



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.

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.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[PM Modi's Big Defence Move To "Make India World's Biggest Military Power"](#)

October 15, 2021, NDTV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that 41 Ordnance factories will be converted into 7 government-run corporate entities, in a big move to improve India's self-reliance and defence preparedness. Launching the 7 new defence firms, he said, "the goal is to make India the world's biggest military power on its own".

[India-US naval relationship unwavering: Chief of US Naval Operations](#)

October 15, 2021, The Times of India

Safe and secure seas cannot be preserved without a strong maritime force, Chief of US Naval Operations Admiral Michael Gilday said on Friday while describing ties between navies of India and the US as "unwavering".

[China objects to Venkaiah Naidu Arunachal visit, India says no ground, solve LAC issue](#)

October 14, 2021, The Indian Express

Two days after India and China blamed each other for failing to make headway in talks over the military standoff on the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, Beijing Wednesday said it "firmly opposed" Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu's visit to Arunachal Pradesh last weekend. It asked New Delhi to "stop taking actions that would complicate and expand the boundary issue".

[Rajnath Singh: Sela tunnel will be Arunachal's lifeline](#)

October 14, 2021, The Indian Express

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday conducted the final breakthrough blast of the Sela tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh virtually at the National War Memorial in Delhi. The tunnel, expected to be completed by June 2022, goes through Sela Pass and is expected to cut down the distance to the China border through Tawang by 10 km. The tunnel is being constructed at a height of more than 13,000 feet.

[Green nod to infra projects along border in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh](#)

October 16, 202, The New Indian Express

In a push to increasing vigil along the India-China border in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, the Union environment ministry has given approval to over 40 infrastructure projects, mainly in areas of recent skirmishes, for

construction of approach roads and tunnels, setting up of border outposts and deployment of operational assets to strengthen defence coverage.

[LAC talks stalemate: Made 'constructive suggestions' says India, 'unreasonable demands' says China](#)

October 11, 2021, The Hindu

The 13th round of senior military commander talks between India and China ended in a stalemate with both sides accusing the other for it. The Army, in a statement, said the Indian side made "constructive suggestions" for resolving the "remaining areas" while the Chinese military in a statement said India had made "unreasonable and unrealistic demands."

[Jaishankar to firm up political ties with Israel via Dubai](#)

October 16, 2021, Hindustan Times

With an eye towards cementing diplomatic and political ties in post-Benjamin Netanyahu era, external affairs minister S Jaishankar is visiting Israel for three days via another strategic ally, the United Arab Emirates. EAM Jaishankar is reaching Dubai on Sunday and will leave for October 19-21 three-day Israel trip. The security relationship with both UAE and Israel are handled by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

Pakistan

[Give-and-take parleys with IMF under way](#)

October 9, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are still trying 'give and take' on raising taxes and electricity tariff at the last leg of technical-level discussions to put \$6bn Extended Fund Facility (EFF) back on track.

[Anti-terror talks with Pakistan to continue, says US](#)

October 9, 2021, Dawn

With terrorism topping American concerns about Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, a senior United States official said Washington would continue its engagement with Islamabad on counterterrorism efforts.

[Special cell to coordinate Afghan-related matters](#)

October 9, 2021, Dawn

The Prime Minister Imran Khan "directed the establishment of a dedicated cell to synergise various streams of efforts on Afghanistan across the government, including international coordination for humanitarian assistance and effective

border management to prevent any negative spillover into Pakistan," the PM Office said in a statement on the meeting of the National Security Committee.

[Taliban only option against Daesh: PM Imran Khan](#)

October 12, 2021, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan said the Taliban were the only option for fighting Daesh in the region. Two decades later the US had no other option but to do everything it could to support a stable government in Afghanistan, because "the Taliban was the only option for fighting Islamic State (IS) in the region" and to prevent the ascendancy of hardline elements within the Taliban's own ranks, he told the Middle East Eye (MEE), a London-based online news outlet, in an interview.

[Gas deficit looms large as PLL fails to procure eight LNG cargoes](#)

October 12, 2021, The News

The unprecedented gas deficit in the forthcoming winter season has become inevitable as Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) has failed to attract the LNG trading companies in response to its tender floated on September 11, 2021 seeking eight LNG cargoes, four each for December and January. This means the country will not be able to import 1.2 bcf/d LNG each in December and January --- peak demand season in winter, instead it will be able to import just 900 mcf/d in each month with a deficit of 300 mcf/d. In November, the government will import 1 bcf/d against 1.2 bcf/d capacity.

[Inside story of cabinet meeting: PM wants to retain Gen Faiz as DG ISI for a few weeks](#)

October 13, 2021, The News

The Prime Minister Imran Khan did not share with the federal cabinet details of the "procedural lapse" that led to a serious controversy over the recent appointments in the military but said that he wanted the incumbent ISI chief to continue for some time in view of the external challenges facing the country, including the situation in Afghanistan.

[Pak-Iran military leadership meets](#)

October 14, 2021, The News

The military leadership of Pakistan and Iran agreed on enhancing defence cooperation and working together for regional peace and on unified response to terrorism. Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of the General Staff (CGS) of Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at head of a high-level delegation separately called on Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee

General Nadeem Raza and Chief of the Pakistan Army Staff General Qamar Javed.

[Local producers oppose steel imports for CPEC](#)

October 15, 2021, The Express Tribune

Large steel producers have protested against the use of imported steel, saying that their surplus steel capacity can cater to the demand from mega development projects. In a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) criticised the use of imported steel for the construction of Gwadar International Airport, development of Export Processing Zones (EPZs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Gwadar Free Economic Zone.

[Army inducts HQ-9/P air defence system](#)

October 14, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan military commissioned HQ-9/P HIMADS (High to Medium Air Defence System) into Pakistan Army Air Defence. Induction of HIMADS will significantly enhance Comprehensive Layered Integrated Air Defence (CLIAD) shield of aerial frontiers of Pakistan as the system is fully integrated through a well-knit Digitised System on its inventory.

[PIA suspends flights operation to Kabul](#)

October 14, 2021, The Express Tribune

Outraged by "an unprofessional and heavy-handed attitude" of the new Taliban government in Afghanistan, the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) announced the suspension of its flights to Kabul.

[VT-4 Tank another symbol of Pak-China strategic ties: Gen Qamar](#)

October 12, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan Army commissioned Chinese origin VT-4 Tank into Strike Formation. Based on its advanced armour protection, high manoeuvrability and exceptional firepower, VT-4 can be compared with any modern main battle tank of the world. Equipped with an auto transmission system and deep water fording operation capability, it is considered "as a potent weapon of strike formations"

Afghanistan

[US Working to Make Charter Flights From Kabul Routine](#)

October 15, 2021, Tolo News

The United States has no plans to resume military-led evacuation flights from Afghanistan, but is working to ensure that the existing charter flights become more frequent, the State Department said.

[Abdul Hakim Haqqani appointed Afghanistan's chief justice](#)

October 15, 2021, The express Tribune

The Taliban interim cabinet approved the name of Maulvi Abdul Hakim Haqqani for the slot of the chief justice of Afghanistan while appointing Maulvi Muhammad Qasim Turkman and Maulvi Abdul Malik as his aides.

[Moscow to host US, China, Pakistan for Afghanistan talks next week](#)

October 15, 2021, The express Tribune

Moscow will host the United States, China and Pakistan next week for talks on Afghanistan. President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov said the meeting would take place on October 19 and that the countries "will try to work out a common position on the changing situation in Afghanistan".

[At least 41 dead, scores injured in Kandahar mosque explosion](#)

October 15, 2021, Dawn

Suicide bombers attacked a Shia mosque in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar during Friday prayers, killing at least 41 people and injuring scores more.

[EU pledges \\$1.2bn aid to Afghans](#)

October 13, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban held their first face-to-face talks with a joint US-EU delegation in Qatar as Brussels pledged one billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in aid for Afghanistan. The Taliban regime is seeking recognition, as well as assistance to avoid a humanitarian disaster, after they returned to power in August following the withdrawal of US troops.

[Kremlin Says Taliban Confirmed Attendance At Moscow Talks Next Week](#)

October 15, 2021, RFERL

Taliban representatives have confirmed they will attend next week's talks on Afghanistan due to be held in Moscow next week, a senior Russian official said October 15.

[Turkey Says It Won't Recognize Taliban Rule In Afghanistan](#)

October 14, 2021, RFERL

Turkey says it is prepared to help the Taliban overcome a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, but will not formally recognize Taliban rule in the war-torn country.

[Indian Port Operator Bans Cargo Containers From Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan](#)

October 12, 2021, RFERL

India's biggest ports operator has announced that it will refuse containerized cargo from Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan after mid-November in a ban that is thought to stem from a major recent heroin seizure.

[Resistance Leader Masud 'Visited Dushanbe' For Afghan Peace Talks But Taliban Didn't Show Up](#)

October 13, 2021, RFERL

Anti-Taliban resistance leader Ahmad Masud briefly visited Dushanbe for Afghan peace talks -- sponsored by Tajikistan and Pakistan -- but Taliban representatives failed to attend. Masud's trip to Dushanbe took place shortly after Tajik President Emomali Rahmon said on September 17 that his country would host negotiations between the new Afghan rulers and Masud's predominantly ethnic Tajik resistance force based in Afghanistan's Panjshir Province.

[From A Secret Base in Tajikistan, China's War On Terror Adjusts To A New Reality](#)

October 14, 2021, RFERL

In a remote stretch of land near the Wakhan Corridor not far from Tajikistan's mountainous border with northeastern Afghanistan, China's regional ambitions are adjusting to a new reality on the ground. Next to an old Soviet outpost believed to have existed for at least five years, Chinese troops have controlled this strategic location from a collection of buildings and lookout towers as part of Beijing's nascent but growing hard-power footprint in the region that is focused on security in neighboring Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh Temple attacks: Delhi calls up; Hasina asks India to guard against any reaction](#)

October 16, 2021, The Indian Express

New Delhi has exchanged notes with Dhaka on the attacks on Hindu temples and Durga Puja venues in Bangladesh on Thursday, including the possibility of extremist elements trying to stir up communal tension. In a speech on the occasion of Durga Puja Thursday, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoped that India would take steps against any reaction at home, as it could have a fallout in Bangladesh.

[PM Hasina: Don't waste food as crisis looms in many countries](#)

October 16, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday urged all to stop wasting food as many countries in the world are going to face a famine-like situation.

[Bangladesh plans another nuclear power plant](#)

October 11, 2021, WNN

Bangladesh wants to build another nuclear power plant after its first one is completed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday as work at the Rooppur plant reached a critical milestone. "If we are able to build another nuclear power plant, we will no longer face a power crisis," she said after inaugurating the installation of the reactor pressure vessel at Rooppur 1. Hasina's words were reported by the country's official news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha after a briefing from her press secretary Ihsanul Karim on a meeting with Rosatom head Alexey Likhachov.

Nepal

[BJP Keen To Reset India's Relations with Nepal Under Deuba Government](#)

October 16, 2021, The Quint

The signing of MoU between China and Bhutan over expediting negotiations on their boundary dispute has made India cautiously note the development as it itself faces standoff with China on the Line of Actual Control.

[India-Nepal Relations: Past and Present](#)

October 16, 2021, Khaburhub

For India, Nepal's strength, stability, progress and friendship together constitute an essential healthy condition for its national interests in South Asia.

Nepal occupies an important strategic position in India's security system. India has no eye over Nepal.

Sri Lanka

[China's presence in Sri Lanka raises concerns](#)

October 11, 2021, The Hindu

The Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora, including some former cadre of the defunct Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), are "seriously concerned" over the large-scale and long-term investments by the Chinese Government in Sri Lanka, Indian intelligence agencies have said.

[Northern Sri Lankan fishermen seek India's action over disputes](#)

October 13, 2021, The Hindu

Sri Lanka's northern fishermen want authorities in India and Sri Lanka to urgently step up action to resolve the long-persisting conflict in the Palk Strait, fearing tensions with Indian fishermen could escalate.

[Indian Army chief Gen. Naravane meets Sri Lanka's top military leadership; discusses steps to boost defence ties](#)

October 13, 2021, The Hindu

Indian Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane met Sri Lanka's top military leadership and discussed steps for further enhancing the excellent bilateral defence cooperation.

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi Jinping says China will only become more and more open](#)

October 15, 2021, CGTN

Chinese President Xi Jinping said that China will not close its door to the world, and it will only become more and more open.

[Xi Jinping urges concrete action to promote common prosperity](#)

October 15, 2021, CGTN

An article by Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, on the concrete action needed to promote common prosperity will be published on Saturday in the Qiushi Journal, the flagship magazine of the CPC Central Committee.

[Chinese President Xi Jinping calls for 'peaceful' reunification with Taiwan](#)

October 10, 2021, India Today

Xi Jinping spoke at an official celebration in Beijing's Great Hall of the People that focused largely on the need for the ruling Communist Party to continue to lead China as the country rises in power and influence.

[Wang Yi Attends the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CICA](#)

October 12, 2021, MFA, China

On October 12, 2021, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) via video link and delivered a speech themed "Leveraging the CICA's Cooperation Advantages and Building an Asian Community with a Shared Future".

[MoU on China-Bhutan boundary talks 'breaks deadlock caused by India, paves way for diplomatic ties'](#)

October 15, 2021, Global Times

China and Bhutan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a Three-Step Roadmap to help speed up boundary talks that have been heavily delayed, during a virtual meeting held on Thursday. The MoU is of historic significance and is the result of years of joint efforts and sincere cooperation between the two sides, analysts said, noting that it points out the direction for breaking the current deadlock and laying a foundation for the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Bhutan.

[China gaining more confidence on equal trade talks with the US: Global Times editorial](#)

October 10, 2021, Global Times

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai held a video call on Saturday. The press briefing released by the Chinese side shows that the two sides talked about three aspects: China-US economic and trade relations, implementation of the China-US economic and trade agreement, and resolving each other's legitimate concerns through consultation.

[Xi calls for strengthening China-EU strategic communication](#)

October 15, 2021, China Daily

President Xi Jinping said on Friday it is necessary for China and the European Union (EU) to strengthen strategic communication, and jointly promote the healthy and stable development of China-EU relations, which is in the interests of both sides.

Japan

[Nippon Steel sues Toyota, Chinese company over patent](#)

October 16, 2021, Japan Today

Nippon Steel Corp is suing Toyota Motor Corp over a patent for a technology used in electric motors in a rare case of legal wrangling between Japan's top steelmaker and top automaker over intellectual property.

[Japan calls for developing world natural gas projects to be funded](#)

October 16, 2021, Japan Today

Japan called on international financial institutions to continue supporting natural gas projects in developing countries if they are deemed in each case to be the most effective means to reduce greenhouse emissions.

[U.S., Japan, Australia, India begin joint naval drill amid China rise](#)

October 13, 2021, Kyodo News

The naval forces of the United States, Japan, Australia and India have started a joint exercise, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said Tuesday, in the face of China's maritime assertiveness in the region.

[Japan's ruling party makes unprecedented defence spending pledge](#)

October 13, 2021, Reuters

An unprecedented election pledge by Japan's ruling party to double defence spending underscores the nation's haste to acquire missiles, stealth fighters,

drones and other weapons to deter China's military in the disputed East China Sea.

[Japan seeking more military co-development work with US DoD](#)

October 12, 2021, Janes

The Japanese Ministry of Defense (MoD) has asked the US Department of Defense (DoD) to consider areas for new co-development work, ranging from acquisition programmes to science and technology (S&T) projects, the Pentagon's chief technology officer said on 12 October.

Korea

[North Korea's Kim Jong-un faces 'paradise on Earth' lawsuit](#)

October 15, 2021, BBC

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un should pay damages for a 1959-84 scheme that saw more than 90,000 people move there from Japan, a Tokyo court is hearing.

[North Korea: Vulnerable at risk of starvation, UN expert says](#)

October 14, 2021, BBC

Vulnerable children and elderly people in North Korea are at risk of starvation, a UN expert has said. The UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the country blamed international sanctions and a Covid blockade for worsening food shortages.

[From spy satellites to mobile networks, S.Korea pins space hopes on new rocket](#)

October 15, 2021, Reuters

South Korea plans to test its first domestically produced space launch vehicle next week, a major step toward jumpstarting the country's space programme and achieving ambitious goals in 6G networks, spy satellites, and even lunar probes.

[Japan, South Korea leaders look to deepen bilateral ties despite strains](#)

October 16, 2021, Firstpost

The leaders of Japan and South Korea spoke by phone on Friday, saying they would look to deepen ties in the face of regional security threats despite strained bilateral relations.

[South Korean Officials Launch Last-Ditch Effort with US to Formally End Korean War](#)

October 15, 2021, Military.com

South Korean government officials confirmed they were holding discussions with the United States about formally ending the Korean War, just a few months before a new administration will preside over the country.

[N Korea's Kim says US, S Korea threaten peace with arms buildup](#)

October 12, 2021, Al Jazeera

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said his country's weapons development is necessary in the face of 'hostile' policies from the United States and a military build-up in South Korea that is destabilising the peninsula, state media reported.

Southeast Asia

[Australia-China ties are frayed, but Canberra's softening relations with Southeast Asia more of a worry: former PM Rudd](#)

October 16, 2021, SCMP

Rudd says Canberra has put more emphasis on collaboration with the US amid Beijing's rise than on engagement with its regional neighbours. This needs to be stepped up, he says, noting that 'the fulcrum of Australia's long-term strategic interests in Southeast Asia' is its relationship with Indonesia.

[ASEAN members bicker over AUKUS](#)

October 14, 2021, Global Times

The new tripartite defense alliance AUKUS, formed with the intention of intimidating China, will strain ASEAN's unity and integration as regional countries are divided over the pact, experts said Wednesday, noting that if it sparks an arms race, it threatens to destabilize the region.

[ASEAN Envoy Cancels Planned Myanmar Trip Due to Junta Stonewalling](#)

October 15, 2021, The Diplomat

ASEAN's patience with the junta is wearing thin. But can it muster the consensus necessary to take a harder line?

[PH to only cooperate with China in areas with no conflicts](#)

October 14, 2021, CNN Philippines

If elected president, Vice President Leni Robredo said the country will explore trade and investment talks with China only in areas where it has no dispute with the East Asian giant.

[Coal mining revival in India, China & Indonesia doesn't mean the energy crisis is over](#)

October 15, 2021, The Print

Miners are finally starting to catch up. But major industries in Asia are expected to continue to face power disruptions through the winter as fuel supply remains tight.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[India To Extend Credit Of USD 200 Million For Kyrgyzstan's Development](#)

October 11, 2021, NDTV

India today agreed to provide a USD 200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held "constructive" talks with the Kyrgyz leadership to boost bilateral ties, including defence cooperation and discussed global issues like Afghanistan.

[Jaishankar In Central Asia Again As India Reaches Out To Afghanistan's Neighbours](#)

October 12, 2021, Outlook

Foreign minister Subramanyam Jaishankar is in Nur Sultan the capital of Kazakhstan for a meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, commonly known as CICA. This sixth meeting of the CICA foreign ministers is being held at a time when the situation in Afghanistan is a major worry for the region.

[Jaishankar meets Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan, stresses on enhancing connectivity](#)

October 13, 2021, The Print

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar Wednesday proposed the inclusion of Iran's Chabahar Port in the North-South Transport Corridor to bridge connectivity barriers.

[Jaishankar holds bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan](#)

October 11, 2021, The Times of India

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Monday held bilateral and regional cooperation, and exchanged views on developments in the neighbourhood.

[Iran to launch 6 shipping lines in Caspian Sea to Russia, Kazakhstan](#)

October 15, 2021, Tehran Times

Based on the MOU, in the first phase six lines will be launched from the northern ports of Iran to the ports of Astrakhan and Makhachkala in Russia, as well as the port of Aktau in Kazakhstan as of October 23, the TPO portal reported.

[Uzbekistan rules out prospect of hosting US forces](#)

October 15, 2021, Press TV

Uzbekistan has strongly rejected any possible stationing of US troops in the Central Asian country to purportedly combat terrorism in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover of the war-ravaged country.

West Asia

[Indian Air Force to Take Part in Exercises in Israel, Egypt](#)

October 05, 2021, WION

The Indian Air force (IAF) will be participating in exercises with Israel and Egypt later this month. This comes as increased engagement has been seen between Indian defence forces and West Asian counterparts.

[India Gifts 1 Million Doses of Made-in-India COVAXIN Vaccines to Iran](#)

October 10, 2021, Republic World

The government of India has gifted one million doses of the made-in India COVAXIN vaccine to Iran on Saturday, under the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative taken by the Indian government.

[India Looks to Sign Free Trade Agreement with Oman](#)

October 10, 2021, The Times of India

Indian Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal added Russia, Oman and the Southern African Customs Union, which includes South Africa, to the growing list of countries and blocs with which India is negotiating trade agreements.

[India's USD 60 Billion Energy Infrastructure Development Plan Opens Investment Opportunities For Qatar, Says Indian Ambassador](#)

October 10, 2021, Gulf Times

Investment opportunities are available for Qatar as India aims to develop as a gas-based economy, Indian ambassador Dr Deepak Mittal said, citing the Indian government's "\$60bn" energy infrastructure development plan.

[India Slams OIC for Misleading Statement on Eviction Drive in Assam](#)

October 08, 2021, The Economic Times

India hit out at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its "misleading" statement on an incident relating to an eviction drive in Assam and said the grouping does not have any locus standi to comment on the country's internal matters.

[Polls Close in Iraq's Parliamentary Election After 'Low Turnout'](#)

October 10, 2021, AL Jazeera

Polls closed on Sunday (October 10) in Iraq's parliamentary election with one of the lowest turnouts in years amid waning support for the democratic system brought in following the United States-led invasion of 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein.

[Iran's Nuclear Chief Reports Jump in 20 Percent Enriched Uranium](#)

October 10, 2021, AL Jazeera

Iran has produced more than 120 kilogrammes (265 pounds) of 20 percent enriched uranium, according to its nuclear chief, a considerable increase compared with the IAEA's latest report.

[U.S. Still Committed To Iran Diplomacy but Has Options If It Fails - Biden Administration](#)

October 06, 2021, Reuters

President Joe Biden's national security adviser told his Israeli counterpart that diplomacy is the best way to rein in Iran's nuclear program even as he reaffirmed President Biden's warning to Tehran that Washington could turn to other options if negotiations fail.

[IDF Chief Vows Israel Will Further Target Iran, Including Its Nuclear Program](#)

October 05, 2021, The Times of Israel

Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi vowed to continue military operations to counter Iran's military capabilities, including its nuclear program.

[Saudi Aramco Soars To USD 2 Trillion on Sky-high Oil Prices](#)

October 06, 2021, AL Jazeera

Saudi Aramco's valuation reached USD 2 trillion. Market capitalisation value put Aramco just behind Microsoft and Apple as the world's most valuable companies. Aramco reached the milestone as crude oil prices climbed to more than \$82 a barrel, the highest in seven years.

[US Crude Prices Jump as OPEC+ Sticks To Existing Oil Output Pact](#)

October 04, 2021, AL Jazeera

The price of oil jumped to around USD 82/barrel after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, a grouping known as OPEC+, agreed to stick to its existing plan to add 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil to the global market in November.

[Arabs Ease Syrian President Assad's Isolation as the US Looks Elsewhere](#)

October 10, 2021, Egypt Independent

While Bashar al-Assad is still shunned by the West who blame him for a decade of brutal war in Syria, a shift is under way in the Middle East where Arab allies of the United States are bringing him in from the cold by reviving economic and diplomatic ties.

United States

United States

[S. Korea, U.S., Japan cooperation important to denuclearizing peninsula: State Dept.](#)

October 16, 2021, Yonhap News Agency

The United States is committed to working with its allies in denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, a State Department spokesperson said, also stressing the importance of key U.S. allies, South Korea and Japan, working together to that end.

[CNO visits Western Naval Command headquarters, delivers keynote address to Indian Navy](#)

October 15, 2021, US Pacific Fleet

The US Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday visited India's Western Naval Command Oct. 15 and delivered remarks to the Indian Navy.

[Russia Says It Chased US Naval Destroyer Away. Washington Dismisses Claim](#)

October 16, 2021, NDTV

Russia said one of its military vessels chased away a U.S. naval destroyer that attempted to violate Russian territorial waters during Russian-Chinese naval drills in the Sea of Japan on Friday, something Washington said was false.

[Defence officials from India, US meet to discuss on promoting shared interests in Indo-Pacific](#)

October 9, 2021, India Today

Senior officials from India and the United States met in Washington to discuss the defence partnership between the two countries and on working together to promote shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region, the Union Defence Ministry said.

[Indian Army contingent departs for Indo-US Joint Military Exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" in Alaska](#)

October 14, 2021, The Economic Times

The 17th edition of the joint military training exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" will be conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska, the United States from October 15 to 29, as part of the ongoing Indo-US Defence Cooperation.

[U.S. prepares to resume Trump 'Remain in Mexico' asylum policy in November](#)

October 15, 2021, Reuters

President Joe Biden's administration is taking steps to restart by mid-November a program begun under his predecessor Donald Trump that forced asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for U.S. court hearings after a federal court deemed the termination of the program unjustified, U.S. officials said.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[How Delhi came to see Europe as a valuable strategic partner](#)

October 13, 2021, The Indian Express

Last week's in-person summit in Delhi was with the Danish Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen. This was apt, since Europe looms so large in the Indian diplomatic agenda today and smaller European states draw unprecedented political attention from Delhi.

[Slovenian PM's 'Soros puppets' tweet causes EU-wide political storm](#)

October 15, 2021, Euractiv

Prime Minister Janez Janša is facing criticism after tweeting that some MEPs are "Soros puppets". The MEP's under attack included Sophie in 't Veld, the chair of a fact-finding mission currently examining Slovenia's compliance with the rule of law and media freedom covenants.

[Hope and fear in EU as hardliner tipped to be German finance minister](#)

October 15, 2021, The Guardian

Germany's biggest neighbours are watching the formation of the country's new government with a mixture of hope and fear, amid concerns that a fiscal hardliner hotly tipped to become the next finance minister could drag the continent back to the frosty standoffs of the eurozone crisis.

[Xi Jinping highlights strategic autonomy of EU in promoting bilateral ties](#)

October 15, 2021, CGTN

China is willing to continue to develop China-EU relations while safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, said Chinese President Xi Jinping in a phone conversation with European Council President Charles Michel.

[After the gas crisis, the Arctic could be Russia and Europe's next flashpoint](#)

October 15, 2021, CNBC

A new cold front could open up in the political tension between the European Union and Russia over energy. This time in the Arctic.

["That's Over": EU Shrugs Off Rift With US On French Submarine Deal](#)

October 16, 2021, NDTV

A bitter transatlantic rift is over, the European Union's top diplomat declared Friday, a month after France was infuriated with the United States over losing a massive submarine contract in Australia.

Russia

[India-Russia strategic partnership: Factor of stability in tumultuous geo-politics](#)

October 13, 2021, The Economic Times

India's partnership with the Soviet Union and subsequently with Russia have been a factor of stability in geo-politics for the past seven decades.

[India-Russia coop in 6G, cybersecurity and video analytics gathers momentum](#)

October 14, 2021, The Economic Times

India and Russia share close bonds for more than 20 years by the Declaration on Strategic Partnership. In an attempt to push economic ties commensurate with political ties, both large corporations and promising startups are driving innovation between the two countries in the near future.

[India to join talks with Taliban in Russia](#)

October 15, 2021, Deccan Herald

A senior diplomat of India will join representatives from China, Pakistan and other nations to attend a meeting Russia is organizing with the leaders of the Taliban regime of Afghanistan in Moscow on October 20.

[India Must Look to Russia for a Mutually Beneficial Energy Partnership](#)

October 12, 2021, The Wire

At his address to the 6th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) plenary session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded President Vladimir Putin's vision for the development of the Russian Far East and underlined the natural complementarities of India and Russia in the development of the same. The time has come for India and Russia to significantly enhance infrastructure and joint development plans to boost bilateral trade, especially in the energy sector.

[China, Russia launch joint naval drills in Russian Far East](#)

October 15, 2021, Military Times

China and Russia are holding joint naval drills off the Russian Far East in the latest sign of their growing political and military alignment.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Argentina has become a Chinese Yuan testing ground in trade and investment](#)

October 16, 2021, MercoPress

Following several currency swaps by which China has helped to support the Argentine central bank depleted international reserves, the administration of President Alberto Fernandez intensified relations with Beijing and a year ago allowed transactions between the two countries to be made in Yuan. The Argentine central bank has not supplied information on such transactions, but analysts believe that most of the bilateral trade which reached US\$ 10,2bn in the seven months of this year was done with the Chinese currency.

[Mercosur: Argentina, Paraguay agree to review CET](#)

October 16, 2021, MercoPress

Argentine Foreign Ministers Santiago Cafiero Friday welcomed his Paraguayan counterpart Euclides Acevedo at the Palacio San Martín in Buenos Aires to discuss bilateral issues. Both officials agreed on the need to review Mercosur's Common External Tariffs, among other topics, such as the reopening of land crossings between the two countries.

[Peruvian President praises China's meaning to his country's exports](#)

October 15, 2021, MercoPress

Peru's President Pedro Castillo Thursday highlighted China's importance as a strategic Asia-Pacific partner in terms of foreign trade and investments. "Bilateral relations, the diplomatic sphere and those of commercial interest for the benefit of all Peruvians are strengthened with this type of event," said Castillo during the opening of the 130th Canton Fair, which promotes online trade of Chinese products.

[Bolsonaro now wants Petrobras privatized](#)

October 15, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro Thursday hinted he might put the national oil company Petrobras up for sale after being criticized for an increase in the price of fuel. During the 2018 presidential campaign, the retired Army Captain said he would only privatize it "if there was no other solution."

[Argentine Defense Ministry announces new military base in Catamarca](#)

October 11, 2021, MercoPress

Argentine Defense Minister Jorge Taiana and Governor Raúl Jalil of the province of Catamarca signed late last week an agreement whereby the national Army will set up a military unit in the provincial capital. Taiana and Jalil agreed that the military unit is to be built following the criteria and standards established by the Directorate of Engineers and Infrastructure of the Argentine Army.

[Agreement reached between Argentina, Brazil to cut down common external tariffs by 10%](#)

October 9, 2021, MercoPress

The Governments of Argentina and Brazil Friday agreed to cut down the common external tariffs (CET) by 10% "in a very wide universe of products" after months of tensions among members of Mercosur on the issue.

Africa

[ICJ sets new maritime border in ruling on Somalia-Kenya dispute](#)

October 12, 2021, Africa Times

There's a new ruling on the dispute over the maritime border between Kenya and Somalia, but that doesn't mean that either nation got everything it wanted from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. Somalia has long argued that it never agreed to a maritime border, or legal agreements based on any such border with respect to territorial waters and economic zones. Kenya, meanwhile, insisted that a maritime border exists between the two Horn of Africa neighbors and that Somalia agreed to it years ago.

[WHO turns to 'ring strategy' in Africa's fight against COVID](#)

October 14, 2021, Africa Times

Just one in every seven cases of COVID-19 infection on the African continent is diagnosed correctly, a trend that the World Health Organization hopes to reverse by applying a "ring strategy" approach to the outbreak in affected communities.

[Sahrawi leader: Conflict with Morocco adds to regional instability](#)

October 13, 2021, Africa Times

Brahim Ghali, head of the Polisario Front in the Western Sahara territory, said renewed fighting with Morocco in the decades-long dispute with the Sahrawi people is likely to affect the entire region should it continue. "There is already

war on the ground and to avoid its dire consequences for the region, the UN must resolve this crisis instead of trying to manage it," Ghali said. His remarks came during National Unity day in Western Sahara.

[Upcoming Dakar Forum set to spark dialogue on Africa's post-Covid future](#)

October 11, 2021, Africa Times

On October 7th, Senegal's Foreign Minister Aissata TALL SALL presided over the official launch ceremony for the seventh edition of the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa. Since 2014, the Dakar Forum, held under the high patronage of Senegalese President Macky Sall, has been one of the most important conferences on development and security in Africa, bringing together heads of state, policymakers from throughout Africa and from partner countries around the world such as Japan, international organisations, NGOs and key figures from the private sector.



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