

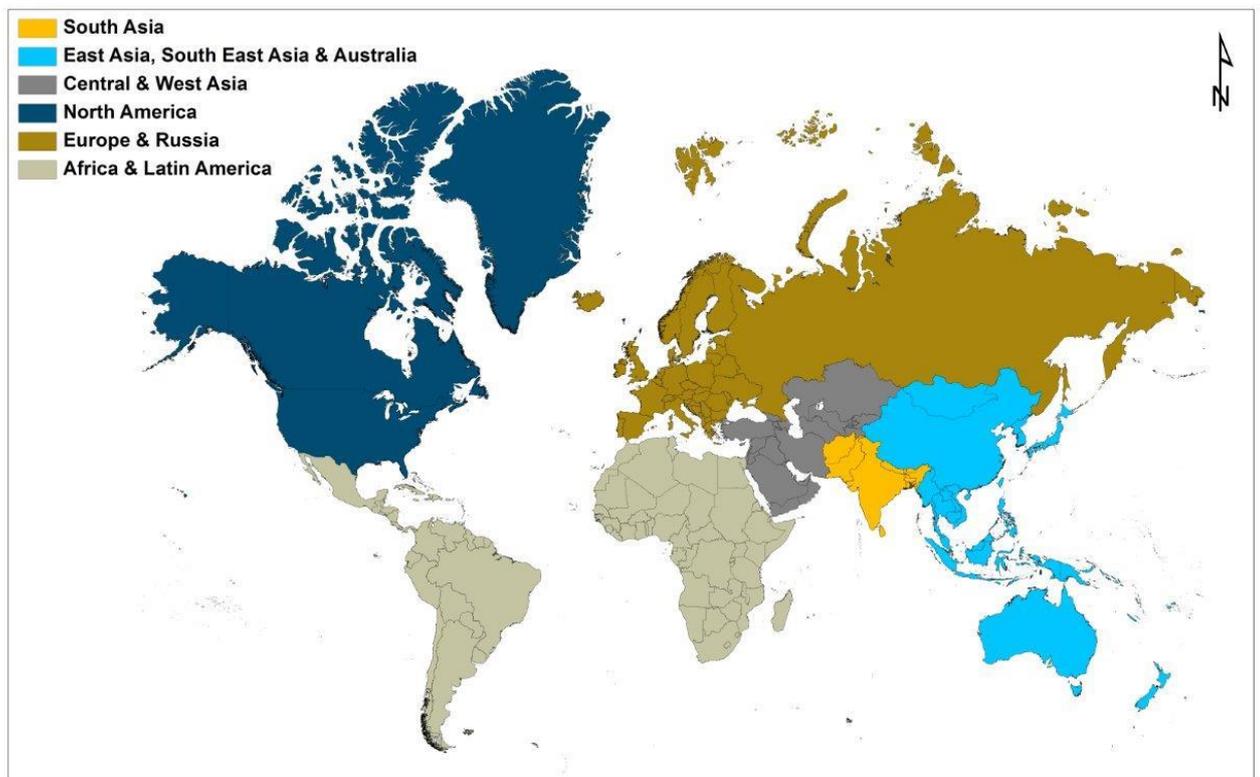


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 15 | April 9, 2021

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



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume V, Issue 15

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.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

DPG Weekly World Watch is based on analysis of open source information. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

© 2021 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.

www.delhipolicygroup.org

Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	7
Central & West Asia	7
United States	17
Europe & Russia	19
Africa & Latin America	22

South Asia

India

[Defence Minister Rajnath Singh holds bilateral talks with Kazakhstan counterpart](#)

April 9, 2021, Jagran Josh

The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on April 9, 2021, held bilateral talks with the Defence Minister of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev.

[India, Eritrea agree to deepen cooperation for mutual benefit during EAMs' meet](#)

April 8, 2021, Yahoo News

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar met his Eritrean counterpart Osman Saleh Mohammed wherein the two leaders agreed to strengthen sectoral engagement through an action-oriented agenda to deepen cooperation for mutual benefit.

[Jaishankar meets Russian counterpart in Delhi, discusses Putin's visit](#)

April 6, 2021, The Hindustan Times

External affairs minister S Jaishankar met his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in the national capital. The two leaders reviewed the bilateral ties and economic cooperation between New Delhi and Moscow, and discussed Russian leader Vladimir Putin's expected visit to India later this year.

[US Navy conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation in India's waters 'without prior consent](#)

April 9, 2021, The Indian Express

In a highly unusual, even though not unprecedented move, the US Navy conducted a Freedom of Navigation Operation (FONOP) in the Indian Ocean region, and its warship entered India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) near Lakshadweep without seeking prior consent from India. The US Navy said that the operation was consistent with international law and challenged India's "excessive maritime claims".

[India seeks US help as China-backed hacks threaten military](#)

April 8, 2021, Mint

India's top military official says the country plans to seek help from the US and other countries to shore up its defense infrastructure that is vulnerable to China-backed cyber-attacks.

[Artificial Intelligence in air combat: Indian Air Force leads the defense initiative](#)

April 7, 2021, Financial Express

In the recently held symposium on AI for Air Warriors in New Delhi, the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria's statement reflected the high level of professional approach being taken by IAF in implementing the Artificial Intelligence (AI) concepts for the Air Force.

[India, Russia discuss defense, geopolitics](#)

April 6, 2021, Andolou Agency

India and Russia discussed a range of issues including defense, trade, and regional connectivity.

[Links with our neighbours to boost economy of NE: Shringla](#)

April 5, 2021, The Times of India

Connectivity with neighbouring countries would enhance economic development of the north-east, said foreign secretary Harsh Shringla speaking at the Sikkim University.

Pakistan

[US busts Pakistan-based network of human smugglers](#)

April 9, 2021, Dawn

The US Department of Treasury has designated a Nowshera-based travel agency a Transnational Criminal Organisation (TCO) and its head and three associates as facilitators in its criminal activities.

[EU Aviation Safety Agency: PIA flight operations to EU remain suspended](#)

April 9, 2021, The News

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency has indefinitely extended the suspension of Pakistan International Airlines flight operations in EU, "until all necessary information is available to decide on the way forward."

[Army top brass reviews LoC situation post India-Pakistan ceasefire](#)

April 8, 2021, The Express Tribune

The Pakistan Army top commanders reviewed the overall security situation and held detailed discussion on situation along the Line of Control (LoC) particularly after Pakistan and India last month agreed to observe a ceasefire along the de facto border.

[Russia to assist with modernising PSM](#)

April 7, 2021, The Express Tribune

A Russian delegation acceded to Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah's request to collaborate with his government on modernising the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM).

[Pakistan receives tariff concessions list from Uzbekistan](#)

April 7, 2021, The News

Pakistan is preparing a list of products in need of tariff reduction from Uzbekistan after receiving the same from it under a proposed bilateral preferential trade agreement.

[Pakistan gets \\$2.5b via Eurobond issue](#)

April 9, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan has entered the international capital market after a gap of over three years by successfully raising \$2.5 billion through a multitranche transaction of 5-, 10- and 30-year Eurobonds.

[Qureshi-Lavrov talks: Russia to boost ties with Pakistan, supply military gear](#)

April 7, 2021, Dawn

Russia's foreign minister said Moscow and Islamabad would boost ties in the fight against terrorism, with Russia providing unspecified military equipment to Pakistan and the two holding more joint exercises at sea and in the mountains.

[IMF forecasts 1.5pc growth rate for Pakistan](#)

April 7, 2021, Dawn

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast a subdued economic growth rate of 1.5 per cent for Pakistan, coupled with a higher rate of inflation and rising unemployment, during the current fiscal year.

[PM reconstitutes 25-member economic advisory body](#)

April 4, 2021, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan has reconstituted a 25-member Economic Advisory Council (EAC) with the induction of prominent businessmen, including former finance minister Shaukat Tarin, to ensure availability of best possible professional advice to the government on its economic policies.

[Broadband subscriptions reach 100m in Pakistan](#)

April 3, 2021, Dawn

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) announced that broadband subscriptions in the country had reached 100 million.

Afghanistan

[Taliban attack on covert US base in Afghanistan complicates Biden withdrawal decision](#)

April 8, 2021, CNN

In one of the most significant attacks against US forces in Afghanistan recently, the Taliban twice targeted one of the most heavily guarded bases in the country late last month and that US military personnel working for the CIA were at the installation when it came under fire.

[President Ghani Defends His Peace Plan](#)

April 7, 2021, Tolo News

President Ashraf Ghani in a message recorded, defended his administration's foreign policy legacy and peace plan, arguing that Afghanistan needs a dignified peace that could determine the country's bright future, but not a peace that could isolate Afghanistan in the international arena.

[Khalilzad Shared Date of Turkey Summit With Delegates](#)

April 6, 2021, Tolo News

US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad sent a letter to negotiators representing the Afghan republic and the Taliban specifying the date for the Turkey conference on Afghanistan.

[U.S. Looks to Build on Secret Portions of Taliban Deal to Reduce Violence](#)

April 4, 2021, NYT

U. S. diplomats are trying to build on parts of the peace deal made with the Taliban last year, specifically the classified portions that outlined what military actions – on both sides – were supposed to be prohibited under the signed agreement, according to American, Afghan and Taliban officials.

[Afghan saffron exports to India 80pc up in 5 years](#)

April 7, 2021, Pajhwok News Agency

Afghanistan's saffron exports to India increased by 80 percent during the past five years. In 2019, Afghanistan saffron exports to India were \$17.38 million and in 2020 the exports reached \$19.08 million.

Bangladesh

[Indian Army chief General Naravane meets Bangladesh's armed forces' chiefs; holds talks to bolster defence ties](#)

April 9, 2021, The Economic Times

Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane met Bangladesh's Army, Air Force and Navy chiefs, and discussed issues of mutual interest and matters on bilateral defence cooperation besides bolstering the strategic ties between the two neighbours.

Nepal

[With India funding, Nepal inaugurates two crucial infrastructure projects](#)

April 6, 2021, Business Standard

India has inaugurated two projects in Nepal which were built with India's grant assistance of a total of Nepal Rupees 89.2 million.

[India to build school in Nepal under Maitri Development Partnership programme](#)

April 6, 2021, Zee News

India will construct a new building at a secondary school in Nepal under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Development Partnership programme, the Indian embassy said.

[Nepal runs out of vaccine, waiting for shipment from India](#)

April 9, 2021, The Hindu

Nepal has run out of the India-made vaccine in the middle of its national campaign for vaccination against the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Sri Lanka prefers Indian and Russian vaccines over Chinese vaccine gift](#)

April 6, 2021, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka has for all practical purposes closed the door for the Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccine despite Beijing's claim of making a bigger donation of doses compared to India.

Srilanka

[Sri Lanka prefers Indian and Russian vaccines over Chinese vaccine gift](#)

April 6, 2021, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka has for all practical purposes closed the door for the Chinese-made Sinopharm vaccine despite Beijing's claim of making a bigger donation of doses compared to India.

[India and Sri Lanka agree to jointly work against terror groups, fugitives](#)

April 8, 2021, The Economic Times

India and Sri Lanka agreed to work jointly against terrorist groups and fugitives wherever they are present and active and emphasized sharing real-time intelligence.

East & South East Asia

China

[China refutes U.S. "intimidation" accusations](#)

April 8, 2021, Xinhua

China refuted U.S. accusations of the country conducting "intimidation actions" in the Taiwan Strait and said that the label of "intimidation" or "coercion" can never be pinned on China.

[U.S.-China cooperation vital for faster global recovery: IMF chief](#)

April 9, 2021, Xinhua

Cooperation between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies, would be vital for a faster global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva said.

[Xi urges Germany, EU to cooperate with China to bring more certainty, stability to world](#)

April 7, 2021, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged Germany and the European Union (EU) to make joint efforts with China to protect and promote the healthy and stable development of their cooperation, so as to bring more certainty and stability to the volatile world.

[Chinese FM's call 'timely reminder' for Japan at crossroads: observer](#)

April 6, 2021, Global Times

During the time when a slew of hostile moves and statements from Japan has pushed its relations with Beijing to a new crossroads, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's 90-minute phone call with his Japanese counterpart was called by observers a "timely reminder" for Tokyo to stop heading in the wrong direction by ganging up with a "certain superpower," and that Tokyo should pull bilateral ties to the right track.

[China urges Philippines to stop South China Sea allegations](#)

April 7, 2021, Global Times

China urges the Philippines to stop baseless allegations on the South China Sea issue, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

[China urges U.S. to lift all illegal sanctions against Iran as nuclear talks resume](#)

April 7, 2021, Global TimesA Chinese envoy urged the United States to lift all illegal sanctions against Iran and its "long-arm jurisdiction" against third-party

entities and individuals, including those from China, as the Iran nuclear deal talks resumed in Vienna.

[Xinjiang smear reflects West's moral decline](#)

April 9, 2021, China Daily

Anti-China forces, including certain foreign governments, businesses and Switzerland-based NGO Better Cotton Initiative, have been using false allegations to smear Xinjiang cotton. That their accusations are baseless is borne out by the fact that they have not been citing a single evidence of "forced labor" in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region to prove their claim.

[China hosts int'l conference on CPC and human rights progress in China](#)

April 9, 2021, China Daily

More than 100 participants attended an international conference on human rights in Changchun, capital of Northeast China's Jilin province.

[Recap of Xi's remarks on China's crucial battle against COVID-19 in Wuhan, Hubei](#)

April 9, 2021, China Daily

On April 8, 2020, the city of Wuhan in Central China's Hubei province ended a 76-day lockdown, after it achieved initial success in putting the coronavirus under control.

[U.S. Blacklists Chinese Entities It Says Are Aiding Weapons Program](#)

April 08, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration barred U.S. companies from supplying Chinese entities it said were building supercomputers to help Beijing develop new weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear devices. The action, which will block sales of advanced U.S. semiconductors among other products, represents a further toughening of U.S. technology trade restrictions amid an increasingly adversarial relationship with China.

[Hyper-Nationalism on Xinjiang Poses Risks for Chinese Brands, Too](#)

April 08, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

In a week of shocking images for the fashion world, one of the most arresting—and for many Westerners, disturbing—was the spectacle of Chinese fashion brands last week loudly trumpeting their support for Xinjiang cotton as a badge of pride. Western brands such as Nike and H&M, which have chosen not to use cotton from China's Xinjiang region, where the government is accused of abuses including forced labor and the large-scale internment of the Turkic Uyghur minority, have found themselves the target of Chinese nationalist ire.

['We will respond in kind': China's ambassador warns Australia not to join Xinjiang sanctions](#)

April 07, 2021, The Guardian

China's ambassador to Australia has warned that Beijing would respond "in kind" if Canberra followed other countries in imposing sanctions against its officials over human rights abuses in Xinjiang. The ambassador, Cheng Jingye, said people should not be under the illusion "that China would swallow the bitter pill" of meddling in its internal affairs, nor attempts to mount a "pressure" campaign.

[China blasts UK for granting asylum to Hong Kong activist Nathan Law](#)

April 09, 2021, The Guardian

Chinese authorities have accused the UK of sheltering a "criminal suspect" after it granted asylum to Hong Kong activist and former politician Nathan Law. Law, who fled Hong Kong in 2020, said he had been granted political asylum by the Home Office and the warrant for his arrest under the Beijing-imposed national security law showed he was "exposed to severe political persecution". At least 100 pro-democracy figures have been arrested under the law.

Japan

[Uighur community calls for Japanese firms to take action on forced labor](#)

April 9, 2021, Japan Today

An association of Uighurs in Japan urged major Japanese companies to investigate whether their operations in China are connected to factories allegedly benefiting from forced labor of the Muslim minority in the Xinjiang region, and if so to suspend such transactions.

[Suga planning visits to India, Philippines to counter China's growing clout](#)

April 8, 2021, Japan Today

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is planning visits to India and the Philippines during the Golden Week holidays from late April, government sources said, as Japan looks to strengthen ties in Asia to counter China's growing clout.

[Japan expresses concerns to China about territorial waters, Hong Kong, Uighur situation](#)

April 6, 2021, Japan Today

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi expressed strong concerns to his Chinese counterpart about Chinese incursions into territorial waters, the

situation in Hong Kong and the human rights situation of China's Uighur minority.'

[Suga aims to calm China-Taiwan tension on U.S. visit](#)

April 5, 2021, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said Taiwan's peace and stability is key to the region and that Japan will cooperate with the United States to calm rising tensions between China and Taiwan.

[Japan and UAE to collaborate on hydrogen tech and supply chain](#)

April 8, 2021, The Japan Times

Japan and the United Arab Emirates agreed to work together on technology to produce hydrogen and create an international supply chain, Japan's industry ministry said.

[China sends aircraft carrier strike group near Okinawa in message to U.S. and Japan](#)

April 5, 2021, The Japan Times

China sent an aircraft carrier and five escort ships, including a destroyer likened to the U.S. Navy's Aegis-class vessels, through the Miyako Strait near Okinawa over the weekend in a signal of its growing ability to counter American and Japanese military power further from its shores.

Korea

[S. Korea to begin KF-21 fighter production, deploy up to 120 units by 2032: Moon](#)

April 9, 2021, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in said that South Korea is set to begin production of the country's next-generation indigenous fighter jet prototype with a goal of deploying up to 120 units for use in real combat by 2032.

[FM Chung, Indonesia defense chief agree to advance cooperation in joint fighter jet project](#)

April 9, 2021, The Korea Herald

Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong met with Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto and agreed to work together to move substantial cooperation between the two countries forward, including an ongoing joint fighter jet development project, the ministry said.

[North Korea-China trade may resume next week: report](#)

April 9, 2021, The Korea Herald

Trade between North Korea and China that has remained at a standstill for more than a year amid the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to resume possibly next week, a South Korean broadcaster reported.

[South Korea, US sign deal on shared defense costs](#)

April 8, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea and the US signed the recently concluded agreement on how to share the cost of the US military presence here, resolving an impasse in negotiations that lasted more than a year and put a strain on the decades long alliance.

[US House caucus to hold hearing on South Korean ban on anti-Pyongyang leafleting](#)

April 9, 2021, The Korea Times

A bipartisan caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives said it will hold a public hearing next week on South Korea's recently legislated ban on the sending of anti-Pyongyang leaflets into North Korea.

[Kim Jong-un says North Korea facing its 'worst-ever situation'](#)

April 7, 2021, The Korea Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has acknowledged his country was facing the "worst-ever situation" as he addressed thousands of grassroots members of his ruling party during a major political conference in Pyongyang.

[N. Korean firm loses suit against S. Korean companies in disputes over export payment](#)

April 6, 2021, The Korea Times

A North Korean firm lost a lawsuit claiming millions of dollars for metal it supplied to South Korean companies in 2010, in a rare legal battle between businesses from the two Koreas.

[Detente May Be an Option with North Korea](#)

April 5, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Pity the Biden staffers charged with developing a North Korea strategy. After 30 years of U.S. diplomacy and escalating sanctions, Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal continues to grow, North Korean missiles get better, and the day when the Kim dynasty can reliably strike targets on the American mainland with nuclear-armed ICBMs comes inexorably closer.

Southeast Asia

[Southeast Asia Looks To Increase Offshore Oil Production](#)

April 8, 2021, Oil Price.com

Malaysia and Brunei have signed an agreement to develop two offshore oil fields on the maritime boundary, with greater exploration of recent ultra-Deepwater discoveries.

[ASEAN to Hold Emergency Summit on Myanmar, No Date Set](#)

April 6, 2021, The Diplomat

After a flurry of intra-regional diplomatic visits, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has agreed to convene a special meeting in Jakarta to address the crisis in Myanmar, which continues to inch toward the brink of a nationwide civil war.

[China echoes India to call for restraint in Myanmar](#)

April 7, 2021, The Economic Times

Less than a week after India called for restraint in Myanmar, China has also issued a similar statement even as it without naming the USA warned against external interference in Myanmar.

[Vietnam Joins Opposition to Chinese Activity Near Disputed Sea Reef](#)

April 7, 2021, VOA

Vietnam has joined the Philippines in vocally opposing a Chinese fishing fleet's long stay at an unoccupied reef in a disputed Asian sea, and analysts say China is expected to back away and avoid a bigger dispute – but only for now.

[Dams along Mekong by China threatening farmers: report](#)

April 8, 2021, Big News Network

China's construction of large hydropower dams along the river to feed country's growing energy needs is causing problems downriver -- having devastating impacts on water availability and the fertile soil that feeds hundreds of millions of people in Southeast Asia.

[US warns China over increasingly aggressive moves against Taiwan, Philippines](#)

April 8, 2021, WION

The United States warned China against what the Philippines and Taiwan see as increasingly aggressive moves, reminding Beijing of Washington's obligations to its partners.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Expand Border Cooperation, Open Renovated Kordai – Ak Zhol Border Checkpoint](#)

April 05, 2021, Astana Times

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have made a significant step forward in their bilateral cooperation following the March visit of Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov to Kazakhstan. As part of the ninth meeting of the intergovernmental council, The Prime Ministers of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan attended the opening ceremony of a modernized Kordai – Ak Zhol border checkpoint, a major border crossing point between the two countries.

[Turkmenistan: Master Berdymukhamedov goes to Moscow](#)

April 06, 2021, Eurasianet

Serdar Berdymukhamedov, Turkmenistan's president-in-waiting and son of the incumbent, on March 30 embarked on a four-day trip to Russia as part of an official government delegation. The outing looked like yet another dress rehearsal. Official readouts of meetings in Moscow allude to mostly humdrum business, although there are hints of noteworthy developments.

[Kazakhstan's Zhambyl region to produce homegrown COVID-19 vaccine](#)

April 07, 2021, Trend News Agency

Kazakh Healthcare Minister Alexey Tsoi told a briefing that Kazakhstan's coronavirus vaccine will be produced in the Zhambyl region, Trend reports, citing Kazinform. The schedules of production are being developed. The technological line will be launched soon. The plant will be put into service as all is validated, probably, by the end of the year.

[Currency Collapse Mirrors Turkmenistan's Extreme Economic Woes](#)

April 08, 2021, RFE/RL

When the exchange rate of Turkmenistan's national currency, the manat, fell to 40 to the dollar on the black market on April 3, it was more than 11 times the long-standing official rate of 3.5 manats per dollar. It was also an all-time low for the troubled Central Asian country's beleaguered currency.

[Uzbekistan, Russia agree to implement projects worth \\$2.2 billion](#)

April 09, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Companies from Uzbekistan and Russia have agreed to implement 33 projects worth 2.2 billion U.S. dollars following a business week and exhibition in Tashkent, Xinhua reported, citing organizers of the event.

[India Preparing to Buy Iranian Oil Once U.S. Sanctions Eased](#)

April 8, 2021, Bloomberg

India's state-run oil refiners are ready to snap up Iranian crude the moment U.S. sanctions are eased. Refiners have started making preparations in advance of the possible removal of penalties so they can swiftly enter into contracts for Iranian supply, said a senior oil ministry representative. This includes drafting commercial terms and putting in place mechanisms to quickly assess crude quality.

[Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds bilateral talks with Kazakh Defence Minister Lt Gen Nurlan Yermekbayev](#)

April 9, 2021, PIB

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Defence Minister of Republic of Kazakhstan Lieutenant General Nurlan Yermekbayev in New Delhi on April 09, 2021. During the meeting, the two Ministers exchanged views to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, including through training, defence exercises and capacity building. They agreed that both sides must look at the possibility of defence industrial collaboration of mutual interest.

[Iran's Chabahar port likely ready by May as India speeds up work: US report](#)

April 9, 2021, Business Standard

After a brief halt, India accelerated the work on Chabahar Port early this year and the strategic Iranian port is expected to be operational by next month, a Congressional report has said. In 2015, India agreed to help develop Iran's Chabahar Port and an associated railway that would enable India to trade with Afghanistan unimpeded by Pakistan, the independent Congressional Research Service (CRS) said in its latest report for the members of the US Congress.

West Asia

[India, Bahrain Agree to Bolster Defence and Security Cooperation](#)

April 07, 2021, Hindustan Times

India and Bahrain agreed to strengthen bilateral defence and security cooperation, including regular consultations in maritime security, combating piracy and counter-terrorism.

[India to Resume Buying Oil from Iran Once US Sanctions Ease](#)

April 08, 2021, The Economic Times

India will look to resume buying crude oil from Iran the moment US sanctions are eased, helping it diversify its import basket, a senior government official said. India stopped importing oil from Iran in mid-2019 following sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation by the Trump administration.

[OPEC and Allies Agree to Gradually Boost Crude Oil Output from May to July](#)

April 02, 2021, Business Standard

The OPEC oil cartel and allied countries said that they have decided to gradually add back some 2 million barrels per barrel per day of oil production from May to July, moving cautiously in pace with the recovery of the global economy from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Made-in-India Covid-19 Vaccines in Yemen a 'Game Changer': UN official](#)

April 02, 2021, Hindustan Times

The shipment of 360,000 Made-in-India Covid-19 vaccines that arrived in Yemen, as part of the first batch of 1.9 million doses it will receive throughout the year, is a "game changer" and a "milestone" in the fight against the pandemic in the country, health officials have said.

[Iran and U.S. Agree on Path Back to Nuclear Deal](#)

April 06, 2021, The New York Times

The United States and Iran agreed through intermediaries to establish two working groups to try to get both countries back into compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

[Iran Blames Israel, US for Saviz Cargo Ship Attack](#)

April 09, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

A spokesman for the Iranian military blamed Israel and the US for causing an explosion on the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' Saviz vessel in the Red Sea.

[Mossad Chief said Heading to Washington in Bid to Block US Return to Iran Deal](#)

April 08, 2021, The Times of Israel

Mossad chief Yossi Cohen will travel to Washington in the coming days for meetings with top officials in the White House and the American intelligence community. According to the report, Cohen will present evidence that Israel says shows Iran is lying and hiding details about its nuclear program from the world, in a bid to prevent the US from reentering the 2015 nuclear deal in its original form.

United States

United States

[US envoy Kerry says India is 'getting job done' on climate](#)

April 6, 2021, WION

US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry praised India as a world leader in renewables as he began talks with government leaders aimed at cutting carbon emissions faster to slow global warming.

[In Asia, John Kerry urges bold action on climate to avoid global 'suicide pact'](#)

April 8, 2021, The Washington Post

Trip through India, United Arab Emirates and Bangladesh is part of a push by the Biden administration for more ambitious climate action.

[U.S. concerned about Russian troop movements near Ukraine, discussing regional tensions with NATO allies](#)

April 8, 2021, CNBC

The Biden administration said that it was engaged in discussions with NATO allies about escalating tensions in Ukraine as Russia has increased its military presence near the country's border.

[Details of sweeping effort to counter China emerge in U.S. Senate](#)

April 8, 2021, Reuters

Leaders of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee introduced major legislation to boost the country's ability to push back against China's expanding global influence by promoting human rights, providing security aid and investing to combat disinformation.

[Biden administration slaps export controls on Chinese firms for aiding PLA weapons development](#)

April 9, 2021, The Washington Post

The Biden administration placed seven Chinese firms and government labs under U.S. export controls for their involvement in China's effort to build supercomputers that help develop nuclear and other advanced military weapons.

[Biden Backs Taiwan, but Some Call for a Clearer Warning to China](#)

April 8, 2021, The New York Times

As China grows stronger and bolder, some experts want to end Washington's decades-long policy of "strategic ambiguity."

[Reversing Trump, Biden Restores Aid to Palestinians](#)

April 7, 2021, The New York Times

The Biden administration announced that it would restore hundreds of millions of dollars in American aid to Palestinians, its strongest move yet to reverse President Donald J. Trump's policy on the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[Amid Iran tensions, US defense chief to visit Israel](#)

April 9, 2021, The Times of Israel

The highest-ranked official of the administration of US President Joe Biden to visit Israel, Austin will meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz, where discussions will cover "shared priorities" and reaffirm Washington's commitment to Israel maintaining military superiority over its neighbors, according to a Pentagon statement.

[U.S., Japan, South Korea Meet to Hash Out Approach to Pyongyang](#)

April 2, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

A senior aide to President Biden met with his counterparts from South Korea and Japan, another in a series of top-level meetings with both countries in recent weeks as the White House shores up support to confront China and North Korea.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Germany urges Russia to reduce troop presence near Ukraine](#)

April 8, 2021, Deutsche Welle

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin have discussed concerns as tensions increase between pro-Russia separatists and Ukrainian forces.

[Punishing Germany for Nord Stream 2 does nothing to stop Putin](#)

April 8, 2021, Defense News

The controversial pipeline that the German government supports – and many in Washington, especially in Congress, vehemently oppose – has emerged as a major obstacle to better relations between the United States and its key European ally Germany.

[Germany Says It Will Explore Buying Russia's Sputnik V Vaccine, Bucking EU Policy](#)

April 8, 2021, NPR

The German government is preparing to enter into negotiations with Moscow to pre-order doses of Russia's coronavirus vaccine, Sputnik V, breaking from the EU's joint vaccine procurement efforts.

[Almost all Dutch-made AstraZeneca doses will stay in EU, says Brussels](#)

April 8, 2021, The Guardian

AstraZeneca has agreed that almost all the Covid vaccine doses made in the Netherlands over which the UK has made a claim will stay in the EU, as Brussels' vaccine tsar said Europe was now on track for an "almost normal" tourist season.

[France and EU ponder sanctions for Lebanese politicians, diplomats say](#)

April 8, 2021, Reuters

France and the European Union are putting together proposals that could see asset freezes and travel bans imposed on Lebanese politicians to push them finally to agree on a government to rescue their country from economic collapse.

[European Institutions Were Targeted in a Cyber-Attack Last Week](#)

April 6, 2021, Bloomberg

A spokesperson for the commission said that a number of EU bodies "experienced an IT security incident in their IT infrastructure." The spokesperson said forensic analysis of the incident is still in its initial phase and that it's too early to provide any conclusive information about the nature of the attack.

[Myanmar ambassador says he's locked out of London embassy in 'coup'](#)

April 8, 2021, CNN

Myanmar's ambassador to the UK said he had been locked out of the London embassy in what he described as another "coup," blaming the country's military.

[Australia France India Japan And the United States Take Part In Exercise La Pérouse](#)

April 6, 2021, Naval News

The multinational naval exercise La Pérouse kicked off in the Eastern Indian Ocean. Ships and aircraft of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), French Navy, Indian Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) and United States Navy (USN) took part in the three-day exercise.

Russia

[Russian Military Satellite Breaks Up Over Pacific, US Air Force Reports](#)

April 03, 2021, Sputnik News

Russian military satellite Kosmos 2525, which was launched in 2018, has descended from orbit and broken up over the Pacific Ocean, according to US Air Force data, published at space-track.org.

[Putin signs law enabling him to run for president again](#)

April 05, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law letting him run for the president of Russia again. The law was uploaded to the official Internet-portal of legal information on April 05.

[Russian Government Cuts Oil, Gas, Coal Production Forecast for 2021, 2022](#)

April 05, 2021, Sputnik News

The Russian government slashed its forecast for oil, gas and coal production for this and next year, according to a decree on amendments to the Russian state program for energy development.

[Russia Conducts First Pacific Long-Range Cruise Missile Test](#)

April 06, 2021, The Moscow Times

The Russian Navy has for the first time fired long-range Kalibr cruise missiles on a ground target in the Sea of Japan, the Russian military announced.

[Russia hopes to hold summit with India in 2021, Lavrov says](#)

April 06, 2021, TASS News Agency

Moscow expects to hold a summit of the Russian and Indian leaders this year if the epidemiological situation allows, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Indian newspaper Hindustan Times. According to Lavrov, Moscow is satisfied with the vigorous political dialogue with India on all levels that "keeps on actively developing despite serious restrictions caused by the coronavirus pandemic."

[Foreign Dignitaries Not Invited to Russia's WWII Victory Parade – Kremlin](#)

April 07, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia will not invite foreign dignitaries to its annual World War II victory parade on Red Square next month, the Kremlin announced. "This year is not a [major] anniversary year, so we don't intend to invite foreign participants," President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

[Russian Rocket 'Gagarin' Set To Take Off From Baikonur For ISS](#)

April 09, 2021, RFE/RL

Two Russians and an American are scheduled to take off for the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Soyuz rocket on April 09.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Policy changes help drive US migrant crossings to new highs](#)

April 9, 2021, AP

The Border Patrol had 168,195 encounters with migrants last month, the highest since March 2001. The numbers aren't directly comparable because more than half of those stopped last month had been quickly expelled from the country under federal pandemic-related powers that deny people the right to seek asylum. Being expelled carries no legal consequences, so many people make multiple attempts. Biden has exempted unaccompanied children from expulsion, allowing them to stay in the U.S. while pursuing asylum claims and live with "sponsors," usually parents or close relatives.

[El Salvador president snubs visiting Biden envoy](#)

April 8, 2021, AP

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele refused to meet with a visiting senior U.S. diplomat this week over what he sees as a pattern of slights from Democrats and the Biden administration, according to two aides of the Central American leader.

[Mexico says outsourcing to be strictly limited](#)

April 6, 2021, AP

The Mexican government said it has reached an agreement with business and labor groups to strictly limit outsourcing of jobs. Under the agreement, companies will be able to outsource only non-core activities, like auxiliary services.

[Putin calls Argentine leader with COVID despite Sputnik shot](#)

April 5, 2021, AP

President Vladimir Putin called his Argentine counterpart, who has tested positive for COVID-19 despite receiving a Russian vaccine.

[US shuts once-secret Guantanamo prison unit, moves prisoners](#)

April 5, 2021, AP

A once-secret unit within the Guantanamo Bay detention center that had fallen into disrepair has been closed and the prisoners moved to another facility on the American base in Cuba, the U.S. military said.

[Uruguay formally requests meeting with Argentina to work on Mercosur's flexibilization](#)

April 6, 2021, Merco Press

Uruguay's Foreign Ministry submitted a formal request to the Argentine government to hold a meeting to discuss the flexibility of Mercosur, it was reported.

[Venezuela's borders with Colombia returning to normal under control of Bolivarian forces](#)

April 6, 2021, Merco Press

Venezuela's Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino reported eight soldiers had died fighting a group of "terrorists" on the Colombian border. But after three weeks of clashes and 17 deaths, "the region is returning to normal."

Africa

[Ugandan official, truckers call for improved security on South Sudan road](#)

April 9, 2021, The East African

Kampala has called for enhanced security on the Nimule-Juba road in South Sudan where attacks in the last week of March resulted in the killing of eight Ugandan drivers.

[UN Burundi office to close May 31](#)

April 9, 2021, The East African

The United Nations special envoy's office to Burundi will close on May 31, five months after the isolated regime requested it shuttered, the secretary-general announced.

[Uganda, Egypt ink security deal amid strain over Nile dam](#)

April 8, 2021, The East African

Uganda's defence ministry said it had signed an intelligence-sharing agreement with its Egyptian counterparts, bolstering security ties amid regional tensions over a massive hydropower dam on the Nile.

[Somalia leaders in blame game after talks collapse](#)

April 8, 2021, The East African

Somalia's top leaders are trading blame after the collapse of the much-anticipated talks meant to provide certainty on elections.

[Mozambique to probe human rights violations in war on terror](#)

April 8, 2021, The East African

Mozambique President Filipe Nyusi said that alleged human rights violations by members of the Security and Defence Forces (FDS) in the fight against terrorism will not be tolerated.

[An IMF tilt to Africa](#)

April 9, 2021, The Africa Report

That alone will strengthen African treasuries far more than the combined weight of the G20's over-cautious debt-relief plan and emergency funding from the international system. IMF management is prioritising the fight against inequality and the climate crisis, advocating carbon taxes and a massive social investment programme in health and education.

[France to host summit for African heads to 'give a big boost' to those hit by Covid](#)

April 8, 2021, The Africa Report

On 18 May, French President Emmanuel Macron will hold a summit in Paris to discuss ways of providing support to African countries hit hard by the health crisis. It will be attended by various African and European heads of state and several issues will be discussed.



DPG

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