



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 24 | June 11, 2021

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume V, Issue 24

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

DPG Weekly World Watch is based on analysis of open source information. To subscribe please [click here](#).

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

© 2021 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia	7
Central & West Asia	12
United States.....	16
Europe & Russia	18
Africa & Latin America	21

South Asia

India

[India thanks Kuwait for LMO; Both countries to discuss maritime security later this year, says Kuwaiti envoy](#)

June 11, 2021, Financial Express

Both sides discussed the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and reiterated their commitment to jointly fight the global pandemic; and other critical issues such as travel restrictions and vaccination.

[EAM S Jaishankar heads to Kenya; Africa critical to India's Indo-Pacific strategy, says expert](#)

June 9, 2021, Financial Express

Ahead of the India- Africa Forum Summit– IV which is expected to take place this year, external affairs minister DR S Jaishankar heads to Kenya later this week.

[India, South Africa IP waiver proposal got tremendous mileage at WTO](#)

June 10, 2021, Business Standard

India and South Africa's proposal for a temporary waiver on some sections of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement has achieved 'tremendous mileage and progression' at the World Trade Organization (WTO), with member countries agreeing on starting text-based negotiations, commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan said.

[External Affairs Minister Jaishankar holds meeting with India's envoys to Gulf nations](#)

June 11, 2021, The Indian Express

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

[Foreign minister S Jaishankar's surprise stopover in Doha to meet Qatari NSA](#)

June 9, 2021, The Hindustan Times

External affairs minister S Jaishankar met the Qatari National Security Adviser during a stopover in Doha while on his way to Kuwait on Wednesday, with the meeting coming against the backdrop of separate interactions in Qatar involving US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban negotiators.

[S Jaishankar To Visit Kenya From June 12 To 14: Foreign Ministry](#)

June 8, 2021, NDTV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay a three-day visit to Kenya beginning Saturday with an aim to explore ways to further broaden ties between the countries.

[India to work with Germany on 'convergent vision' for Indo-Pacific: Foreign secy](#)

June 10, 2021, The Hindustan Times

India will work with Germany on a "convergent vision" of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region as part of enhanced strategic engagement between the two countries, foreign secretary Harsh Shringla said.

[Rajnath Singh invites Swedish defence majors to set up manufacturing hubs in India](#)

June 8, 2021, Money Control

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on June 8 invited leading Swedish defence majors to set up manufacturing bases in India as he showcased the country as an attractive destination for investment to produce military equipment and platforms.

[24 Chinese jets fly close to LAC](#)

June 9, 2021, Deccan Chronicle

Around 24 Chinese fighter jets, including J-11s and J-16s, recently held exercises near eastern Ladakh amid the heavy deployment of forces on the ground at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by both countries. The exercises come when both sides have been engaged in a military standoff for over a year now at the LAC in Ladakh.

[National Defence Academy to add 2 squadrons to address officers' shortage in Army, Navy & IAF](#)

June 9, 2021, The Print

The National Defence Academy (NDA) is being expanded and its annual intake of military cadets will be progressively increased by around 400 to cater to the shortfall of officers in the armed forces.

Pakistan

[Sullivan confirms US had military talks with Pakistan](#)

June 8, 2021, The Express Tribune

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed that the United States had discussions with Pakistan in the military, intelligence and diplomatic

channels to make sure that Afghanistan never again becomes a base from which terrorist groups would attack the US – but he did not go into details about it.

[Pakistan, US navies hold joint drill in Arabian Sea](#)

June 10, 2021, The Express Tribune

USS Monterey (CG-61) of US Navy visited Karachi Port. US and Pakistan Navy ship participated in Passage Exercise wherein various seamanship and warfare drills were conducted. Earlier, the US guided-missile cruiser USS Monterey (CG 61), deployed with the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (IKE CSG), conducted a scheduled sustainment and logistics port visit to [Karachi](#) on June 8 to 9.

[Pakistan trying to reach 'debt for nature' swap deal with creditors: PM](#)

June 7, 2021, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistan was working with international creditors on a debt-for-nature swap deal, which links financial relief to improvement in a country's environment.

[Afghanistan, carbon emissions at centre of Imran-Boris phone call](#)

June 8, 2021, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan and his British counterpart Boris Johnson in a telephone call on June 7 discussed a range of issues, including the current situation in Afghanistan, global environmental challenges as well as the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Russia gives go-ahead to rice import from Pakistan](#)

June 11, 2021, Dawn

Russia has lifted a ban on import of rice from Pakistan. Based on the guidelines, Russia has allowed import of rice from four Pakistani enterprises. The decision was based on implementation of phytosanitary measures proposed by the Ministry of Food Security Department of Plant Protection (DPP) of Quarantine Division. Russia had carried out inspection in February last year.

[APG on Money Laundering: Pakistan achieves compliant rating in 31 out of 40 FATF recommendations](#)

June 5, 2021, The News

The Asia Pacific Group, a regional body of FATF, in its second Mutual Evaluation Report (MER), found that out of 40 recommendations, Pakistan has been declared compliant or largely compliant on 31 recommendations in order to combat money laundering and terror financing.

[₹87 bn allocated for CPEC projects in next budget](#)

June 9, 2021, The News

Dispelling the impression of slowing down of CPEC projects, Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar has said the government has allocated ₹87 billion for the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for the next budget 2021-22 for execution of CPEC projects.

[Saudi Arabia loans Rs37bln for Mohmand hydropower project](#)

June 10, 2021, The News

Saudi Arabia has approved 901 million Saudi Riyal (₹s37.4 billion) loan for construction of 800 megawatts Mohmand hydropower project in Pakistan. Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malkiy said the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) approved the financing at 2 percent interest rate and 25-year repayment period.

Afghanistan

[ICC, Afghan Govt Investigating Recent Mass Killings](#)

June 9, 2021, Tolo News

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said that the Afghan government and the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague are assessing the recent attacks in Afghanistan that targeted civilians.

[India Opens Channels With Taliban Leaders](#)

June 9, 2021, Tolo News

India for the first time opened channels of communication with Afghan Taliban leaders, including the group's deputy leader Mullah Ghani Baradar. The move marks "a significant shift" from New Delhi's position of not engaging with the Taliban in any way.

[U.S. Weighs Possibility of Airstrikes if Afghan Forces Face Crisis](#)

June 9, 2021, NYT

The Pentagon is considering seeking authorization to carry out airstrikes to support Afghan security forces if Kabul or another major city is in danger of falling to the Taliban, potentially introducing flexibility into President Biden's plan to end the United States military presence in the conflict.

[Turkey Wants Financial, Military Support to Secure Kabul Airport](#)

June 10, 2021, Bloomberg

Turkey wants NATO allies to share the financial and security burden of having its troops safeguard the Kabul airport in Afghanistan, a critical issue for the U.S. as it seeks to maintain a diplomatic presence in the city.

[Islamic State claims killing deminers in north Afghanistan](#)

June 10, 2021, Mail Online

The Islamic state affiliate has claimed a horrific attack this week that killed 10 workers of the HALO Trust de-mining organization and wounded 16 others in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province. The statement issued said IS operatives killed and wounded 60 workers "firing on them with their machine guns."

[Khalilzad: 'Continuous War' if No Afghan Political Settlement](#)

June 7, 2021, Tolo News

US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, says two options remain for Afghanistan at this critical juncture: A political solution to the conflict or continued war. He reiterated that the United States will not abandon Afghanistan despite US troops leaving.

[Turkmenistan, Afghanistan vow to speed up work on rail links, trade](#)

June 6, 2021, Anadolu Agency

Turkmenistan and Afghanistan vowed to expedite work on rail links, marble trade, and regional energy transit projects. According to the Foreign Ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan's Mohammad Haneef Atmar led a high-level delegation and held talks with his Turkmen counterpart Rashid Mardov, focusing on projects such as the TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India) gas pipeline and the Lapis Lazuli transit route connecting Afghanistan to Turkey and Europe via Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Bangladesh

[Chinese Man Held At India-Bangladesh Border Over "Suspicious Activities"](#)

June 11, 2021, NDTV

A 36-year-old Chinese man was intercepted by the Border Security Force (BSF) near the India and Bangladesh border today, officials said. He was detained in West Bengal's Malda district near the border over "suspicious activities", they said.

[Chinese ambassador: About time Bangladesh, China signed FTA with investment deal](#)

June 9, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and China should soon sign a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) for boosting exports to the Chinese market, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming said.

Nepal

[Nepal PM Oli says 'misunderstandings' with India resolved](#)

June 7, 2021, The Hindu

Nepal's embattled Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli has said that "misunderstandings" with India have been resolved and that the two countries should move forward looking at the future, asserting that neighbours share both love and problems.

[Covid-19: India provides ventilators, ambulances to Nepal](#)

June 11, 2021, The Times of India

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, India has provided medical aid including ventilators and ambulances to Nepal to help aid its battle against the disease.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka Navy Commander appreciates Indian Coast Guard's contribution to control X-Press Pearl Incident](#)

June 10, 2021, Colombo Page

Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenne Thursday recognized the contribution made by the three Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships during damage control operation in collaboration with other stakeholders following the MV X-Press Pearl fire.

[India Coast Guard, Sri Lanka Navy interoperability underlined in fighting X-Press Pearl fire](#)

June 10, 2021, Economy Next

A joint operation by the Sri Lanka Navy and Indian Coast Guard to douse a fire on X-Press Pearl, a container vessel which caught fire was testimony to the co-operation between the maritime forces of the two nations, India's High Commission said.

['Support Tamils to check China's move in Sri Lanka'](#)

June 10, 2021, The Hindu

MDMK general secretary Vaiko has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take efforts to conduct a referendum among Tamils living in various parts of the world to establish a sovereign State of Tamil Eelam, which alone could be the political, economical and defence base for India.

East & South East Asia

China

[Anti-sanctions law to protect China's interests](#)

June 11, 2021, China Daily

China's top legislature passed a law on countering foreign sanctions to better safeguard the country's sovereignty, security and development interests.

[China's first crewed space station mission draws closer](#)

June 10, 2021, Global Times

China's space station Tianhe core cabin is expecting its first visitors as the combination of the Long March-2F Y12 carrier rocket and Shenzhou-12 manned spacecraft tasked to ferry three astronauts to the space station was vertically transferred to the launch pad.

[Chinese firms eye car chip testing platform to cut foreign reliance, ease shortage](#)

June 10, 2021, GlobalTimes

Industry players in China's auto chip sector called for the establishment of a domestic testing and certification platform for car chips as part of the effort to create more supportive alternative for domestic industries in order cut reliance on foreign supply and help ease the tightened chip supplies.

[China-built landmark railway in Nigeria starts service, to boost local economy](#)

June 10, 2021, Global Times

A railway project connecting Nigeria's city of Lagos, Africa's largest city, to the country's industrial base Ibadan, has been officially put into service, making it the first modern double-track standard railway in the West Africa region.

[Three US senators incite confrontation with lies about 'nuclear parity': Global Times editorial](#)

June 10, 2021, Global Times

Three Republican House leaders of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in a letter to US President Joe Biden, asked him to come up with a comprehensive inter-agency strategy to convince Beijing to hold arms control talks on a nuclear force build up.

[Strengthening competition amid exchanges 'commonplace' in future China-US tensions](#)

June 11, 2021, Global Times

As US President Joe Biden embarked on his first overseas trip to seek deepening ties with his allies at the G7 summit, tensions between the US and China, the world's two largest economies, seem to continue escalating following a series of recent aggressive moves by Washington while talks on trade by the two sides have made progress.

[China passes law to protect status, rights of military personnel](#)

June 11, 2021, Global Times

A special law aiming to protect the dignity and rights of military personnel in China was approved on Thursday at the 29th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC).

Japan

[Japan enacts revised referendum law in constitutional amendment push](#)

June 11, 2021, Japan Today

The Diet passed a bill on Friday to amend procedures for a national referendum, in a step toward the possibility of a revision to its war-renouncing Constitution and giving the government more emergency powers.

[Suga arrives in Britain for G7 summit](#)

June 11, 2021, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga arrived in Britain early Friday to attend a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations, with discussions set to focus on tackling global challenges such as economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, climate change, and China's growing economic and military influence.

[Suga refers to Taiwan as country, drawing fire from China](#)

June 11, 2021, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga referred to Taiwan as a country, immediately drawing fire from mainland China, which regards the island as a renegade province.

[Japan says ties with Taiwan are only unofficial](#)

June 11, 2021, Japan Today

Japan's relations with Taiwan are nongovernmental and practical and are based on Tokyo's recognition of China as the sole legitimate government, a top

Japanese official said, following Beijing's protest over a recent reference to the island as a country.

[Japan, Australia hold security talks to counter China's rising assertiveness](#)

June 9, 2021, Japan Today

Japan and Australia affirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait for the first time in bilateral talks, while agreeing to deepen security cooperation amid China's rising assertiveness in regional waters.

[China's new data law gives Xi the power to shut down tech firms](#)

June 11, 2021, The Japan Times

China's new data security regime gives President Xi Jinping the power to shut down or fine tech companies as part of his drive to wrest control of vast reams of data held by tech giants like Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd.

[Japan lawmakers request permanent government workers on Senkakus](#)

June 10, 2021, The Japan Times

Former Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada asked the government on Thursday to station civil servants permanently on the Senkaku Islands in Okinawa Prefecture.

Korea

[US seeks to make progress with N. Korea through diplomacy: State Dept.](#)

June 10, 2021, The Korea Herald

The United States seeks to engage with North Korea diplomatically to make progress toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, a State Department spokesman said.

[US, S. Korea reaffirm efforts to bolster supply chain cooperation: Vice FM](#)

June 10, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea and the United States will work together to expand cooperation in strengthening their supply chains for critical products, such as semiconductors, First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun said.

[Chinese FM condemns US, stresses political consensus with South Korea](#)

June 10, 2021, The Korea Herald

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi condemned the US' Indo-Pacific strategy as evidence of a "Cold War mentality," and called for China and South Korea to stick to their political consensus as President Moon Jae-in prepares for the G-7 summit, where Washington is expected to encourage its allies to take a tougher stance toward Beijing.

[President Moon heads to Britain for G-7 summit](#)

June 11, 2021, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in departed Friday for Britain to attend an annual Group of Seven (G-7) summit, the outset of his weeklong trip to Europe that will take him to Austria and Spain as well.

[Korea, US launch expert group on vaccine partnership under summit accord](#)

June 10, 2021, The Korea Times

South Korea and the United States have established a senior-level expert group to follow up on their summit deal on their "vaccine partnership," Cheong Wa Dae said.

[China courting Korea in competition with US](#)

June 10, 2021, The Korea Times

China seems to be sending signals to Korea not to side with the U.S. in the intensifying rivalry between the two superpowers, ahead of President Moon Jae-in's participation in the G7 Summit, where participants are expected to discuss toughening the anti-China campaign.

[Korea officially out of running for 2032 Summer Olympics](#)

June 11, 2021, The Korea Times

Seoul's drive for co-hosting the 2032 Summer Olympics with Pyongyang has come to an end, following a decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to name an Australian city as the only candidate up for a member vote next month.

Southeast Asia

[India frets as Myanmar's pro-democracy fighters cross border](#)

June 10, 2021, Reuters

Thousands of people fleeing the junta's crackdown in Myanmar have crossed into India's far-flung eastern states, leading to worries among officials there that the region could become a staging post for pro-democracy activists and stoke instability.

[China boosts support for Myanmar army, countering US sanctions](#)

June 10, 2021, The Times of India

China says its policy toward Myanmar remains unaffected by the country's domestic situation, bolstering support for a regime that has faced multiple rounds of sanctions from the US and its Western allies following a coup four months ago.

[U.N. says 100,000 flee fighting in Myanmar border state](#)

June 8, 2021, Reuters

The United Nations said an estimated 100,000 people in Myanmar's Kayah state had been displaced by fighting that included "indiscriminate attacks by security forces" in civilian areas.

[Navies of India and Thailand have commenced the 31st edition of Indo-Thai CORPAT](#)

June 10, 2021, My Nation

The navies of India and Thailand have commenced the 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT), aimed at keeping the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade.

[India, Indonesia Agree To Strengthen Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Centre](#)

June 10, 2021, NDTV

India and Indonesia agreed to further strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership while reviewing the bilateral ties in a wide range of areas.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Indian Cabinet approves Signing and Ratification of an Agreement on "Cooperation in the field of Mass Media" between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](#)

June 2, 2021, PIB

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement on "Cooperation in the field of Mass Media" between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

[Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Defuse Latest Border Incident](#)

June 05, 2021, RFE/RL

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on June 5 reached an agreement to calm a tense border standoff between the two Central Asian nations, in the latest incident over contested territory more than a month after deadly clashes.

[Kazakhstan rejects proposal to join Russian sanctions-busting plans](#)

June 07, 2021, Eurasianet

Russia might be embroiled in an ever-souring battle of wills with the West, but Kazakhstan wants no part of it. In a statement on June 5, the Foreign Ministry in Nur-Sultan said it would refrain from getting involved in any negotiations among members of a Moscow-led trading bloc on a possible coordinated response to Western sanctions against Russia or Belarus.

[Police In Uzbek City Force Dozens Of Practicing Muslims To Shave Off Beards](#)

June 09, 2021, RFE/RL

Police in Uzbekistan's eastern city of Angren have forced dozens of practicing Muslims to shave off their beards, a practice in the Central Asian nation that has been criticized by domestic and international rights organizations for years.

[Kyrgyz President Japarov Arrives In Turkey On Visit To Strengthen Ties](#)

June 09, 2021, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov has arrived in the Turkish capital, Ankara, on an official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties.

[Uzbekistan: In a change of tack, president preaches supply-side economics](#)

June 09, 2021, Eurasianet

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has slammed local authorities pressuring tradespeople to keep prices for foodstuffs low, thereby departing from a practice he has himself exercised in the past.

[Kyrgyzstan's COVID-19 vaccination rollout gets boost with \\$20 million in World Bank financing](#)

June 11, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Kyrgyzstan will boost its COVID-19 response by acquiring and deploying safe and effective vaccines, and strengthening health systems necessary for deployment, thanks to \$20 million in Additional Financing from the World Bank, the Bank said on June 10.

West Asia

[India-UAE Ties Strengthened During Covid-19 Pandemic: Indian Ambassador](#)

June 02, 2021, Khaleej Times

Ties between the UAE and India have strengthened during the pandemic and it is reflected in the continued support both countries are providing each other, said Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE.

[India Defends Decision to Abstain During UNHRC Vote on Israel-Hamas Conflict](#)

June 04, 2021, Hindustan Times

India defended its abstention in a vote at the UN Human Rights Council that led to the setting up of an inquiry into rights violations during the Israel-Hamas conflict, saying it had also acted in a similar manner in the past.

[Saudi Arabia Increases Oil Prices for India, other Asian Countries](#)

June 04, 2021, Mint

Saudi Arabia increased oil prices for customers in its main market of Asia by more than expected after crude surged above \$70 a barrel and OPEC forecast that global demand would heavily outstrip supply over the rest of the year.

[Saudi Arabia Approves Covishield Vaccine](#)

June 06, 2021, The Siasat Daily

In a major relief to thousands of non-resident Indians (NRI) in Saudi Arabia, the Indian embassy in Riyadh on Sunday announced that the gulf nation has recognised the Covishield COVID-19 vaccine as an equivalent of the AstraZeneca shot.

[Haj 2021 Will Depend on Saudi Arabia's Decision, Says Union Minister Naqvi](#)

June 05, 2021, Hindustan Times

The Union Minister for minority affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said there is no clarity yet if the annual haj pilgrimage will be possible this year or not and the decision will depend on the Saudi Arabia government.

[World Silent on Israeli, Indian War Crimes: Speaker Turkish Parliament](#)

June 03, 2021, The News International

The Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) Prof Dr Mustafa Sentop said: "Israel and India are killing innocents, getting involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity and committing war crimes in Palestine and Kashmir, but the world is still silent. War crimes are being committed against innocent children, women and people of all ages in Kashmir.

[UNGA Chief 'saddened' by India's Reactions to His Kashmir Statements](#)

June 02, 2021, Greater Kashmir

UN General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir (Turkish diplomat) is "saddened" by India's reaction to his statements on Kashmir, according to his Deputy Spokesperson Amy Quantrill, who has asserted that they were taken out of context.

[EU official Sees Iran Nuclear Deal at Next Round of Talks](#)

June 03, 2021, Reuters

"I am sure that the next round will be the one in which we will finally get a deal," Enrique Mora, chief coordinator of the talks, told reporters as the fifth round of indirect U.S.-Iranian negotiations wrapped up on Wednesday (June 02).

[Have Numbers to Form New Government, Yair Lapid Tells Israel President](#)

June 03, 2021, CNBC

Yair Lapid has told Israeli President that his alliance has the numbers to form the government. It will include Yesh Atid, Kahol Lavan, Israel Beiteinu, Labor, Yamina, New Hope, Meretz, and Ra'am parties. Naftali Bennett will serve as the prime minister first, he said.

[Netanyahu: Israel Would Risk 'Friction' with US over Iran](#)

June 01, 2021, ABC News

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he's prepared to risk tension with the U.S. if that is what it takes to neutralize Iran's nuclear capabilities.

[17 Instances of Chemical Weapons used in Syria: Watchdog](#)

June 04, 2021, AL Jazeera

The international chemical weapons watchdog has told the United Nations Security Council its experts investigated 77 allegations against Syria, and concluded in 17 cases chemical weapons were likely or definitely used.

[Decade of Syria War Killed Nearly 500,000 People](#)

June 01, 2021, Asharq AL-Awsat

A decade of war in Syria has left nearly half a million people dead, a war monitor said in a new toll that includes 100,000 recently confirmed deaths.

United States

United States

[Biden joins the world leaders club at G7 with call for wartime effort against Covid-19](#)

June 11, 2021, CNN

With a pandemic raging in much of the world, a global economy still in shock and threats rising from Russia and China, the Group of 7 summit that formally begins on Friday is shaping up to potentially be one of the most consequential in recent memory.

[Biden says US to buy and donate half-billion doses of Pfizer's Covid vaccine: 'We know the tragedy. We also know the path to recovery'](#)

June 10, 2021, CNN

President Joe Biden announced Thursday evening that the United States plans to donate 500 million Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine doses globally as part of his efforts to reassert US leadership on the world stage.

[FDA rejects emergency use authorization for Bharat Biotech's Covaxin jab](#)

June 11, 2021, Mint

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has rejected Bharat Biotech's proposal for an emergency use authorization (EUA) of its Covid vaccine, delaying the company's vaccine launch in that country.

[U.S., Taiwan to Launch Trade Talks](#)

June 8, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration is launching trade and investment talks with Taiwan, advancing U.S. ties with Taipei and likely adding to frictions with the island's nemesis, Beijing.

[Pentagon to Speed Up Efforts to Counter China](#)

June 9, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

U. S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin issued a directive to speed up work to develop the military forces to deter China and address Pentagon difficulties in carrying out a years-old strategy that called Beijing a principal threat.

[China says US revoking of China apps ban a 'positive step'](#)

June 11, 2021, Associated Press

China's Ministry of Commerce said Thursday that a U.S. move to revoke the Trump administration's executive orders intended to ban apps like TikTok and WeChat was a "positive step," amid strained relations between the two countries.

[Biden invites Ukrainian president to White House this summer](#)

June 8, 2021, Associated Press

President Joe Biden has invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a White House visit this summer.

[Blinken: U.S. able to mitigate Nord Stream 2 pipeline effects](#)

June 7, 2021, Reuters

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday the completion of the Russian Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline was a "fait accompli", defending the U.S. decision to waive some sanctions and vowing a response if Moscow tries to use gas as a weapon.

[U.S. Lifts Some Iran Sanctions Amid Stalled Nuclear Talks](#)

June 10, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration lifted sanctions on three former Iranian officials and several energy companies amid stalled nuclear negotiations, signaling Washington's willingness to further ease economic pressure on Iran if the country changes course.

[Blinken says administration is 'considering every option' to assist Afghans who helped US but lawmakers are 'frustrated'](#)

June 7, 2021, CNN

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday that the Biden administration is looking "at every possible contingency" to help thousands of Afghans who may be at risk of retaliation from the Taliban after US forces withdraw but his answers left lawmakers and advocates frustrated.

[America's Image Abroad Rebounds with Transition from Trump to Biden](#)

June 10, 2021, Pew Research Centre

The election of Joe Biden as president has led to a dramatic shift in America's international image. Throughout Donald Trump's presidency, publics around the world held the United States in low regard, with most opposed to his foreign policies.

[America may be 'back' at G7, but allies' doubts about U.S. democracy linger](#)

June 11, 2021, Reuters

Biden faces lingering doubts about America's reliability as a partner. Leaders from the Group of Seven advanced economies, NATO and the European Union are worried about the pendulum of U.S. politics swinging yet again, and are looking for concrete action, not words.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Eighty Years Later, Biden and Johnson Revise the Atlantic Charter for a New Era](#)

June 10, 2021, The New York Times

President Biden and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain signed a new version of the 80-year-old "Atlantic Charter" on Thursday, using their first meeting to redefine the Western alliance and accentuate what they said was a growing divide between battered democracies and their autocratic rivals, led by Russia and China.

[G7 to donate 1 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to poorer countries](#)

June 11, 2021, Euronews

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson expects the Group of Seven to agree to donate 1 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses to poorer countries during its summit starting on Friday, and help inoculate the world by the end of next year.

[U.S. and EU to End for Good Trump's \\$18 Billion Tariff Fight](#)

June 8, 2021, Bloomberg

European Union leaders and President Joe Biden will commit to ending outstanding trade battles when they meet and promise to remove tariffs related to a steel and aluminium conflict before the end of the year.

[Macron says G7 countries should work together to tackle toxic online content](#)

June 10, 2021, Tech Crunch

In a press conference at the Élysée Palace, French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated his focus on online regulation, and more particularly toxic content. He called for more international cooperation as the Group of Seven (G7) summit is taking place in the U.K.

[US and Europe to forge tech alliance amid China's rise](#)

June 9, 2021, Politico

The European Union and the United States will announce a wide-ranging partnership around technology and trade next week in an attempt to push back against China and promote democratic values, according to two EU officials and draft conclusions for the upcoming EU-U.S. summit.

[Russia spars with EU and US at meeting on EU-UN cooperation](#)

June 11, 2021, Associated Press

Russia sparred with the European Union and the United States at a U.N. meeting Thursday that highlighted the strained relations between Moscow, Brussels and Washington.

[UK report says Hong Kong security law used to 'drastically curtail freedoms'](#)

June 11, 2021, Reuters

Beijing has broken its legal obligations by undermining Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and used a national security law to "drastically curtail freedoms" in the global financial hub, according to a report by Britain on its former colony.

[European businesses express alarm over China's anti-sanctions law that could turn companies into 'sacrificial pawns'](#)

June 9, 2021, South China Morning Post

European companies have expressed alarm about a new Chinese anti-sanctions law, saying they are concerned by a lack of transparency.

[Britain and France send their aircraft-carriers out together](#)

June 10, 2021, The Economist

For the first time the two carriers are taking part in three days of joint exercises. Code-named "Gallic Strike", this involves war games and simulated sea-to-land strikes by 15 vessels and 57 combat aircraft, including ten American fighter planes and two destroyers.

[Macron announces end of France's anti-terror Operation Barkhane in Africa's Sahel region](#)

June 10, 2021, CNN

France is to end its years-long anti-terror mission targeting Islamists in the Sahel region of West Africa, French President Emmanuel Macron announced Thursday.

Russia

[Russian Opposition Politician Gudkov Says He Has Left Country Amid Fear Of Arrest](#)

June 06, 2021, RFE/RL

Russian opposition politician and former lawmaker Dmitry Gudkov said he has fled the country amid concern he could be arrested on what he called trumped up charges. Gudkov was detained in Moscow on June 1 over an allegedly

unpaid debt on a rented property dating from several years ago. He was released on June 3 without being formally charged.

[Russia Officially Pulls Out Of Open Skies Treaty](#)

June 07, 2021, RFE/RL

President Vladimir Putin has signed a law that formalizes Russia's withdrawal from an international treaty allowing nations to collect information on one another's military forces in order to increase transparency, following the departure from the accord by the United States late last year. The document was published on the official portal of legal information on June 7.

[Putin Wants 'Vaccine Tourism' Plan by End-June](#)

June 07, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 04 asked the government to put together a plan by the end of June to bring "vaccine tourism" to Russia. The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which is promoting Russia's Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine around the world, said earlier in the day that it could launch vaccine tourism in July 2021.

[Unidentified Person Detained After Entering the US Embassy in Moscow](#)

June 07, 2021, Sputnik News

An unidentified person crossed on June 06 into the territory of the US embassy in Moscow and was quickly detained and handed over to the Russian authorities, a spokesman for the embassy said.

[Moscow to quit International Space Station in 2025 unless Washington lifts restrictive sanctions, says Russian space boss](#)

June 08, 2021, Russia Today

Moscow will withdraw from the International Space Station project in 2025 if Washington continues to impose sanctions against the Russian space sector, with the country now making significant plans to explore space without the US.

[World Needs Russia's 'Green' Oil, Rosneft Chief Sechin Says](#)

June 09, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia's new "green" Arctic oil infrastructure projects are vital to the global economy, Igor Sechin, the head of Russian state-controlled energy giant Rosneft, has said.

[Navalny Team Vows to Fight on After 'Extremism' Ruling](#)

June 10, 2021, The Moscow Times

Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny's anti-corruption group vowed on June 10 to fight on after a court branded it an "extremist" organization and ordered its closure.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Bolsonaro wants face masks off except for those who test positive for covid-19](#)

June 11, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro Thursday announced the end to the mandatory use of face masks as a protective measure against the coronavirus for people who have been either vaccinated or who have already recovered from covid-19.

[Lacalle announces free trade zone coming up in Uruguayan department of Maldonado](#)

June 11, 2021, MercoPress

Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou announced in La Capuera that plans were underway to create a free trade zone in the department of Maldonado. Lacalle also confirmed he had signed "a free zone from the past government," consisting of "a couple of towers in Punta del Este, basically offices," he added.

[US VP Harris on Latin America mission to deal with migrants' crisis](#)

June 7, 2021, MercoPress

Vice President Kamala Harris left Washington aboard on an official tour to Guatemala and Mexico to deal with the crisis involving migrants going through those countries as well as through Honduras and El Salvador on their way to an illegal entry into the United States.

[Chile continues with deportation of Venezuelan migrants](#)

June 8, 2021, MercoPress

The Government of Chile has deported on a plane to Caracas a total of 56 Venezuelan citizens who were allegedly involved in trafficking of minors, drugs, robberies or simply entered the country irregularly, it was reported. It was the third such process this year since the administration of President Sebastián Piñera decided to tighten its policies on irregular immigration in February.

[Kamala Harris tackles migration on Guatemala, Mexico tour](#)

June 9, 2021, MercoPress

US Vice President Kamala Harris rounded up her first official foreign mission in Mexico City by underlining the need to tackle the "root causes" of migration as crowds at the southwestern border grow by the hour.

[CNP to go on protesting as dialogue with Colombian government yields no progress](#)

June 7, 2021, MercoPress

Colombia's National Strike Committee (CNP) Sunday decided to push through with marches and demonstrations as a dialogue with the administration of President Iván Duque was leading nowhere.

Africa

[Famine, humanitarian crisis in Tigray reach catastrophic level](#)

June 10, 2021, Africa Times

The humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia's Tigray region has reached a level of food insecurity not seen since the 2011 famine in Somalia, according to a new United Nations report. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) update warns that more than 350,000 people in the Tigray conflict zone, and in neighboring Amhara and Afar, are in a Level 5-Catastrophic situation, the highest level on the scale. Another 2 million people are in Level 4-Emergency status and 3.1 million are in Level 3-Crisis, with a total of 61 percent of the evaluated population within those three categories.

[Death toll rises to 160 in Burkina Faso attack](#)

June 6, 2021, Africa Times

The Sahel nation of Burkina Faso began a three-day period of mourning on Sunday following a savage armed attack on Solhan, a village in the northeast part of the country near the border with Niger. The reported death toll rose to at least 160 people, many children among them.

[Namibia's opposition rejects German reparations deal](#)

June 9, 2021, Africa Times

Namibian opposition leaders rejected a deal negotiated with Germany over the colonial-era deaths of Herero and Nama peoples during a contentious parliamentary session.

[Abubakar Shekau: Nigeria's Boko Haram leader is dead, say rival militants](#)

June 8, 2021, BBC Africa

The leader of the Nigerian militant group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, has killed himself, rival Islamist militants said in an audio recording. In audio obtained by news agencies, the Islamic State West Africa Province (Iswap) said Shekau died detonating explosives on himself after a battle between the two groups.

[Morocco/US's African Lion: 'The largest US military exercise ever conducted on this continent'](#)

June 11, 2021, The African Report

Morocco and the US launched a series of joint military exercises near the Sahara on 7 June. Touted as the largest US military exercise conducted in Africa, they are due to wrap-up on 18 June.

[Big Pharma failing to share coronavirus vaccine know-how with Africa](#)

June 10, 2021, The African Report

The Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), which was launched in May 2020 by the WHO, has been endorsed by 40 countries, UN programmers and NGOs. This platform promotes open access to scientific and technological knowledge, and has called on vaccine developers to share their intellectual property, knowledge and data. However, it has not proven successful.



DPG

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