasis. The ties between the two armies are a fundamental pillar which is based on history, contemporary partnership, symbolic respect and organic ties. The Indian and Nepali army chiefs are honorary generals of each other's armies; there is deep camaraderie between retired and senior officers of both armies, many of whom have trained together in their younger days; the presence of Nepali citizens in the Indian Army – some from the country have given their lives for the security of India – is a remarkable testament to the trust between the two countries; and India, even as it respects Nepali sovereignty, sees the Nepal army as a friend which will respect its security sensitivities, while for the Nepal army, the Indian Army has been the first port of call during crises.

[Army chief Naravane meets Nepalese counterpart, discusses ways to enhance friendship](#)

November 5, 2020, The Print

Indian Army Chief Gen. M M Naravane met his Nepalese counterpart Gen. Purna Chandra Thapa and discussed measures to further bolster the existing bond of friendship and cooperation between the two armies.

[Dispelling 5 Myths About Nepal's Foreign Policy](#)

November 5, 2020, The Diplomat

Despite how the foreign media portrays the country's foreign policy, Nepal is neither pro-China nor anti-India.

[China has annexed 150 hectares of Nepal: Report](#)

November 3, 2020, The Economic Times

China has annexed 150 hectares of Nepal, alleged the Himalayan nation's politicians, adding that the annexations of Nepalese land are just the beginning of heightened Chinese aggression along the border.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka's 'India-First Policy': Should India be complacent?](#)

October 15, 2020, Financial Express

India should not be complacent with the policy announcement from Colombo and must insist that India's concerns and interests should be taken due care of.

[Can Pompeo's Visit to Sri Lanka Offset China's Influence?](#)

October 31, 2020, The Diplomat

The U.S. secretary of state had little success in swaying the Rajapaksa administration away from its pro-China bent.

Maldives

['India and Maldives should tap business potential in seafood trade'](#)

November 5, 2020, Business Line

India and Maldives should explore investment and partnership synergies, especially for the promotion of seafood export-import trade, speakers at a consultative meeting organised by Ficci-Kerala said.

[India's relations with Maldives a model for ties with other neighbours](#)

November 6, 2020, The Economic Times

The Republic of Maldives is arguably the most strategically important of India's neighbours. An island nation in the Indian Ocean with one of the largest exclusive economic zones in the world, it is positioned like a 'toll gate' between the western Indian Ocean chokepoints of the Gulf of Aden/Strait of Hormuz and the eastern Indian Ocean chokepoint of the Strait of Malacca on the other.

East & South East Asia

China

[China to put forward proposals for promoting Shanghai Spirit, deepening cooperation at upcoming SCO summit](#)

November 5, 2020, Xinhua Net

At the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), China will put forward new proposals for promoting the Shanghai Spirit, consolidating solidarity and mutual trust in the SCO and deepening cooperation in various fields, Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said.

[Foreign media stir trouble by hyping China's draft coast guard law](#)

November 5, 2020, Global Times

Chinese experts slammed foreign media hype of China's draft coast guard law released, noting that any country has the right to enforce laws in the airspace and waters under its administration.

[China suspends entry of non-Chinese nationals from Russia, India amid pandemic](#)

November 5, 2020, The Global Times

China has decided to suspend the entry of non-Chinese nationals from more countries, including Russia and India, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese embassies announced after the Ministry of Foreign affairs confirmed such entry restrictions for some countries - including the UK, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

[Closer EU-India ties may accelerate geopolitical realignment](#)

October 31, 2020, Global Times

Rapprochement seems to have been a trend between the EU and India since the two sides held a video summit in July. Think tank reports and media commentaries are exploring the possibilities and potential of closer and more substantialized EU-India bilateral cooperation. And the issue of Germany's new Policy Guidelines for Indo-Pacific Region on September 1st has further intensified the policy debates of European political and policy elites on Europe-India relations.

[US visas to Chinese mainland students drop 99 pct](#)

November 5, 2020, The Global Times

US visas granted to Chinese mainland students have plummeted 99 percent compared to last year. Chinese students are also increasingly deciding not to

study in the US due to the COVID-19 pandemic, intensified racism and anti-China sentiments.

[Toyota, Honda Rely on Resurgent China for Growth](#)

November 06, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Japanese car makers led by Toyota TM 2.17% Motor Corp. have picked up a bigger share of the Chinese market in recent months, turning China into a second pillar of global sales alongside the U.S. Toyota and Honda HMC 2.05% Motor Co. on Friday upgraded their profit forecasts for the year ending March 2021, crediting a revival in demand in China and the U.S. Toyota expects operating profit of ¥1.3 trillion, the equivalent of \$12.6 billion, for the year, more than double the previous forecast, while Honda said operating profit would more than double compared with its earlier forecast, to the equivalent of just over \$4 billion.

[Hong Kong: Snitch hotline gets more than 1,000 calls](#)

November 06, 2020, BBC

Hong Kong's new hotline to report breaches of the controversial national security law has received more than 1,000 calls within hours of going live. Residents can anonymously send in images, audio and videos if they suspect someone has violated the law. The law, introduced earlier this year, criminalises secession, subversion and collusion with foreign forces. It has already led to several arrests of activists, and has silenced protesters. The maximum punishment under the law is life in prison.

[China Halts Ant Group's Blockbuster I.P.O.](#)

November 03, 2020, New York Times

Ant Group challenged China's state-dominated banking system by bringing easy-to-use payments, borrowing and investing to hundreds of millions of smartphones across the country. On Tuesday, Chinese officialdom reminded the company who was really in charge. In a late-evening announcement that stunned China, the Shanghai Stock Exchange slammed the brakes on Ant's initial public offering, which was set to be the biggest stock debut in history with investors on multiple continents and at least \$34 billion in proceeds.

[Chinairate After U.S. Removes 'Terrorist' Label From Separatist Group](#)

November 03, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

China responded with anger after the U.S. State Department removed from its list of terrorist organizations a largely defunct Uighur separatist group that Beijing partly blames for ethnic tensions in its remote northwest. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ordered the delisting of the East Turkestan Islamic

Movement, a group that once advocated for an independent state in China's Xinjiang region, on Oct. 20, according to the latest issue of the Federal Register, published Thursday. Beijing deplored and rejected the decision, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a regular press briefing on Friday.

[Time to Tackle Illegal Dredging](#)

November 06, 2020, Taipei Times

On Oct. 25 and 26, seven Chinese dredging vessels trespassed into Taiwan's territorial waters around Matsu's Nangan Island (南竿) to illegally mine sand. This is by no means an isolated incident. From January to September, the coast guard expelled no fewer than 3,000 Chinese dredging vessels from Taiwanese waters. For the past three years, Chinese vessels have repeatedly intruded into the shallow coastal waters off Matsu, Penghu and Kinmen to extract sand from the sea bed. The sand is being used for a variety of projects, including island-building in the South China Sea, construction of a third runway at Hong Kong International Airport and a land reclamation project at Xiamen Gaoqi International Airport.

Japan

[Japan's defense plan won't include strike capability acquisition](#)

November 6, 2020, Japan Today

Japan will make no reference to acquiring strike capabilities against foreign bases when it revises its national defense plan next month, with discussions on the matter still in the early stages, government and ruling party sources said.

[U.S. withdrawal from Paris Agreement extremely regrettable, Japan says](#)

November 6, 2020, Japan Today

The United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is extremely regrettable, Japan's top government spokesman Katsunobu Kato said.

[Japan considering large ship as alternative to land-based Aegis system](#)

November 2, 2020, Japan Today

Japan is considering using a large ship as an alternative to the scrapped U.S.-made Aegis Ashore missile defense system as part of efforts to counter missile threats posed by North Korea, according to government sources.

[PM investor roundtable: 2 Japanese cos to diversify manufacturing base in India](#)

November 5, 2020, Mint

Two Japanese companies-- Toyota-Tsusho Corp and Sumida Corp—plan to diversify manufacturing base in India, two government officials aware of the development said.

[Chinese ships spotted near Senkakus for record number of days](#)

November 2, 2020, The Japan Times

Chinese coast guard ships were spotted near the Japan-controlled Senkakus in the East China Sea, marking a new record for the number of days in a year that Chinese vessels have been seen near the uninhabited islands, the Japan Coast Guard said.

Korea

[Korea bracing for post US-election diplomacy](#)

November 5, 2020, The Korea Times

The government is closely watching developments in the U.S. presidential election and crafting corresponding responses, according to Cheong Wa Dae and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Military inspects security posture following North Korean's border crossing](#)

November 5, 2020, The Korea Times

The military has launched an inspection into a border security failure that enabled a North Korean man to cross the heavily guarded border into the South unhindered earlier this week, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

[Nongovernmental inter-Korean exchanges frozen](#)

November 1, 2020, The Korea Times

Inter-Korean exchanges at the nongovernment level have come to a halt largely due to the COVID-19 crisis which led North Korea to close its borders.

[S. Korea calls for US-N. Korea talks in high-level security consultations](#)

November 6, 2020, The Korea Herald

A top South Korean national security official stressed the need for the resumption of dialogue between North Korea and the United States, pointing out that the US presidential election has come to an end.

[Moon says Seoul to continue to seek denuclearization, permanent peace on Korean Peninsula](#)

November 6, 2020, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in said that South Korea will never give up efforts for the denuclearization of the peninsula and establishment of permanent peace in the region, as he underlined the need to revitalize the Korea peace process.

Southeast Asia

[Vietnam Wary Of New Chinese Legislation Allowing Weapons Use](#)

November 6, 2020, Business World

Vietnam's foreign ministry has expressed concern regarding Chinese legislation, which would allow Beijing's coast guard to use weapons in waters which it considers being under its jurisdiction, reported NHK World.

[Philippines Shelves Plan for South China Sea Fishing Militia](#)

November 6, 2020, The Diplomat

There were fears that the plan to assemble civilian militias to defend maritime claims could be "misconstrued" in Beijing.

[Heralding Deal with China, Philippines Restarts Offshore Oil-Gas Exploration in Disputed Sea](#)

November 4, 2020, VOA

The Philippine government's lifting of a ban on offshore oil and gas exploration reopens the door to joint energy development with China, the erstwhile biggest player in a regional maritime sovereignty dispute, analysts believe.

[Vietnam Is Losing Its Best Friends to China](#)

November 2, 2020, The Diplomat

Over the past few years, China's economic gravity has begun to pull Cambodia and Laos out of Vietnam's orbit.

[Thailand, China ink key Bangkok-Nong Khai High-Speed Railway contract](#)

October 29, 2020, CGTN

A key contract for work on the Thai-Chinese high-speed railway from Bangkok to northern Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima was signed, injecting new vitality into the country's sluggish economy.

[The strategic importance of Myanmar](#)

November 2, 2020, Hindu Business Line

The visit to India by US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defence Secretary Mark Esper has caught the world's attention. It clearly signalled the beginning of a new and more activist defence relationship between India and the US. The visit followed the tensions between India and China, which had led to the deployment of thousands of troops, backed by tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery and air power, on both sides of the border.

[37th ASEAN summit, related meetings scheduled for Nov. 12-15](#)

November 5, 2020, Xinhua Net

The 37th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and related meetings will be held via video link from Nov. 12 to 15, according to Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Myanmar Military's Criticism of Union Election Commission Provokes Concern Over Possible Threat of Coup](#)

November 6, 2020, Bloomberg

Six days before the general election, Myanmar's military (Tatmadaw) issued two statements about the voting, with one of the statements warning the government that it must take responsibility for mistakes on the part of the Union Election Commission (UEC). In an exclusive interview with Popular News Agency on Tuesday, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the Tatmadaw is responsible for protecting the country and the Constitution. He also said it is difficult to achieve a stable democracy when there are violations in the election process.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[India enlists five more countries to send their officers to train at the National Defence College](#)

November 4, 2020, Business Insider

More officers from neighbouring countries will be trained at India's prestigious strategic leadership institution National Defence College as New Delhi increases its engagement with neighbours. Five more countries Tajikistan, Indonesia, Maldives, Uzbekistan, and Philippines will now be able to send their officers to India for annual training in national and international security related fields.

[Armenia's Forces Kill 91 Azerbaijani Civilians and Injure 405 Others in Ongoing Clashes](#)

November 3, 2020, Caspian News

Following a month of clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, dozens of civilians were killed as a result of Armenian bombardment of multiple Azerbaijani cities.

[Iran's Leader Says All Azerbaijani Territories Under Armenian Occupation Must Be 'Liberated'](#)

November 4, 2020, Caspian News

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has said that all Azerbaijani territories under Armenian occupation must be "liberated and returned to Azerbaijan", as heavy clashes between the two South Caucasus countries over the Nagorno-Karabakh region continue.

[Chinese company starts construction of thermal power plant in Uzbekistan](#)

November 5, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The construction of a new thermal power plant with a capacity of 1,500 megawatts has started in the central Syrdarya region of Uzbekistan, Xinhua news agency reported citing the Uzbek Energy Ministry.

[Central Asia: A region gaining more from Beijing than Washington D.C](#)

November 2, 2020, ORF

.In February 2020 the Trump administration renewed its strategy in Central Asia which, in the recent decades, has come under the increasing influence of China. The US has come to recognise the region—referred to as the "heart of Asia"—as crucial not only in its race with China for global dominance, but also

in its efforts to fortify its position in its geopolitical rivalry with Russia. The renewed strategy came after a gap of five years and followed US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Central Asia to participate in a C5+1 High Level Dialogue.

[Russia changes its policy of interaction with Central Asia](#)

November 5, 2020, CGTN

On October 16, Russia held its meeting with the foreign ministers of all five Central Asian countries in the "5+1" format. From now on, Moscow will develop not only bilateral ties but also formally regard Central Asia as a united region.

[Russia, China Cautiously Watch Kyrgyzstan's Lingerin Political Turmoil](#)

November 4, 2020, The Diplomat

Treading carefully, both Moscow and Beijing have engaged the new Japarov government but with a markedly light touch.

West Asia

[Saudi Arabia's PIF takes US\\$1.3 billion stake in India's Reliance Retail Ventures](#)

November 05, 2020, Arab News

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund has taken a \$1.3 billion stake in India's biggest retailer. The PIF acquired 2.04 percent stake in Reliance Retail Ventures (RRVL).

[India Wants OPEC to Fix Asian Oil Pricing Anomaly](#)

November 05, 2020, Oilprice.com

India wants OPEC to review its pricing policies for the Asian market and end the premium it puts on its crude for Asia, Indian Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said at the virtual OPEC-India Dialogue meeting with OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo.

[India, UAE Agree to Explore Ways to Facilitate Investments](#)

November 03, 2020, The Financial Express

India and the UAE agreed that the recent challenging circumstances of COVID-19 made it even more important to encourage investment and cooperation in areas of mutual interest with the purpose of stimulating economic activity. The discussions were held during the eighth meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments.

[Greece Rushes to Establish Military Alliance with India As Turkey, Pakistan Develop Close Defence Collaboration](#)

November 01, 2020, Eurasian Times

India and Greece recently had a security briefing about the current situation in the eastern Mediterranean region. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries held virtual talks on October 29 about a range of regional and multilateral issues.

[India's Basmati Exports to Iran to Resume Soon](#)

November 05, 2020, The Economic Times

Basmati rice exports to Iran are likely to resume as the country has lifted its ban on imports from India and indicated that it will make payments of over Rs 1,700 crore to Indian exporters which have been due since last year.

[Khamenei Says Iran's U.S. Policy Not Affected by Who Wins Presidential Election](#)

November 03, 2020, Reuters

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the U.S. presidential election's result will not impact Tehran's policy towards Washington.

[India-Israel Agriculture Project to Benefit Meghalaya Farmers: Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma](#)

November 04, 2020, The Economic Times

Meghalaya, in collaboration with Israel, will set up two Centres of excellence in the state, as part of a project between India and Israel -- aimed at equipping farmers with technology to help increase their income.

[Israel Wishes to Share Technology with North-East India to Boost Manufacturing, Says Ambassador Ron Malka](#)

November 05, 2020, The Indian Express

During the two-day visit to Tripura, Israeli Ambassador met Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb. Malka said Israel wishes to share advanced technologies with the North-Eastern states to develop manufacturing capabilities in the region.

[China State Construction Seals \\$2.2bn Loan for Egypt's New Capital](#)

November 05, 2020, Global Construction Review

China State Construction Engineering Corporation has agreed a \$2.2bn loan to finance its work on the central business district in Egypt's New Administrative Capital.

[Oman Faces Tough Choices as Budget Deficit Deepens](#)

October 27, 2020, Oilprice.com

Facing a budget deficit this year alone that may reach 18 percent of GDP and budget deficits averaging at least 15 percent per year over the next five years, Oman has limited choices in extricating itself out of the financial hole dug for it by Saudi Arabia's 2020 oil price war.

[Qatar Bases Budget on \\$40 Oil to Withstand Volatility](#)

November 03, 2020, Oilprice.com

Oil and gas producer Qatar will base its budget on an oil price of \$40 a barrel—lower than the actual expected price—in order to protect its finances from volatility in oil prices, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, said.

United States

United States

[Election Comes Down to a Few States as Vote Counting Continues](#)

November 6, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Joe Biden needs six more Electoral College votes to reach the 270 required to win the White House, as vote counting continued in the closely fought presidential race.

[How the 2020 Electorate Voted](#)

November 5, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

A pre-election and Election Day survey interviewed about 140,000 people who said they voted in the election or intended to. The result compiled by the Associated Press, offer a look at voting patterns and trends.

[Trump Administration Set to Sanction Top Pro-Hezbollah Politician](#)

November 5, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

The Trump administration is expected to impose sanctions on one of Lebanon's most powerful Christian politicians in an effort to chip away at Hezbollah's grip on power, according to people briefed on the move.

[US, Japan join forces in exercise 'Keen Sword 21'](#)

October 30, 2020, Asia Times

According to a Department of Defense press release, the US Pacific Fleet-sponsored biennial field training exercise, known as Keen Sword 21, began on Oct. 26 and ended on November 5.

[US-India defence relationship reflects alignment on security issues of mutual concern](#)

October 31, 2020, The Indian Express

This upward trajectory should not come as a surprise. As the world's oldest and largest democracies, the United States and India have a special role among free societies.

[Explained: BECA, and the importance of 3 foundational pacts of India-US defence cooperation](#)

November 3, 2020, The Indian Express

After LEMOA and COMCASA, New Delhi and Washington have signed BECA, sealing a framework of mutual trust and long-term military and strategic cooperation. The immediate context is the common threat from an aggressive

and expansionist China, but the potential for cooperation in the future is immense.

[Chinese, U.S. military chiefs hold crisis communication, says China defence ministry](#)

October 29, 2020, Reuters

Chinese and U.S. military chiefs held talks on crisis communication this week, amid heightened tensions between the two military superpowers this year in the South China Sea, with the United States denying a report on a possible drone attack.

[Trump administration advances \\$2.9 billion drone sale to UAE, say sources](#)

November 6, 2020, Financial Express

The US State Department gave Congress the notification that plans to sell 18 sophisticated armed MQ-9B aerial drones to the United Arab Emirates in a deal worth as much as \$2.9 billion, people briefed on the notification said.

[US Government approves drone sale to Taiwan, in arms deal expected to anger China](#)

November 4, 2020, ABC

The US \$ 600 million deal would be the first such sale since the Trump administration loosened US policy on the export of sophisticated and closely guarded drone technology.

[US quits Paris agreement but Biden pledges return](#)

November 5, 2020, Asia Times

The United States left the Paris accord, becoming the first country to ever withdraw from an international climate change pact, but Joe Biden vowed he would immediately return as president.

[The election has already changed the politics of U.S. foreign policy](#)

November 6, 2020, Washington Post

Although the presidential election hasn't yet been settled, the results so far have clarified at least one thing: The trajectory of U.S. foreign policy is likely to take two starkly divergent paths, neither of which was the conventional wisdom just a few days ago.

[The World Still Watches America](#)

November 02, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

For the 58th time since George Washington headed to New York for his first inauguration, U.S. voters are choosing the president, and again the eyes of the

world are firmly fixed on the spectacle. This is partly because American policy still matters. Will Donald Trump or Joe Biden be strong enough to manage a deteriorating U.S.-China relationship—and smart enough to still preserve the elements of cooperation that benefit both parties? What role will the president play in the global recovery from the pandemic?

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Austria, France to Push for Tougher Measures Against Islamists](#)

November 5, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Austria and France are planning a joint push for tougher European Union-wide measures to stamp out Islamist extremism on the continent after terrorist attacks in both countries in recent weeks, officials in Vienna and Paris said.

[Europe must strengthen its borders after attacks, says Macron](#)

November 5, 2020, Reuters

Europe must rethink its open-border Schengen area, including a more robust protection of the zone's external frontiers, President Emmanuel Macron said, after a spate of Islamist attacks in France and Austria.

[Deal struck to enable EU to block budget payments to rogue members](#)

November 5, 2020, The Guardian

Brussels will be able to block budget payments to rogue EU governments that undermine the rule of law or the independence of judges, under a hard-fought agreement between the European parliament and member states.

[UK says excellent U.S. trade deal to be done, whoever wins presidency](#)

November 4, 2020, Reuters

There is an excellent UK-U.S. trade deal to be done and good progress has been made in reaching one, Britain's foreign minister Dominic Raab said, adding that the relationship would be strong whoever won the U.S. presidency.

[US election: Germany wants 'new deal' after vote](#)

November 1, 2020, Deutsche Welle

Berlin will seek a diplomatic "new deal" with Washington after the US elections, said German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. Multilateralism, not nationalism, is needed when it comes to trans-Atlantic relations, he added.

[Germany approves billion-euro purchase of 38 Eurofighter jets](#)

November 5, 2020, Deutsche Welle

The German parliament's budget committee approved a €5.4 billion (\$6.35 billion) contract to buy 38 Eurofighter jets from Airbus for the country's air force.

Russia

[Two Russian Tu-95MS strategic bombers perform flight over Sea of Japan and Pacific](#)

November 5, 2020, TASS

Two Tupolev Tu-95MS strategic missile-carrying bombers of Russia's Aerospace Force performed a scheduled flight over the neutral waters of the Sea of Japan and the north-western Pacific.

[Russian commandos arrive in Pakistan for Friendship 2020 drills](#)

November 5, 2020, TASS

Over 70 Russian special operations troops arrived in Pakistan to participate in the Friendship 2020 drills.

[Belarus Launches Nuclear Plant Despite Baltic Outcry](#)

November 3, 2020, The Moscow Times

Belarus launched its controversial Russia-built nuclear power station despite safety concerns from neighboring Baltic states three decades after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

[US-India ties attract attention of Russian intelligence](#)

October 31, 2020, Sunday Guardian

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on 9 December 2011 declassified a "secret" report, which its field office in Delhi had sent to the headquarters in December 1985, detailing the extent of the penetration of Moscow, USSR, into Indian political parties and Indian media.

[Prospective Russia-China military alliance can impact Delhi-Moscow ties: Top Russian expert](#)

October 31, 2020, The Economic Times

Top Russian foreign policy and strategic affairs experts have opined that a prospective military alliance between Moscow and Beijing would adversely impact traditional partnership with India and is therefore impractical.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Mexico's Ex-Defense Minister Pleads Not Guilty in U.S. Case](#)

November 6, 2020, Bloomberg

Former Mexican defense minister Salvador Cienfuegos pleaded not guilty Thursday in New York to U.S. charges that he helped a notorious drug cartel while he was the head of his country's military.

[Mexico eyes future as LNG exporter](#)

November 5, 2020, Argus Media

The completion of key pipeline projects has made Mexico confident that it could export LNG in the future, but its plans face tough competition.

[Biden for new political approach towards Cuba](#)

November 5, 2020, Presna Latina

Democrat Joe Biden supports a new U.S. approach to Cuba and called current White House policy a total failure. Biden, who is predicted close to become the 46th president in U.S. history, has recently addressed relations with Cuba, and reaffirmed that he will immediately remove restrictions on remittances and travel to the island.

[China successfully launches 13 satellites, including 10 for Argentina, with a single rocket](#)

November 6, 2020, The Economic Times

China successfully sent 13 satellites, including 10 from Argentina, into the orbit in what was stated to be the biggest launch of foreign satellites by the country that could fetch hundreds of millions of dollars to the communist nation.

[Venezuela Has No Immediate Plans To Buy Iranian Missiles, Says Foreign Minister](#)

November 6, 2020, Business World

Venezuela is not planning to buy Iran's missiles so far, but reserves the right to do so when deems necessary, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said at a meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

[Brazil to lead MERCOSUR talks; Deeper cooperation in defence, space, Ayurveda and agriculture, says India's envoy to Brazil](#)

November 5, 2020, Financial Express

To further strengthen their ties, India and Brazil elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership in 2006 and since then the relationship has witnessed an upward trend.

Africa

[Tanzania's Magufuli sworn in for 2nd term as president](#)

November 5, 2020, Africa News

Tanzanian President John Magufuli took the oath of office for a second five-year term, amid tight security. However the opposition have called for a fresh election, as well as the disbandment of the electoral commission over the Oct. 28 vote which they claim was riddled with irregularities which call the results into question. Police and the army tightened security ahead of the swearing-in, and the leaders of Tanzania's two main opposition parties, ACT Wazalendo and CHADEMA, were charged with organising an unlawful assembly.

[Nile dam talks between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan fail again](#)

November 5, 2020, Al Jazeera

Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan have once again failed to agree on a new negotiating approach to resolve their years-long dispute over the controversial dam that Ethiopia is building on the Blue Nile River.

[Ninth China-Africa Think Tanks Forum to boost development amid pandemic](#)

November 5, 2020, The Global Times

More than 200 officials and scholars from China and a number of African countries are gathering in Beijing for a two-day conference on China-Africa cooperation against the backdrop of the raging COVID-19 pandemic. They will discuss further strengthening bilateral relations despite criticism from certain countries.

[India's view of Indo-Pacific stretches from east coast of Africa to west coast of US: Shringla](#)

November 3, 2020, Live Mint

India said a rules-based international order was achievable only with a rules-based Indo-Pacific region adding that an Indo-Pacific which was guided by norms and governed by rules coupled with the freedom of navigation and open

connectivity besides respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty was an article of faith for New Delhi.

[Indian Naval Ship Airavat reaches Port Sudan as part of 'Mission Sagar-II'](#)

November 3, 2020, News On Air

Indian Naval Ship, Airavat reached Port Sudan as a part of Mission Sagar-II. Indian government is providing assistance to Friendly Foreign Countries to overcome natural calamities and COVID-19 pandemic, and towards the same INS Airavat is carrying a consignment of 100 Tonnes of food aid for the people of Sudan.

[Sudan closes border with Ethiopia](#)

November 5, 2020, Andolou Agency

Sudan closed its border with Ethiopia after tensions in the Tigray region erupted in recent days. Authorities in Kassala state said the closure is intended to stop any potential entry of fighters into Sudan. The acting governor of the state would also visit border areas to inspect the situation.



DPG

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