



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

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India's Defence Overhaul](#)

June 21, 2021, India Today

The year 2020 will always be remembered as a defining year in the 21st century for Indian military affairs. It was when India finally opened its doors to historic military reform by appointing a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and integrating the services into the ministry of defence (MoD).

[Indian Army Chief General Naravane holds talks with Italian defence minister Lorenzo Guerini](#)

July 8, 2021, The Economic Times

Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane on Thursday met his Italian counterpart Lt Gen Pietro Serino and Defence Minister Lorenzo Guerini in Rome and held extensive talks focusing on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, including military-to-military engagement.

[Theaterisation of Armed Forces: Decoding the new approach to defence](#)

July 2, 2021, Hindustan Times

Theaterisation of the Indian armed forces could involve a significant departure from the current arrangement, a change that experts say is crucial to fighting future wars.

[How INS Kiltan has become the strategic flag-bearer of India's Act East policy](#)

July 9, 2021, The Print

On 3 July, the Indian Navy's INS Kiltan took a quick stop in the Philippines as part of its deployment in the Indo-Pacific Region. This came after a successful military drill conducted between the Indian warship and a South Korean naval vessel in the East China Sea. Since it joined the Indian Navy in 2017, the INS Kiltan has been a significant pillar in India's Act East Policy at a time when the maritime sub-regions in the Pacific have been subject to China's assertive actions.

[Explained: What's behind the India Out campaign in Maldives?](#)

July 9, 2021, The Indian Express

The Indian High Commission in the Maldives has sought government action and greater security following what it calls "recurring articles and social media posts attacking the dignity of the High Commission" and diplomats posted in the country. Last week, a letter written by the High Commission to the country's

Ministry of Foreign Affairs was leaked and widely shared in Maldivian local media and across social media platforms. The letter cited the Preamble of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and stated that these "attacks are motivated, malicious and increasingly personal" and indicated that they could potentially "damage the time-tested and mutually beneficial bilateral relations between India and the Maldives".

[China didn't honour border pacts: Jaishankar](#)

July 9, 2021, The Times of India

The fact that China has not observed bilateral agreements of India's ties with China, external affairs minister S Jaishankar.

[India says its Afghan missions still open; envoy briefs Shringla](#)

July 7, 2021, Hindustan Times

India dismissed speculation about the closure of its embassy and two consulates in Afghanistan even as Afghan envoy Farid Mamundzay briefed foreign secretary Harsh Shringla on the fragile security situation in the troubled country.

Pakistan

[Govt borrowings rise by 12pc in 11MFY21](#)

July 6, 2021, Dawn

The government's domestic debt and liabilities increased by 12 per cent to Rs26.755 trillion during the 11 months of the current fiscal year (11MFY21) compared to Rs23.876tr in June 2020. The government borrowed Rs2.88tr during 11MFY21, with most of the amount accumulated through the Pakistan Investment Bonds and market treasury bills (T-bills).

[Pakistan may emulate Iran over refugee influx](#)

July 6, 2021, Dawn

As the withdrawal of American and NATO troops from Afghanistan enters its final phase and the Taliban make more territorial gains, an influx of refugees into Pakistan seems inevitable. But this time around, Islamabad appears not in favour of opening its border, and instead is ready to look into the 'Iranian model' if the situation demands.

[Regional efforts on to resolve Afghan issue: PM](#)

July 6, 2021, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan and its neighbouring countries want peace and a political settlement in Afghanistan to avoid possible

civil war, which would affect the entire region. Speaking at the launch of development projects and the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with China for different projects in Gwadar during his daylong visit to the port city, Prime Minister Khan said: "Pakistan is trying to talk to all the neighbouring countries and the Taliban to work out a political settlement with consensus."

[NAB cell to counter terror financing, money laundering](#)

July 5, 2021, Dawn

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has established the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML&CFT) cell to check financial crimes and illegal transfer of resources. However, the main responsibility to investigate terror financing cases will still lie with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

[Cotton imports rise by 44pc in 11MFY21](#)

July 4, 2021, Dawn

The country's cotton imports hit \$2.3 billion – an increase of 44 per cent – during July 2020-May 2021 (11MFY21) compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year. The country produced barely 5.6 million bales in FY21. Despite higher orders and a number of incentives provided by the government to boost exports, poor cotton production and imported lint nullified the efforts of the textile sector.

[2.5m doses of Moderna vaccine arrive from US](#)

July 3, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan received 2.5 million doses of Moderna vaccine from the US, with a senior American official in the federal capital confirming that Washington would be sending more in future.

[Chapter of giving bases to US closed, declares Moeed](#)

July 3, 2021, The News

Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security, Moeed Yusuf has said the chapter of lending airbases to United States is shut now. Moeed Yusuf said the issue of airbases did not come up for discussion during a recent meeting of both countries' national security advisers. "The US neither asked for bases nor talked about using our airspace."

[Military leaders back healthy working relationship with US](#)

July 3, 2021, Dawn

The military and intelligence leadership took a more nuanced approach at the meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security on the future of ties with the United States than some of the recent government statements.

[Military calls for avoiding of divisive politics](#)

July 2, 2021, Dawn

Military and intelligence leaders called for avoiding divisive politics on issues of national interest as they cautioned that strategic challenges and related policy shift in external relations could have repercussions for the country. This was the crux of a briefing given by Inter-Services Intelligence (IS) Director General Lt Gen Faiz Hameed to the Parliamentary Committee on National Security.

[Afghan transit trade pact extended for six months](#)

July 9, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Afghanistan extended the 'Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) 2010' for six months beyond May 11, 2021. The extension was essential to facilitate uninterrupted flow of transit trade between the two countries and to provide sufficient time to technical teams to conclude negotiations on the new APTTA-2021, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

[Will always stand firmly with Pakistan: Chinese FM](#)

July 8, 2021, The News

While affirming commitment to Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Minister and State Counselor Wang Yi has said China will always stand firmly with Pakistan no matter how the world changes. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, through a video link, was addressing a conference titled "Pakistan-China At 70: A Unique Bilateral Partnership" arranged by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) in commemoration of 70 years of Pakistan-China relations. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has also addressed the conference.

[Army chief discusses regional situation with Qatar leaders](#)

July 8, 2021, Dawn

Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, who was on a two-day official visit to Qatar, called on Dr Khalid Bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, deputy prime minister and minister of state for defence affairs, and Lt Gen Ghanim Bin Shaheen Al-Ghanim, chief of staff of the Qatar Armed Forces. During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, defence and security cooperation and regional/geopolitical environment were discussed.

Afghanistan

[Uncertainty grips Afghanistan, region: US quits its last Afghan airbase](#)

July 3, 2021, The News

American forces vacated the Bagram Airbase — their main military base in Afghanistan — that once housed 100,000 troops to fight al-Qaeda and Taliban. Some US troops are still in Kabul, and if they are pulled out, it would bring an end to the longest war in the US history. Though some more US troops have yet to withdraw from another base in Kabul, Bagram pullout brings an end to the United States longest war in its history on a foreign land.

[Biden's cold response to Afghanistan's collapse to have far-reaching consequences](#)

July 3, 2021, The News

When President Biden chose in April to withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan by September, we were among those who judged that the result would be a disaster for the country's 38 million people — and in particular, its women. Now, that tragedy appears to be unfolding more quickly than even many of the pessimists imagined. In recent weeks, Taliban forces have captured dozens of districts in a nationwide offensive, surrounding several provincial capitals and blocking key roads into Kabul.

[Biden says Taliban takeover of Kabul is not inevitable](#)

July 9, 2021, The News

US President Joe Biden ruled out a complete takeover of Kabul by the Taliban, saying it was not inevitable. However, the US president did admit that it was "highly unlikely" that a unified Afghan government would control most of the territory. His remarks came as the US and foreign forces leave Afghanistan, with the Taliban seizing key districts of the country with every passing day.

[Biden: US War in Afghanistan Will End August 31](#)

July 9, 2021, Tolo News

US President Joe Biden spoke about the situation in Afghanistan, and once again pledged Washington's long term support for the Afghan people, government and the country's security forces. Biden said the US will continue to provide funding and equipment to the security forces but says Afghan leaders "have to come together."

[Taliban, Afghan Delegates in Iran Agree 'War Is Not Solution'](#)

July 9, 2021, Tolo News

The Taliban delegation and a group of Afghan politicians in Tehran agreed during their meetings that war was not the solution to the Afghan problem and that “a peaceful solution should be sought,” said a joint declaration with six articles.

[Turkey, U.S. defence chiefs hold 'constructive and positive' meeting on Kabul airport](#)

July 7, 2021, Metro

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar and his U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin had a “constructive and positive meeting” to discuss a plan for Turkey to operate and guard Kabul airport after the NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Turkish defence ministry said.

[Tajikistan calls up reservists to bolster border as Afghan troops flee Taliban](#)

July 6, 2021, Reuters

Tajikistan's president ordered the mobilisation of 20,000 military reservists to bolster the border with Afghanistan after more than 1,000 Afghan security personnel fled across the frontier in response to Taliban militant advances.

[Afghanistan situation to be focus on Indian foreign minister's visit to Russia](#)

July 5, 2021, Hindustan Times

The rapidly deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and several upcoming high-level meetings, including the annual India-Russia Summit, are expected to top the agenda when external affairs minister S Jaishankar visits Moscow this week.

Bangladesh

[In a first, Coal India sends fuel to Bangladesh power plant](#)

July 5, 2021, Live Mint

In a first, state-run Coal India Ltd (CIL) has sent 4,000 tonnes of coal to Bangladesh for its Khulna power project, as part of India's strategy to play a key role in creating a new energy security architecture for its neighbours.

Nepal

[Nepal, India revise railway service pact](#)

July 5, 2021, Tribune India

In a major boost to the Nepal-India bilateral ties, the two neighbouring countries revised the Railway Service Agreement on June 30, according to a media report.

Sri Lanka

[Concern Over "Chinese Men In Military Uniform" At Sri Lanka Dredging Site](#)

July 4, 2021, NDTV

As China moves ahead to take control of Sri Lankan infrastructure, the alleged deployment of Chinese military personnel in Hambantota continues to evoke furore and concerns.

[Sri Lanka issues coin for CPC centenary](#)

July 7, 2021, The Hindu

In a rare diplomatic gesture, Sri Lanka has issued a commemorative coin marking the centenary of the Chinese Communist Party. The country's Central Bank on Tuesday said it has minted two coins in gold and silver, in connection with the Party's 100th anniversary, and 65 years of Sri Lanka-China relations.

East & South East Asia

China

[US firms seek AI openings in China despite fresh bilateral tension](#)

July 8, 2021, Global Times

Even as tension between China and the US continue to escalate in a wide range of areas from trade to technology, US technological companies showed unabated passion about the Chinese market at an industry expo kicked off on Thursday in Shanghai.

[China reaffirms opening-up policy amid talks of financial decoupling from US](#)

July 8 , 2021, Global Times

China's Foreign Ministry stressed that China's policy for opening up to the world and supporting online platforms remain intact, as discussions that a long-feared China-US financial decoupling may have intensified in recent days after Didi Chuxing's regulatory woes.

[Future AWACS to include multiple platforms: Chinese designers](#)

July 8, 2021, Global Times

A future airborne warning and control system (AWACS) will likely not be one single early warning aircraft, but a cluster of platforms that can accomplish different missions and build an information network, said chief designers of China's early warning aircraft.

[Whoever sanctions China over Hong Kong will receive relentless retaliation: Global Times editorial](#)

July 9, 2021, Global Times

The European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution appealing to sanctions on officials of both Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland as well as a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

[Xi emphasizes South-South cooperation](#)

July 9, 2021, China Daily

The fund and the institute have become important public goods that China provides for South-South cooperation as well as important international brands for developing countries to promote South-South cooperation and enhance sustainable development, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at an event in Beijing.

[China-EU agreement will benefit world, says MOC](#)

July 9, 2021, China Daily

The China-EU Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) is in line with the common interests of China and the European Union, as well as beneficial to the world, and China and the EU are currently conducting technical preparations, including a legal review and translation of the agreement, according to China's Ministry of Commerce.

Japan

[U.N. nuclear agency to help monitor Fukushima water release](#)

July 9, 2021, Japan Today

The United Nations' nuclear watchdog said it reached an agreement with Japan Thursday on helping monitor and review the release of treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima plant into the Pacific Ocean.

[US, Japan object to ban on onion exports](#)

July 9, 2021, Mint

The US and Japan have objected to India's frequent ban on onion exports at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), claiming that such prohibitions without prior notification put importing countries in great difficulty.

[China irked by Japan deputy PM's comments on 'protecting' Taiwan](#)

July 6, 2021, Hindustan Times

China lodged a diplomatic protest with Japan after Japanese deputy prime minister Taro Aso said that Tokyo and Washington should combine to protect Taiwan from the Chinese military if it is attacked.

[Japan, Britain to hold joint naval drill in Gulf of Aden](#)

July 8, 2021, Kyodo News

Japan and Britain will hold a joint military drill in the Gulf of Aden in the near future to demonstrate their cooperation in various geographical areas, according to Japanese government sources.

[US, Japan Conduct Joint Military Exercise In Senkaku Islands To Counter Chinese Aggression](#)

July 5, 2021, Republic

The United States has been conducting military exercises with Japan near Senkaku Islands. The news has been confirmed by the Spokesperson of the US Department of Defence, John Kirby. The US Department of Defense spokesperson, John Kirby has confirmed the news of the US conducting military exercises with Japan near Senkaku Islands. The activities are said to

involve combating China to defend Taiwan. The confirmation has been made at a press conference. Further details are stated as per the Taipei Times' report.

Korea

[U.S. wants partnership with S. Korea based on 'shared values' amid China challenge: congressman](#)

July 7, 2021, The Korea Times

The United States wants to work with like-minded countries, including South Korea, based on the shared values of democracy and freedom that are being challenged by an assertive China, a U.S. congressman said.

[Moon vows Korea will become 'battery powerhouse'](#)

July 8, 2021, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in said Thursday that his government would use all available policy measures to ensure that South Korea becomes a global secondary battery-manufacturing powerhouse by 2030.

[POSCO sees highest quarterly profit in 15 years](#)

July 9, 2021, The Korea Times

POSCO estimated that its operating profit for the second quarter would be 2.2 trillion won (\$1.9 billion), its highest quarterly earnings since the steel giant began to disclose such results for guidance in 2006.

[S Korea, Netherlands agree in summit to enhance cooperation in semiconductors, green economy](#)

July 7, 2021, The Korea Times

The leaders of South Korea and the Netherlands agreed during virtual summit talks Wednesday to reinforce partnerships between their countries in the semiconductors industry and green energy field.

[Korean researcher joins IAEA team to monitor Japan's planned release of Fukushima water](#)

June 9, 2021, The Korea Times

The U.N. nuclear watchdog has formed a team of experts, including a South Korean researcher, to monitor Japan's planned discharge of treated water from its crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant, the government said.

[Moon thanks US Congress for support in advancing Seoul-Washington alliance](#)

July 9, 2021, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in expressed gratitude for the support the U.S. Congress has provided in the advancement of the decades-old Seoul-Washington

alliance during a meeting with a group of visiting U.S. lawmakers at Cheong Wa Dae.

[N. Korea's malicious cyber activities pose threat to US, allies: State Dept.](#)

July 9, 2021, The Korea Herald

North Korea poses a significant cyber threat to the United States and other countries, particularly to financial institutions, a State Department spokesman said.

[S. Korea, Argentina hold talks on capital flows, economic cooperation](#)

July 9, 2021, The Korea Herald

The finance ministers of South Korea and Argentina have held talks over ways to ease volatility of cross-border capital flows and strengthen economic cooperation, the finance ministry said.

[Desperate N.Korea Cracks down on S.Korean Influence](#)

July 9, 2021, The Chosun Ilbo

The North Korean regime is cracking down yet again on corrupting South Korean influences in increasingly frantic attempts to divert attention from its own failings.

Southeast Asia

[Five years after South China Sea ruling, China's presence around Philippines only growing](#)

July 9, 2021, The Economic Times

Philippines has done little else to press its claim under firebrand President Rodrigo Duterte, who has made the relationship with China a plan of his foreign policy and said it is "futile" to try to challenge its vastly bigger neighbour.

[India and Vietnam: Strengthening of defence relations](#)

July 2, 2021, The Times of India

India and Vietnam continue to strengthen defence ties between the two countries. In yet another move in this direction, on the 1st July, Indian Defence Minister Sri Rajnath Singh and Minister of National Defence of Vietnam Sr Lt Gen Phan Van Giang interacted to review the progress in this context.

[Singapore to bring in Indian workers on "small scale" and in a "calibrated manner"](#)

July 7, 2021, The Indian Express

Migrant workers from India will be brought into Singapore on a "small scale" and in a "calibrated manner" this month through a pilot programme led by the construction, marine and process (CMP) sectors, according to a media report.

[Singapore, China enhance aviation cooperation](#)

July 8, 2021, Vietnam Plus

Singapore and China signed a memorandum of understanding on July 8 on collaboration to improve their air traffic management (ATM) capabilities, in the first such agreement of its kind between China and a Southeast Asian air navigation service provider.

[South China Sea: Chinese coastguard ships, warplanes engaged in 'parallel escalation' off Malaysia, US think tank says](#)

July 8, 2021, SCMP

A controversial incident that saw 16 Chinese military aircraft near Malaysian air space in late May coincided with similar activity by Chinese coastguard vessels in the area, and may have been part of "parallel escalation" efforts aimed at challenging energy exploration activities in the South China Sea, a US think tank said.

[What is the future of democracy in the Philippines?](#)

July 6, 2021, The Indian Express

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has announced plans to run for vice president when his term ends in May 2022, raising concerns about how it could bypass presidential term limits and keep him in power, while granting immunity from criminal charges.

[Geostrategic importance of Dawei Port in Myanmar for India](#)

July 9, 2021, One India

Despite cacophony of the US led democracies along with India, Australia & Japan the SCS which witnesses nearly 1/3rd of the maritime trade across the globe, has been militarized by China to enact the real-life drama of military guarded trade & technology in the SCS Theater. Contrary to the laws laid down in UNCLOS China has followed its own laws and rules as a result, the Ocean Ecosystem of the region is being totally modified and degraded.

[Myanmar coup: US imposes fresh sanctions on 22 persons](#)

July 2, 2021, WION

The US announced fresh sanctions on 22 persons including four Myanmar government ministers. The Treasury and Commerce Department, in a two-

pronged action, announced the sanctions as part of Washington's continued response to the overthrow of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Uzbekistan Restricts Access To Several Social Media Sites](#)

July 03, 2021, RFE/RL

Uzbekistan's communications regulator has restricted access to several social media websites for violating personal data laws. O'zkomnazorat announced the restrictions on July 2 without mentioning which social media sites fall under the order.

[Uzbekistan bracing for possible Afghan refugee crisis](#)

July 03, 2021, Eurasianet

A tent city has been erected outside the southern Uzbekistan city of Termez, apparently in advance of an anticipated flow of refugees from bordering Afghanistan, large parts of which are currently gripped by fighting between government and Taliban forces, local residents have said.

[Tajik COVID Task Force Orders Everyone Over 18 To Get Vaccinated](#)

July 04, 2021, RFE/RL

Tajikistan's coronavirus task force has ordered all citizens over the age of 18 to get vaccinated against COVID-19, the Central Asian country's state media reported on July 3. It added that citizens should book an appointment with their doctor or their local clinic to receive a free vaccination. Until now, vaccination was optional in the country.

[Uzbekistan disappoints with secretively adopted religion law](#)

July 07, 2021, Eurasianet

Uzbekistan has adopted a new law on religion that affords some marginal concessions but mostly leaves restrictions in place, much to the dismay of faith advocacy groups. Among the more contentious areas covered in the legislation signed by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on July 5.

[Tajikistan Reportedly Calls On Allies For Help With Security Challenges From Afghanistan](#)

July 07, 2021, RFE/RL

Tajikistan has appealed to members of a Russian-led military alliance of ex-Soviet states for help in dealing with security challenges emerging from neighboring Afghanistan, according to media reports. Dushanbe's call came hours after Moscow vowed to defend its Central Asian allies threatened by the intensifying violence in Afghanistan.

[HRW Criticizes Kazakhstan For Increased Targeting Of Government Critics](#)

July 07, 2021, RFE/RL

Human Rights Watch has accused authorities in Kazakhstan of increasing their misuse of vague and overreaching criminal charges relating to the crime of "extremism" to harass and prosecute government critics. The rights group said in a statement on July 7 that authorities have targeted at least 135 people across the country with criminal investigations and prosecutions for alleged participation in banned "extremist" political opposition groups.

[Kazakhstan unveils ambitious green-hydrogen project](#)

July 08, 2021, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan hopes to build the world's largest green-hydrogen project, which could – in the distant future – help Nur-Sultan meet its clean-energy promises. Swedish-German renewables firm Svevind unveiled plans last month for 45 GW of wind and solar capacity in central and western Kazakhstan.

[Kumtor Saga Roils With Additional Arbitration Claims and Scathing Open Letters](#)

July 09, 2021, The Diplomat

Kyrgyz authorities say they have begun the process of denouncing all agreements related to the Kumtor Gold Mine project, nearly two months after the Kyrgyz government seized control of the prized asset. Meanwhile, the Canadian mining company that has long operated the mine is filing additional arbitration claims against the Kyrgyz government.

West Asia

[EAM Jaishankar Hands PM Message to Iran President-elect, Discusses Afghanistan with Counterpart](#)

July 07, 2021, The Indian Express

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar handed over a personal message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran as he made a stopover at the Iranian capital on his way to Russia.

[India Urges Iran to Continue to Cooperate with IAEA for Verification](#)

July 01, 2021, Business Standard

India has asked Iran to continue to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the performance of verification activities related to its nuclear programme and addressing all outstanding issues.

[Israel Aerospace Industries \(IAI\) to Provide Dozens of Drone Guard Systems to a South Asian Country](#)

July 04, 2021, Israel Defense

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced that, through its ELTA Systems group, it is delivering dozens of Drone Guard systems to a country in South Asia. The combat-proven ELI-4030 Drone Guard system provides the ability to detect, classify, identify and defeat drone attacks.

[Emergency Procurement of Anti Drone Technology! Regulation of Defence Research: Keeping the Perspective Right](#)

July 02, 2021, Financial Express

The recent drone attack at Jammu airbase highlighted multiple shortcomings in India's preparedness to deter emerging innovations in asymmetric warfare. However, it was remarkable to note that some agencies came out publicly to announce that the anti-drone technology is already available within the country and Defence forces are solely responsible for not using them.

[PM Modi to Address CoWIN Global Conclave as India Opens CoWin app to the World](#)

July 04, 2021, Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his thoughts on CoWIN Global Conclave on July 5, as India offers CoWIN as a digital public good to the world to combat COVID19, the Centre said.

[OPEC Plus, Failing to Agree on Oil Production Levels, will try Again on Monday \(July 05\)](#)

July 02, 2021, The New York Times

OPEC officials failed for a second day on Friday (July 02) to resolve a dispute over quotas that prevented OPEC, Russia and their allies from reaching an agreement on raising production. Talks were tripped up when the United Arab Emirates insisted on what would amount to a substantial increase in its production quota if OPEC Plus extended the output agreement.

[Saudi Arabia Pushes Back on UAE's Opposition to OPEC+ Deal](#)

July 05, 2021, Yahoo News

Saudi Arabia's energy minister pushed back on Sunday (July 04) against opposition by fellow Gulf producer the United Arab Emirates to a proposed OPEC+ deal and called for "compromise and rationality" to secure agreement when the group reconvenes on Monday (July 05).

['10,000 Islamic State Fighters Still in Syria, Situation Untenable': Blinken](#)

June 28, 2021, Hindustan Times

Urging the allies of the United States to bring back citizens arrested for joining the Islamic State terror group, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said 10,000 IS fighters are still being held in detention in camps run by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

[Iran Conditions Return to Nuclear Deal on US Commitment to Never Withdraw Again](#)

July 01, 2021, The Times of Israel

Iran's envoy to the United Nations told the Security Council that an essential condition for reviving the 2015 nuclear deal is a commitment by the US that it will never again unilaterally pull out of the agreement.

[China Blames US for Conflicts from Afghanistan to Iran](#)

July 03, 2021, South China Morning Post

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi accused the US of being "the source" of a series of conflicts in the world, seeking to present Beijing as a "defender" and "friendly neighbour" for countries in conflicts. Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy is outdated and should be swept into the rubbish, he added.

[UN Chief Urges US to Remove Iran Sanctions as Agreed in 2015](#)

June 30, 2021, AL Jazeera

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to US President Joe Biden's administration to lift or waive all sanctions on Iran as agreed under a 2015 deal aimed at stopping Tehran from developing a nuclear weapon.

[Israeli Officials Say Iran Behind Indian Ocean Attack on Cargo Ship](#)

July 03, 2021, Haaretz

A commercial ship previously under Israeli ownership was hit by an unidentified weapon in the northern Indian Ocean on Saturday (July 03), causing only mild damage and no casualties.

United States

United States

[Biden defends pulling US out of Afghanistan as Taliban advances: 'We did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build'](#)

July 8, 2021, CNN

President Joe Biden delivered a vehement defense Thursday of his decision to end the war in Afghanistan, insisting no amount of sustained American presence there could resolve the country's own intractable problems.

[Biden Pledges to End \\$90 Billion Worth of Tax Breaks for Gas Companies](#)

July 7, 2021, National Review

During a Wednesday press conference to promote his "Build Back Better" agenda, President Biden pledged to end tax breaks for energy companies in the fossil-fuel business, raising \$90 billion dollars in revenue for the federal government.

[Attempted Hack of R.N.C. and Russian Ransomware Attack Test Biden](#)

July 8, 2021, The New York Times

Russian hackers are accused of breaching a contractor for the Republican National Committee last week, around the same time that Russian cybercriminals launched the single largest global ransomware attack on record, incidents that are testing the red lines set by President Biden during his high-stakes summit with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia last month.

[U.S. warship leads drills in Russia's backyard, a message that the Black Sea is "for everybody"](#)

July 6, 2021, CBS News

A tense confrontation between a British warship and the Russian military was captured on camera late last month. Russian planes buzzed the British vessel and issued hostile warnings. The incident took place in the Black Sea, where the U.S. and dozens of other countries are still conducting military exercises.

[How China can benefit from joining US, Russia in nuclear arms talks](#)

July 9, 2021, The South China Morning Post

Engaging in arms limitation talks is a chance to show Beijing's commitment to nuclear restraint, a global public good that would be universally supported.

[Biden's new Cold War with China will result in climate collapse, progressives warn](#)

July 7, 2021, Politico

As a new Cold War takes shape between the U.S. and China, progressives fear the result will be a dramatically warming planet.

[U.S. and China can co-exist peacefully, says White House's Kurt Campbell](#)

July 6, 2021, CNBC

The U.S. and China can co-exist peacefully, and that the relationship should not be viewed as a "new cold war," said Kurt Campbell, White House coordinator for the Indo-Pacific.

[Blinken meets Uyghur ex-detainees; US warns of new sanctions](#)

July 7, 2021, Associated Press

Secretary of State Antony Blinken met virtually on Tuesday with Uyghur Muslims who were detained at camps in China's northwest Xinjiang region to hear about their experiences and seek advice on how best to pressure China to halt repression there.

[NBA wants to play the 'positive role' and help defuse U.S.-China tensions](#)

July 7, 2021, CNBC

The NBA's business operations in China is worth more than \$5 billion, and the league plans to continue showing its product despite tensions between the two global superpowers.

[The US and India have a lot of work to do on digital cooperation](#)

July 6, 2021, Al Jazeera

As tensions escalate between US social media giants and India's gov't, is there a more productive path forward for both?

[Saudi minister says he held 'great meeting' with Blinken](#)

July 8, 2021, Reuters

Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman said he held "a great meeting" on Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in which they explored strengthening U.S.-Saudi ties and reviewed regional developments.

[Blinken raised concerns with Israeli officials over West Bank home demolition](#)

July 9, 2021, Reuters

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has raised concerns with Israeli officials over the demolition of a family's home in the West Bank, the State Department said on Thursday.

[Blinken calls for indefinite ceasefire in call with Ethiopia's Abiy](#)

July 7, 2021, Reuters

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Tuesday, stressing the need for all parties to commit to an immediate and indefinite ceasefire in the northern Tigray region, the State Department said.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU Says U.K. Owes It 47.5 Billion Euros for Post-Brexit Payment](#)

July 9, 2021, Bloomberg

The European Union concluded that the U.K. owes it 47.5 billion euros (\$56.2 billion) as part of the Brexit settlement, a higher figure than the U.K. had originally estimated.

[British warship to get a boost in firepower with new missile](#)

July 8, 2021, Defense News

Britain's Type 45 destroyer is to be fitted with a new short-range anti-air missile as part of a wider weapons capability upgrade, which includes updates to the warship's long-range weapon and the associated command-and-control system.

[European Parliament adopts resolution on Hong Kong press freedom in response to Apple Daily closure](#)

July 9, 2021, South China Morning Post

The European Parliament has adopted a broad new resolution on Hong Kong, advocating tough measures be taken over the government's crackdown on the city's press freedom.

[EU will 'never, ever' accept two-state deal on Cyprus](#)

July 8, 2021, Reuters

The European Union will "never, ever" accept a two-state deal on ethnically-split Cyprus, the head of its executive said on Thursday.

[EU votes for action over Hungary's anti-LGBT law](#)

July 8, 2021, BBC

The European Parliament has voted in favour of urgent legal action over Hungary's new law banning the depiction of homosexuality to under-18s.

[EU Parliament seeks sanctions on Iran officials for human rights abuse](#)

July 8, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

The European Parliament passed a resolution dated Wednesday, urging that sanctions be imposed on Iranian regime officials for the imprisonment and executions of EU nationals.

[EU hikes its growth forecasts for the euro area but warns on the delta variant spread](#)

July 8, 2021, CNBC

The economic outlook has improved for the euro zone, according to the European Commission's latest forecasts on Wednesday, but the institution warned that the delta variant is a "stark reminder" that the pandemic is not over.

[EU Lawmakers Seek to Classify Nuclear Investment as Green](#)

July 8, 2021, Bloomberg

More than 80 lawmakers have called on the European Union's executive branch to include nuclear energy in its classification system for green investment, in order to help the bloc, meet its ambitious climate neutrality goal.

[Germany, Spain and Sweden: 'End nuclear weapons testing'](#)

July 5, 2021, Deutsche Welle

Germany is joining 15 other countries for a nuclear disarmament conference aiming to build momentum after a US-Russia summit renewed hopes for more arms control between the two nuclear powers.

[Top EU official says aid access to Syrians must stay open](#)

July 8, 2021, Associated Press

A top EU official warned Thursday that the potential closure of the only remaining border crossing through which humanitarian aid can enter parts of Syria held by anti-government insurgents would have "dramatic" consequences for millions of civilians.

[French envoy slams Lebanon PM for shifting blame on economic collapse](#)

July 7, 2021, Reuters

The French ambassador has rebuked Lebanon's prime minister for saying the country is under siege and blamed years of "mismanagement and inaction" by Lebanese leaders for its economic collapse.

[UK and Germany sign post-Brexit defence and foreign policy declaration](#)

July 2, 2021, The Guardian

The UK and Germany have agreed a 20-point post-Brexit joint declaration of cooperation affirming their commitment to the "strategic unity of Europe".

[German foreign minister confident deal to save JCPOA reachable 'in coming weeks'](#)

July 5, 2021, The Times of Israel

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Monday he was confident of reaching a deal to save the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran "in the coming weeks."

Russia

[Russia to launch serial production of breakthrough Armata tank in 2022](#)

July 05, 2021, TASS News Agency

The serial production of Russia's latest T-14 'Armata' tank will begin next year, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said. The Armata is a heavy tracked standardized platform serving as the basis to develop a main battle tank, an infantry fighting vehicle, an armored personnel carrier and some other armored vehicles.

[Moscow Not Excluding Dialogue With US on Russia's Latest Weapons Systems](#)

July 06, 2021, Sputnik News

Moscow is not ruling out a dialogue with the United States on Russia's latest weapons systems if it also includes talks on American prospective hypersonic weapons and other issues, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said.

[Secretly Visited Myanmar Ahead of Junta Leader's Moscow Visit – Reports](#)

July 06, 2021, The Moscow Times

A Russian delegation led by two Navy officers secretly visited Myanmar ahead of its junta leader's trip to Russia last month, the independent Myanmar Now news outlet reported, citing a document it said it had obtained.

[Estonian Consul Held in Russia Over 'Classified Documents'](#)

July 07, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian security forces said they had detained Estonia's consul to St. Petersburg for allegedly receiving classified documents, the latest in a series of espionage cases between Moscow and the West. The FSB security service said consul Mart Latte was "caught red-handed while receiving classified documents from a Russian national" and detained for activities "incompatible with the status of a diplomatic worker" and "openly hostile" to Russia.

[Kremlin Concerned Over Raab's Statement that UK Ships May Enter 'Ukrainian Waters' Again](#)

July 07, 2021, Sputnik News

The Kremlin is concerned over UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab's recent claim that London may send British ships to "Ukrainian waters" again after the incident with the destroyer Defender. The Presidential Spokesperson stressed that any attempt to violate Russian waters will result in an immediate response.

[Russia Says Ready to Activate Tajik Military Base Amid U.S. Pullout, Taliban Advance in Afghanistan](#)

July 07, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia is prepared to activate a military base in ex-Soviet Tajikistan against advancing Taliban forces on its southern border as U.S. troops finalize their pullout from neighboring Afghanistan, its top diplomat said on July 07.

[Taliban Assures Moscow It Poses No Threat To Central Asian States](#)

July 09, 2021, RFE/RL

Taliban representatives have visited Moscow insisting that recent gains across Afghanistan pose no threat to Russia or Central Asian states. Taliban fighters have captured large swaths of territory in northern Afghanistan as government forces get routed with the U.S. troop exit from the country.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[More than 50% of Uruguayans vaccinated with both doses](#)

July 6, 2021, MercoPress

Uruguay's Health Minister Daniel Salinas announced his country had already inoculated over half its population against SARS-Cov-2 with two doses of anti coronavirus vaccines.

[China enters auto manufacturing industry in Brazil, acquiring Mercedes-Benz plant](#)

July 7, 2021, MercoPress

The Chinese auto industry is penetrating Brazil. Automaker Great Wall Motors (GWM) reported that it has purchased the Mercedes-Benz car factory in Iracemápolis, Sao Paulo state, according to a report in the financial sector from the newspaper "O Globo".

[Argentina wants to deepen ties with China, President Fernández says](#)

July 7, 2021, MercoPress

Argentine President Alberto Fernández Tuesday highlighted "the historic relationship" between former leaders Juan Domingo Perón and Mao Tse-Tung as he took part as a guest during the virtual ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

[Argentina takes action against foreign oil companies operating on South Atlantic continental shelf](#)

July 8, 2021, MercoPress

Argentina's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Energy Wednesday announced sanctions were to be imposed on three companies for operating illegally in the South Atlantic. According to the Argentine authorities, the companies were dedicated to the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons on the Argentine Continental Shelf, in the northern Falklands basin.

[Uruguay swears allegiance to Mercosur, but will negotiate independently with third countries](#)

July 8, 2021, MercoPress

On the eve of Mercosur summit, Uruguay informed its partners that it will proceed with negotiations, expecting to reach trade agreements with third parties or blocks, outside of the four founding members group. The highly contentious announcement was communicated by foreign minister Francisco

Bustillo who told Mercosur partners Uruguay would act independently in the issue of extending preferential tariffs to other countries, without the need of having to comply with the consensus of the block's associates

Africa

[Security Council urges Egypt, Sudan to continue AU talks on Ethiopian dam](#)

July 8, 2021, Africa Times

The best chance of solving the prolonged political crisis over Ethiopia's Nile River dam project is through negotiations led by the African Union (AU), according to members of the United Nations Security Council who took up the dispute during a meeting in New York. The UN discussion comes as Tunisia, a current Security Council member aligned with the Arab League, pressed for the meeting to discuss its own proposal to end the standoff. That proposal calls on Ethiopia to halt the process of filling the dam, and for a return to negotiations between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

[Zuma Foundation: Former SA president has turned himself in](#)

July 7, 2021, Africa Times

Former South African president Jacob Zuma has turned himself into police, according to a statement issued by the Jacob Zuma Foundation.

[Some African nations hesitate on OECD global tax reform deal](#)

July 4, 2021, Africa Times

The newly announced agreement to establish a global minimum corporate tax rate is supported by 130 countries, but not all African neighbours are on board. The deal, a decade in the making, was made a priority of last month's G7 meeting in the United Kingdom. It is advanced by the United States, many European nations and international bodies, including the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that spearheads the agreement.

[Mali: France to resume military operations with Malian Armed Forces](#)

July 5, 2021, The Africa Report

France, which has more than 5,000 troops deployed in the Sahel, will resume joint operations with the Malian Armed Forces, after suspending bilateral cooperation following Mali's second coup.

[Coronavirus: King Mohammed VI kicks off production of 'made in Morocco' vaccines](#)

July 8, 2021, The Africa Report

Morocco was among the world's pioneers in vaccinating its population against Covid-19 and is now eager to start producing its own vaccines. King Mohammed VI presided over a ceremony on 5 July at the Royal Palace of Fez, during which he signed deals that will now allow Morocco to manufacture Covid-19 vaccines and other serums.

[Libya: A human target is shot down for the first time by a drone](#)

July 6, 2021, The Africa Report

According to the UN, Libya is the only country where a human has been shot down by a drone. This incident took place in March 2020. Does it mark a turning point in the history of warfare?



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