

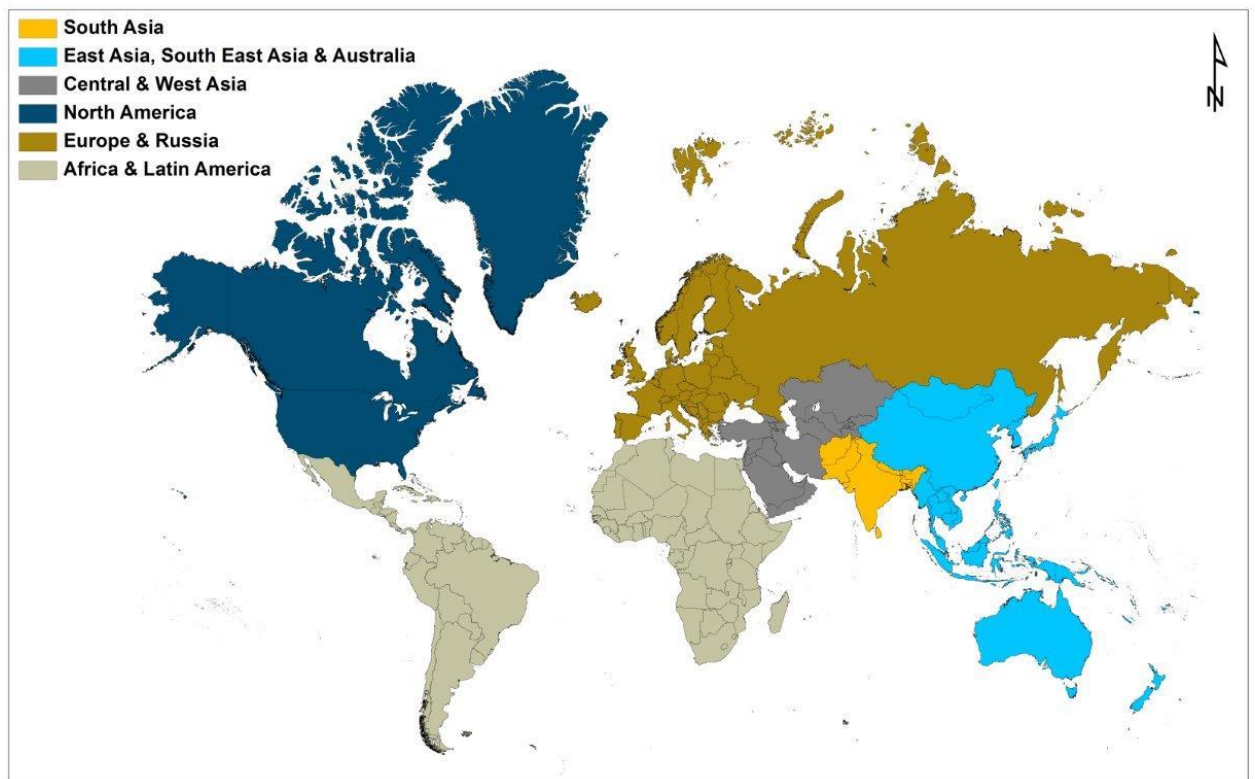


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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

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Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia	7
Central & West Asia	12
United States.....	16
Europe & Russia	19
Africa & Latin America	24

South Asia

India

[PM Modi's address at UNGA](#)

September 25, 2021, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached New York on Saturday to address the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is the first world leader scheduled to address the UN General Assembly at 6.30 PM IST. PM Modi had last addressed UN General Assembly in 2019.

[Defence Ministry Places ₹ 7,523 Crore Order For 118 Battle Tanks](#)

September 23, 2021, NDTV

The Defence Ministry on Thursday sealed a contract to procure 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun for the Indian Army at a cost of ₹ 7,523 crore, in a major move to boost its combat capabilities.

[India dithered over projecting naval power. Now it's been pushed to the sidelines of the Indo-Pacific](#)

September 25, 2021, The Indian Express

Stunted by the neglect of being allotted just 14 per cent of the defence budget, the Navy has been hit hard by the news that US nuclear submarine technology – the finest in the world – will only be made available to Australia. Canberra has reaped the rewards of steadfast friendship with the US and accepting the punishing tariffs imposed by Beijing on Australian agricultural exports to China. These tariffs were imposed by a vengeful Xi Jinping for Australia's refusal to abandon its American ally.

[Indian, Indonesian navies take part in maritime exercise](#)

September 20, 2021 India Today

Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy are taking part in a two-day bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Shakti', scheduled from September 20-22 in Jakarta.

[Modi at Quad summit: The China factor in Delhi's Indo-Pacific strategy](#)

September 24, 2021, BBC News

The leaders from the group, which comprises the US, India, Australia and Japan, connected online from their various nations back in March and agreed to cooperate on delivering one billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Asian countries by the end of 2022.

[AUKUS, the Quad, and India's Strategic Pivot](#)

September 23, 2021, Foreign Policy

Australia, India, and Japan know they must share the region with China—and have no desire to seek a confrontation or pursue the impossible goal of containing a rising superpower. Biden, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, sought to reassure the world that Washington is not seeking a Cold War with Beijing.

Pakistan

[Blinken sees unity on Taliban after talks with Pakistan, China](#)

September 24, 2021, Dawn

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he believed the world was united on pressing the Taliban after speaking with Pakistan, China and Russia, key players with Afghanistan's new rulers.

[Qureshi meets Blinken, urges engagement with Taliban](#)

September 24, 2021, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in New York on the sidelines of the 76th United Nations General Assembly session. This is the first meeting between the two top diplomats and as the foreign minister's statement after the meeting showed, it focused on Afghanistan.

[Pakistan, China agree not to alter tariff on power deals](#)

September 24, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and China agreed to keep unchanged the tariff and tax policies relating to power sector contracts and arrest and prosecute the attackers of July 14 Dasu bus tragedy at the earliest. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, it could not finalise arrangements for over \$6 billion Mainline Railway Track (ML-1) and a framework agreement on industrial cooperation pending for a long time.

[Afghan Taliban arrest officials who removed Pakistan's flag from aid truck](#)

September 22, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban have decided to take action against officials who removed Pakistan's flag from an aid truck that arrived in Afghanistan via the Torkham border carrying necessary food items.

[Alarm as current account deficit balloons to \\$1.5bn in August](#)

September 18, 2021, Dawn

The current account deficit has increased by a whopping 81 per cent in August to \$1,476 million compared to July during this fiscal year (FY22), mainly because of an ever-rising imports bill.

[Pakistan, Tajikistan sign agreements on trade, investment](#)

September 18, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Tajikistan signed several agreements and memorandums of agreement for cooperation in diverse areas, including trade, investment, banking, tourism, and information and broadcasting.

[1.4m Afghans to get biometric registration cards](#)

September 22, 2021, Dawn

The National Database and Registration Authority (Nadra) has updated details of over half million registered Afghan refugees as part of the countrywide campaign to issue renewed Proof of Registration cards.

[Govt to make partial payments soon to anxious Chinese investors](#)

September 20, 2021, Dawn

The government is expected to make partial payments out of about \$1.4 billion payables in a few days to assuage concerns of the worried Chinese firms that have invested in independent power producers (IPPs) and other projects.

[Afghan Taliban flag keeps flying at Jamia Hafsa rooftop](#)

September 20, 2021, The News

The police have registered criminal cases against Khateeb Lal Masjid Maulana Abdul Aziz and his wife Umme Hassan under terrorism as well as charge of inciting the police to disobedience. Both the Maulana, holding a lethal weapon, and his wife, reportedly threatened policemen who had gone there to remove the Afghan Taliban flags hoisted at the Jamia Hafsa, a seminary run by the cleric's wife.

[Four banned al-Qaeda terrorists arrested in Lahore](#)

September 22, 2021, The News

Four terrorists, belonging to banned organisation al-Qaeda, were arrested by Counter Terrorism Department Lahore.

Afghanistan

[Attackers strike Taliban in eastern Afghanistan, five killed](#)

September 23, 2021, Dawn

Attackers struck Taliban vehicles in an eastern Afghanistan, killing at least two fighters and three civilians in the latest violence since the group's takeover of the country in mid-August.

[UN frees funds to prevent Afghan health system collapse](#)

September 23, 2021, Dawn

The UN released emergency funds to help prevent Afghanistan's battered healthcare system from collapsing, with the WHO chief warning of an imminent catastrophe.

[Kabul municipality orders women workers to stay home](#)

September 20, 2021, Dawn

Female employees in the Kabul city government have been told to stay home, with work only allowed for those who cannot be replaced by men, the interim mayor of Afghanistan's capital said, detailing the latest restrictions on women by the new Taliban rulers.

[Taliban replace ministry for women with one restricting them](#)

September 19, 2021, Dawn

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers set up a ministry for the propagation of "virtue and the prevention of vice" in the building that once housed the Women's Affairs Ministry, escorting out World Bank staffers as part of the forced move.

[Pentagon apologises after admitting drone strike in Kabul killed 10 civilians](#)

September 18, 2021, Dawn

A drone strike in Kabul last month killed as many as 10 civilians, including seven children, the US military said, apologising for what it said was a tragic mistake. The Pentagon had said the Aug 29 strike targeted a suicide bomber of the militant Islamic State group who posed an imminent threat to US-led troops at the airport as they completed the last stages of their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

[India seizes \\$2.7b Afghan heroin haul amid Kabul takeover chaos](#)

September 21, 2021, The Express Tribune

Indian officials said they had seized nearly three tonnes of heroin originating from Afghanistan worth an estimated 200 billion rupees (\$2.72 billion) amid the chaos following last month's takeover of the country by the Taliban.

[Afghan deputy PM Baradar discusses security situation with Kyrgyz delegation](#)

September 23, 2021, The Express Tribune

Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar met a Kyrgyzstan delegation led by its national security adviser and discussed bilateral relations including security issues.

Bangladesh

[Maritime Disputes With India: Bangladesh asks UN to settle issues](#)

September 24, 2021, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has made a formal objection to the UN Secretary-General over certain maritime issues with India that are continuing even after their settlement in 2014.

[Bangladesh to send observation satellite into space](#)

September 18, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

The Bangladesh Satellite Company Ltd (BSCL) has embarked upon a project to send a second satellite to space after the success of the first one known as Bangabandhu-I in partnership with Thales Alenia Space.

Nepal

[India, Nepal begin joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh](#)

September 20, 2021, India Today

India and Nepal commenced a 15-day battalion level military training exercise in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh on Monday with a focus on counter-terror drills and disaster relief operations.

[Nepal's new foreign min wants friendly ties with India, China](#)

September 23, 2021, Tribune

Nepal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka said on Wednesday that he would work towards maintaining friendly and balanced relations with India and China and forge national consensus with political parties on matters of foreign relations.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka working to address the post-ethnic war issues: Peiris tells Jaishankar](#)

September 24, 2021, The Hindu

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister G. L. Peiris has told his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar that his country is working to address the post-ethnic war issues, including releasing Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) prisoners and revisiting a controversial anti-terror law.

[Rajapaksa's dysfunctional regime in Sri Lanka and its impact on South Asia](#)

September 23, 2021, ORF

Basic human rights and liberal democracy are dismissed by the autocratic leadership in Sri Lanka. Such circumstances suppress the public from exercising their democratic rights on a daily basis. The predominantly active political class of Sinhalese Buddhists, who campaigned for and elected a Rajapaksa regime and once supported autocratic sentiments now seem to be questioning the regime's behaviour.

East & South East Asia

China

[India military accelerates historic overhaul to counter China](#)

September 24, 2021, Mint

India's long-delayed plans to overhaul its military are getting a new life as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government moves closer to the U.S. and its allies, which are strengthening defense cooperation against China.

[China continues to pose cyber security threats to India](#)

September 23, 2021, India Today

Ever since the border skirmishes between India and China in May 2020, Chinese hacker groups have been regularly targeting Indian public sector companies and technical establishments via cyber security breaches.

[China has taken reciprocal countermeasures against UK Parliament's ban on ambassador, source says](#)

September 24, 2021, Global Times

China has taken reciprocal countermeasures regarding the UK Parliament's banning of Chinese ambassador from attending events in the Parliament last week.

[China will not accept US 'microphone diplomacy'](#)

September 22, 2021, Global Times

China has always been consistent and serious in talks with the US and welcomes cooperation based on mutual respect while opposing endless pressure and smear, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

[HK will no longer be US playground: China Daily editorial](#)

September 24, 2021, China Daily

The "Fact Sheet: US Interference in Hong Kong Affairs and Support for Anti-China, Destabilizing Forces" released by the central government on Friday shows the US' attempts to interfere in Hong Kong are more extensive than previously assumed and why it is important to broaden the scope of the measures to safeguard national security.

[Xi Jinping Makes China a Dangerous Place for Investment](#)

September 22, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Despite the growing tensions between China and the West, the ties between China and Wall Street have grown exponentially in recent years. BlackRock, JP

Morgan, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Vanguard and Schrodgers are all rushing into the Chinese financial markets. BlackRock called last month for investors to consider tripling their allocation to Chinese equities. Yet China's increasingly unstable business environment looks likely to leave these financiers looking foolish or reckless.

[Evergrande's crisis highlights China's shortcomings](#)

September 25, 2021, The Economist

China's vast and opaque financial system has long posed a threat to its economy and the world. The agonies of Evergrande, a property firm with towering debts, are a reminder of how hard it is to manage the risks. The government is attempting to impose an orderly default on some of its creditors but faces the risk of contagion. The episode also highlights a bigger question of whether President Xi Jinping's crackdown on business will make it even harder to create a reformed financial system that is safer, more open and more efficient.

[Hong Kong Forces Tiananmen Vigil Group to Delete Online Presence](#)

September 17, 2021, The New York Times

The Hong Kong police have forced one of the city's best-known activist groups to scrub its online presence, in the latest sign of how officials may use a powerful national security law to restrict online speech and impose mainland Chinese-style internet censorship.

[China sends jets and bombers near Taiwan as Beijing opposes island's trade deal bid](#)

September 24, 2021, The Guardian

China has voiced opposition to Taiwan joining a major trans-Pacific trade deal as it flew 24 planes – including two nuclear-capable bombers – into the self-ruled island's air defence zone, the biggest incursion in weeks, Taiwanese officials said.

Japan

[Japan faces difficulty in handling respective CPTPP bids of China and Taiwan](#)

September 24, 2021, The Japan Times

Japan, chair of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) commission, the highest decision-making body of the framework, is expected to have difficulty in handling the applications of China and Taiwan to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

[Japan, U.S., South Korea pledge cooperation to keep North in check](#)

September 23, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Wednesday he and his counterparts from the United States and South Korea agreed to further strengthen cooperation to rid North Korea of its nuclear and missile program.

[Japan and South Korea Meet, Restate Positions in Dispute](#)

September 23, 2021, US News

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi met his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong on Thursday and the two restated positions in a dispute that has brought tit-for-tat trade restrictions, but agreed to accelerate consultations to resolve the issue, Japan's account of the meeting said.

[Japan opposition party's pledges include halt to U.S. base relocation in Okinawa](#)

September 25, 2021, The Japan Times

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan will pledge to stop the relocation of a U.S. military base to Okinawa Prefecture's Henoko area in its upcoming general election campaign, CDP leader Yukio Edano said Friday.

Korea

[North Korea proposes talks if South Korea lifts hostility](#)

September 24, 2021, The Times of India

Kim Jong Un's powerful sister says North Korea is willing to resume talks with South Korea if it doesn't provoke the North with hostile policies and double standards.

[South Korea foreign minister says to meet Japan counterpart](#)

September 23, 2021, Reuters

South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong said he would meet his Japanese counterpart on Thursday and hoped for progress to end a dispute that has led to tit-for-tat trade restrictions.

[Quad calls for end to violence in Myanmar, de-nuclearization of North Korea](#)

September 25, 2021, Business Standard

Quad leaders called for an end to violence in Myanmar, the complete denuclearization of North Korea in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions as well as the immediate resolution of the issue of Japanese abductees in a joint statement.

[South Korea, US Repatriate War Casualties 70 Years Later](#)

September 24, 2021, Military.com

South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited Hawaii this week as the remains of 68 Korean and six presumed U.S. service members were repatriated during a ceremony at Pearl Harbor.

[North Korea Willing to Talk to South Korea, U.S. if Both Drop Some Sanctions](#)

September 24, 2021, Newsweek

North Korea has said it's willing to resume talks with South Korea and the United States if both countries drop some of the crippling economic sanctions against it.

[Anti-China Sentiment and South Korea's Presidential Race](#)

September 21, 2021, The Diplomat

How will souring perceptions of China affect South Korea's next election and its future foreign policy? According to the [poll](#) by Hankook Research and South Korean online newspaper SisaIn, the South Korean public was least favorable toward of China; even North Korea and Japan were viewed more positively.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN and the Quad: Strategic impasse or avenue for cooperation?](#)

September 23, 2021, Brookings

In Southeast Asia, a hotbed of U.S.-China rivalry, the Quad has been greeted with unease by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Perceptions vary by country, with Vietnam participating in pandemic-related dialogues with Quad members and other partners.

[Strengthening ASEAN-India MSMEs may aid economic recovery](#)

September 17, 2021, The Malaysian Reserve

Strengthening support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which are the backbone of the economies of ASEAN and India could help facilitate and drive growth recovery in the post Covid-19 period.

[OVL seeks another 2-yr extension for exploring Vietnamese oil block in South China Sea](#)

September 22, 2021, Financial Express

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), has for the seventh time sought an extension to explore a Vietnamese oil block in the contested waters of the South China Sea.

[U.S. and China keep Singapore waiting on business mediation treaty](#)

September 23, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Demand for international mediation is rising, but a United Nations treaty spearheaded by Singapore is in ratification limbo two years after its introduction, as the pandemic alters priorities and the world's two biggest economies stay on the side lines.

[By land or sea: Thailand perseveres with the Kra Canal](#)

September 22, 2021, The Interpreter

If built, a Thai Land Bridge would provide an alternative route cutting approximately 1,200 kilometres and 2 to 3 days from a journey through the busy Strait of Malacca, saving transport costs, reducing the risk of piracy and easing pressure on a waterway forecasted to exceed its capacity in the next ten years.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyzstan: Centerra execs investigated over alleged \\$200m embezzlement](#)

September 17, 2021, Eurasianet

Kyrgyzstan's security services have initiated a criminal investigation against top executives at a Canada-based company that was until recently developing the country's largest gold mine. The signal of intent to pursue charges against management at Toronto-listed Centerra Gold is among the most hostile actions adopted to date by Bishkek as it seeks to nationalize the Kumtor mine.

[Shanghai Cooperation Organization Leaders Call For Increased Afghan Aid, Unfreezing Of Assets](#)

September 17, 2021, RFE/RL

Leaders of the Russia- and China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have urged the world to unfreeze Afghanistan's assets and boost assistance to the war-torn nation as it teeters on the brink of crisis following the Taliban's return to power last month.

[Kyrgyzstan: A weakened parliament back up for grabs](#)

September 20, 2021, Eurasianet

More than a year after Sadyr Japarov rose to power in the messy aftermath of a parliamentary election gone wrong, Kyrgyzstan will hold a repeat. Japarov will be hoping that these elections don't take a similar turn.

[Turkmenistan Pardons More Than 2,000 Prisoners](#)

September 22, 2021, RFE/RL

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov has issued a pardon to more than 2,000 prisoners ahead of the former Soviet state's Independence Day on September 27. Six of the pardoned prisoners are reportedly foreign nationals from unspecified countries.

[Tajikistan Begins Release Of Thousands Of Prisoners Under Mass Amnesty](#)

September 22, 2021, RFE/RL

Tajikistan has begun releasing the first group of prisoners under a mass amnesty affecting some 16,000 people. Tajik lawmakers earlier this month approved an amnesty law proposed by President Emomali Rahmon to mark the former Soviet republic's 30th anniversary of independence on September 9.

[Firms Linked To KazTransGas Chairman Landed Billions In Kazakh Gas Deals](#)

September 23, 2021, RFE/RL

An investigation by RFE/RL's Kazakh Service has uncovered indirect ties between the chairman of Kazakhstan's monopoly gas trader, KazTransGas, and emergent companies that have benefitted from massive business deals linked to the state -- including a multibillion-dollar, 20-year contract to process so-called associate gas from KazTransGas.

[Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan diverge on approaches to Afghanistan](#)

September 24, 2021, Eurasianet

Eyebrows rose on September 23 when a Taliban spokesman tweeted to say that they had welcomed an official delegation from Kyrgyzstan headed by a senior security official from that country. Kyrgyzstan's neighbor, Tajikistan, meanwhile, is worrying out loud that Afghanistan could become a haven for terrorist organizations.

West Asia

[Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar Exchanges Notes on Afghanistan, Strategic Ties with Saudi Counterpart](#)

September 19, 2021, Hindustan Times

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in New Delhi during the latter's maiden visit to India. The two leaders exchanged notes on the evolving situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, the Gulf and the Indo-Pacific region.

[Taliban Have Responsibility Towards Afghan People to Deliver Stability: Saudi Arabia Foreign Minister](#)

September 19, 2021, The Times of India

The Taliban have a responsibility to deliver stable inclusive governance in Afghanistan, said Prince Faisal bin Farhan al Saud, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, on his first visit to India.

[Perturbed over Pakistan, Qatar and Turkey's Outreach to The Taliban, Saudi Arabia Eyes Closer Ties with India](#)

September 16, 2021, Firstpost

India's allies in West Asia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are worried about the security ramifications of a Taliban-led Afghanistan and the ties shared by the Taliban and global terrorist networks. The two nations are also said to have

been perturbed by the active role played by Qatar, Turkey and Pakistan in engaging with the Taliban regime.

[Indian Embassy Sorts Out Issue of Andhra Pradesh Workers in Bahrain](#)

September 15, 2021, The New Indian Express

Several Indian workers stranded and allegedly ill-treated by their employer in Bahrain expressed their wish to return home at the earliest, even as the Indian Embassy in the Kingdom intervened and said the matter "has been resolved."

[World Bank Leaders Pushed Staffers To Boost Rankings For China and Saudi Arabia in High-Profile Report 'Ease of Doing Business'](#)

September 17, 2021, CNN

The World Bank says it will stop publishing its annual Doing Business economic report after an independent investigation found bank leaders placed "undue pressure" on staffers to alter data to inflate the rankings for China and Saudi Arabia in 2018 and 2020 editions of the report.

[Iran Becomes Full Member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization](#)

September 17, 2021, Tehran Times

Addressing the SCO summit, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said, "strengthening bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of economy is an important factor in improving the strategic role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in global economy." Raisi called the SCO summit "one of the few" opportunities for dialogue to ensure real peace and cooperation at the regional level.

[Mossad Killed Iran's Top Nuclear Scientist With a Remote-Operated Machine Gun](#)

September 18, 2021, The Times of Israel

Top Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated in November 2020 in a sophisticated hit led by a Mossad team that reportedly deployed a computerized machine gun, required no on-site operatives, took less than a minute, and did not injure anyone else, including the scientist's wife who was with him at the time.

[Defence Minister Gantz: Israel Will Not Remove Any Settlements From West Bank](#)

September 16, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz has said that Israel will not be removing any illegal Jewish settlements from the occupied West Bank and will maintain them in the long term.

[Secretary of State Blinken Pledges US Backing to Expand Abraham Accords Between Israel and the Arab States](#)

September 17, 2021, The Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken pledged that the Biden administration would actively work to support and expand the growing diplomatic ties between Israel and Arab nations.

[Syria's Assad Meets President Putin in Unannounced Russia Visit](#)

September 14, 2021, The Moscow Times

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met with his Russian counterpart and ally Vladimir Putin during an unannounced visit to Moscow, the Kremlin said.

[Chinese Envoy Calls For Substantive Improvement in Syria's Humanitarian Situation](#)

September 16, 2021, CGTN

A senior Chinese diplomat at the United Nations (UN) called on the international community to step up efforts toward substantive improvement in Syria's humanitarian situation.

United States

United States

[America Should Be Frank with France](#)

September 20, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Paris aspires to occupy a significant place in world affairs, and it is in America's interest to help the French find and fulfill it. But the Franco-American strategic dialogue has been superficial. It needs to become deeper and more frank if the West is going to cohere.

[On Terrorism, Kamala Harris Brought Up Pakistan's Role At Meet With PM Modi](#)

September 24, 2021, NDTV

US Vice President Kamala Harris, during her maiden meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has "suo motu" referred to Pakistan's role in terrorism, saying that there were terror groups working in the country and asked Islamabad to take action so that it does not impact on America and India's security.

[PM Modi meets leading American CEOs: Who they are, what was discussed](#)

September 23, 2021, The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held one-to-one meeting with top five American chief executive officers (CEO) from different key sectors. The Indian PM discussed on a number of topics ranging from drones to 5G, semiconductors and solar.

[US-China policy: Biden is bringing together Japan, Australia and India to stare down China](#)

September 24, 2021, CNN

US President Joe Biden is holding the first in-person meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, better known as "the Quad," an informal strategic forum of the United States, Australia, Japan and India -- all democratic countries with a vested interest in countering China's rise in Asia.

[5 Things to Know About Biden's Quad Summit with Leaders of India, Australia And Japan](#)

September 23, 2021, NPR

President Biden hosted the leaders of Japan, Australia, and India at the White House on Friday, as a part of a push, analysts say, to reorient U.S. foreign policy away from long wars and traditional alliances in Europe and instead focus on countering a fast-rising foe: China.

[Blinken says U.S. soon will release new strategy for Indo-Pacific region](#)

September 23, 2021, Reuters

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Thursday that Washington would soon release a new comprehensive strategy for the wider Indo-Pacific region.

[Blinken in Meeting with France's Le Drian Discussed Bilateral Ties, Indo-Pacific](#)

September 23, 2021, US News

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Thursday in New York, the U.S. State Department said, and discussed plans for 'in-depth bilateral consultations' after Washington and Paris plunged into a diplomatic crisis last week over a submarine deal.

[Biden Will See Macron After Submarine Spat; Kerry Heads to Paris](#)

September 22, 2021, Bloomberg

President Joe Biden met in person with French President Emmanuel Macron, seeking to mend ties after a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine deal with Australia that outraged officials in Paris.

[Biden heading back to Europe this fall](#)

September 23, 2021, Axios

President Biden plans to attend the G20 summit in Rome late next month before heading to the COP26 climate meeting in Glasgow, Scotland.

[Biden discusses climate change, Afghanistan with Prime Ministers of Britain and Australia](#)

September 22, 2021, The Hindu

Ahead of the Quad summit, U.S. President Joe Biden held separate bilateral meetings with Prime Ministers Boris Johnson of United Kingdom and Scott Morrison of Australia to discuss the situation in the Indo-Pacific region and Afghanistan along with climate change and COVID-19.

[Biden Brings World Leaders Together At Climate Summit](#)

September 20, 2021, Clean Technica

US President Joe Biden hosted a virtual climate summit titled the "Virtual Meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate." Biden spoke about the "urgency of this moment" and the need for a collective "plan to contribute to the climate ambition the world so urgently needs."

[World leaders speak on day three of UN General Assembly](#)

September 23, 2021, Al Jazeera

During opening remarks on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned of a world on the "edge of an abyss" as he urged countries to up engagement with the organisation.

[Biden Pledges to Work Toward 'Peaceful, Prosperous Future for All'](#)

September 21, 2021, The New York Times

President Biden delivered his debut address to the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations on Tuesday. Mr. Biden called for a new era of global unity against the coronavirus, climate change, emerging technological threats and the expanding influence of autocratic nations such as China and Russia.

[US implores Iran to return to nuke talks without delay](#)

September 24, 2021, ABC News

The Biden administration is imploring Iran to quickly return to talks on its nuclear program after a three-month hiatus caused by its government transition, warning that the window for negotiations may soon close.

Europe & Russia

Europe

['Grow up': Boris Johnson urges the world to face climate change in UNGA speech](#)

September 23, 2021, CNN

Humanity needs to "grow up" and deal with the issue of climate change, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson told world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

[UK publishes 10-year plan to become 'A.I. superpower', seeking to rival U.S. and China](#)

September 22, 2021, CNBC

The U.K. government on Wednesday released its 10-year plan to make the country a global "artificial intelligence superpower", seeking to rival the likes of the U.S. and China.

[EU confirms transatlantic Trade and Tech Council to proceed](#)

September 23, 2021, Politico

The EU-U.S. Trade and Tech Council will proceed as planned on September 29 in Pittsburgh; the European Commission confirmed Thursday.

[EU's top diplomat says it can deploy military forces without U.S., NATO approval](#)

September 22, 2021, PBS

Josep Borrell, EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy said, "The military capacity of the Europeans is a complement to NATO, a complement, not an alternative. We have to be able to have by our own in the situations, in the cases, in the places where we cannot expect the U.S. to intervene or the NATO to intervene. We have to share our part of responsibility, and we have to be able to act alone, if needed."

[EU countries struggle to agree approach to COP26 climate talks](#)

September 23, 2021, Reuters

European Union countries are struggling to agree their negotiating position for the COP26 climate change conference, with rifts emerging over timeframes for emissions-cutting pledges, according to officials and documents seen by Reuters.

[France To Send Its Ambassador Back to The U.S. Following A Macron-Biden Call](#)

September 22, 2021, NPR

President Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke by phone on Wednesday about the rift between the long-time allies over a new defence partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

[Submarine dispute 'not just a French problem', says EU's top diplomat](#)

September 23, 2021, France24

The recent submarine dispute between France and its US, UK and Australian allies has highlighted the need for improved communication and the importance of a European military force to act as a compliment to NATO, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told FRANCE 24 on Thursday.

[Australia says will be patient on rebuilding ties with France](#)

September 23, 2021, Reuters

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he has tried to arrange a conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron but has been unsuccessful so far, a week after his cancellation of a major submarine deal sparked a diplomatic row with Paris.

[Germany warns of lost U.S. trust as France wins EU support](#)

September 21, 2021, Reuters

Germany joined France on Tuesday in berating the United States for negotiating a security pact in secret with Australia and Britain that cost Paris a lucrative defence deal, while the EU's top official said such behaviour was unacceptable.

[German parties rally supporters ahead of Sunday election](#)

September 24, 2021, Associated Press

Germany's political parties prepared to rally their supporters and win over undecided voters Friday, two days before a national election that will determine who succeeds Chancellor Angela Merkel after 16 years in power.

[Czech far right sets 'Czexit' referendum law as price for post-vote talks](#)

September 22, 2021, Reuters

The far-right SPD party, which may play a role in forming a new Czech government next month, would demand the cabinet propose legislation that could lead to a referendum on leaving the European Union, party chief Tomio Okamura said on Wednesday.

Russia

[Google Blocks Russian Opposition Voting Recommendations](#)

September 19, 2021, The Moscow Times

Google has blocked lists of Russian candidates recommended by jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny as best placed to defeat Kremlin-aligned politicians in parliamentary and local polls. The move comes as the U.S. tech giant faces mounting criticism from the Russian opposition and abroad for backing down to demands from Russian authorities.

[Russia's Forest Fire Damage Worst Since Accurate Recording Began, Greenpeace Says](#)

September 19, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia has lost a record amount of forest acreage to fire this year since accurate recording began two decades ago, Greenpeace said. Fires have destroyed 18.13 million hectares (45 million acres) of Russian forestry so far this year through September 16, surpassing the previous record of 18.1 million recorded in 2012, the environmental organization's Moscow office said.

[Taliban Official Says Acting PM Meets With Russian, Chinese, And Pakistani Envoys In Kabul](#)

September 21, 2021, RFE/RL

The acting head of Afghanistan's Taliban-led government, Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhund, has met in Kabul with representatives from Russia, China, and Pakistan, Taliban official Ahmadullah Muttaqi tweeted on September 21.

[Communist Party Rallies in Moscow After Remote Vote Upsets](#)

September 21, 2021, The Moscow Times

Members of Russia's Communist Party gathered in the pouring rain in central Moscow on September 21 after parliamentary election results showed their candidates seeing their initial strong leads reverse. Several Communist Party candidates who appeared set to win their races during the parliamentary and local polls suddenly fell behind candidates from the ruling party as soon as election officials started releasing e-voting results.

[U.S., Russian Military Officials Meet As Washington Seeks Central Asian Presence](#)

September 22, 2021, RFE/RL

General Mark Milley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Valery Gerasimov, chief of the Russian General Staff, met just north of the Finnish capital, Helsinki, on September 22 as Washington looks to shore up its

intelligence gathering and sharing in Afghanistan now that it has no boots on the ground after withdrawing the remainder of its troops from the war-wracked country last month.

[Russia, its SCO partners welcome Iran's admission as useful decision – Foreign Ministry](#)

September 23, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russia regards Iran's accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as a very useful decision, and its SCO partners share this opinion, Russia's special presidential envoy for SCO affairs, Bekhtiyer Khakimov, told an online briefing on September 23.

[Roscosmos Starts Preparations for Landing First Russian Cosmonaut on Moon](#)

September 24, 2021, Sputnik News

The Russian State Space Corporation Roscosmos has launched a tender to study problematic issues related to organising manned Moon flights, requirements for space equipment for the manned missions should be developed, according to Roscosmos' materials published on the state procurement website.

[All Crew Members From Crashed Russian An-26 Plane Perished, Remains Found](#)

September 24, 2021, Sputnik News

A search and rescue group has found the remains of the crew of a Russian An-26 aircraft where it crashed in the Khabarovsk Region, all of them perished, a spokesman for the emergency services told Sputnik on 23 September.

[Putin discusses with Security Council results of Russia-Belarus talks on security track](#)

September 24, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed with the Security Council permanent members on September 24 the results of talks between Russia and Belarus, including those concerning security issues.

[Putin's Party Keeps Parliament Supermajority in Controversial Election – Final Results](#)

September 24, 2021, The Moscow Times

The ruling, pro-Putin United Russia party kept its supermajority in the lower house of parliament despite critics claiming mass fraud and tampering during the three-day election, according to final results announced by election officials. Russia's opposition has raised strong doubts over the results'

legitimacy after remote voting showed United Russia candidates taking every single-mandate district in Moscow despite several candidates falling behind in in-person voting.

[View From The Ground: Russia's Ulyanovsk Region Highlights Limits of China-Russia Ties](#)

September 25, 2021, RFE/RL

From big gas projects to closer military cooperation and improved bilateral trade that reached a record of more than \$110 billion in 2019, the China-Russia relationship has reached new heights. But in Ulyanovsk, a region some 850 kilometers east of Moscow, a different portrait of Chinese-Russian ties is unfolding.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Former Mendoza Deputy chosen for Argentina's Malvinas Secretariat](#)

September 24, 2021, MercoPress

After Argentine President Alberto Fernández appointed Daniel Filmus as Science Minister, the position of Malvinas Islands Secretary had been vacant until Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero announced Friday he had chosen former Mendoza National Deputy Guillermo Carmona for the job.

[Land crossing between Argentina and Chile reopened](#)

September 20, 2021, MercoPress

The Cristo Redentor (officially the Los Libertadores International Pass) connecting Mendoza and Chile has been reopened for the Argentines and foreign residents to return to the country, it was announced. Although limited to a small number of people, the event was celebrated as a historic landmark after all land crossings into Argentina have been closed since March 2020.

[Bolsonaro tells UN his gov't is for COVID-19 vaccination but against mandates](#)

September 22, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro Tuesday highlighted his policies, economic or otherwise, during his opening speech at the 76th United Nations General Assembly in New York City. "Brazil was on the brink of socialism, now our state companies are lucrative," said the South American leader, whose presence at The Big Apple drew controversy due to his stance regarding COVID-19 vaccination. "Since November, everybody who wanted to take the vaccine has been taken care of," he said. "But our Government has a clear position against mandates of either vaccination or health passports," he added.

[Argentina makes payment to IMF and strives to stay afloat](#)

September 23, 2021, MercoPress

While Argentine President Alberto Fernández described his country's situation facing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as "decide" before the United Nations, a US 1,885 million dollar capital payment was made Wednesday to the global organization.

[IMF's report on Brazil: performance better than expected; GDP projected to expand 5.3% this year](#)

September 23, 2021, MercoPress

On September 10, 2021, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with Brazil. Economic performance has been better than expected, in part due to the authorities' forceful policy response. GDP regained its pre-pandemic level in 2021Q1 and momentum continues to be favourable, supported by booming terms of trade and robust private sector credit growth.

Africa

[Elites are robbing millions in South Sudan](#)

September 24, 2021, Africa Times

More than US\$73 million has gone missing from the coffers in South Sudan in just the last two years, according to a new Commission on Human Rights report. That money was diverted by the country's ruling elites, the United Nations rights agency said, and is a fraction of the total amount missing.

[WHO sets new standards on air pollution levels](#)

September 22, 2021, Africa Times

The World Health Organization issued new guidelines on air pollution Wednesday that dramatically reduce the levels of particulate matter (PM) and other pollutants linked to a range of diseases. These illnesses include heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and respiratory diseases including asthma.

[Biden stresses Africa commitments at UNGA](#)

September 21, 2021, Africa Times

Zambia, Sudan and Cameroon are just a few of the nations that United States President Joe Biden mentioned during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, as world leaders gathered in person after last year's virtual UNGA because of the COVID crisis.

[South Africa: Sasol to revise greenhouse gas emissions target from 10% to 30% by 2030](#)

September 24, 2021, The African Report

In 2017, Sasol had a good run rate on its South African facilities resulting in high output. But that productive year came at the environmental cost of an elevated emission footprint. Based on that, the listed integrated chemicals company has

now revised its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target upwards to 30%, from an initial 10%, by 2030.

[The US imposed sanctions on Ethiopia, and China is not happy about it](#)

September 21, 2021, Africa Times

The US has announced new sanctions against Ethiopia, and China has called out against it, in line with its general non-interference policy.

[South Africa's economy is a Fiat Uno trying to be a Ferrari: economist](#)

September 21, 2021, Business Tech

Speaking at the recent Allan Gray Investment Summit, Leoka said that to turn South Africa's economy around, the country really needs to look at the easy wins and "stop pretending to be Ferrari when it has an engine of a Fiat Uno". "The answers lie in fixing our education system, rolling out the spectrum in the telecommunications space as quickly as possible, and dealing with the low-hanging fruit where our economic policies are working against us," she said.



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