

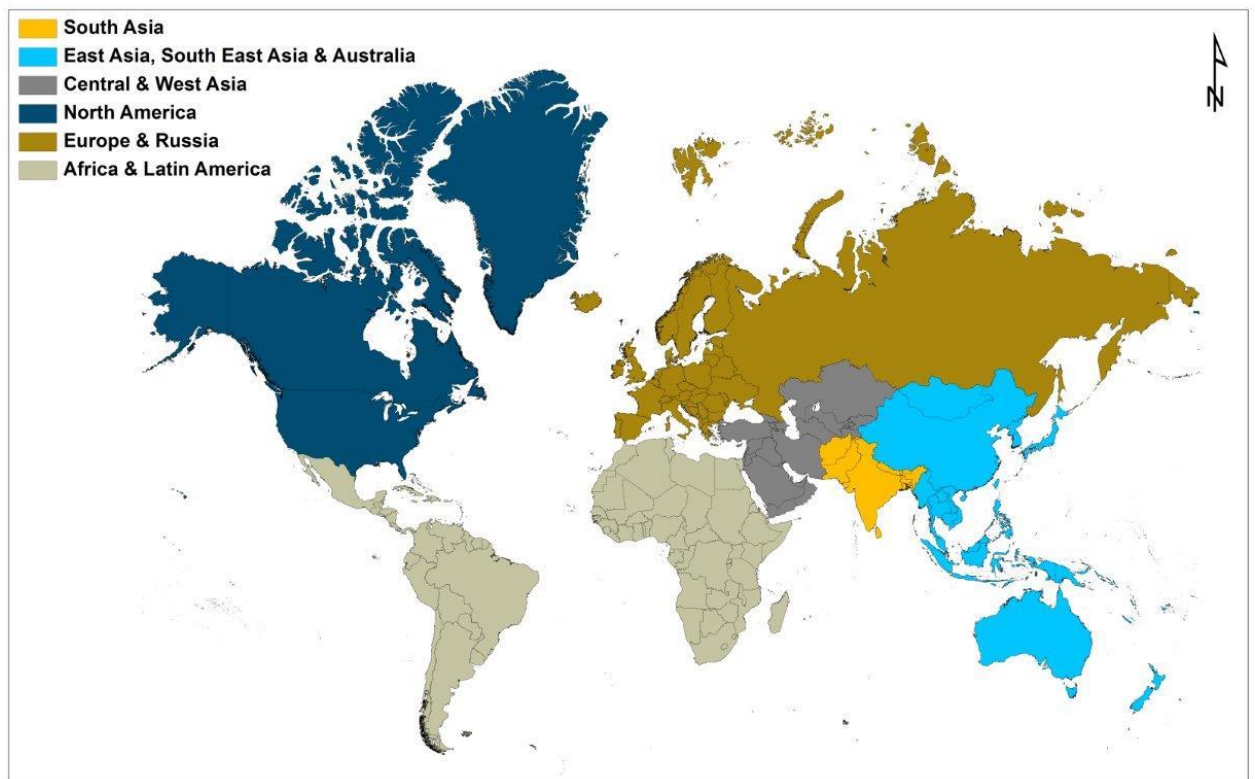


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 40 | October 3, 2021

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Chinese Troops Deployed In Considerable Numbers Across Ladakh: Army Chief](#)

October 2, 2021, NDTV

India expects to hold a 13th round of talks with China on the Ladakh standoff and disengagement of military forces next week, Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane said this morning while he added in the same breath that "there has been an increase in the deployment of Chinese troops", which has been a matter of concern. For the last six months, however, the situation has been "quite normal," he underlined.

[India counters China in Sri Lanka with US\\$700 million port deal](#)

October 1, 2021, SCMP

A new terminal will be built next to a US\$500-million Chinese-run jetty, in what local authorities call the largest investment ever in the country's port sector. India's Adani Group will hold a 51 per cent controlling stake in the joint venture known as the Colombo West International Terminal

[India not taken into confidence over Doha Peace deals: S Jaishankar](#)

October 2, 2021, The Economic Times

External affairs minister S Jaishankar has expressed regret that India's views were not sought when the Afghanistan peace deal was being worked out in Doha and said the jury is still out on how well the Taliban regime will govern the nation.

[India, US agree on several issues relating to Afghanistan crisis, Jaishankar says](#)

October 1, 2021, The Print

Jaishankar also suggested, while both countries might differ on some aspects, they certainly agree on terrorism and are apprehensive about the use of Afghan soil for terrorism.

[Greater economic cooperation should drive privileged partnership between India and Mexico: Jaishankar](#)

September 29, 2021, The Hindu

Greater economic cooperation should drive the privileged partnership between India and Mexico, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said, as he made a case for attracting Mexican businesses to invest in the country and addressed issues faced by sectors like information technology and pharma.

[Unclear if Afghanistan will have inclusive government: S Jaishankar](#)

October 1, 2021, Hindustan Times

India was not taken into confidence on all aspects of the deal signed by the US and the Taliban last year and it still isn't clear whether Afghanistan will have an inclusive government or whether Afghan soil will not be used for terror, external affairs minister (EAM) S Jaishankar said.

[India, Australia sign 'Terms of Reference' for navy to navy talks](#)

September 29, 2021, The Hindu

The Indian Navy and the Australian Navy on Wednesday signed the 'Terms of Reference' (ToR) for the conduct of the navy to navy talks under the framework of the 'Joint Guidance for the India - Australia Navy to Navy Relationship' document, signed by the two Navy Chiefs in August. This is the first such document signed by the Indian Navy with any country.

Pakistan

[Accord reached for another Saudi oil facility: Tarin](#)

September 30, 2021, Dawn

With prices of petroleum products set to increase, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has disclosed that an agreement for another Saudi oil facility on deferred payments has been reached and would be formally announced within two to three days.

[Pakistan, Russia to strengthen military ties](#)

September 30, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Russia agreed to strengthen their bilateral military cooperation. The agreement was reached during the third round of Russia-Pakistan Joint Military Consultative Committee (JMCC) meetings.

[US generals express concern over Pakistan's nuclear arsenal in wake of Taliban takeover of Afghanistan](#)

September 30, 2021, Dawn

Top US generals are claiming that they had warned US President Joe Biden that a rushed withdrawal from Afghanistan could increase risks to Pakistan's nuclear weapons and the country's security.

[Most loans under CPEC at commercial rates: report](#)

September 30, 2021, Dawn

A substantial chunk of Chinese development financing under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor consists of loans that are at or near commercial rates as opposed to grants, according to a report released by AidData, a US-based international development research lab.

[Paris Club extends Pakistan's debt payment deadline](#)

September 25, 2021, Dawn

The Paris Club of creditor countries said it was giving Pakistan another extension to service its debt so that it can dedicate its resources to combating the Covid-19 pandemic. The country has until December to make the payment, the club said in a statement, without releasing a figure.

[Pakistan must abide by HR regimes to qualify for GSP+ after '23: EU official](#)

September 25, 2021, Dawn

Commenting on Pakistan's position in the current GSP plus scheme and prospects for joining the new scheme, EU Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara said Pakistan's economy greatly benefitted from the preferential access to the European market since being granted GSP plus status in 2014. She said Pakistan's exports had increased by 60 per cent, making the EU the most important destination for Pakistani goods. The ambassador said: "But in order to maintain the trade preferences under GSP+ beyond 2023, Pakistan will have to redouble its efforts to turn the international conventions it signed up to into reality on the ground."

[Civil-military leadership meets at ISI HQ](#)

September 25, 2021, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan along with key federal ministers, and Chief Ministers of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visited the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Secretariat. A comprehensive briefing was given to the national and military leadership on the national security and regional dynamics with focus on ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

[Religious parties demand conversion bill withdrawal](#)

September 25, 2021, The News

Demonstrations and meetings were held across the country and prayer leaders in Friday sermons highlighted, what they called, the anti-Islam legislations of the government over the last couple of years. The country-wide protest day was observed on the appeal of the all-party conference hosted by Majlis Ahrar on

the previous day to force the government to withdraw the 'Prevention of Forced Conversion Bill'.

[US diplomat calls for action against all terror outfits ahead of Pakistan visit](#)

October 1, 2021, The Express Tribune

A top US official called for Pakistan to take action against all extremist groups ahead of a visit to Islamabad, which has sought reconciliation with militants both at home and in Afghanistan. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman will meet on October 7-8 with officials in Pakistan, which has long faced US accusations of playing a double game in Afghanistan where the Taliban swept back to power in August.

Afghanistan

[Mujahid praises Pakistan for supporting Afghanistan](#)

September 27, 2021, Dawn

Afghanistan's Acting Deputy Information Minister Zabihullah Mujahid appreciated Pakistan for supporting Kabul before the international community. In an interview to Pakistan Television, he said Islamabad had called upon the international community to establish better ties with Kabul.

[Taliban to 'temporarily' adopt monarchy constitution](#)

September 29, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban said they will temporarily adopt Afghanistan's 1964 constitution that granted women the right to vote but eliminate any elements they disagree with. The Taliban's acting justice minister issued a statement saying the Islamists planned to introduce a constitution used during Afghanistan's short-lived golden age of democracy, but only briefly and with amendments.

[Executions, amputations to resume: Taliban prisons chief](#)

September 25, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban's official in charge of prisons and former justice minister of Afghanistan, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, has said punishments such as executions and amputations will resume in the country though they may not be meted out in public as they were under their previous rule.

[Taliban hang four bodies in Herat to deter abductions](#)

September 26, 2021, Dawn

Taliban authorities in the western Afghan city of Herat killed four alleged kidnappers and hung their bodies up in public to deter others.

[Pentagon: no need to coordinate airstrikes with Taliban](#)

September 26, 2021, Dawn

A day after the Taliban's remarks over demanding compensation from countries involved in fighting in Afghanistan, the US Department of Defense press secretary John Kirby said the United States does not need to coordinate counter-terrorism airstrikes in Afghanistan.

[Russia urges calm between ally Tajikistan, Afghanistan](#)

September 30, 2021, The Express Tribune

Russia urged Tajikistan and Afghanistan to resolve any dispute in a mutually acceptable manner, saying it had heard reports they were sending troops to their common border, said the Russian foreign ministry.

[Turkey, Taliban govt vow to boost bilateral ties](#)

September 30, 2021, The Express Tribune

Turkey's ambassador to Afghanistan met the Taliban's second acting deputy prime minister and assured of strengthening bilateral ties between Kabul and Ankara. Ambassador Cihad Erginay and the Taliban's Abdul Salam Hanafi "emphasised the strong bonds between Turkish and Afghan people and reaffirmed their commitments to further bolster the relations between our brotherly nations," during the meeting, the Turkish Embassy said on Twitter.

[Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan Open Channels With The Taliban](#)

October, 2021, RFERL

It took Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan a little longer than their neighbours to articulate their stances on a Taliban-led government in Afghanistan. Distance has its benefits, and since neither Kazakhstan nor Kyrgyzstan directly borders Afghanistan, the governments in Nur-Sultan and Bishkek could react more slowly to events than Afghanistan's immediate neighbours to the north: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Bangladesh

[Envoy: China will continue supporting Bangladesh until final win against Covid](#)

September 30, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming said his country reassures its support to Bangladesh in the fight against the pandemic till the final and full victory.

[U.N., U.S. condemn killing of Rohingya refugee leader in Bangladesh](#)

October 1, 2021, Reuters

The United Nations and United States spoke out over the killing of Rohingya refugee leader Mohib Ullah and called on Bangladeshi authorities to investigate his shooting.

[Bangladesh Promises "Stern Action" Against Killers Of Rohingya Leader](#)

October 2, 2021, NDTV

Rohingya refugee leader Mohib Ullah led one of the largest community groups to emerge since more than 730,000 Rohingya Muslims fled Myanmar after a military crackdown in August 2017.

Nepal

[Has China Encroached into Nepali Territory in Humla District?](#)

September 26, 2021, The Diplomat

On September 1, Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba announced the formation of a committee to "study" the border dispute between Nepal and China in Humla. The committee will study the alleged construction of 11 houses by the Chinese side on Nepali territory between border pillars 11 and 12 in Humla district of Western Nepal.

[Panel on Nepal-China border issues calls for bilateral intervention](#)

September 29, 2021, The Kathmandu Post

A panel formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs has concluded that there are some issues along the Nepal-China border in Humla district and suggested that the government resolve those issues by forming a joint inspection group of experts.

Sri Lanka

[India's Adani Plans to Compete With China at Sri Lankan Port](#)

September 30, 2021, Maritime Executive

In a move that is seen as an attempt to counter China's growing influence in the Pacific and especially in Sri Lanka, India's Adani Ports announced a long-term deal to build and operate a new terminal in the Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The new West Container Terminal will compete with the Colombo International Container Terminal and the southern port of Hambantota, both of which are operated by China Merchants Port Holdings.

[Port deal before foreign secretary Harsh Shringla's Sri Lanka visit key to balance China](#)

October 2, 2021, The Economic Times

Finalising the deal for Colombo port expansion with Sri Lanka ahead of foreign secretary Harsh Shringla's forthcoming Colombo visit will help India to balance China's presence in the region.

[Sri Lanka stops 'tainted' fertiliser import from China](#)

September 30, 2021, WION

Sri Lanka halted a 96,000-tonne shipment of fertiliser from China on Wednesday citing quality issues, undermining the island's plans for the world's first fully organic farming sector.

East & South East Asia

China

[China reveals ship-borne vertical launch system with quad-pack cell](#)

September 30, 2021, Global Times

China revealed its first type of made-for-export ship-borne vertical launch missile system at the ongoing Airshow China 2021, held in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province. One of the most attractive features is its capability to hold quad-pack launch cells that can load up to four missiles instead of just one, observers said.

[China urges US to correct its mistakes in developing bilateral military ties](#)

September 30, 2021, Global Times

China said that the US is accountable for the current difficult situation and challenges the Chinese and US militaries have been facing and urged the US to have the courage to correct its mistakes in order to address the issue of improving bilateral ties

[China blasts US for being stumbling block in space arms control](#)

September 29, 2021, Global Times

Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) cannot be delayed any longer, Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, Li Song, said when addressing the 2021 Outer Space Security Conference, urging the US not to stand in the way.

[China urges NATO not to provoke military tension in Asia-Pacific](#)

September 28, 2021 Global Times

NATO member states have been frequently deploying aircraft to the Asia-Pacific region but the region doesn't welcome military bloc, major-power confrontation, or Cold War instigators, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a video meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

[Taiwan says record 38 Chinese planes entered defence zone](#)

October 2, 2021, BBC

Taiwan has reported 38 Chinese military jets flying into its air defence zone on Friday - the largest incursion by Beijing to date.

[China's high-end military technology touted at biggest air show](#)

September 30, 2021, Reuters

China put on an extravagant display of once-secret high-end military technology at its largest air show this week, while broadcasting its growing ambitions in space exploration and for self-sufficiency in commercial aircraft.

Japan

[Who is Japan's next Prime Minister Fumio Kishida?](#)

September 30, 2021, The Indian Express

Japan's former foreign minister Fumio Kishida is set to replace Yoshihide Suga as prime minister after he won the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's leadership vote on Wednesday. While Kishida is well-respected within the party, enjoying the support of several heavyweights, the 64-year-old is not widely popular.

[Japan Unprepared for China 'Military Unification': Ex-Navy Chief](#)

October 1, 2021, The Defense Post

Japan may be caught unprepared if it gets involved in a potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait, a former navy chief said.

[Fumio Kishida's Ascent to Japan's PM Post May Mean a Boost to Modi's 'Make in India' Initiative](#)

September 29, 2021, News 18

Former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida's ascent to the post of Prime Minister of Japan may pave the way for India to become a base of economic growth for the Indo-Pacific region and the world.

[UK and Japan begin talks on deeper Defence relationship](#)

September 28, 2021, Gov.Uk

The UK and Japan have agreed to commence formal negotiations on a Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) to deepen the defence relationship between the two countries.

[Japan's 2022 Defense Budget: An Overview Of The New Naval Programs](#)

September 30, 2021, Naval News

As part of this modification, the Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) will be installed to enable the operation of the F-35B on the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) destroyer Izumo. Developed by the U.S. Navy and Raytheon, JPALS is a system that uses a combination of GPS and UHF data links to accurately guide aircraft. The U.S. Navy approved its initial

operational capability (IOC) on May 21, 2021, and it has also been installed on the British aircraft carrier Queen Elizabeth and the Italian aircraft carrier Cavour.

Korea

[Why Is South Korea Strengthening Ties with India and Southeast Asia?](#)

September 30, 2021, CSIS

For most of its history, South Korea has kept its diplomacy focused predominately on major powers around the Korean Peninsula. China, Japan, Russia, and the United States have an outsized impact on South Korea given their proximity, global economic and strategic influence, and integral role in South Korea's most pressing foreign policy and security challenges, like inter-Korean peace.

[N.Korea joins race for new hypersonic missile with latest test](#)

September 29, 2021, Reuters

North Korea test-fired a newly developed hypersonic missile this week, state news media KCNA reported, joining a race headed by major military powers to deploy the advanced weapons system.

[North Korea fires projectile; calls it 'right to self-defence' at UNGA](#)

September 28, 2021, WON

North Korea fired a projectile into the sea off the east coast. Kim Jong-Un's regime later justified the new projectile launch asserting at the UN General Assembly in New York that it had the "right to self-defence".

[Navy SEAL takes command of US naval forces in South Korea](#)

October 1, 2021, Star and Stripes

A Navy special warfare officer and former operations director for the Joint Special Operations Command has taken charge of U.S. naval assets in the Korean Peninsula.

[HHI launches third KSS-III-class submarine for South Korean navy](#)

September 28, 2021, Janes.com

South Korean shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) has launched the third KSS-III (also known as Dosan Ahn Chang-ho)-class diesel-electric attack submarine (SSK) on order for the Republic of Korea Navy (RoKN).

Southeast Asia

[Jaishankar meets Singaporean counterpart in US; discusses Indo-Pacific, COVID-19](#)

September 27, 2021, The Hindu

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has met his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan here and held a "comfortable conversation" on developments in the strategic Indo-Pacific and shared thoughts on combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

[US, Philippines assessing defense treaty, China wary](#)

September 30, 2021, The Times of India

US and Philippines military officials have held initial talks to assess the future of their countries' 70-year Mutual Defense Treaty, including revising it in a possible move that has made China wary, the Philippines defense chief said.

[Stainless steel sector drowned by Chinese, Indonesian imports](#)

September 28, 2021, Business Line

The staggering 177 per cent increase in stainless steel imports to India, as compared to last year's (FY 21) average, mostly from China and Indonesia, has put the entire industry in peril. The Indian stainless-steel sector, the second-largest producer and consumer globally, has a total capacity of more than 50 lakhs tonnes annually, which is sufficient to cater to the total needs of the domestic industry.

[ASEAN-EU free trade deal negotiations set to resume](#)

October 1, 2021, Bangkok Post

ASEAN is set to resume free trade agreement (FTA) talks with the EU after negotiations were suspended since 2009.

[ASEAN Urged to Look Beyond China for Investment](#)

October 2, 2021, VOA

Cash-strapped Southeast Asian countries should look beyond China and its Belt and Road Initiative for economic help as Beijing is seen focusing more domestically, analysts say.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Tajikistan Concerned About Taliban Plots To Infiltrate From Afghanistan](#)

September 25, 2021, RFE/RL

Officials in Dushanbe say they've received reports that Tajik militants who fought alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan are now making plans to cross the border into Tajikistan.

[Jailed Kyrgyz Ex-President Says Pondering Parliamentary Run](#)

September 27, 2021, RFE/RL

Jailed former Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambaev says he is weighing whether to run as a candidate in upcoming parliamentary elections. Atambaev made the remark as he was brought into court in Bishkek on September 27 for a trial in a case related to a deadly two-day standoff between security forces and his supporters in August 2019.

[Kazakhstan to abandon domestic eGov platform for Russian service](#)

September 29, 2021, Eurasianet

A plan to move Kazakhstan's well-regarded e-government system onto an untried, Russian-made platform has the Central Asian nation's IT sector up in arms, worried about security and furious that domestic talent was not assigned the task.

[Trial of Former Kyrgyz President Postponed Again](#)

September 29, 2021, RFE/RL

Former Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambaev's trial in a case related to a deadly two-day standoff between security forces and his supporters in August 2019 has been postponed again.

[Taliban, Tajikistan embroiled in battle of words, saber-rattling](#)

September 30, 2021, Eurasianet

While it is trying to burnish its legitimacy in the eyes of the global community, the Taliban is engaging in an open battle of words with a neighbour to the north: Tajikistan. Over a handful of days, representatives of the new regime in Afghanistan have made public statements condemning the Tajik government over what it has described as meddling in internal Afghan affairs.

[Uzbek Activist, Held At Moscow Airport, Seeks Asylum In Ukraine](#)

September 30, 2021, RFE/RL

A migrant rights defender from Uzbekistan who is being held at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport while facing deportation to Tashkent, where she says she may face torture, has applied for asylum in Ukraine.

[Outspoken Critic Of Turkmen Government Released From Deportation Center In Istanbul](#)

September 30, 2021, RFE/RL

A Turkmen activist and outspoken critic of the tightly controlled Central Asian state's government has been released from a deportation center in Istanbul, where she is based. Dursoltan Taganova's lawyers told a correspondent in Istanbul for the online magazine Chronicles of Turkmenistan that she was released on September 29.

[Kazakh Police Detain Demonstrators Protesting Relatives' Detention In China's Xinjiang](#)

October 1, 2021, RFE/RL

Kazakh police detained eight protesters, mostly women, demanding the release of relatives they say are being illegally held in China. The October 1 protests were the latest in a series of demonstrations in Kazakhstan linked to the massive detention of Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and other ethnic groups in the neighbouring Chinese province of Xinjiang.

[Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi's visit to Uzbekistan](#)

September 26, 2021, MEA India

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture (MoS), Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi visited Uzbekistan from 23-26 September 2021. This was her first official visit to any Central Asian country after assuming charge. The visit provided further momentum to India strategic partnership with Uzbekistan.

West Asia

[India, UAE to Sign Trade Agreement by March 2022](#)

September 23, 2021, Business Standard

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have formally launched negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that aims at expanding bilateral trade and investment between the two nations.

[India Emerges As Dubai's Second Biggest Trade Partner after China](#)

September 27, 2021, Business Standard

According to a Dubai government statement, the emirate had a trade volume of 86.7 billion dirham with China in H1 (first half) of 2021, followed by India and the US in third position.

[Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh Arrives in Oman on Three-Day Visit](#)

September 26, 2021, The New Indian Express

Indian Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh arrived in Oman for a three-day visit aimed at further expansion of bilateral military ties with the Gulf nation.

[Hours after President Erdogan Rakes Up Kashmir at UNGA, India Calls For Respecting UNSC Resolutions On Cyprus](#)

September 22, 2021, WION

Hours after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a close ally of Pakistan, raked up the Kashmir issue in his address at the UN General Assembly, India called for respecting UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

[President Biden to UNGA: 'We Are Prepared To Return To Full Compliance' With The JCPOA if Iran Does The Same](#)

September 21, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

"We are working with the P5+1 to engage Iran diplomatically, to seek a return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We are prepared to return to full compliance if Iran does the same," President Biden told UNGA.

[At UN, President Biden Promises 'Relentless Diplomacy,' Defense of Democracy](#)

September 21, 2021, Middle East Monitor

US President Joe Biden mapped out a new era of vigorous competition without a new Cold War despite China's ascendance during his first United Nations address, promising military restraint and a robust fight against climate change.

[At UN, West Frustrated by Slow Pace of JCPOA Negotiations with Iran](#)

September 24, 2021, Asharq AL-Awsat

The United States and European Union (EU) voiced frustration at the UN this week over the slow pace with Iran, saying its new government showed no indication it was ready to revive a nuclear accord.

[Sanctions Are 'US Way of War', Iranian President at UN](#)

September 21, 2021, UN News

President Raisi described the presence of the United States in the Middle East region as a "lack of rationality", which has been detrimental to "oppressed people, from Palestine and Syria to Yemen and Afghanistan, as well as the US taxpayers".

[Iraq Issues Warrants Against Attendees of Israel Normalization Conference](#)

September 26, 2021, Arab News

Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council issued warrants for the arrest of people who attended a conference that called for the normalization of ties with Israel in autonomous Kurdistan.

[Qatar's Ruler Urges World Leaders Not To Boycott Taliban](#)

September 21, 2021, Outlook India

The ruling emir of Qatar, whose nation has played a pivotal role in Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal, urged world leaders gathered at the United Nations against turning their backs on the country's Taliban rulers.

[Russian FM Lavrov, Gulf Cooperation Council Delegation Discuss Regional Security](#)

September 25, 2021, TASS

Moscow and the GCC "held a profound exchange of opinions on topical Middle Eastern issues, and on Russia's updated concept of collective security in the Persian Gulf zone," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

[President Erdogan: Turkey Could Buy More Russian S-400s Despite US Warnings](#)

September 26, 2021, AL Jazeera

Turkey's leader says his country is considering buying a second Russian missile system despite strong objections by NATO ally the United States.

[At least 350,000 People Killed in Syrian Civil War](#)

September 24, 2021, AL Jazeera

At least 350,209 people have been killed in Syria's 10-year war, the United Nations human rights office has said, calling the tally an "undercount" as it released its first report since 2014 on the conflict's death toll.

[Russia Said Asking Israel to Push US on Holding Trilateral Syria Talks](#)

September 26, 2021, The Times of Israel

Russia has asked Israel to push the United States to agree to hold trilateral talks on the ongoing conflict in Syria.

United States

United States

[India, U.S. to set up joint working group in defence industrial security](#)

October 1, 2021, The Hindu

India and the United States have agreed in principle to establish a Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group, the Defence Ministry said.

[Taliban says United States drones must stop entering Afghanistan](#)

September 29, 2021, The Economic Times

The Taliban warned of consequences if the United States did not stop flying drones over Afghan airspace.

[US, Chinese military officials hold 'frank, in-depth' talks, says Pentagon](#)

September 30, 2021, The Indian Express

US and Chinese military officials held "frank, in-depth" talks this week on a range of defense issues, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, as the countries grapple over their competing interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

[AUKUS pact no threat to Indo-Pacific stability, US envoy says](#)

September 29, 2021, Mint

A defence pact between Australia, the United States and Britain is no threat to Indo-Pacific stability and is not aimed at any one country, a U.S. envoy said on Wednesday, amid concern in a region where China's influence is on the rise.

[The Biden administration will unveil China trade strategy next week](#)

October 2, 2021, CGTN

United States Trade Representative, Katherine Tai is poised to announce the Biden administration's long-awaited trade strategy with China next week.

[Biden administration faces 'critical moment' on migration](#)

October 1, 2021, Al Jazeera

Expulsion to Haiti, retreat to Mexico or detention in the United States – these have been the options facing more than 14,000 mostly Haitian migrants who camped under a bridge in the US state of Texas last week, hoping to gain asylum.

[Cuba's foreign minister says it's a mistake for Biden to keep Trump sanctions on Havana](#)

September 30, 2021, NBC

The Cuban government is disappointed President Joe Biden has kept in place economic sanctions on Havana imposed by his predecessor, but the government remains ready to reopen a dialogue with the United States, Cuba's foreign minister said in an interview.

[Turkey's Russian air defence systems and U.S. response](#)

October 1, 2021, Reuters

Turkey received the first deliveries of the S-400 surface-to-air systems in July 2019, prompting Washington to begin removing the NATO ally from its F-35 stealth fighter programme over security concerns.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Aukus: Australia-EU trade talks delayed as row deepens](#)

October 1, 2021, BBC

Trade talks between Australia and the European Union have been postponed as a row with France over the so-called Aukus security partnership deepens. Last month, Canberra cancelled a \$37bn (\$27.5bn) deal with France to build a fleet of conventional submarines.

[EU postpones long-planned trade talks with Australia over submarine row](#)

October 1, 2021, France 24

A long-planned round of Australia-EU free trade talks have been postponed, a European official confirmed Friday, after fury over Canberra's decision to cancel a major French submarine contract.

[Fears Australia's France submarine snub could scupper closer EU economic ties](#)

October 1, 2021, The Guardian

The postponement of trade talks between the European Union and Australia has raised fears in Canberra that a rift with France over the ditched submarine contract could slow down the push for closer economic ties.

[Post-Brexit Rule Banning European Union ID Cards Begins At UK Borders](#)

October 1, 2021, NDTV

A post-Brexit rule banning the use of identification cards from the EU and European Economic Area (EEA) to enter Britain comes into force from Friday, the UK government said.

[Wary of China, US and EU forge alliance on technology](#)

September 29, 2021, Hindustan Times

With Beijing on the rise as a tech superpower, Brussels and Washington want to close ranks. But divisions loom over the new "Trade and Technology Council" alliance – and previous efforts have a mixed track record.

[EU court annuls Morocco trade deals over Western Sahara](#)

September 29, 2021, Al Jazeera

A European Union court on Wednesday annulled EU-Morocco agriculture and fishing trade deals, saying that they were agreed to without the consent of the people of Western Sahara.

Russia

[Kremlin Wants 'Continuity' in Russian-German Ties](#)

September 27, 2021, The Moscow Times

The Kremlin wants continuity in relations with Germany, one of Russia's largest trading partners in Europe, President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said as Germany's tight election results have led to coalition talks.

[Russia Plans To Spend \\$12 Billion In Separatist-Held Parts Of Ukraine: Documents](#)

September 27, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia plans to spend 900 billion roubles (\$12.4 billion) over the next three years on financial support in the parts of eastern Ukraine that are held by Russia-backed separatists, according to government documents obtained by the Donbas Realities desk of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.

[Hungary Signs New Long-Term Gas Supply Deal With Russia](#)

September 27, 2021, RFE/RL

Hungary has signed a new 15-year natural-gas supply deal with Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom in a move sharply criticized by Ukraine. The agreement was signed by Gazprom and Hungarian energy group MVM executives at the Foreign Ministry in Budapest on September 27, during a visit by the Russian company's chief Aleksei Miller.

[Russia, Pakistan intend to increase cooperation in defense](#)

September 29, 2021, TASS News Agency

Representatives of Russian and Pakistani Defense Ministries confirmed their readiness for further strengthening of cooperation in defense, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin said in the wake of the bilateral military consultative committee on defense in security that took place in Islamabad.

[Putin Hails 'Compromises' With Erdogan At Sochi Talks](#)

September 29, 2021, RFE/RL

Russian President Vladimir Putin has hosted his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for what was considered the most consequential meeting between the two leaders in years. In addition to the conflicts in Syria and Libya, the two were expected to discuss the South Caucasus and Ukraine, expanding Russian gas exports, and the possible purchase by Turkey of a second batch of Russia's S-400 missile system.

[Russia Arrests Founder of Cybersecurity Company for Treason](#)

September 29, 2021, The Moscow Times

The founder of one of Russia's leading cybersecurity firms has been arrested on suspicion of treason after authorities searched his office. Ilya Sachkov, who set up Group-IB in 2003, could face up to 20 years in prison under treason charges brought by Moscow's Lefortovo district court.

[Lavrov, Shoigu Among Dozens of Ruling United Russia Party Members To Refuse Mandates](#)

September 29, 2021, RFE/RL

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu are among dozens of members of the ruling United Russia party who will not take up the mandates they won during recent parliamentary elections.

[U.S., Russia Launch Discreet New Round of Talks in Geneva](#)

September 30, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian and U.S. diplomats held talks behind closed doors in Geneva on September 30, the latest round of discussions aimed at ironing out the many tensions between the world's top two nuclear powers. U.S. State Department number two Wendy Sherman and Russia's deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov were due to meet for most of the day in what the U.S. mission in Geneva hoped would be "productive talks."

[Russia Makes Covering Military Corruption News Grounds for 'Foreign Agent' Status](#)

October 1, 2021, The Moscow Times

News organizations in Russia risk being labelled "foreign agents" for covering corruption, crime and other issues within the military and space industries, under new rules that will likely further strain the country's media landscape. The Federal Security Service (FSB) published a 60-point list of information that is not classified as a state secret, but which "foreign states, organizations and citizens can use against Russia's security."

[Russian-Chinese cooperation will continue to grow, Putin says in message to Xi Jinping](#)

October 1, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent a congratulatory message to Chinese leader Xi Jinping on the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, expressing confidence that cooperation between the two countries will continue to grow.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Sinopharm's COVID-19 drug good for children aged 3 to 11, Argentine health authorities say](#)

October 2, 2021, MercoPress

Argentine Health Minister Carla Vizzotti Friday announced the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine had been approved for use on children aged 3 to 11. The minister also pointed out Friday 3 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech drug were due in the country in October to advance in the inoculation of adolescents without comorbidities.

[International community concerned over xenophobia in Chile](#)

September 27, 2021, MercoPress

The United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Saturday asked the Chilean Government to guarantee and protect the rights of migrant children, following violent incidents involving foreign citizens in the city port Iquique, which has been flocked by undocumented migrants. The global entity specifically mentioned in a statement "the situation of hundreds of immigrant children in northern Chile after a march ended with the burning of foreign people's belongings."

[Peruvian currency plunges against US dollar following PM's nationalization threat against gas supplier](#)

September 28, 2021, MercoPress

The Peruvian sol fell sharply Monday against the US dollar in Lima markets following Sunday's statements from Prime Minister Guido Bellido, who threatened the new government might stabilize the cooking gas supplier Camisea. Bellido had warned he could nationalize Camisea in case the private owners in charge of the exploitation zone were not willing to review the contracts in favour of the State.

[Brazil's Economy Minister favors one-on-one deals despite Mercosur's current ban](#)

September 28, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's Economy Minister Paulo Guedes Monday said Mercosur would "modernize" and anyone against that was free to leave the bloc. The Presidents of Uruguay and Argentina have already clashed over this issue in a Mercosur Virtual Summit. Since then, they seem to have patched things up but Uruguay

nevertheless went on its own to seek a trade arrangement with China which is now being negotiated.

[Paraguay and Chile closer to bilateral FTA after Piñera visit](#)

September 30, 2021, MercoPress

Chilean President Sebastián Piñera's visit to Asunción has left his country closer to a free trade agreement with Paraguay, it was announced. After meeting with his Paraguayan colleague Mario Abdo Benítez, both leaders appeared at a press conference to explain the progress made during the talks.

Africa

[Senegal's buoyant economy fuels ambitious infrastructure blueprint](#)

October 1, 2021, Africa Times

If Senegal can focus on developing the resources necessary to finance broader socio-economic transformation, it will surely pave the way to a brighter future.

[Africa calls for international support in fight against COVID-19](#)

September 29, 2021, Africa Times

At the UN General Assembly in New York, the Democratic Republic of the Congo President Félix Tshisekedi highlighted the measures put in place by African nations to combat the deadly coronavirus – but stressed that the continent cannot overcome the disease alone.

[Lavrov defends Russia's role in Sahel, confirms Wagner plans](#)

September 26, 2021, Africa Times

The Russian foreign ministry confirmed reports that Mali plans to hire contractors with the Wagner Group to fight extremism in the Sahel, but insisted again that the private company is not operating under Moscow's control.

[Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mali... Where has China invested the most?](#)

September 30, 2021, The Africa Report

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Chinese companies have been signing contracts worth \$11bn in Africa since March 2020.

[Barkhane, Wagner... Tensions rise between France and Mali](#)

October 1, 2021, The Africa Report

At the UN headquarters in New York on 25 September, Mali's Prime Minister Choguel Kokalla Maïga described Paris' decision to reorganise its military presence in the Sahel as 'abandonment'. Paris, which is already irritated by the discussions that are taking place between Bamako and the Russian company

Wagner, did not appreciate the latest statements made by prime minister Choguel Kokalla Maïga, who accuses it of abandoning Mali.



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