

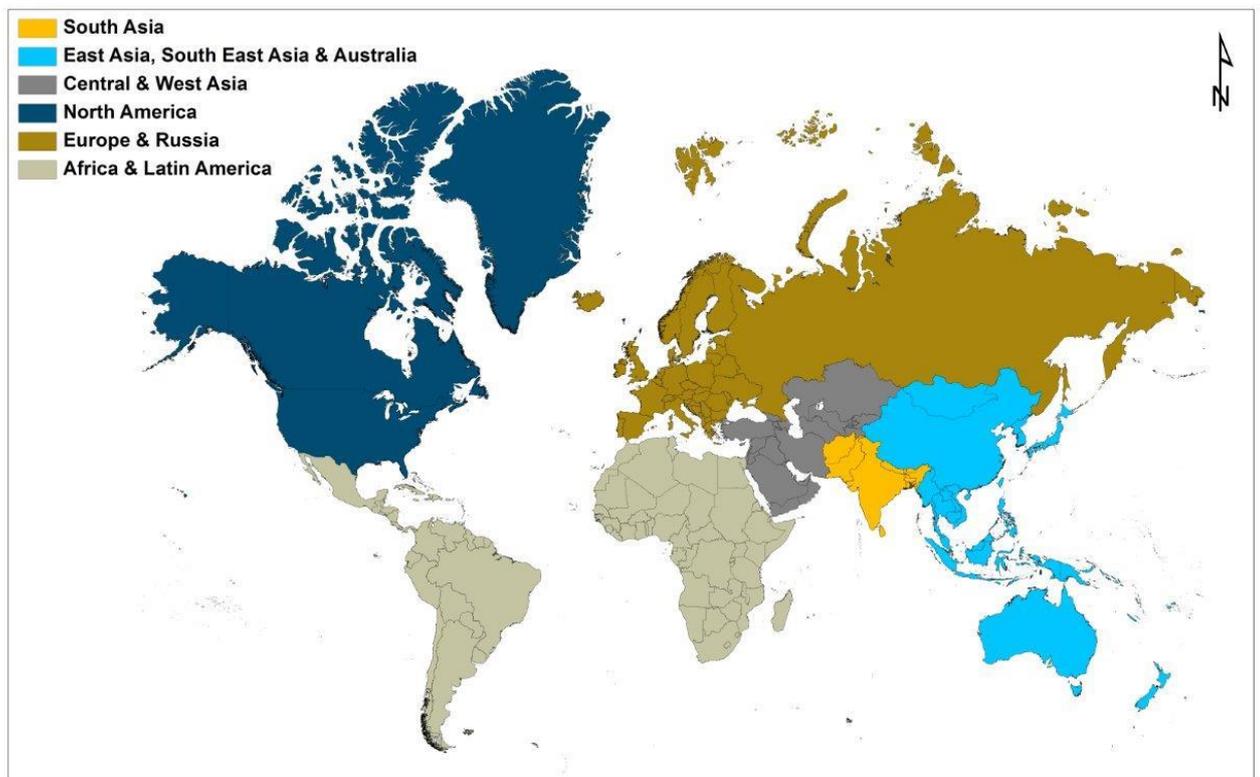


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 25 | June 18, 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.

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

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

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South Asia

India

[Indian Navy Inducted New ALH Dhruv Mk III Helicopters](#)

June 16, 2021, Naval News

Indian Navy inducted three indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) MK III helicopters flying into Naval Air Station, INS Dega on June 7. With the induction of these Maritime Reconnaissance and Coastal Security (MRCS) helicopters, the ENC got a major boost towards enhancing the capabilities of the force, in pursuit of the maritime interests of the nation. These helicopters, built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, are state-of-the-art flying machines and constitute a major step in our quest for "Atma Nirbhar Bharat".

[India denies attack claim on Sri Lankan fishermen by Indian Navy](#)

June 18, 2021, The Economic Times

India rejected as "blatantly false" the local media reports about the Indian Navy's alleged assault on a group of Sri Lankan fishermen, saying no such incident has taken place.

[Defence ministry wants wider discussion on new theatre commands](#)

June 16, 2021, India Today

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) feels that there was a need to hold wider discussions for creating new military theatre commands with all stakeholders as such reforms have to be done after reaching "broad consensus".

[India's response to external aggression has always been resolute: Rajnath Singh](#)

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said the country's response to any external aggression has always been resolute as he e-dedicated to the nation 12 roads of strategic importance on the country's eastern and northern border areas with China in Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

[EAM Jaishankar, FM Sitharaman to headline UK's India Global Forum](#)

June 15, 2021, Business Standard

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were confirmed as the headline speakers at a global event that will lay out India's vision for post-pandemic growth.

[External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Interacts with Indian Diaspora in Kenya](#)

June 14, 2021, News 18

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has held a "productive" online interaction with a cross-section of Indian diaspora in Kenya. Jaishankar arrived in Kenya

on a three-day visit to strengthen India's relations with the major East African country.

Pakistan

[BUDGET 2021-22: Defence allocation goes up by 6.2pc](#)

June 12, 2021, Dawn

The Pakistan government proposed to allocate Rs1.37 trillion for defence services in the budget for the fiscal year 2021-22, marking an increase of 6.2 per cent. The proposed increase in the defence budget is less than what the armed forces have been getting in recent years except for FY 2019-20 in which a raise of 4.74pc was given. But by the end of that fiscal year, the defence services had overshot the allocated budget by 6.33pc.

[PPP, PML-N join hands to disrupt NA's budget session](#)

June 12, 2021, Dawn

The opposition parties disrupted the budget session by thumping desks and chanting slogans against Prime Minister Imran Khan as Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin steadily unveiled the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf's (PTI) third budget.

[Chagai to be linked with Gwadar, Afghan border](#)

June 14, 2021, Dawn

The federal government is planning to connect the mineral-rich Chagai district with Gwadar seaport and neighboring Afghanistan through road networks. The newly proposed Nokundi to Mashkel road would be extended to Panjgur district while another proposed road from Dalbandin to Chagai-cum-Ziyarat Balanoshi would be extended to Pak-Afghan border.

[Pakistan, Russia agree to cooperate for Afghan settlement](#)

June 15, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Russia agreed to continue their cooperation for a political settlement of the Afghan conflict. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in a telephone conversation agreed to work closely for an early negotiated political settlement of the Afghan issue.

[Pakistan, Iran officials discuss border security](#)

June 15, 2021, Dawn

Iranian border authorities and their Pakistani counterparts held a meeting on June 7, at Taftan border to enhance security measures along the border to avoid

any untoward situation during the Iranian presidential election scheduled to be held on June 18.

[Commanders briefed on plans to modernise army](#)

June 16, 2021, Dawn

Formation commanders of Pakistan Army were briefed on plans for the modernisation of the army. In a statement on the two-day-long 78th Formation Commanders' Conference at the General Headquarters, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said: "Forum was briefed on the cutting-edge technologies being harnessed to modernise army's outfits, besides upgrade of logistics infrastructure corresponding to emerging operational imperatives."

[Gwadar fishermen hold rally against grant of fishing rights to Chinese trawlers](#)

June 16, 2021, Dawn

Hundreds of fishermen, political workers and members of civil society staged a protest rally against the federal government for granting Chinese trawlers fishing rights in Gwadar by issuing them licences.

[Manufacturing of new Pak Navy ship begins in Karachi](#)

June 16, 2021, The News

The manufacturing of the fourth MILGEM Class Corvette for Pakistan Navy (PN) began with performance of the Steel Cutting ceremony which was held at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KS&EW).

[Violent group threatens to burn down Pak High Commission London](#)

June 13, 2021, The News

The Pakistan High Commission London has come under attack again within a month as a group of protestors threatened to burn down the building and take off Pakistan's flag from the premises.

[Pakistan says no proposal on table for Kabul Airport security](#)

June 18, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan said no proposal was under consideration at the moment for its role in providing security to the Kabul International Airport but reiterated that the country remained committed to the Afghan peace efforts.

Afghanistan

[MoI Arrests Mediators Helping Hand Over ANDSF Outposts to Taliban](#)

June 13, 2021, Tolo News

The Ministry of Interior Affairs said that security forces have been directed to arrest those who attempt to mediate between government forces and the Taliban to hand over security forces outposts.

[Ex-VP Khalili Warns Against Further Attacks on Hazara Community](#)

June 13, 2021, Tolo News

Former vice president Mohammad Karim Khalili warned that the people will “attempt anything” to ensure their safety if the government does not prevent “targeted attacks against Hazara community” as well as other injustices in the country.

[Taliban Reject Foreign Military Role in Guarding Kabul Airport After Troop Exit](#)

June 12, 2021, VOA

The Taliban warned that it would be “unacceptable” to them and a “mistake” on the part of any nation to retain a military presence in Afghanistan to guard airports or other installations after the departure of U.S.-led NATO troops from the war-torn country.

[Hospitals Struggle to Treat COVID Patients Amid Oxygen Shortage](#)

June 14, 2021, Tolo News

Afghanistan is faced with a lack of oxygen for COVID-19 patients and the Ministry of Public Health has not succeeded in coping with the challenge despite installing oxygen processing equipment at hospitals.

[Taliban takes control of 30 districts in past six weeks](#)

June 14, 2021, FDD’s Long War Journal

In the six weeks since the May 1 deadline for U.S. troops to withdraw from Afghanistan, the Taliban has seized control of 32 additional districts, their reach spanning half of the country’s 34 provinces. The Afghan government has been unable to regain control in any of the 32 districts.

[The U.S. Embassy in Kabul locks down, hit by a coronavirus outbreak surging across Afghanistan](#)

June 17, 2021, NYT

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul went into lockdown, citing a surge in coronavirus cases that has swamped the medical facilities that remain open to American diplomats as the U.S. military and international forces depart the country.

[NATO Leaders Agreed to Continue Support to Afghans: Biden](#)

June 15, 2021, Tolo News

US President Joe Biden at a press conference after the NATO leaders' summit in Brussels said that "there was a strong consensus in the room, among the leaders, in that meeting, on Afghanistan," reiterating that the alliance will continue its support to Afghans after the withdrawal of international troops from the country.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh is now among India's top 5 export destinations](#)

June 17, 2021, Hindustan Times

Bangladesh has surpassed Hong Kong to become India's fourth biggest export destination in the first three months of the current calendar year, and climbed four notches to fare in the country's top five export destinations in 2020-21 because of New Delhi's diplomatic efforts, logistical ease and a robust demand for Indian farm produce.

[Bangladesh extends border closure with India in view of Covid-19 situation](#)

June 14, 2021, Hindustan Times

Bangladesh extended the duration for which its borders with India will remain closed in view of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) situation in both countries.

Nepal

[Is Nepal Now Courting India and Ignoring China?](#)

June 15, 2021, The Diplomat

As Oli steers his party to the right to woo India's ruling BJP, China is courting Nepal's left wing.

[India opens vacancies for Nepali women in Military Police](#)

June 15, 2021, The Times of India

In a first, the Indian Army has opened vacancies for Nepali women in Military Police.

Bhutan

[China and Bhutan](#)

June 16, 2021, The Statesman

The Kingdom of Bhutan and the People's Republic of China (PRC) do not maintain official diplomatic relations, and ties have been historically tense. China shares a border of 470 kilometres with Bhutan and Beijing's territorial disputes with Thimphu have been a source of potential conflict.

Sri Lanka

[With China funding Colombo Port City, India urges Sri Lanka to be 'mindful' of bilateral ties](#)

June 17, 2021, The Print

In reaction to the China-funded Colombo Port City project, India said it expects Sri Lanka to "remain mindful" of the growing bilateral ties between New Delhi and Colombo, especially from the security standpoint.

[India looks to recalibrate ties with Sri Lanka as Colombo sways away towards China again](#)

June 14, 2021, The Print

India is looking at a "recalibration" of its bilateral ties with Sri Lanka as China is gaining massive inroads in the Indian Ocean Island nation.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese envoy proud of 'wolf warrior' title when safeguarding national interests, as China presents a respectable image](#)

June 18, 2021, Global Times

Outspoken Chinese ambassador to France, Lu Shaye, said he is proud to be endowed with the title of "wolf warrior" and he is determined to stand in the way of "mad dogs" that attack China.

[PLA Xinjiang Military Command commemorates Galwan Valley martyrs](#)

June 16, 2021, Global Times

The command recently organized troops in Xinjiang to carry out activities under the theme "We're with the Heroes" to learn how PLA heroes, including the martyrs of the Galwan Valley conflict, defended and guarded the country's borders.

[Diplomats laud CPC's governance](#)

June 17, 2021, China Daily

Foreign envoys have hailed the Communist Party of China's successful governance of the country as well as its contributions to promoting world peace and development, after visiting the Site of the First National Congress of the CPC in Shanghai.

[Negative list to be shortened for investors](#)

June 18, 2021, China Daily

China's unwavering efforts to deepen reform and opening-up are set to provide more business opportunities to foreign investors and contribute further to world economic recovery, according to experts and business leaders.

[Pushing against China, U.S. lawmakers plan pro-Taiwan bill](#)

June 17, 2021, Reuters

Democratic and Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives will introduce legislation this week seeking to boost U.S. support for Taiwan, part of an effort in Congress to take a hard line in dealings with China.

[Indian Army top brass reviews situation along borders with China, Pakistan](#)

June 17, 2021, Hindustan Times

The review is significant against the backdrop of the ongoing negotiations for disengagement of Indian and Chinese soldiers from friction points along the

Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, and the ceasefire between Indian and Pakistani armies holding at the Line of Control (LoC).

[China denounces NATO statement, defends country's defense policy](#)

June 15, 2021, Business Standard

The Chinese mission to the European Union denounced a NATO statement that declared Beijing a security challenge, saying China is actually a force for peace but will defend itself if threatened.

Japan

[Japan says China's military strategy unclear, of serious concern](#)

June 17, 2021, Reuters

Japan said China's military intentions are unclear and its armed forces' rapid expansion is of serious concern, circumstances that require Europe, the United States and other Asian nations to come together to stand up to Beijing.

[Japan Exports Jump by 50% on Record Gains to the U.S. and Europe](#)

June 16, 2021, Bloomberg

Japan's exports surged by nearly 50% from last year's dismal level, as record jumps in shipments to the U.S. and Europe helped boost an economy still struggling with the virus at home.

[India launches new trilateral with Italy and Japan for Indo-Pacific stability](#)

June 18, 2021, The Economic Times

India-Italy-Japan launched their trilateral -- the second trilateral involving India and a European power -- hoping to create stability and a rules-based international order based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few in the Indo-Pacific region.

[India, Japan conduct bilateral naval exercise in Indian Ocean](#)

June 14, 2021, Yahoo

Ships of the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) participated in a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean to realize "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

[Japan defense chief seeks greater EU military presence in Asia](#)

June 17, 2021, Kyodo News

Japan's Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told a European Parliament subcommittee that he expects EU member states to "visibly increase their military presence" in the Indo-Pacific region, where China is boosting its clout.

[S Korea, Japan, U.S. to hold meeting over N Korea issues](#)

June 18, 2021, Japan Today

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said that senior officials of South Korea, Japan and the United States will hold a meeting in South Korea to discuss issues on North Korea.

Korea

[Ancient map in Spain shows Dokdo as part of Korean territory](#)

June 17, 2021, The Korea Times

Spain has shown President Moon Jae-in an old map that describes Dokdo as part of the territory of Korea, according to Cheong Wa Dae.

[North Korea makes rare humanitarian donation for Myanmar: UN data](#)

June 17, 2021, The Korea Times

North Korea has donated \$300,000 to a project by the United Nations to provide humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, U.N. data showed, a rare case for the state to join global aid efforts.

[Korea's global competitiveness ranking stays at 23rd in 2021: report](#)

June 18, 2021, The Korea Times

South Korea's global competitiveness ranking remained unchanged this year after rising by five notches in the previous year on the back of its efforts to contain the pandemic.

[Debates arise over call to cancel joint military drills](#)

June 17, 2021, The Korea Times

A debate has arisen over whether South Korea and the U.S. should cancel their annual joint military exercises scheduled to be held in August, with some government officials and experts — who advocate engagement with North Korea — saying Pyongyang will not return to denuclearization talks as long as they continue to be held.

[New US special representative for N. Korea to visit Seoul this week: State Department](#)

June 18, 2021, The Korea Herald

The new US special representative for North Korea, Sung Kim, will travel to Seoul later this week for trilateral talks with his South Korean and Japanese counterparts, the State Department said.

[Moon wraps up Europe visit highlighted by G-7 summit, upgraded ties with Austria, Spain](#)

June 17, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in headed back to Seoul after a weeklong trip to Europe, during which he focused on making clear Seoul's commitment to playing a bigger role in global issues and improving strategic ties with Austria and Spain.

[FM Chung vows efforts to realize 'UN values of peace, liberty, prosperity' on peninsula](#)

June 17, 2021, The Korea Herald

Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong pledged efforts to realize the United Nations' values of peace and liberty on the Korean Peninsula during a forum marking nearly three decades since the country joined the international body.

Southeast Asia

[Japan Steps Up Its 'Vaccine Diplomacy' in Southeast Asia](#)

June 16, 2021, NDTV

The Chief Minister of Myanmar's Chin state - Salai Lian Luai - has taken shelter in Mizoram following the military coup in that country, sources in the state Home Department said.

[South China Sea: PLA sends in spy planes and ship to keep closer watch as regional tensions rise](#)

June 11, 2021, SCMP

The Chinese military has deployed extra surveillance forces in the air and waters near a disputed South China Sea archipelago as tensions rise between Beijing and its Southeast Asia neighbours.

[Look for an Increasingly Active Canada in the South China Sea](#)

June 12, 2021, The Diplomat

A number of factors are pushing Ottawa to increase both its rhetoric and naval presence in the disputed water.

[Malaysia speaks against Chinese moves in South China Sea in a rare public reaction](#)

June 13, 2021, The Economic Times

Malaysia rarely reacts in public but last week in a surprising move Kuala Lumpur reacted strongly against Chinese moves in the South China Sea region.

[India stresses centrality of peace and stability in the South China Sea for the Indo-Pacific vision: Protecting the rights of non-party nations](#)

June 17, 2021, The Times of India

Indian Defence Minister Sri Rajnath Singh emphasised the essentiality of peace, stability and prosperity for the realisation of Free, Open and Inclusive Indo-Pacific (FOIP). While speaking at the ASEAN Plus Defence Ministers' Meet (ADMM Plus), Sri Singh pointed out the significant dimensions of the changing Indian approach in backdrop of the growing tension in the South China Sea (SCS) emanating from the Chinese belligerence.

[US Navy Says Aircraft Carrier Group Operating In South China Sea](#)

June 15, 2021, NDTV

A US aircraft carrier group led by the USS Ronald Reagan has entered the South China Sea as part of a routine mission, the US Navy said, at a time of rising tensions between Washington and Beijing, which claims most of the disputed waterway.

[Support freedom of navigation in South China Sea: Rajnath Singh at ASEAN meet](#)

June 16, The Indian Express

The South China Sea is a major point of dispute between China and the US. Washington has rejected Beijing's territorial claims over the resource-rich waters. China, in recent years, has increased its military presence in the South China Sea. India supports freedom of navigation in these international waters, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on June 16.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[India-Kyrgyz Republic Foreign Office Consultations](#)

June 16, 2021, MEA India

The 11th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and the Kyrgyz Republic was held on 16 June 2020 through virtual mode. The Indian side was led by Shri Vikas Swarup, Secretary (West). The Kyrgyz side was led by H.E. Mr. Nuran Niyazaliev, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

[Tajikistan Accused Of Helping China In Campaign Against Uyghurs](#)

June 15, 2021, RFE/RL

Lawyers for Uyghur groups have given new evidence to the International Criminal Court (ICC) that allegedly shows the Tajik government is cooperating with Beijing to send Uyghurs to China, where they face detention and often much worse.

[Turkmenistan: Chinese Debt Trap Unlocked](#)

June 15, 2021, Eurasianet

As Deputy Prime Minister Shakhym Abdrakhmanov said at a government teleconference call on June 11, Turkmenistan has now fully repaid the Chinese credit it took out to finance its part in building the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline and development of its cornerstone Galkynysh gas field.

[Kazakh Activist Convicted Of Having Ties To Banned Political Groups](#)

June 15, 2021, RFE/RL

A court in Kazakhstan's southern city of Shymkent has given a parole-like sentence to an activist after convicting him on charges of having ties with two banned opposition groups. He was sentenced to two years of "freedom limitation" plus 140 hours of community service. He is also barred from being involved in public and political activities for three years.

[After Clampdown On 'Muslim Brotherhood,' Tajikistan Goes After Alleged Salafiya Members](#)

June 16, 2021, RFE/RL

A closed-door trial has begun in Tajikistan of 18 suspected members of the banned Salafiya movement, with almost no information made public about the defendants or the charges they face. The trial comes just two months after the country's Supreme Court handed down prison sentences to nearly 120 people

whom it had convicted of being members of another outlawed Islamic group, the Muslim Brotherhood.

[Kazakhstan is Ready to Provide its Own COVID-19 Vaccine to OIC Member States after WHO's Approval](#)

June 17, 2021, Astana Times

Kazakhstan will provide its QazVac vaccine to the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and consider its production in other OIC nations to boost cooperation in science, technology and innovation within the organization, said Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the second OIC Summit on Science and Technology held on June 16 via videoconference.

[UN Working Group Finds Kadyr Yusupov's Detention in Uzbekistan Arbitrary](#)

June 17, 2021, The Diplomat

The United Nations' Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded in a recent opinion that the detention of Kadyr Yusupov, a former Uzbek diplomat who was detained in late 2018, is arbitrary. The U.N. body has asked that the government of Uzbekistan release him.

[Uzbek Police Detain 20 On Suspicion Of Distributing 'Extremist Materials'](#)

June 17, 2021, RFE/RL

Uzbek police say they've detained 20 people in the eastern region of Sirdaryo on suspicion of distributing "extremist materials" via the Telegram social-media app. The region's Interior Affairs Department said the suspects were apprehended on June 16. Authorities said those detained were suspected of using the social-media app to distribute audio and video material that supports terrorist groups.

West Asia

[UAE's ADQ to Invest \\$500 Million in Flipkart](#)

June 13, 2021, Mint

Abu Dhabi sovereign fund ADQ is in talks to invest about \$500 million in India's Flipkart, according to people familiar with the matter, as the Walmart Inc.-backed e-commerce firm raises funds ahead of a potential initial public offering next year.

[Bennett Sworn in as Prime Minister, Unseating Netanyahu after 12 Years in Power](#)

June 13, 2021, The Times of Israel

Israel's 36th government was sworn in at the Knesset, installing Yamina chair 'Naftali Bennett' as Prime Minister and ousting Benjamin Netanyahu after 12 years of consecutive rule as premier.

[Prime Minister Narendra Modi Congratulates New Israeli PM Naftali Bennett](#)

June 14, 2021, The Indian Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Naftali Bennett on being sworn in as Israel's new prime minister, and said he looked forward to meeting him and deepening their countries' strategic partnership as they celebrate 30 years of the upgradation of diplomatic ties next year.

[India, Kuwait Sign Deal to Streamline Recruitment of Indian Domestic Workers](#)

June 11, 2021, Hindustan Times

India and Kuwait signed an agreement to streamline the recruitment of Indian domestic workers and discussed ways to boost cooperation in food security, cyber security and the energy sector during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Doha.

[External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar Holds Meeting with India's Envoys to Gulf Nations](#)

June 11, 2021, The Hindu

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has held a meeting with India's envoys to the Gulf nations to discuss a host of issues, including encouraging speedy resumption of flights to this region and facilitating reuniting families separated by Covid disruption.

[Hajj Hopefuls Saddened at Saudi Decision to Bar Foreign Pilgrims](#)

June 13, 2021, Deccan Chronicle

The Coronavirus pandemic once again upended the plans of millions of Muslims to make the pilgrimage. Saudi Arabia has barred foreign travellers from performing Hajj for the second consecutive year. A total of 60,000 vaccinated pilgrims residing in the kingdom will be allowed to perform the pilgrimage this year.

[U.S. Sanctions Indian National in Violation of Iran Sanctions](#)

June 11, 2021, The Hindu

Manoj Sabharwal - a UAE-based Indian national is part of a smuggling network that helps fund Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) and the Houthis in Yemen, the Department of Treasury said.

[U.S., Iran Make Progress in Indirect Talks but as Sixth Round Begins, Final Agreement Still Elusive](#)

June 13, 2021, The Washington Post

Iran and the United States have made progress on virtually every issue under discussion in indirect meetings over the past two months. But as they began a sixth round of talks, the Biden administration remained unsure whether they are any closer to final agreement than they were at the beginning.

[The UAE is Elected to the UN Security Council](#)

June 11, 2021, Khaleej Times

The UAE has been elected unopposed to the UN Security Council for the 2022-2023 term by winning 179 votes out of the total 190 cast by the General Assembly members. The Emirates will replace Tunisia in the Asia-Pacific slot when the mandate begins on January 1, 2022.

[President Biden Prods UAE to Dump Huawei, Sowing Doubts on Key F-35 Sale](#)

June 11, 2021, Bloomberg

The U.S. is asking the UAE to remove Huawei equipment from its networks within the next four years -- before its scheduled to get the F-35 in 2026 or 2027 -- but Emirati officials have countered that they'd need longer period plus an alternative that's as affordable.

[Saudi Arabia and EU Bars Travelers Who Received Chinese-made Jabs](#)

May 31, 2021, TRT World

Despite its quick and responsive supply chain, Chinese vaccines are not seen as effective by the EU and Saudi Arabia. As some countries ease Covid-19 travel restrictions, Saudi Arabia and the European Union have barred travellers who have been vaccinated with Chinese vaccines, leaving out the biggest groups of foreign visitors in the regions.

[Secretive Israeli Cyber Firm Selling Spy-tech to Saudi Arabia](#)

June 08, 2021, Haaretz

Quadream, led by a former Israeli military intelligence official, and the phone-hacking tech was sold to Saudi Arabia. It allows clients a 'zero-click' hack into a target's iPhone.

United States

United States

[Biden and Putin Express Desire for Better Relations at Summit Shaped by Disputes](#)

June 16, 2021, The New York Times

A highly anticipated first summit meeting between President Biden and President Vladimir Putin of Russia ended early and was described by both sides as a series of polite but adamantly stated disagreements about which country is the greater force of global disruption.

[G7 summit: Biden says America is back at the table](#)

June 15, 2021, BBC

US President Joe Biden has declared that "America is back at the table" following the G7 summit of world leaders in the UK. At a press conference, Mr. Biden said the summit had been "extraordinarily collaborative".

[US, EU establish trade and technology council to compete with China](#)

June 16, 2021, The Hill

The United States and the European Union (EU) formally established a Trade and Technology Council (TTC) to coordinate on critical technology issues such as developing semiconductors, researching emerging fields and securing supply chains.

[China rejects and deplors U.S.-EU summit criticism](#)

June 16, 2021, Reuters

The Chinese government firmly opposed any country imposing their own demands on other countries, Zhao Lijian, a spokesman from China's foreign ministry, said at a regular news briefing.

[Pushing against China, U.S. lawmakers plan pro-Taiwan bill](#)

June 17, 2021, Reuters

Democratic and Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives will introduce legislation this week seeking to boost U.S. support for Taiwan, part of an effort in Congress to take a hard line in dealings with China.

[Blinken Wanted Tough Nord Stream 2 Sanctions, WaPo Reports](#)

June 15, 2021, National Review

The Washington Post broke the inside story of the Biden administration's decision to waive sanctions on key players involved in constructing the Kremlin-backed Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

[Blinken, Lapid Speak for Second Time Since New Israeli Government Assumes Power](#)

June 18, 2021, Haaretz

U. S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, their second conversation since the new Israeli government assumed power.

[For Biden, Europe Trip Achieved 2 Major Goals. And Then There Is Russia.](#)

June 17, 2021, The New York Times

The president reassured European allies that America is back and rallied them to begin to counter China. Whether he established "red lines" for the Kremlin remains to be seen.

[U.S. to Invest More Than \\$3 Billion in Covid-19 Antiviral Development](#)

June 17, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration will invest more than \$3 billion on developing and manufacturing antiviral pills to treat coronavirus, the Department of Health and Human Services said.

[Bipartisan \\$1 Trillion Infrastructure Package Gains Steam](#)

June 17, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

A growing bipartisan group of lawmakers and the White House haggled over how to finance a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal, awaiting feedback from President Biden as Democrats began discussions on a separate economic package that could cost up to \$6 trillion.

[Pacific undersea cable project sinks after U.S. warns against Chinese bid](#)

June 18, 2021, Reuters

A World Bank-led project declined to award a contract to lay sensitive undersea communications cables after Pacific Island governments heeded U.S. warnings that participation of a Chinese company posed a security threat, two sources told Reuters.

[Chinese apps could face subpoenas or bans under Biden order -sources](#)

June 18, 2021, Reuters

President Joe Biden's executive order aimed at safeguarding Americans' sensitive data would force some Chinese apps to take tougher measures to protect private information if they want to remain in the U.S. market, according to people familiar with the matter.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU and UK say Hong Kong newspaper raid shows China cracking down on dissent](#)

June 17, 2021, Reuters

The European Union and Britain said a police raid on Hong Kong's pro-democracy tabloid Apple Daily showed that China was using a new national security law to crack down on dissent and silence the media rather than deal with public security.

[EU-China investment deal is still possible – but not before 2023, analyst says](#)

June 15, 2021, CNBC

An investment pact between the European Union and China is still possible, but both sides may wait until 2023 at the earliest to ratify the deal.

[Canada, EU in Raw Materials Pact to Cut China Reliance](#)

June 15, 2021, Bloomberg

Canada and the European Union launched a new partnership to secure supply chains for critical minerals and reduce dependence on China in a push for jobs and to counter climate change.

[G7 summit: Leaders pledge climate action but disappoint activists](#)

June 14, 2021, BBC

The G7 nations have agreed to step up action on climate change and renewed a pledge to raise \$100bn a year to help poor countries cut emissions. However, some environmental groups said the promises lacked detail.

[Biden, Boris Johnson agree to a revitalized Atlantic Charter in first meeting](#)

June 11, 2021, The Washington Post

President Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson agreed to a revitalized Atlantic Charter in their first face-to-face meeting, a day ahead of the Group of Seven summit. The document, which updates an agreement signed in 1941, seeks to build on common principles to address new challenges, including climate change and cyberattacks.

[Queen meets Joe Biden at Windsor Castle](#)

June 14, 2021, BBC

US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden have met the Queen at Windsor Castle. It comes at the end of the G7 summit in Cornwall.

[UK PM Johnson suffers embarrassing by-election defeat](#)

June 18, 2021, Reuters

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered an embarrassing defeat when his Conservative Party lost a parliamentary by-election on the outskirts of London, just a few miles from his own seat.

[In France's regional elections, 2022 presidential race looms large](#)

June 18, 2021, France24

French voters go to the polls for the first round of regional and departmental elections. Less than a year before France's 2022 presidential vote, this pandemic-delayed rendezvous is a potential bellwether for that contest, with some contenders keen to create a springboard for higher office.

[Japan defense chief urges stronger EU military presence in Asia](#)

June 17, 2021, Japan Times

Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told a European Parliament subcommittee that he expects EU member states to "visibly increase their military presence" in the Indo-Pacific region, where China is raising its clout.

Russia

[Putin Signs Law To Protect Personal Info Of Russian Security Officials](#)

June 12, 2021, RFE/RL

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a bill into law imposing penalties for disclosing the personal data of security officials or their relatives, a move that could further hamstring efforts to expose corruption or hold Russian officials accountable.

[Putin Awards State Prizes to Sputnik V Developers](#)

June 12, 2021, Sputnik News

Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 12 awarded state prizes to the scientists who developed the country's flagship vaccine against the coronavirus, Sputnik V, and commended the achievement as a triumph of Russian science.

[G7 Leaders Demand Action From Russia On Cyberattacks, Chemical Weapons Use](#)

June 13, 2021, RFE/RL

The Group of Seven nations have urged Russia to take action against those conducting cyberattacks and using ransomware from within its borders, as it wrapped up a three-day summit in England.

[Russia, U.S. Boosted Nuclear Arsenals in 2020 Amid Global Decrease – Think Tank](#)

June 14, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia and the United States grew their nuclear arsenals in 2020, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) think tank said in a new report. The world's two largest nuclear powers boosted their stockpiles even as the overall number of nuclear warheads decreased globally last year.

[Russia's top brass outlines stance on Asia-Pacific security issues](#)

June 16, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russian Deputy Defense Minister and Chairman of the Armed Forces' Main Military-Political Directorate Andrei Kartapolov has outlined Russia's stance on security issues in the Asia-Pacific Region, the Defense Ministry reported. Kartapolov spoke virtually at the eighth meeting of defense chiefs of ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners (ADMM-Plus) on June 16.

[Moscow Orders Mandatory Vaccinations for Service Workers as Covid-19 Cases Surge](#)

June 16, 2021, The Moscow Times

Moscow will introduce mandatory vaccinations for service sector workers, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin announced as the capital faces a surge in coronavirus cases.

[Kremlin hails Russia-US summit as an encounter 'with a plus sign'](#)

June 17, 2021, TASS News Agency

The negotiations between Russian and US Presidents Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden held in Geneva on June 16 went with 'a plus sign' as the sides managed to understand where they can interact and where interaction is not possible so far, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with the Echo Moskvy radio station.

[Russian Elections Set For September 19](#)

June 17, 2021, RFE/RL

The Kremlin says President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree setting September 19 as the date for elections to Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Arrests of Nicaraguan opposition leaders continue despite international condemnation](#)

June 14, 2021, MercoPress

The Government of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega continued with its arresting spree against opposition leaders over the weekend despite international condemnation against that type of practices. The arrests bring to 12 the number of opponents detained since June 2. Police placed Suyen Barahona under custody, the leader of the left-wing opposition Unamos party, while three other party officials were arrested by police over the weekend.

[Lack of regional cooperation on fisheries could have 'disastrous outcomes' on Falklands finfish fishery](#)

June 14, 2021, MercoPress

An independent study of the Falkland Islands finfish fishery has found that lack of international cooperation over fish stocks straddling international boundaries to be one of 'the most constraining factors to sustainable ecological and economic management of the [Falklands'] finfish fishery,' adding that 'it is also likely to have disastrous outcomes; a prediction supported by the current status of many, although not all, of the finfish stocks.'

[Argentina still resists drive to make Mercosur more flexible](#)

June 12, 2021, MercoPress

A top official from the Argentine Government spoke yet again against a bid from Brazil and Uruguay to make Mercosur more flexible and allow members to broker one-on-one deals with other countries or blocs.

[Bolsonaro stands by his anti vaccine view of covid-19](#)

June 16, 2021, MercoPress

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro spoke against both mandatory vaccination against the coronavirus and advertising campaigns to raise awareness of the need to be immunized.

[When 26 OAS countries condemned human rights violations in Nicaragua, Argentina was among the 5 who abstained](#)

June 16, 2021, MercoPress

A resolution by the Organization of American States (OAS) condemning human rights violations and massive arrests of opposition leaders by Nicaragua

was supported by 26 countries, opposed by three (one of them Nicaragua), while five nations abstained from voting either way. Argentina was one of them.

Africa

[Ethiopia: Tensions aflame after first telecoms licence went to US-backed consortium over China](#)

June 14, 2021, The African Report

Ethiopia has selected a consortium backed by US investors. The move has given rise to numerous contradictory statements. 'A new front' or even 'a war of proximity' is taking place between Washington and Beijing, one that is creating 'a new hitch' in the 'deal of the century'. From the pages of the Wall Street Journal to the columns of the French press, the Ethiopian telecoms sector's liberalisation – one of the most divisive battles within the industry in Africa over the past decade – has turned into a surprising ideological and geopolitical battle, open to the most varied interpretations.

[Zimbabwe: The fight for Mugabe's final resting place still rages on](#)

June 15, 2021, The African Report

It's been over a year and the fight between the family of Zimbabwe's former president Robert Mugabe and President Emmerson Mnangagwa has reached a new level over the final burial place of the deceased leader.

[Coronavirus: WHO requests 30 million doses from US for southern Africa](#)

June 16, 2021, The African Report

The WHO has sent a letter to the White House, asking it to urgently send Covid-19 vaccines to Zambia, Angola and Zimbabwe. It has requested that Washington send 30 million Covid-19 doses to southern Africa, with accompanying analyses and projections.

[Sahel/US: 'We do not want to work with military forces that have committed human rights abuses'](#)

June 16, 2021, The African Report

The Sahel is once again under a spotlight following rising Islamist attacks in Burkina Faso, Mali's political instability following two coups, France suspending joint military cooperation with Mali, and the questionable strength of the G5 task force following the death of Chad's President Idriss Déby.

[Eritrea files new complaint with UN over Tigray allegations](#)

June 17, 2021, Africa Times

The Eritrean government has filed another complaint against the United Nations Security Council and UN heads of humanitarian agencies over the situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The latest letter from the Eritrean mission and U.N. Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam expressed frustration that representatives for the Horn of Africa nation were not included in their meeting on the humanitarian crisis in Tigray, leaving Eritrea no opportunity to counter serious claims made against it.

[AfDB, global banks announce \\$80 billion African investment plan](#)

June 14, 2021, Africa Times

A group of global development banks announced an \$80 billion commitment to invest in African economies, following on the closely watched weekend G7 Summit in the United Kingdom.



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