

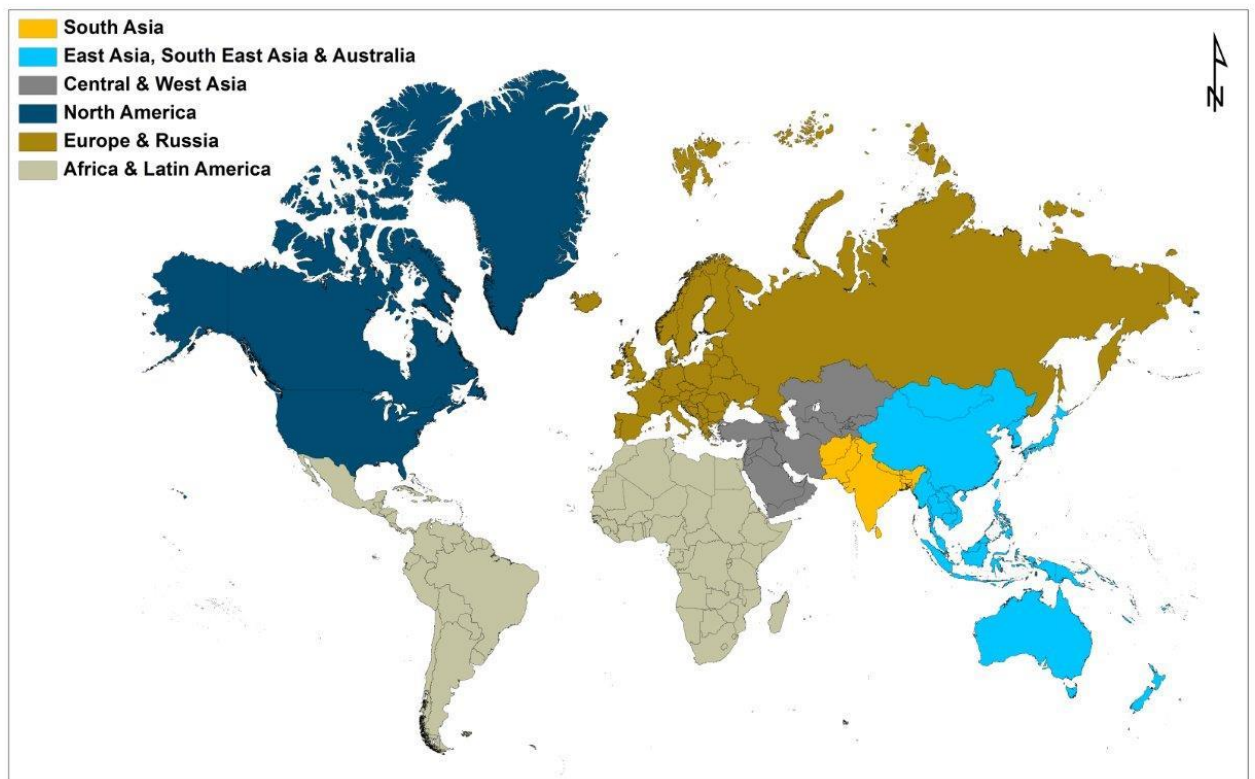


# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume V, Issue 43

### ABOUT US

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

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

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

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [U.K. Navy Chief arrives in India on three-day visit](#)

October 22, 2021, The Hindu

U.K. Navy Chief Admiral Sir Tony Radakin arrived in India on Friday on a three-day visit during which he would visit the Indian Navy's Western Naval Command, according to an official statement.

#### [Indian Navy rubbishes Pakistan claim of blocking its submarine](#)

October 20, 2021, The Times of India

Indian Navy sources on Tuesday outrightly rejected claims by Pakistan's military that it had blocked an Indian submarine from entering into the country's waters.

#### [India now among top 25 defence product exporting nations: Rajnath Singh](#)

October 21, 2021, Hindustan Times

Defence minister Rajnath Singh said India now featured in the top 25 nations' list of exporting defence products, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2020 report.

#### [India, UK working on free trade agreement: Harsh Vardhan Shringla at India Global Forum](#)

October 21, 2021, India Today

India and the United Kingdom are negotiating a free trade agreement as part of a 2030 roadmap on the countries' relationship, Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said.

#### [India's Trade With China Likely To Reach the Highest This Year: Harsh Vardhan Shringla](#)

October 21, 2021, The Wire

Indian foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said that India and China are likely to attain the highest-ever bilateral trade this year, even as he asserted that the continuing India-China stand-off has had "an impact on the broader relationship" and on resolving concerns over trade deficit and market access.

#### [Hope China Will Help Bring "Satisfactory Resolution" To Current Issues: India](#)

October 21, 2021, NDTV

Asserting that peace and tranquillity in the border areas is a "sine qua non" for India and China to work together, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla

today said New Delhi hopes that Beijing will work with it to bring a satisfactory resolution to the current issues, keeping in view each other's sensitivities and interests.

## **Pakistan**

### [\\$51.6 bn external financing required in two years](#)

October 19, 2021, The News

Pakistan requires gross external financing of \$51.6 billion within two-year period of the current fiscal year 2021-22 and next fiscal year 2022-23 in order to fulfil its needs.

### [Pakistan continues to be on FATF's grey list](#)

October 21, 2021, The News

Pakistan will continue to be on the grey list or the increased monitoring list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The FATF has been holding a meeting in Paris since October 19 under the German presidency of Dr Marcus Pleyer, which concluded on, October 21.

### [India invites Pakistan for meet on Afghanistan](#)

October 19, 2021, The Nation

India has invited Pakistan at a meeting of regional National Security Advisers being convened on 10th-11th November in New Delhi on the future of Afghanistan.

### [NATO to enhance cooperation with Pakistan on Afghanistan](#)

October 21, 2021, The Nation

Senior Civil Representative NATO Stefano Pontecorvo called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ. "During the meeting, matters related to mutual interest, peace and stability in the region and Afghanistan situation were discussed," says a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate.

### [Several TLP activists held in Punjab](#)

October 21, 2021, Dawn

The Punjab police launched a province-wide crackdown against the banned Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) and arrested many of its workers and leaders. In Lahore, a heavy contingent of the police reached Multan Road in dozens of vehicles and surrounded Jamia Masjid Rehmatullil- Aalamin where hundreds of charged workers of the TLP had staged a sit-in.

### [Chinese firm blacklisted for a month over 'forged' documents](#)

October 17, 2021, Dawn

The National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) of Pakistan has blacklisted a Chinese firm and barred it from participating in all tenders/bidding process for a month. The state-owned subsidiary of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) blacklisted the firm over allegations of preparing and submitting forged documents to the department concerned during the bidding of a project.

### [Turkish firm moves World Bank body over row with Pakistan](#)

October 16, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan is again facing an international dispute before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) over what appeared to be the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway (M-1) project. This time again the claimant against Pakistan is a Turkish construction company.

### [Issues styming CPEC projects remain unresolved](#)

October 21, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan Government has once again missed its self-imposed deadlines to resolve issues hampering the progress on first-phase projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which may deepen mistrust among Chinese investors. Third meeting of the Pak-China Relations Steering Committee reviewed the status of CPEC projects and found that a majority of its directives given in the first week of August had remained unimplemented.

## **Afghanistan**

### [Global recognition requires legitimacy at home: Karzai](#)

October 19, 2021, The News

Former president Hamid Karzai said the Islamic Emirate needs national legitimacy at home in order to gain recognition by the international community. Karzai said that national legitimacy should be acquired through elections or by holding a Loya Jirga. Karzai also said the Islamic Emirate should have a constitution to run the country.

### [Uzbekistan, Taliban hold talks on trade, aid](#)

October 17, 2021, The News

Representatives of the Taliban visited neighbouring Uzbekistan for talks on humanitarian aid and trade. The latest talks took place in the Uzbek border town of Termez, with the Taliban's delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul

Salam Hanafi and Uzbekistan by his counterpart Sardor Umurzakov. The Uzbek foreign ministry said in a statement that discussions included "issues of trade and economic interaction, ensuring border security, cooperation in the field of energy, international cargo transportation and transit."

#### [Russia holds high-profile Afghanistan talks with Taliban](#)

October 20, 2021, The Guardian

Russia has hosted the most high-profile international talks on Afghanistan since the Taliban took power, calling for an injection of aid to help the crippled economy but also demanding a more inclusive government. Senior Russian diplomats made clear that formal recognition of the Taliban regime was not on the table until it does more to improve human rights and broadens an all-male cabinet, most of them clerics from the Pashtun ethnic group.

#### [Indian delegation meets Taliban team on sidelines of Moscow Format meet on Afghanistan](#)

October 21, 2021, India Today

On the sidelines of the third meeting of the Moscow Format of consultations on Afghanistan, representatives of the Taliban met an Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary at Ministry of External Affairs JP Singh. It was the second such bilateral meeting between India and the Taliban after Indian envoy to Qatar Deepak Mittal's meeting with Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, the Taliban's deputy foreign minister, in Doha a month ago.

#### [India ready to send aid to Taliban-ruled Afghanistan but how to route it is the question](#)

October 21, 2021, The Print

India has promised to grant humanitarian assistance and aid to the Taliban-led Afghanistan in talks held in Russia's capital Moscow, but logistical issues continue to remain a challenge.

#### [Pakistan FM Qureshi arrives in Kabul](#)

October 21, 2021, Pajhwok

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi arrived in Kabul on October 21, leading a high-level delegation to meet with Afghan officials and leaders on bilateral relations and ways to strengthen cooperation, Pakistani foreign ministry said in a statement.

### [Iran to host multilateral conference on Afghanistan on October 27](#)

October 18, 2021, Al-Jazeera

Tehran will host a meeting of Afghanistan's neighbours plus Russia next week, the country's foreign ministry has confirmed, with the October 27 event witnessing the presence of all six foreign ministers. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh announced that in addition to Iran and Russia, the meeting will be attended by China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, who all have land borders with Afghanistan.

### [India looks to host NSA-level meet on Afghanistan next month; China, Pakistan invited](#)

October 17, 2021, Hindustan Times

India is likely to host a national security advisor-level meeting on Afghanistan in New Delhi next month, which will be the first-of-its-kind dialogue to be hosted by New Delhi. The tentative dates of the proposed in-person dialogue are November 10-11 and the format will be similar to the regional security conference held in Iran in 2019, the reports said. Pakistan and China are likely to be invited to take part in the meeting, apart from Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

## **Bangladesh**

### [China's charm offensive in Bangladesh](#)

October 21, 2021, East Asia Forum

China's combative foreign conduct has many believing that the country has departed from former leader Deng Xiaoping's philosophy 'to leave brightness, embrace obscurity, and keep a low profile' (tao guang yang hui) and is ready to assert its authority internationally. But China's quiet charm offensive with Bangladesh lends a different character to its diplomacy.

### [PM opens Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre](#)

October 21, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the newly built Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre (BBCFEC) at Dhaka's outskirts Purbachal aiming to organize the trade fairs at permanent and modern facilities.



### [Chinese envoy: Dhaka-Beijing political trust continues to strengthen](#)

October 20, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Terming China the largest trading partner of Bangladesh, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming on Wednesday said the Bangladesh-China relations have achieved a rapid development.

### [Anatomy of planned desecration and riots in Bangladesh](#)

October 21, 2021, Hindustan Times

The Sheikh Hasina government is trying to unearth the conspiracy behind the planned desecration, which is believed to have been carried out by rabid Islamists belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh. The three accused men are: Iqbal Hossain, Fayeze and Ekram Hossain.

## **Nepal**

### [Death toll passes 180 in Nepal and India floods](#)

October 21, 2021, BBC

More than 180 people have died after heavy rainfall triggered flash floods in Nepal and two Indian states - Uttarakhand and Kerala.

### [China To Donate 2 Million Additional Covid Vaccines To Nepal: Chinese Foreign Minister](#)

October 19, 2021, NDTV

Nepal Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka on Tuesday held a telephonic conversation with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi with a focus on further ramping up bilateral relations, including COVID-19 vaccine cooperation and border management among others.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Sri Lanka receives toxic chemicals from China, will sue Chinese company](#)

October 22, 2021, WION

Sri Lanka has become the latest victim of China's toxic counterfeit culture. After receiving the first consignment of organic fertilizers from China, the Sri Lankan agriculture ministry has found that 20,000 metric tons of fertilizers are toxic.

[Kottaipattinam fishers stay away from sea, protesting Sri Lankan Navy action](#)

October 20, 2021, The Hindu

Indian fishermen have held the Sri Lankan Navy responsible for the death of a fisherman, R. Rajkiran, and have demanded that the State take action. Fishers of Kottaipattinam, a coastal hamlet in Pudukottai district, abstained from venturing into the sea on Wednesday, holding the Sri Lankan Navy responsible for the reported death of R. Rajkiran mid-sea on Monday night.

[India-Sri Lanka Ties Getting Stronger And Stronger: PM Modi](#)

October 20, 2021, NDTV

India-Sri Lanka ties are getting stronger and stronger across different sectors and this augurs well for the people of the two nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday after meeting Lankan minister Namal Rajapaksa.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China needs Big Tech to grow but companies should avoid 'winner takes all'](#)

October 21, 2021, SCMP

Big Tech companies in China should not expand at the cost of smaller businesses, the state-run Xinhua news agency said in a commentary, providing additional clues on Beijing's next steps after embarking on an almost year-long regulatory crackdown.

#### [India-China to talk border again, focus on resolving Hot Springs](#)

October 21, 2021, Hindustan Times

India and China have agreed to hold another meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs this month to resolve the deadlock arising out of 13th round of senior commanders meeting on October 10. Both sides have agreed to hold the meeting, but the dates are still to be finalised.

#### [India sticking to China border protocols, could be reviewed in future: Eastern Army Commander](#)

October 20, 2021, The Indian Express

While India is sticking to mutually agreed upon protocols and agreements with China regarding management of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), it might be reviewed at the strategic level in the future, Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Manoj Pande said.

#### [Don't Underestimate Us: China Tells Joe Biden's Pick For US Ambassador](#)

October 21, 2021, NDTV

China's Foreign Ministry on Thursday lashed out at Nicholas Burns, President Joe Biden's nominee to be the next US ambassador to Beijing, for his sharp criticism of the Communist giant's hardline policies over Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and Taiwan, saying he should not underestimate China's strong resolve to defend its rights.

#### ['Leverage your role': China tried to sway EU-Taiwan vote](#)

October 21, 2021, SCMP

The European Parliament voted in a landslide on Thursday to adopt a report on Taiwan, despite a Chinese envoy's efforts to influence the outcome. The vote on whether to adopt the parliament's first report on Taiwan ended 580-26 in

favour. The non-binding report urges the European Commission to “urgently begin” preparation for a bilateral investment deal with Taiwan.

[China-EU relations: Beijing calls on European business group to help ‘clear up doubts’ tarnishing economic relations](#)

October 21, 2021, SCMP

Commerce minister Wang Wentao met with Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, to discuss China-EU economic ties. Wang reassured European firms that China was not closing its economy under ‘dual circulation’ and was committed to providing more investment opportunities.

[More than 80 countries voice support to China amid US and a few Western countries smearing at UN session](#)

October 22, 2021, Global Times

More than 80 countries voiced their support to China for developing its own pattern for human rights development and opposed politicizing human rights issues to suppress other countries at the 76th session of UN General Assembly on Thursday while the US and a few Western countries started a new round of attacks on China over topics of Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Xizang (Tibet) regions.

[Bhutan's attitude toward China is changing, while India still a great challenge](#)

October 22, 2021, Global Times

After China and Bhutan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on a Three-step Roadmap for expediting border negotiations, the move was hailed by Chinese experts as a historical milestone that broke the current deadlock caused by India and laid the foundations for the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Bhutan. The Global Times tried to contact several Bhutanese citizens to hear their views on the future of the two countries' relations but did not receive any replies.

[EU, US send wrong signals on Taiwan, risking miscalculation](#)

October 21, 2021, Global Times

With EU lawmakers pushing forward a resolution in deepening so-called “political and economic ties” with the island of Taiwan and the Biden administration's pick for ambassador to China vowing to make the island “a tough nut to crack,” some European and US politicians have continued sending the wrong signals on the Taiwan question, creating a false image of West-led pressure on the Chinese government at a time when tensions have been rising in the Taiwan Straits.

### [Chinese Developer Defaults Pile Up as Evergrande Contagion Spreads](#)

October 21, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The pain is spreading in the market for Chinese junk bonds. Dollar-bond defaults from Chinese property developers are rising quickly as the country's housing market slumps, and the problem could worsen as a wave of debt from the beleaguered industry comes due in the coming months. Real-estate developers dominate China's international high-yield bond market, making up about 80% of its total \$197 billion of debt outstanding, according to Goldman Sachs.

### [China Faces Slower Growth Path as It Pursues Longer-Term Reforms](#)

October 18, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

China faces a prolonged period of slower growth with increasing policy uncertainties as Beijing attempts to carry out ambitious long-term reforms that have left investors jittery. China's economy recorded a steeper-than-expected economic slowdown in the third quarter of the year, expanding 4.9% from a year earlier. The growth rate reflected a host of headwinds: Tighter rules on the property market that have chilled activity in the sector, widespread power shortages and continued concerns about Covid-19 that have weighed on consumer spending.

### [In U.N. showdown over Xinjiang, China says 'lies still lies'](#)

October 22, 2021, Reuters

Dozens of countries kept up pressure on China at the United Nations on Thursday over accusations of rights abuses against Uyghur Muslims and other minorities in the country's Xinjiang region, sparking an angry response from China's U.N. envoy. Confrontations over Xinjiang between China and mostly Western countries, including the United States, have become a regular occurrence at both the U.N. General Assembly in New York and the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva.

### [China's Bullying Is Becoming a Danger to the World and Itself](#)

October 19, 2021, The New York Times

Ever since Deng Xiaoping opened China to the world in the late 1970s, many in the West wanted to see the country succeed, because we thought China — despite its brutal authoritarian political structure — was on a path to a more open economy and society. Alas, President Xi Jinping has reversed steps in that direction in ways that could pose a real danger to China's future development and a real danger to the rest of the world.

## Japan

### [Can the Australia-India-Japan Strategic Triangle Counter China?](#)

October 21, 2021, National Interest

The trend toward increasing triangular cooperation can be glimpsed in the development of the Australia-India leg of the Indo-Pacific strategic triangle. Australia's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper identified India as a key security partner in support of regional order. The AUSINDEX exercises began in 2015, most recently conducted in September 2021 off the coast of Darwin, Australia.

### [India raises pitch as Japan joins chorus against high oil prices](#)

October 20, 2021, The Times of India

India raised its pitch against rampaging oil and natural gas prices as domestic pump prices hit fresh record, saying the current volatility could boomerang on producers as it will imperil the nascent global economic revival and stunt the growth in oil demand.

### [Next 3 years with Japan will determine U.S. posture for 3 decades: Rahm Emanuel](#)

October 21, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Rahm Emanuel, President Joe Biden's pick as the next American ambassador to Japan, said at his confirmation hearing here Wednesday that the next three years of work with Tokyo will have consequences for the American military presence in the Indo-Pacific for decades to come.

### [North Korea fires suspected submarine-launched missile into waters off Japan](#)

October 20, 2021, BBC

North Korea has fired a suspected submarine-launched ballistic missile into waters off the coast of Japan, South Korea's military has said.

### [Japan OKs plan to push clean energy, nuclear to cut carbon](#)

October 22, 2021, AP News

Japan adopted a new energy policy on Friday that promotes nuclear and renewables as sources of clean energy to achieve the country's pledge of reaching carbon neutrality in 2050.

## Korea

### [US, S Korea, Japan intelligence chiefs likely to meet in Seoul, discuss N Korea](#)

October 16, 2021, The Times of India

The intelligence chiefs of the United States, South Korea and Japan are expected to meet in Seoul early next week for closed-door discussions about North Korea, among other issues, Yonhap news agency reported, citing a government source.

### [South Korea Beyond Northeast Asia: How Seoul Is Deepening Ties With India and ASEAN](#)

October 19, 2021, CSIS

Though Moon's efforts toward securing inter-Korean peace have received the most publicity, the New Southern Policy to advance ties with India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has arguably sustained more momentum than any of the administration's other flagship foreign policy initiatives.

### [N.Korea questions U.S. intent after fresh offer to meet](#)

October 21, 2021, Reuters

North Korea said the United States was overreacting to its recent missile test and questioned the sincerity of Washington's offers of talks, after a U.S. envoy repeated an offer to meet without preconditions.

### [US, Europe condemn N Korea ballistic missile launch at UN](#)

October 21, 2021, Al Jazeera

US, UK and France say country has advanced its weapons programme, while Pyongyang accuses US of 'double standards'.

### [North Korea claims latest missile test didn't target US](#)

October 21, 2021, The Times of India

North Korea has hit back at US criticism over its test of a submarine-launched ballistic missile this week, saying it was rightfully exercising its rights for self-defense and that the weapon doesn't specifically target the US.

## Southeast Asia

### [ASEAN should rethink non-interference policy amid Myanmar crisis, Malaysia FM says](#)

October 21, 2021, The Hindu

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should rethink its decades-long policy of non-interference in the affairs of member states, amid a worsening human rights crisis in Myanmar, Malaysia's top diplomat said.

### [Converting Northeast as economic hotspot can energise ASEAN-India partnership](#)

October 21, 2021, The Economic Times

Converting Northeast as an economic hotspot in India's Act East Policy and utilizing connectivity in uniting rest of the Cs in 3Cs, Commerce and Culture can energize ASEAN-India partnership.

### [Myanmar frees hundreds of political prisoners after ASEAN pressure](#)

October 19, 2021, The Hindu

Myanmar's military government has freed hundreds of political prisoners from the notorious Insein prison, including Aung San Suu Kyi's party spokesman and a famous comedian Zarganar, local media reported.

### [Myanmar Junta Chief Excluded From Summit: ASEAN](#)

October 16, 2021, NDTV

Myanmar's junta chief will be excluded from an upcoming ASEAN summit, the group said Saturday, a rare rebuke as concerns rise over the military government's commitment to defusing a bloody crisis.

### [Rethinking India's economic policy towards Vietnam](#)

October 20, 2021, East Asia Forum

Since the upgrade of bilateral relations to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' in 2016, India-Vietnam strategic coordination has continued to deepen – as reflected through increased defence and maritime security cooperation. But New Delhi and Hanoi's economic ties are lagging behind, limiting their ability to address shared security and strategic concerns raised by China's economic rise in India's backyard and maritime assertiveness in the South China Sea.



[China's Indonesian coal imports hit record amid power crisis, Southeast Asian nation now biggest supplier](#)

October 21, 2021, SCMP

Indonesia is now overwhelmingly China's biggest overseas supplier of coal, with shipments hitting a record last month after Beijing loosened curbs on imports to tackle its power crisis.

[Malaysia, Philippines Bemoan Chinese Presence in Disputed Sea](#)

October 20, 2021, Bloomberg

Malaysia and the Philippines on Wednesday decried continued incursions by Chinese vessels in areas of the South China Sea they claim as their own in yet another sign of continuing tensions in the disputed waters.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [The new Great Game: Central Asia struggles to balance three powers](#)

October 20, 2021, Nikkei Asia

For three decades, Central Asia has had a front-row seat for the rise and fall of empires. In 1991 the former Soviet republics in the region seceded one by one from the USSR, creating a bulwark of newly independent states and sealing the end of the Cold War. Then, after 2001, Central Asia became an arena for the U.S. war on terror, witnessing first-hand the limits of U.S. power in the ultimately failed occupation of Afghanistan.

#### [Central Asia-South Asia connectivity may hinge on Pakistan-US relations](#)

October 20, 2021, The Hill

Connectivity between Central Asia and South Asia is needed if the regions are to escape the gravitation pull of Russia and China. Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, which border Afghanistan, have established relations with the Taliban government as many key economic projects require stability in Afghanistan.

#### [Kazakhstan turning 'blind eye' to Chinese corporate polluters](#)

October 20, 2021, Eurasia Net

Officials in Kazakhstan appear to be giving preferential treatment to Chinese businesses operating in the country when it comes to enforcing environmental protection standards, the watchdog group Crude Accountability alleges.

#### [Kazakhstan, an emerging power with difficult road ahead](#)

The Kazakh capital in mid-October played host to the 6th ministerial meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The Conference gathered representatives of 23 out of 27 member states and observers, heads of international observer organizations, and partner organizations in a hybrid format. The international gathering was the latest indication that Kazakhstan is in pursuit of better relations with other countries. But improving relations with world countries has its own complications that Kazakhstan needs to tackle if it wants to become a country with good trade and diplomatic ties with the world. In their quest for this kind of ties, the Kazakhs seem to have adopted a pragmatist foreign policy. But this pragmatism, while can be fruitful in certain cases, is no panacea for the complexities underlying international relations. For instance, any Kazakh move to build closer ties with Israel would endanger Kazakhstan's warm relations with many Muslim countries including Iran, and alienate the Muslim people of Kazakhstan itself.

### [Uzbekistan election spotlights economic reforms, static politics](#)

October 22, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Uzbekistan goes to the polls on Sunday with incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev looking certain to repeat his resounding victory of 2016 and secure a second term at the head of Central Asia's most populous country.

### **West Asia**

#### [Pakistan PM Imran Khan: India Drawing Inspiration from Israel in Kashmir](#)

October 11, 2021, Middle East Eye

India enjoys the same kind of impunity within the international community over its attempts to change the demographic balance of Kashmir that Israel has in the occupied Palestinian territories, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said.

#### ['We love India...a huge friend': Israeli PM Bennett After Meeting EAM Jaishankar](#)

October 20, 2021, Hindustan Times

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennet said that his country loves India and sees it as a "huge friend". "I speak on behalf of Israelis. We love India. We view India as a huge friend and we're looking forward to expanding our relationship in all fields and all dimensions,"

#### [U.S., EU, Israel Adopt Tough Tone on Iran, Mull Options](#)

October 14, 2021, Reuters

US, Israeli and EU officials took a tough line toward Iran, with U.S. officials saying they would consider all options if Tehran failed to revive the 2015 nuclear deal and Israel saying it reserved the right to act.

#### [A New Quad? India, Israel, US and UAE Agree to Establish Joint Economic Forum](#)

October 20, 2021, The Economic Times

In what could mark the emergence of a new Quad, India-USA-Israel-UAE in the first ever meeting of their foreign ministers have explored possibilities for joint infrastructure projects in the fields of transportation, technology, maritime security, economics and trade, as well as for additional joint projects.

### [Israel's Nuclear Weapons Are The True Middle East Threat, Iran Warns UN](#)

October 13, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

Israel's atomic weapons are the true threat to Middle East peace, the Iranian and Syrian envoys alleged to the United Nations as they called on the Jewish state to support a regional nuclear-free zone.

### [Muqtada al-Sadr Set To Win Iraq Vote, Former PM al-Maliki Second](#)

October 11, 2021, AL Jazeera

Shia Muslim religious leader Muqtada al-Sadr's party is set to be the biggest winner in Iraq's parliamentary election, increasing the number of seats he holds, according to initial results, officials and a spokesperson for the Sadrist Movement.

### [Iraq, Syria Militants 'Actively' Entering Afghanistan: Russian President Putin](#)

October 14, 2021, Hindustan Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that battle-hardened militants from Iraq and Syria are "actively" entering Afghanistan and could further destabilise the region.

### [Russian President Putin Predicts Oil at \\$100 Even as OPEC+ Seeks to Stabilise Market](#)

October 13, 2021, Reuters

Oil prices could reach \$100 a barrel, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, adding that Moscow and its partners in the OPEC+ group are seeking to stabilise the global market.

### [Hezbollah, Lebanese Forces Trade Blame Over Deadly Protests](#)

October 14, 2021, Deutsche Welle

Hezbollah and the right-wing Lebanese Forces Party pointed fingers at one another after deadly skirmishes in Beirut. Gunfire killed at least six people and wounded about 30 others in the Lebanese capital as tensions flared during a protest against the lead judge investigating last year's massive blast at Beirut's port.

### [US Committed to The Defense of Saudi Arabia: Secretary of State Blinken](#)

October 15, 2021, Arab News

The US sees Saudi Arabia as a vital partner and America is committed to the defence of the Kingdom, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said during a meeting with Saudi FM Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

[US Proposes F-16 Sales to Turkey in Return For Its F-35 Investment: President Erdogan](#)

October 17, 2021, TRT World

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that the United States had proposed the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Ankara in return for its investment in the F-35 programme.

## United States

### United States

#### [U.S. chipmaker Micron 'in talks' to expand in Japan and Taiwan](#)

October 21, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Top U.S. memory chipmaker Micron Technology is in talks with governments around the world, including in Japan, Taiwan and Europe, over expanding its manufacturing footprint as part of a \$150 billion, 10-year investment plan, a senior executive told Nikkei Asia in an interview.

#### [India among few countries developing hypersonic missiles: US Congressional report](#)

October 22, 2021, India Today

India is among the select few countries which are developing hypersonic weapons, an independent Congressional report has said, amidst a media report which claimed that China recently tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that circled the globe before missing its target, demonstrating an advanced space capability that caught US intelligence by surprise.

#### [India-US relations based on increasing trust: India's envoy](#)

October 22, 2021, The Indian Express

India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said that there is a very strong base between the India-US relationship which is of trust and that is increasing.

#### [Opportunities Open Up For Reset in US-India-Pakistan Relations](#)

India can expect to maximize its relations with the U.S. without worrying about the Pakistan factor.

#### [India, US ties: Looming CAATSA sanctions speak of a US unipolar moment that has long walked into pages of history](#)

October 21, 2021, Firstpost

From Narendra Modi's visit to the United States for a bilateral with Joe Biden to the first 'in-person' Quad Leaders' Summit hosted by the White House, the India-US relationship has never been better. Amid all these niceties, one contentious issue is India's purchase of S-400 air defence missile systems from Russia. India's procurement of these weapon systems may trigger secondary American sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), through which the US seeks to limit the sale of Russian arms to other states and starve Russian military-industrial establishment of funds. There is a provision for a waiver, but the sole authority rests with the

president, who must work with the US Congress to show that the states under the sanctions cloud for dealing with Russian contractors meet the specific criteria for exemption.

#### ['Yes': Biden says US would defend Taiwan against China](#)

October 22, 2021, Al Jazeera

US President Joe Biden has said the United States would come to Taiwan's defence if the island were attacked by China, in comments that appeared to be a departure from a longstanding US policy of "strategic ambiguity".

#### [U.S. holds three tests to advance hypersonic weapon programs, Pentagon says](#)

October 21, 2021, Reuters

The U.S. Navy and Army tested hypersonic weapon component prototypes on Wednesday that will inform development of new weapons, the Pentagon said, calling the three tests successful.

#### ['Master of the Game' Review: The Uneven Paths to Peace](#)

October 19, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Martin Indyk's lucidly conceived and compellingly written "Master of the Game: Henry Kissinger and the Art of Middle East Diplomacy" is much more than a tale of long-ago diplomatic tussles in a faraway place. The issues surrounding Mr. Kissinger's approach to foreign policy remain current, and Mr. Indyk brings to the task of examining them his years of diplomatic experience in the Clinton and Obama administrations.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [AUKUS spurs French strategic review with tilt toward Japan, India](#)

October 19, 2021, Nikkei Asia

France is reviewing its Indo-Pacific approach after being blindsided by the AUKUS alliance that scuttled its submarine deal with Australia, a French official said in Tokyo on Tuesday, with Paris keen to strengthen ties with Japan and India.

#### [EU, India and the Indo-Pacific](#)

October 21, 2021, The Indian Express

Last month, the making of AUKUS eclipsed another Indo-Pacific-related announcement: The release of the "EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific". This is rather unfair because this document is very rich and needs to be analysed in the context of the rapprochement between the EU and India, which culminated in the June EU-India summit, a "turning point" according to some analysts.

#### [The EU may finally be ready for an independent investment deal with India](#)

October 20, 2021, Money Control

The European Union (EU) has finally given its assent to conclude a proposed investment facilitation deal with India, separate from the free trade agreement (FTA) also being negotiated between the partners.

#### [India, EU discuss Covid-19 crisis and resumption of negotiations on trade pact](#)

October 19, 2021, Hindustan Times

India and the European Union (EU) discussed ways to jointly tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and the resumption of negotiations for a free trade agreement during a review of their strategic partnership.

#### [EU lawmakers push for closer ties with Taiwan amid rising Chinese pressure](#)

October 21, 2021, Wion

The European Union must deepen ties with Taiwan and start work on an investment deal with the island, EU lawmakers said in a resolution adopted, a move likely to anger Beijing as a similar EU-China deal struck in 2020 has been put on ice.



## Russia

### [India's growing closeness to US should not worry Russia: India's Ambassador to Moscow](#)

October 19, 2021, India Today

Indian Ambassador to Moscow D Bala Venkatesh Varma has said that India's growing closeness to the US should not be a cause of concern for Russia as India's relations with both countries stand on their own merits.

### [India-Russia face 'common threats' from Afghanistan: Indian envoy](#)

October 19, 2021, The Hindu

India and Russia face "common threats" emanating from Afghanistan, said outgoing Ambassador to Russia Venkatesh Varma, confirming that India's presence at the "Moscow format" meeting, which will include the Taliban Deputy Prime Minister, on Wednesday, and a meeting of the National Security Advisors in Delhi in November, where the NSAs of China and Pakistan have also been invited.

### [Hypersonic missiles: What US Congressional report said on India, Russia and China](#)

October 22, 2021, Times Now

An independent Congressional Research Service (CRS) report has said that India is developing hypersonic missiles in collaboration with Russia. Notably, a report had recently claimed that China tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile. However, Beijing dismissed the report saying that it had only launched a space plane and the test took place on July 16. Notably, unlike ballistic missiles, hypersonic weapons do not follow a ballistic trajectory and can manoeuvre en route to their destination.

### [US says won't join Afghanistan talks announced by Russia. Here's why](#)

October 19, 2021, Hindustan Times

The United States said it will not join talks on Afghanistan announced for this Tuesday by Russia that will include two other key players, China and Pakistan. The state department blamed logistical issues but said it considered the Russian-led forum "constructive."

### [China 'may be drawn' into US-Russia nuclear competition](#)

October 21, 2021, SCMP

As non-proliferation treaties have fallen by the wayside over the years, the three powers are modernising their capabilities. A Chinese nuclear strategist has

warned the unrestrained competition between Washington and Moscow could also bring in Beijing

[Russia, China, Iran To Work With Taliban Towards "Regional Stability"](#)

October 20, 2021, NDTV

Russia and Central Asia powerbrokers agreed Wednesday to work with the Taliban to promote security in the region and called on Afghanistan's new leaders to implement "moderate" policies.

[The Myth of Russian Decline](#)

November/December 2021, Foreign Affairs

Rather than viewing Russia as a declining power, U.S. leaders should see it as a persistent one—and have a frank conversation about the country's true capabilities and vulnerabilities. Rethinking American assumptions about Russian power would allow policymakers to address what will be a period of prolonged confrontation with a capable adversary.

## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [Poverty on the rise in Brazil](#)

October 18, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's poverty indexes are on the rise despite President Jair Bolsonaro's claims that his actions, however controversial from a sanitary viewpoint regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, were always aimed at sustaining the country's economy. In this regard, Bolsonaro's recent decision to severely cut down the government's budget for scientific research will most likely paralyze the sector and the livelihoods of people working on it.

#### [Bolsonaro puts people's freedom of choice above vaccination mandates](#)

October 19, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro once again Monday defended his decision not to take a COVID-19 vaccine and described the attitude of governors and mayors who demanded vaccination passports in their jurisdictions as "vicious." The head of state condemned the attitude of local authorities towards those unvaccinated and repudiated the requirement of vaccination passes for public places.

#### [Brazilian markets plummet on new money support program that ignores budget expenditure cap](#)

October 20, 2021, MercoPress

Contrary to optimism in world markets, shares in Brazil dropped 3,28% on average following news of a new "Brazil Auxilio" program intended to give monetary support to some 17 million families described as vulnerable or suffering the consequences of Covid-19. But to achieve this the budget cap on expenditure must be violated or hidden behind some accounting cosmetics.

#### [China deals blow to Brazilian economy by holding import ban on meat](#)

October 21, 2021, MercoPress

China's decision to uphold a ban on meat imports from Brazil means US \$ 450 million less for the coffers of President Jair Bolsonaro's administration, it was reported Wednesday. It was also good news for Uruguay. With Argentina gradually recovering from a presidential export ban, Uruguay is said to have seized most of the opportunities stemming from the new Chinese scenario.

## [US Secretary of State discusses world and local affairs with Colombian President Duque](#)

October 21, 2021, MercoPress

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken Wednesday arrived in Bogotá for a 2-day official visit to Colombia, during which he was to discuss bilateral issues with local authorities. Blinken was welcomed by Colombian President Iván Duque upon his arrival. Duque himself was just back from a trip to Brasilia and Sao Paulo, where he met with President Jair Bolsonaro and also with a number of prominent Brazilian businessmen.

## [Colombian national reportedly arrested in Jamaica over murder of Haiti's President](#)

October 22, 2021, MercoPress

Jamaican media have reported the arrest of a Colombian national in connection with the July 7 assassination of Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse at his Port-au-Prince residence. A foreign commando of mercenaries who spoke Spanish broke into Moïse's home and shot him dead. The Colombian Mario Palacios is believed to have been a member of that group.

## **Africa**

### [Africa's glaciers threatened by climate change](#)

October 19, 2021, Africa Times

Climate change is causing the rapid melt of glacier ice on the African continent, with all of it likely to be gone by 2040 or sooner, according to a new report from the World Meteorological Organization and its partners. There are just three mountains in Africa that are covered by glaciers: the Mount Kenya massif, the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda, and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. Mount Kenya may even lose its glacier ice by 2030.

### [New evacuations on La Palma as volcano eruption continues](#)

October 21, 2021, Africa Times

New evacuation zones were ordered in the Canary Islands as the Cumbre Vieja volcano shows no signs of stopping. The volcano erupted on September 19 and has continued to pour lava onto the island of La Palma for more than a month now. It originally flowed west to the sea on a more southerly route that led to at least 7,000 evacuations by last week.

### [Zimbabwe's economic woes: Sanctions or poor governance?](#)

October 21, 2021, The African Report

Since early 2000 to date, Zimbabwe's economy has suffered distress and stagnation, undergoing periods of hyperinflation leading to the collapse of the national currency and the adoption of a multi-currency system in 2009. The government and its allies attribute this to sanctions, while others blame bad governance.

### [Why some African countries reject the global agreement to tax multinationals](#)

October 21, 2021, The African Report

On 8 October 2021, 136 out of the 140 countries involved in the international negotiations signed a reform to tax multinationals. This agreement, known as the 'two-pillar solution', was initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and aims to counter tax evasion and avoidance, which are increasing under the digital economy.



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