

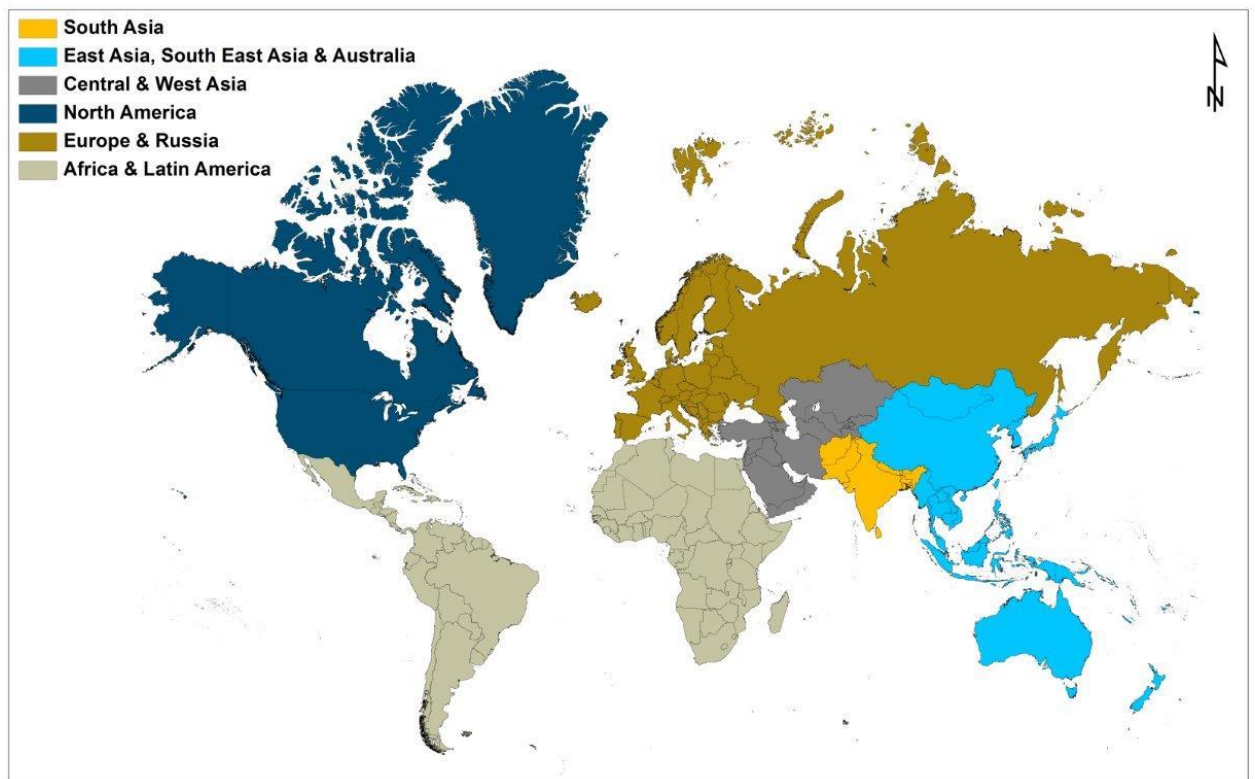


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 46 | November 13, 2021

Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on 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

[US-India Defence Expo: Officials Focused On Securing Supply Chain In Critical Sectors](#)

November 9, 2021, ABP Live

Defence Industry Collaboration Forum Virtual Expo is aimed to deepen cooperation between the US and India, by identifying opportunities to jointly research, develop, and produce warfighting capabilities.

[Explained: India's submarine strength](#)

November 9, 2021, The Indian Express

The CBI has charge sheeted naval officers and others for allegedly sharing details of India's submarine modernisation project of India's Kilo Class submarines, that are being retrofitted..

[India reacts to US report, says LAC village near Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri district is in territory controlled by China](#)

November 9, 2021, Times Now

India has reacted after a US military report stated that China has constructed a massive 100-home civilian village along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) near Arunachal Pradesh. The US Department of Defence stated in its annual report to the Congress on military and security developments involving China that the village has come up in the disputed territory located between the Tibet Autonomous Region and India's Arunachal Pradesh state.

[India not to accept Chinese 'village' along LAC, says MEA](#)

November 12, 2021, Tribune India

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) reacted to a recent Pentagon report stating that China has built a village along the Line of Actual Control in the eastern sector by stating that India has "always conveyed strong protests against such acts through diplomatic means and will continue to do so in future".

[PM Modi suggests four focus areas for Afghanistan by countries in region](#)

November 10, 2021, India Today

The need for an inclusive government in Kabul and a zero-tolerance stance on the use of Afghan territory by terrorist groups are among four aspects that Prime Minister Narendra Modi listed on Wednesday for countries in the region to focus on in the backdrop of the developments in the war-torn nation.

Pakistan

[Govt, TTP agree on ceasefire as talks continue](#)

November 9, 2021, Dawn

The Pakistan government confirmed for the first time that a ceasefire has been reached with the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), with a senior minister saying that talks were under way "in line with the Constitution" and the ceasefire could be extended keeping in view the progress made in the talks.

[Ban on TLP revoked at Punjab government request](#)

November 8, 2021, Dawn

The government has lifted the ban on the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) "in the larger national interest" and in line with the "secret agreement" it had signed with the group on October 31, following violent protests by the TLP to press for release of its chief Saad Rizvi. The notification in this regard was issued by the Ministry of Interior.

[Removal of ban on Sipah-i-Sahaba, Tehrik-e-Jafria demanded](#)

November 9, 2021, The News

Following the removal of proscription of Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) and the Shia Ulema Council (SUC) have demanded lifting of the ban on Sipah-i-Sahaba and Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan (TJP), respectively. In a statement, issued, Allama Aurangzeb Farooqi of the ASWJ demanded the government remove the proscription status of Sipah-i-Sahaba. "We will be compelled to protest if the government fails to accept our demand," Farooqi said.

[Modern frigate delivered to PN in China](#)

November 9, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan Navy's first frigate of Type 054A/P, the PNS Tughril, has been commissioned at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in China. PNS Tughril is the first of 4 x Type 054 Frigates being constructed for Pakistan Navy.

[Pakistan, Iran set \\$5bn trade target by 2023](#)

November 7, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Iran have agreed to take measures to expand the annual trade exchanges to \$5 billion by the year 2023. "Understanding of the new trade target was reached during the ninth meeting of Iran-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee held in Tehran," said a commerce ministry official announcement.

[Blow to \\$3 bn gas pipeline project: Russia upset over new move by PD for renegotiation on settled issues](#)

November 8, 2021, The News

In a massive blow to the \$3 billion Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline project (PSGP), the flagship and strategic project of Pakistan and Russia, the Petroleum Division has opened a new Pandora's box asking for re-negotiations on issues already settled in inter-governmental agreement (IGA) and approved by the federal cabinet.

[Pak rupee slumps to an all-time low of 176 against US dollar](#)

November 12, 2021, The News

A Rs1.81 decline in the inter-bank market during intra-day trading due to current account deficit pressure dragged the Pakistani rupee to a record low on November 12 against the US dollar, with the exchange rate sliding to Rs176.

[New US envoy for Afghanistan to visit Pakistan this week](#)

November 10, 2021, Dawn

The new US Special Representative for Afghanistan, Thomas West, is arriving in Islamabad later this week to clarify US expectations of the Taliban and of any future government in Afghanistan, the State Department said.

[Beijing's help sought for insurance cover of six CPEC projects](#)

November 10, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan has sought Chinese government's intervention to persuade China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation – Sinosure – to clear about \$13 billion insurance cover of energy and infrastructure projects on priority basis.

Afghanistan

[Ariana Airlines resumes flights between Afghanistan and Dubai](#)

November 9, 2021, Dawn

Ariana Afghan Airlines resumed regular flights from Kabul to Dubai, reopening a heavily used international route that had been suspended. Ariana will operate daily flights, charging \$550 for a one-way ticket. Some charter services have been flying to Kabul since Taliban takeover, but normally scheduled commercial flights have remained suspended.

[Prohibitive cost of war contributed to US withdrawal from Afghanistan, shows report](#)

November 8, 2021, Dawn

A nongovernmental estimate of US costs for the 20-year war in Afghanistan is more than double the calculation made by the US Department of Defence (DOD). The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), released its latest findings this week, focusing on how the ever-soaring costs of war forced Washington to reconsider its Afghan strategy.

[Four women, including activist, killed in northern Afghanistan](#)

November 7, 2021, Dawn

Four women have been killed in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban government said, as local sources identified at least one of the victims as a rights activist.

[Iran sending back thousands of Afghans, say aid agencies](#)

November 12, 2021, Dawn

Iran is sending tens of thousands of Afghan migrants back to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan every week despite the threat of famine, aid agencies and witnesses say, with many Afghans alleging they have been mistreated by Iranian authorities. The UN migration agency, which provides assistance to those in need at the border, said last month that it had counted at least 3,200 unaccompanied children among those crossing from Iran this year.

[Taliban recognition unlikely in near future](#)

November 11, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan, Russia, China and the United States agreed to continue "practical engagement" with the Taliban government but asked them to follow "moderate policies", while making it clear that the Kabul regime needed to do more before the international community formally recognised them.

[Taliban set up military tribunal to enforce Shariah law in Afghanistan](#)

November 11, 2021, The Express Tribune

The interim Taliban administration announced the establishment of a military tribunal to enforce Islamic law in Afghanistan. The tribunal has been formed on the command of supreme leader Hebatullah Akhundzada to enforce "sharia system, divine decrees, and social reform".

[India hosts first regional meeting on Afghanistan since Taliban takeover](#)

November 10, 2021, Reuters

Diplomats and security analysts from Afghanistan's neighbours, with the notable exceptions of China and Pakistan, gathered in New Delhi on November 10 to discuss how to engage with the country's Taliban rulers. Convened less than three months after the withdrawal of the last U.S. and Western forces from Kabul, the Delhi Regional Security Dialogue for Afghanistan was attended by representatives from India, Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

[Muttaqi in Islamabad to attend Troika Plus meeting](#)

November 11, 2021, Pajhwok

Afghanistan's acting foreign minister has arrived in Pakistan on his maiden visit to attend a Troika-Plus meeting in Islamabad. Amir Khan Muttaqi, leading a 20-member delegation, will also meet senior Pakistani officials in ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in different fields.

[Pakistan hosts US, China, Russia to discuss Afghanistan](#)

November 11, 2021, Al-Jazeera

Pakistan has hosted senior diplomats from the United States, China and Russia in Islamabad to discuss the situation in neighbouring Afghanistan, where a deepening humanitarian crisis has forced many Afghans to migrate to neighbouring countries since the Taliban takeover in August.

Bangladesh

[The BRI in Bangladesh: 'Win-Win' or a 'Debt Trap'?](#)

November 9, 2021, The Diplomat

Bangladesh's prudent, selective engagement with China's Belt and Road has helped Dhaka avoid the debt problems that plague other South Asian participants.

[PM in Paris: Bangladesh, France sign letter of intent on defence cooperation](#)

November 10, 2021, The Daily Star

Bangladesh and France have signed a letter of intent on defence cooperation to further develop the defence and security component of their partnership.

[Security risks from Rohingya crisis will not remain within Bangladesh, Hasina warns](#)

November 12, 2021, BD News24.com

Sheikh Hasina has reminded the world of security risks from the Rohingya crisis, calling for stepped up international efforts to send the refugees back to their homeland Myanmar from Bangladesh.

Nepal

[Nepal Army chief arrives, his colleague flags India-China rift](#)

November 10, 2021, The Indian Express

He said the "Nepali Army is treating the visit as a cornerstone of its military diplomacy; the same, however, cannot be said of the foreign service community that has been reluctant to adopt the term".

[Chinese investment in Nepal faces resistance as it harms Nepali interests, benefits only Beijing: Report](#)

November 11, 2021, ANI

Chinese investment in Nepal faces resistance from the local population, as many of the Beijing's promises regarding infrastructure advancement are harming the Nepali interests , and benefitting only China.

[Power surplus Nepal to supply electricity to India for first time](#)

November 11, 2021, The Economic Times

Nepal is a power surplus country for the first time and India is the maiden destination for cross-border power exports, in what could emerge as the second such model in South Asia, after the India-Bhutan deal.

[Nepal in a fix to hold census in disputed territories with India](#)

November 11, 2021, Deccan Herald

The former KP Sharma Oli government last year issued a new map incorporating the disputed territories with India that pushed bilateral ties to an all-time low

Sri Lanka

[India's answer to China's ports in Sri Lanka](#)

November 9, 2021, Lowy Institute

On 30 September, Adani Group, India's largest private port operator, signed what has been reported as a US\$700 million agreement to build a new container terminal in Sri Lanka. The deal to jointly develop the Colombo West International Container Terminal (CWICT) with Sri Lanka's largest listed company, John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lankan Ports Authority, will function under a "build-operate-transfer" arrangement for 35 years. Adani Ports will hold a 51 per cent stake in the terminal partnership, while John Keells would hold 34 per cent and the SLPA 15 per cent.

[Chinese Embassy in Colombo accuses US of expanding its military bases](#)

November 6, 2021, The Hindu

Reacting sharply to a Pentagon report on security developments involving China, flagging the Asian giant's "likely consideration" of overseas military bases in countries such as Sri Lanka, the Chinese Embassy in Colombo accused the United States of widespread military occupation.

[Sri Lankan Parliament forms Friendship group with India aiming to rejuvenate ties](#)

November 12, 2021, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka, after deciding to buy fertiliser from India after rejecting the Chinese fertiliser consignment, on Thursday formed India-Sri Lanka Parliamentary Friendship group comprising senior members of Lankan parliament to rejuvenate ties notwithstanding its close relations with China.

[India extends support to Sri Lanka amid contaminated fertilizer row with China](#)

November 6, 2021, Zee News

India has sent 100,000 kg of Nano Nitrogen fertilizer to Sri Lanka in the backdrop of the latter barring the use of contaminated Chinese fertilizers. Sri Lanka had barred Chinese organic fertilizer from unloading after it was found to be contaminated with bacteria, a development that has miffed Beijing which was quick to blacklist People's Bank of Sri Lanka in a quid pro quo move. The People's Bank is the second largest commercial bank in Sri Lanka.

[India, Sri Lanka discuss modalities for enhancing maritime cooperation](#)

November 9, 2021, The Times of India

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh held bilateral discussions with Commander of Sri Lanka Vice Admiral Nishantha Uluggetenne.

East & South East Asia

China

[China-US Glasgow declaration 'key step in the right direction' on global climate actions, prevents decoupling worst scenario](#)

November 11, 2021, Global Times

China and the US released a joint declaration on tackling climate change during the ongoing COP26 in Glasgow, including setting up a working group and reducing methane and CO2 emissions. Officials and analysts said the declaration highlighted that China-US cooperation is the only right choice, noting it is a significant move on global climate actions and also sends strong positive signals for the success of the COP26.

[China to join Pakistan-hosted meeting on Afghanistan, skips India's parallel conference](#)

November 10, 2021, Global Times

A Chinese representative will attend the Pakistan-hosted meeting on Afghanistan on Thursday, along with representatives from the US and Russia, and Chinese analysts believe that the four countries which could play a comprehensive role in addressing the plight of Afghanistan are likely to discuss the urgent needs and next step for Afghan Taliban in forming an inclusive government and cracking down on terrorism.

[PLA conducts multiple drills in western plateau after India's exercises 'targeting China'](#)

November 8, 2021, Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) revealed it conducted multiple drills in its western plateau over the past week. This comes after the Indian military launched a major exercise along the border with China at the start of the month. Chinese experts said on Monday that the response displays the PLA's capabilities in safeguarding national sovereignty and security as it faces India's provocations.

[China and Mongolia expect to strengthen cooperation in epidemic prevention and block the cross-border spread of COVID-19](#)

November 12, 2021, Global Times

China and Mongolia expect to strengthen cooperation in epidemic prevention and control and resolutely block the cross-border spread of COVID-19, according to a meeting between the diplomats of the two countries.

[China's Xinhua lauds Xi ahead of key Communist Party meeting](#)

November 6, 2021, Reuters

China's state news agency Xinhua lauded President Xi Jinping on Saturday as a tireless, selfless and scholarly servant of the people, ahead of a key meeting of the ruling Communist Party that is expected to further cement his authority.

[China: Communist Party passes resolution on history to elevate Xi](#)

November 11, 2021, Al Jazeera

China's ruling Communist Party has approved a resolution on its history and achievements, the official Xinhua news agency said, a measure seen as further consolidating the authority of President Xi Jinping.

[Xi Jinping Battens Down the Hatches](#)

November 08, 2021 The Wall Street Journal

He understands the dangers confronting China better than his propagandists do....Reducing the autonomy of local officials, crushing rivals within the Communist Party, imposing ever-tightening censorship on what was once a relatively freewheeling Chinese internet, silencing independent journalism about the mounting problems of the Chinese financial system, disciplining the tech titans—these are the actions of someone who fears what the future may bring.

[As China's Property Crisis Spreads, Beijing Says There's Nothing to See](#)

November 09, 2021, The New York Times

The tumult at Evergrande appeared to die down more recently after the company made payments on multimillion-dollar bonds. But its financial woes have already set off a broader panic that has contributed to a wave of defaults among other developers. And their troubles are mounting.

[Olympics: Rights group urges Beijing Games sponsors to press China on Xinjiang](#)

November 12, 2021, Reuters

New York-based Human Rights Watch on Friday criticised corporations sponsoring the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics for ignoring what it says are China's crimes against humanity in its far western region of Xinjiang.

[China bares its teeth on Taiwan in US warship mock targets in Xinjiang](#)

November 09, 2021, The Hindustan Times

A month after China violated the Taiwan air defence identification zone (ADIZ) with as many as 56 fighters and nuclear bombers, the PLA has now constructed missile targets in the shape of American super carriers and destroyers in

Xinjiang desert, according to a November 7 report in United States Naval Institute (USNI) News.

[Checking education ties with China](#)

November 13, 2021, Taipei Times

Minister of Education Pan Wen-chung (潘文忠) on Tuesday warned education providers to abide by the law when engaging in activities involving China... Taiwanese universities pose a significantly greater threat than the comments of a retired general. Such offices not only allow China to poach talent – something about which Taipei has expressed concern numerous times – but also provide Beijing with a channel to influence academic discourse, and a space from which to conduct espionage and disinformation campaigns.

Japan

[Previewing India-Japan Ties Under PM Kishida](#)

November 10, 2021, The Diplomat

Back in 2015, then-Foreign Minister Kishida helped shape the India-Japan Indo-Pacific Vision 2025. Where do ties stand today?

[US, Japan Agree On Stronger Ties To Seek Free Indo-Pacific: Report](#)

November 12, 2021, NDTV

Japanese PM and US Admiral John Aquilino shared concerns regarding China's unilateral attempts to alter the status quo in the region and exchanged views on North Korea's test-firing of missiles, Kyodo News reported citing the Japanese government.

[Japan PM Kishida, U.S. admiral agree on stronger ties, to seek free Indo-Pacific](#)

November 11, 2021, Kyodo News

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Thursday agreed with Adm. John Aquilino, commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, to strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance and work toward a free and open Indo-Pacific amid China's rise and North Korea's missile threats.

[Japan and U.S. hold joint drills in Okinawa](#)

November 12, 2021, Japan Times

The Air Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Air Force have conducted joint search and rescue exercises in Okinawa Prefecture for the first time ever, the Defense Ministry said.

[Kishida's opportunity to shake up Japanese defence policy](#)

November 11, 2021, East Asia Forum

Throughout 2021, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida downplayed his reputation as a defence dove ahead of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidential race. Eventually victorious, the new prime minister – only 26 days into the job – then led his party to a convincing victory in the lower house election. Will this electoral tail wind allow Kishida to push forward on bolder reforms, including defence concerns that were so prominent in the recent LDP contest?

[Japan Seeks Good Relations With China, "Responsible Behaviour"](#)

November 11, 2021, NDTV

Japan's ruling party plans to review defence posture amid China's military buildup and it aims to increase defence spending sharply.

Korea

[German Frigate Bayern To Enforce Sanctions Against North Korea](#)

November 10, 2021, Naval News

A German frigate named Bayern, the third ship of the Brandenburg-class frigate, docked in Tokyo on November 5, 2021. It is the first time in 20 years that a German warship has docked in a Japanese port. Next, the frigate will enforce UN sanctions against North Korea.

[ROK Navy Unveils New CVX Light Aircraft Carrier Video](#)

November 11, 2021, Naval News

Celebrating its 76th Anniversary this year, the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy released on 8 November a new animated video of its light aircraft carrier project, also known as CVX.

[Indian Navy receives fourth Kalvari-class submarine from MDL](#)

November 10, 2021, Janes.com

The Indian Navy received Vela , its fourth of six Kalvari (Scorpène)-class diesel-electric attack submarines (SSKs) on order from Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), in a ceremony held on 9 November in Mumbai.

[South Korea Explores Container Shipping on Russia's North Sea Route](#)

November 9, 2021, Maritime Executive

South Korean investors are exploring the possibility of container shipping along Russia's North Sea Route. Expansion of the Arctic shipping route remains

a high priority for Russia with an increasing focus on developing container shipping as a means of building the route that started as access to the northern gas fields.

[South Korea to develop reusable rocket with 100-ton thrust engines](#)

November 11, 2021, Space News

Starting next year, South Korea will develop a reusable rocket with a cluster of liquid-fueled 100-ton thrust engines.

Southeast Asia

[Is ASEAN Partnership a Major Move for China in Asian Maritime Disputes?](#)

November 9, 2021, VOA

Analysts say a proposed deal between China and a regional bloc — including four countries that dispute Beijing's claim to sovereignty over most of the South China Sea — could undermine U.S. influence in Southeast Asia.

[Cambodia assumes ASEAN Chair: Dragon to have coercive influence](#)

November 9, 2021, The Times of India

On the 28th October, Cambodia assumed the Chair of an important regional group-ASEAN.

[ASEAN at a crossroads](#)

November 10, 2021, New Europe

The recently concluded ASEAN summit held under the chairmanship of Brunei was emblematic in underlining the ambitions of the regional South East Asian regional bloc but, once again, it also clearly exposed key fault lines that risk torpedoing any future efforts of progress of the bloc.

[The AUKUS alliance and ASEAN's waning centrality](#)

November 8, 2021, Policy Forum

AUKUS has attracted a reaction from many states, but one response that has flown under the radar is that of ASEAN member states. Perhaps unsurprisingly, ASEAN member states' responses have been quite varied.

[ASEAN supply chain links with China and the perils of decoupling](#)

November 10, 2021, East Asia Forum

China's global value chain (GVC) links with ASEAN are both less dominant and more beneficial than they appear at first sight. But there are major challenges ahead for ASEAN.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[EU-Central Asia Economic Forum: Is Central Asia Ready for More Assertive EU Policy?](#)

November 10, 2021, The Diplomat

At the EU-Central Asia Economic Forum, the EU kept its rhetoric uncontroversial. However, Central Asian countries signaled they may respond well to more ambitious EU goals.

[Delhi has to reach out to Central Asia](#)

November 12, 2021, The Pioneer

National security advisors of seven countries attended a high-level regional security dialogue this week on Afghanistan, hosted for the first time by India. This marks a significant step by India to place itself in the heart of influence in the theater of Afghanistan.

[A high-stakes game in Central Asia: What India has to gain](#)

November 6, 2021, The Week

The smallest Central Asian country, Tajikistan, is reported to have crammed in a Chinese military base to the Indian and Russian ones that already exist. The Chinese base, if reports are to be believed, has been built at a cost of ten million dollars. The Tajik government has denied reports so far, but there is no doubt that China is determined to fight for leverage in the region.

[New Great Game in the Caucasus and Central Asia](#)

November 11, 2021, Asia Times

After the Afghanistan shock, we're all aware of the progressive interconnection of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Eurasia Economic Union (EAEU) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and of the preeminent roles played by Russia, China and Iran. These are the pillars of the New Great Game.

[Northern Corridor for Central Asia-Arctic Ocean Transport Access](#)

November 9, 2021, The Arctic Institute

A Northern Corridor, as a North-South axial multimodal transport corridor reaching Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan towards northern Siberia at the Kara Sea connecting to the NSR, could link the region to global ocean trade. This route would always be more expensive than connecting two warm-water ports in the Atlantic, Indian or Pacific Oceans. But development of a Eurasian inland waterway transport system to connect to the Northern Sea

Route could become a second-tier alternative for Central Asia to reach global markets.

West Asia

[Air Forces of India and Egypt Conduct Two-Day Joint Exercise](#)

November 02, 2021, The Times of India

Air Forces of India and Egypt conducted a two-day exercise at El Berigat air base to enhance mutual understanding and share operational experience.

[India, Israel PMs Talk Cooperation In 'Areas of High-Tech, Innovation'](#)

November 03, 2021, The Indian Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "fruitful" first meeting with his Israeli counterpart Naftali Bennett on the side lines of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow during which they reviewed the bilateral ties besides exchanging views about expanding cooperation in areas of high-technology and innovation.

[Bengaluru's SSS Defence Beats Israeli Firm, Will Be First From India To Upgrade Army's AK-47s](#)

October 31, 2021, The Print

Indian small arms firm SSS Defence has defeated Israeli firm Fab Defense, also known as Zahal, to bag a contract to upgrade a limited number of Kalashnikov rifles with a unit of the Indian Special Forces.

[India's Gold Trade With UAE Shines Bright in October](#)

November 02, 2021, Arabian Business

India's gold trade shone brightly in October, with imports more than doubling to \$5.1 billion and exports of gems and jewellery rising by over 44 percent to \$4.2bn over the corresponding month of 2020, according to the latest official data.

[Fears of Wider Instability in Iraq After Attack on Prime Minister's Home](#)

November 07, 2021, The New York Times

Iraq's prime minister survived a drone strike on his home, Iraqi officials said, raising fears of wider instability after disputed results in Iraq's parliamentary elections.

[Nuclear Talks With P5 + 1 To Resume on November 29: Iran](#)

November 03, 2021, AL Jazeera

Iran has said it will resume multilateral talks on November 29 in Austria's capital, Vienna, aimed at reviving the country's nuclear deal with world powers.

[Iranian Claims That U.S. Tried To Detain Tanker False, Pentagon Says](#)

November 04, 2021, Reuters

The Pentagon rejected claims by Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) that they thwarted an attempt by the United States to detain a tanker carrying the Islamic Republic's oil in the Sea of Oman.

[Iran Holds Large-Scale Military Drill After US Navy Confrontation](#)

November 07, 2021, AL Jazeera

Iran's army is holding a large-scale sea, land and air military drill, which comes shortly after the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and United States Navy had a confrontation in the Sea of Oman over a seized oil tanker.

[President Biden Approves Arms Sale To Saudi Arabia](#)

November 05, 2021, Middle East Monitor

The US has approved its first major arms deal with Saudi Arabia under President Joe Biden with the sale of 280 air-to-air missiles valued at up to \$650 million.

[Saudi Arabia's Wealth Fund Moves Closer To Direct China Stock Deals](#)

November 05, 2021, The National

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund could start making major investments in Chinese companies, after so far limiting its overseas holdings to mostly the US and Europe. The \$450 billion Public Investment Fund has applied for a qualified foreign institutional investor licence in China.

[OPEC+ Agrees To Stick To Oil Production Plan, Defying U.S. Pressure](#)

November 04, 2021, CNBC

OPEC and its oil-producing allies have agreed to continue with their current output plan, deciding against loosening the taps in the face of multi year highs in crude prices and U.S. pressure to help cool the market.

[Turkey Successfully Test-Fires Air Defense Missile Siper, Rival to S-400](#)

November 06, 2021, Daily Sabah

Turkey has successfully test-fired its high-altitude long-range air defense missile system, Siper, a top defense official said. Turkey will continue to produce new weapons and will have up to six different air defense systems.

United States

United States

[US-China climate deal lifts hopes as UN talks turn to dollars and cents](#)

November 11, 2021, The Times of India

A surprise deal between China and the United States, the world's two biggest greenhouse gas emitters, has boosted the COP26 UN climate summit as it enters two final days of tough bargaining to try to stop global warming becoming catastrophic.

[The Inevitable Rivalry](#)

November/December 2021, Foreign Affairs

It was a momentous choice. Three decades ago, the Cold War ended, and the United States had won. It was now the sole great power on the planet. Scanning the horizon for threats, U.S. policymakers seemed to have little cause for concern—and especially not about China, a weak and impoverished country that had been aligned with the United States against the Soviet Union for over a decade. But there were some ominous signs: China had nearly five times as many people as the United States, and its leaders had embraced economic reform.

[Biden administration announcing actions to alleviate supply chain issues at nation's ports](#)

November 9, 2021, CNN

The Biden administration announced a new set of immediate and short-term actions Tuesday aimed at alleviating supply chain issues at the nation's ports, waterways and freight networks as the administration takes steps to implement the newly passed, but not yet signed, bipartisan infrastructure bill.

[India, US resolve to expand defence technology cooperation](#)

November 1, 2021, Business Standard

In sync with their fast-expanding strategic ties, India and the US have resolved to strengthen defence technology cooperation by pursuing detailed planning and making measurable progress.

[India and US hold DTTI group meeting, sign deal for air-launched UAVs](#)

November 10, 2021, Hindustan Times

In a major boost for defence ties, India and the US have signed a deal to jointly develop air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) as the two countries held the 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) group meeting.

[US Navy Boosts Monitoring Of Submarines After Falsified Steel Tests](#)

November 10, 2021, NDTV

The US Navy has stepped up monitoring of its submarines after a former metallurgist for a company that supplied steel for the vessels was found to have falsified test results.

[China builds mockups of U.S. Navy warships](#)

November 8, 2021, The Hindu

China's military has built mockups in the shape of a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier and other U.S. warships, possibly as training targets, in the desert of Xinjiang, satellite images by Maxar showed. These mockups reflect China's efforts to build up anti-carrier capabilities, specifically against the U.S. Navy, as tensions remain high over Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Why rising Covid cases in Europe are a reason for worry in Kerala](#)

November 11, 2021, The Indian Express

The rising curve of Covid-19 infections in European countries, especially among fully vaccinated people there, can be worrying for a state like Kerala, where breakthrough infections are spiking each day, said a member of the state's expert panel.

[Europe is in danger': top diplomat to propose EU military doctrine](#)

November 10, 2021, The Times of India

The European Union's top diplomat is set to warn the bloc that it must agree an ambitious doctrine for joint military action abroad, including with a deployable crisis force.

[U.S. official says Russia 'took advantage' of Europe's energy crisis](#)

November 11, 2021, CNBC

Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected claims that his country is weaponizing energy against Europe and says Russia is ready to help Europe.

[Europe's Economic Recovery Faces Hit From High Energy Costs](#)

November 11, 2021, US News

The European Commission has raised its growth forecast for the year for the 19 countries using the euro, saying the economy was bouncing back from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic as people went back to work in consumer-facing jobs.

[Macron says France will construct new reactors](#)

November 10, 2021, WNN

France will build new nuclear power reactors in order to maintain its energy security and to meet its climate change goals, President Emmanuel Macron said in an address to the nation yesterday. An official decision on the construction of further EPR reactors in the country is due shortly.

Russia

[Belarus migrants: Poland PM blames Russia's Putin for migrant crisis](#)

November 11, 2021, BBC

Poland's Prime Minister has accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of being behind a migrant crisis at Belarus's border with Poland.

[Russia Teases New S-550 Missile System](#)

November 10, 2021, The Moscow Times

Reports suggested the model is a revival of a late Soviet project shuttered in a deal with the United States.

[After Delhi Declaration, Russia issues own statement, with tweaks](#)

November 11, 2021, The Indian Express

As Russia issued its own statement on the NSAs' meeting on Afghanistan, there were at least five differences from the Delhi Declaration – a joint statement on the meeting signed by all eight participating countries – that was issued hours earlier.

[Russian President Vladimir Putin expected to visit India for annual summit on Dec 6](#)

November 11, 2021, Zee News

President Putin last visited India in 2018 for the annual summit. Interestingly, it was during that visit the contract for S400 system was signed between India and Russia.

[Russia will not take part in US-organized Ministerial Meeting to combat pandemic](#)

November 10, 2021, the Times of India

Russia will not take part in a virtual ministerial meeting convened by the US to combat the Covid-19 pandemic due to organizational difficulties and tight schedule of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and wishes the participants success, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

[Russia increases gas flows to Europe, and prices fall](#)

November 10, 2021, Reuters

Russia increased its flow of gas to Europe via Poland and Belarus as well as Ukraine on Wednesday, easing some of Europe's concerns about tight supplies before winter and pushing down wholesale prices.

[Japan favors development of relations with Russia in all areas, says new foreign minister](#)

November 11, 2021, TASS

Tokyo favors the development of relations with Russia on a wide range of areas, including politics, economy, and culture, Japan's new foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told the first press conference after his appointment to the post.

[Moscow Says Missing Turkmen Opposition Activist Left Russia Willingly](#)

November 10, 2021, Rferl.com

Russian authorities deny that they deported noted Turkmen opposition activist Azat Isakov, who for several years lived in Russia's Moscow region, saying that he left of his own accord for his native Turkmenistan where rights groups say he may face imprisonment and torture.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Brazil cuts down import tariffs to fight growing inflation](#)

November 6, 2021, MercoPress

In a move aimed at curbing inflation, Brazil Friday announced a 10% reduction of import tariffs on 87% of goods and services until December 31, 2022. Economy Minister Paulo Guedes now expects the other Mercosur countries to do the same. In a joint note from the Ministries of Economy and Foreign Affairs, the Government explained that "rates will be reduced temporarily and exceptionally until December 31, 2022", under the Montevideo Treaty, which allows countries to take measures aimed at "protecting the life and health of their people."

[US Deputy Secretary of State visits Uruguay meets with ministers](#)

November 9, 2021, MercoPress

United States Deputy Secretary of State, Wendy Sherman who arrived in Uruguay on Sunday and leaves met on Monday with Foreign and Economy ministers, in Montevideo, as part of a South American visit that also includes Peru. According to the Uruguayan foreign ministry, Minister Francisco Bastille held a private meeting with Ms Sherman and later a State Department team met with counterparts to address issues of the bilateral agenda, as well an overview of regional and international affairs, such as the Glasgow COP 26 climate summit.

[Unofficial US dollar crosses 200-peso threshold in Argentina](#)

November 11, 2021, MercoPress

As next Sunday's midterm elections loom over and the government of President Alberto Fernández seems headed for inevitable defeat, desperate Argentinians turned to the currency black market to convert their volatile pesos into US dollars, thus piercing the psychological AR \$ 200 threshold for the first time. Although US dollars are quoted at about half that rate at official banking institutions, there are caps of US \$ 200 a month on natural persons and not even everybody is eligible for it. Hence, the "blue" dollar closed Wednesday at AR \$ 205, it was reported.

[Venezuelan workers demand better salaries](#)

November 11, 2021, MercoPress

Venezuelan workers took to the streets Wednesday to demand a change in the country's policies together with better pay for them and their families. The

demonstrators chanted "down with [President] Nicolás [Maduro], a decent salary now," while waving the Venezuelan flag.

[Presidents of Russia, Argentina discuss COVID-19 on the phone](#)

November 11, 2021, MercoPress

Argentine President Alberto Fernández Thursday held a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to discuss the fight against COVID-19 among other bilateral issues, it was reported. The conversation spanned for 30 minutes, during which the two leaders were delivering on a mutual promise from the G20 Summit last month in Rome.

[UK/Uruguay agree to establish a Trade Dialogue to develop economic relations](#)

November 11, 2021, MercoPress

During a three-day official visit to Uruguay, UK's Minister for International Trade, Ranil Jayawardena, M.P., met with Uruguay's Foreign Minister, Ambassador Francisco Bustillo, and confirmed both countries' desire to continue strengthening their bilateral trading relationship. Following the September meeting, UK's Trade Commissioner (HMTC) to Latin America and the Caribbean, Jonathan Knott, met with Uruguay's Director-General of International Economic Affairs to agree next steps for further deepening these ties.

Africa

[DRC-China: Infrastructure component of 'contract of the century' pinned down](#)

November 12, 2021, The African Report

The report submitted by President Félix Tshisekedi's ministers regarding the infrastructure component of the so-called "Sino-Congolese" programme reveals several shortcomings. The DRC's President Félix Tshisekedi continues to re-evaluate the "contract of the century", which Joseph Kabila's administration signed with China in 2008.

[South Africa: F.W. de Klerk, the last apartheid-era leader, is dead at 85](#)

November 11, 2021, The African Report

The last president of South Africa under its apartheid system, Frederik Willem de Klerk, has died at the age of 85 following a battle with cancer. Although he leaves behind a mixed legacy, he and Nelson Mandela were jointly awarded the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their work in ending the apartheid regime and steering the country onto the path towards democracy.

[Somaliland: Growing ties with the US could be key to its recognition](#)

November 11, 2021, The African Report

In the three decades since declaring its independence following the fall of the Siad Barre regime, the breakaway region of Somalia is benefiting from a convergence of regional developments that have boosted its popularity among US policymakers. Somaliland is thus banking on growing US support to make its case for eventual diplomatic recognition.

[World Bank projects African economy to go up a full percentage point in 2021](#)

November 10, 2021, The African Report

Higher commodity prices, a strong recovery in global trade and an easing of pandemic measures are seen lifting African economies from Covid-19 induced recession.

[U.S. arrests 2 from DR Congo for illegal wildlife trafficking](#)

November 9, 2021, Africa Times

Two people from Democratic Republic of Congo have been arrested in the United States for illegal wildlife trafficking, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

[Where is Ethiopia heading?](#)

November 9, 2021, Daily News

A real and unprecedented crisis that Ethiopia is currently witnessing as anti-government forces form an alliance against Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and the latter's intransigence to accept any mediation, especially from the US, to calm the situation. The picture is complicated and events are intertwined to a degree that may be difficult to overcome except through the complete collapse of all the fragile Ethiopian state institutions.

[Debt remains a significant risk to SA's economy, despite short-term gains](#)

November 11, 2021, Times Live

Finance minister Enoch Godongwana presented the 25th Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) on Thursday afternoon. Economists, including Investec chief economist Annabel Bishop, paid close attention to what the minister had to say about the country's debt projections. Bishop identifies debt and credit ratings agency downgrades as elements that continue to pose a threat to SA's potential growth.



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