



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 35 | August 27, 2021

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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ABOUT US

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

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[The meaning of India's 'wait and watch' policy on Afghanistan](#)

August 27, 2021, The Indian Express

On Thursday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed the Opposition parties on India's Afghanistan policy in the wake of the Taliban takeover. The main focus of his briefing was on India's evacuation effort, but he also added that the Indian government's policy is to wait and watch.

[Army's lightning takeover gave India heft in LAC talks](#)

August 27, 201, Hindustan Times

The Indian Army's lightning takeover of strategic heights on the southern side of Pangong Tso a year ago stunned the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), gave it (the Indian Army) heft in subsequent military negotiations, and eventually paved the way for the first and crucial round of disengagement of rival soldiers and weaponry from the Pangong Tso sector in eastern Ladakh, officials and experts tracking the developments said.

[India, China to soon have 13th military commander-level talks for Hot Springs friction point](#)

August 26, 2021, India Today

In a step towards resolving the ongoing conflict in eastern Ladakh, India and China will soon hold the 13th round of military commander-level talks. The latest discussions will address the Hot Springs friction point.

[Rajnath Singh to commission Coast Guard patrol vessel Vighraha](#)

August 27, 2021, India Today

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Vighraha, seventh in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), will be commissioned by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Chennai on August 28.

[Russia a forever partner but defence ties with India seems to have run its course](#)

August 27, 2021, The Print

One of the biggest changes in India's foreign policy has been its increasing alignment with the US. This is evident not just at the diplomatic level, but also in military-to-military relations.

Pakistan

[Gwadar suicide attack: Two children killed, three injured](#)

August 21, 2021, The News

A convoy comprising four vehicles carrying Chinese nationals with Pakistan Army and police contingent" was targeted on the East Bay Expressway in Gwadar killing two children and injuring three others, including a Chinese national. The incident took place along the coastal road near a fishermen's colony.

[Under contentious policy: 400 bureaucrats get extra plots worth Rs25 bn in capital](#)

August 21, 2021, The News

Nearly 400 top civil servants got an extra prime government plot each, collectively worth Rs25 billion in the heart of the federal capital in the past 15 years.

[Gwadar suicide attack: Punish perpetrators, China tells Pakistan](#)

August 22, 2021, The News

China asked Pakistan to conduct a thorough investigation into the Gwadar suicide attack and severely punish the perpetrators and take practical steps to ensure such incidents do not occur again.

[\\$3 bn PSGP Project: Pakistan, Russia to hold three-day technical talks on August 24-26](#)

August 23, 2021, The News

Pakistan and Russia held three-day talks on crucial technical issues regarding their flagship project 'Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline' (PSGP), of \$3 billion on August 24-26, both sides discussed the project implementation and set out the 1040 pipeline's specification.

[If govt fails to retain new FSRU: Engro LNG terminal shutdown to cause massive gas crisis](#)

August 23, 2021, The News

The country is likely to face massive gas loadshedding after September 5-6 because of expected shutdown of Engro LNG terminal if the government fails to retain the new Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) Sequoia, having capacity to re-gasify 780mmcf, by August 30, 2021.

[Pakistan remains on UK red list for travel](#)

August 27, 2021, Dawn

Despite weeks of lobbying by the Pakistan High Commission and British Pakistani MPs, the UK government's travel review showed no change for the country, which continues to remain on the red list.

[Pakistan, US should move on and work together in Afghanistan: NSA](#)

August 27, 2021, Dawn

The United States and Pakistan have a shared interest in working together in Afghanistan, National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf said in a phone interview with The Washington Post. But the NSA pointed out that cooperation would require fixing the bilateral relationship by "moving past problems".

[Over 50 lawmakers to be briefed on Afghanistan at GHQ](#)

August 27, 2021, Dawn

Over 50 parliamentarians belonging to the treasury and the opposition parties will visit the Pakistan Army's General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on August 30 for a "security briefing" with respect to the situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover.

[Qureshi leaves for four-nation tour to discuss Afghan situation](#)

August 25, 2021, Dawn

As part of Pakistan's efforts for an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi embarked on a visit to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Iran. According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, during his visit the foreign minister will share Pakistan's perspective on the latest developments in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

[Shariah, not democracy, to run Afghanistan: Taliban](#)

August 21, 2021, The News

Afghanistan may be governed by a ruling council now that the Taliban have taken over, while the movement's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, would likely remain in overall charge. Meanwhile, Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid announced the creation of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in a tweet. "[This is the] declaration of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the country's (Afghanistan's) independence from British rule".

[Taliban appoint top govt officials](#)

August 25, 2021, The News

The Afghan Taliban have appointed interim heads of several ministries and agencies, including the Interior Ministry, the Finance Ministry as well as intelligence services. Based on the reported information, Sadr Ibrahim was appointed as the acting Interior Minister, Gul Agha is the interim Finance Minister, while Najibullah will be the interim head of intelligence. Additionally, the Taliban appointed their representatives to the posts of ministers of education, higher education and to the post of governor of Kabul.

[Taliban, Northern Alliance agree on peace](#)

August 27, 2021, The News

In a major development in war-torn Afghanistan, the Taliban and Northern Alliance agreed to refrain from attacks against each other. After holding successful dialogue, the Taliban and Northern Alliance have decided that they will not attack each other. Dialogues between the two sides took place over the last two days at the Charikar area of the Parwan province.

[12 US troops, 60 Afghans die in blasts at Kabul airport](#)

August 27, 2021, Dawn

Two suicide bombers and gunmen attacked crowds of Afghans flocking to Kabul's airport on August 26, transforming a scene of desperation into one of horror in the waning days of an airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover. The attacks killed at least 60 Afghans and 12 US troops.

[Taliban ask US not to 'encourage' locals to flee country](#)

August 25, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban urged skilled Afghans not to flee the country and asked America to stop taking "Afghan experts" such as engineers and doctors out of Kabul, as US-led troops have ramped up operations to evacuate tens of thousands of people including many Afghans on a daily basis.

[Afghan GDP may slump 20pc after Taliban takeover](#)

August 21, 2021, Dawn

Afghanistan's economy could shrink by as much as 20 per cent this year and its currency may slide further than it already has following the Taliban's takeover, Fitch Solutions said.

[Taliban will allow Americans, at-risk Afghans to leave after Aug 31: Blinken](#)

August 26, 2021, The Express Tribune

As many as 1,500 American citizens may still need to be evacuated from Afghanistan and the Taliban have pledged to allow some departures after US troops leave the country on August 31, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said

[Gissar Military Aerodrome – India's first overseas base that came to the rescue in Afghan crisis](#)

August 23, Print

Gissar Military Aerodrome (GMA), India's first overseas base operated along with Tajikistan and aimed at giving a strategic heft to their military operations and training, has come in handy in India's effort to evacuate hundreds of its citizens and Afghans from Kabul, overrun by the Taliban.

[Taliban-controlled Afghanistan won't be part of proposed 4-nation grouping on Chabahar port and INSTC, say sources](#)

August 23, 2021, Money Control

Afghanistan, now largely controlled by the Taliban, will not be part of the quadrilateral nation grouping proposed to discuss the use of Chabahar port (Iran), along with India, Uzbekistan and Iran. These nations were set to meet later this year to paper over the issues that have cropped up over the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

[India engaged with imp stakeholders on Afghanistan situation: Shringla](#)

August 26, 2021, Business Standard

India is engaged with important stakeholders and regional countries on the Afghan crisis and is adopting a "wait and watch" approach to see whether the new dispensation in Afghanistan will be solely a government of the Taliban or be part of a power-sharing arrangement with other Afghan leaders

['Operation Devi Shakti': India evacuates more than 800 people from Afghanistan](#)

August 24, 2021, The Hindustan Times

India gave a name to its operation to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan. External affairs minister S Jaishankar called it 'Operation Devi Shakti' and saluted the efforts of Indian Air Force and Air India. India has so far evacuated more than 800 people since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. Nearly 200 more Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are still stranded in Afghanistan. These people have taken shelter at the Karte Parwan gurdwara in Kabul, which is close to the airport, according to Puneet Singh Chandhok,

president of the Indian World Forum which has been coordinating the evacuation efforts with the Ministry of External Affairs and the IAF.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh receives 40 more ambulances from India](#)

August 26, 2021, News on Air

With this, Bangladesh has received a total of 71 ambulances till now. These life support ambulances are part of the gift of 109 ambulances announced during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March this year. The gift of ambulances will further enhance healthcare, especially in the shared effort to contain the COVID 19 pandemic in Bangladesh, said the High Commission of India.

[BSF on alert as Bangladesh warns of some radicals trying to reach Afghanistan via India to join Taliban](#)

August 22, 2021, India Today

Troops of the BSF are on alert along the Indo-Bangladesh border after the police commissioner of Dhaka claimed that some radical youths were trying to sneak into India to make their way to join the Taliban in Afghanistan.

[Trade with India's Seven Sisters will get a boost](#)

August 26, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh is working to set up good land connectivity with the northeastern part of India's Seven Sisters - an administrative division of India comprising eight states. To this end at least seven land ports are being set up with Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.

[China Swoops Into Bangladesh With a Vaccine Deal](#)

August 24, 2021, The Diplomat

It bided its time and when India halted supply of vaccines to Bangladesh, it saw opportunity and struck.

Nepal

[Nepal receives 130,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from UK](#)

August 26, 2021, The Kathmandu Post

The British embassy in Kathmandu said on Thursday that 130,000 plus doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were handed over to Nepal, as part of the United Kingdom's direct bilateral support.

[India played pivotal role in development of Nepal's health sector, says minister Umesh Shrestha](#)

August 26, 2021, ANI

India has played a pivotal role in the development of Nepal's health sector, state minister for health, Umesh Shrestha said as Nepal received 960 Litres Per Minute (LPM) medical oxygen in aid from India.

[Nepal-India border talks, supposed to be held every year, in limbo since 2019](#)

August 26, 2021, Online Khabar

Whereas issues related to a failure to ensure effective border management are rife, Nepal-India border management talks have not taken place since 2019 although they were supposed to happen every year.

Sri Lanka

[Indian naval ship with 100 tonnes of oxygen reaches Sri Lanka amidst rapid increase in Covid-19 cases](#)

August 23, 2021, India Today

Indian naval ship Shakti carrying 100 tonnes of liquid medical oxygen reached Sri Lanka on Sunday to help the island nation combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Sri Lanka, Russia reaffirm intention to enhance bilateral security cooperation](#)

August 26, 2021, Colombo Page

Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Nikolai Patrushev has met with Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Kamal Gunaratne in Moscow, the Security Council said.

East & South East Asia

China

[Malabar exercise: Quad's costly show of self-comfort: Global Times editorial](#)

August 26, 2021, Global Times

The Malabar naval exercise, participated by the US, India, Japan and Australia, kicked off on Thursday off the coast of Guam in Western Pacific. None of the four countries officially said who the target is, but it is clear their imaginary enemy is China. This is the first joint maritime exercise within the framework of Quad in the Western Pacific and apparently aims to overawe China.

[PLA holds far sea exercises amid multinational drills targeting China, 'shows capability, determination against provocation'](#)

August 26, 2021, Global Times

With two multinational exercises near and said to be targeting China, including one involving maritime forces from Australia, Japan, India and the US, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) reportedly sent two naval flotillas featuring some of its world-class warships on far sea drills.

[China never interferes, exports ideology, development model: official](#)

August 26, 2021, Global Times

Chinese officials and scholars pointed out that the US confidence with its "democratic system" has been shaken by the sharp contrast between China's burgeoning development, with the US bungling of domestic and international affairs. Embarrassed Washington began to hype the Chinese model as the biggest threat to Western-style democracy, and that China exports its values to other countries.

['Afghan effect' will continue to play out across the world in different forms: Global Times editorial](#)

August 24, 2021, Global Times

During her visit to Singapore, US Vice President Kamala Harris on Tuesday accused China of "coercion" and "intimidation" in the South China Sea and asserted that the US "stands with our allies and our partners."

[Why China is best positioned to help Afghanistan reconstruction](#)

August 26, 2021, Global Times

While the shock over the US' astonishing failure in Afghanistan continues, global attention has been shifting to the newly empowered Taliban's plan to rebuild the country from the ruins left behind by the US military invasion, with

Taliban officials vowing to start rebuilding the country. Considering all the profound uncertainty and difficulties the country faces, China has emerged as arguably the best partner that could help the country's reconstruction endeavours going forward.

[China to offer 'genuine' aid in Afghanistan's economic reconstruction amid chaotic transition](#)

August 24, 2021, Global Times

As Taliban take steps to stabilize the situation and pursue international recognition, Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and private firms are employing different investment strategies in the war-torn country, with the former exercising extreme caution in carrying out new projects and the latter eager to tap into a market where "a thousand things wait to be done."

[Complete reunification of mainland, Taiwan urged](#)

September 27, 2021, China Daily

The complete reunification of the Chinese mainland and Taiwan is an inevitable requirement for the rejuvenation of the country in the new era, according to a mainland official and Taiwan affairs experts.

[Xi Jinping Says What He Means](#)

August 23, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. debacle in Afghanistan has rightly dominated the news, but the rest of the world keeps turning. China's new five-year-plan for economic regulation in particular deserves more attention than it has received. The document, formally the five-year plan for enhancing "rule of law," should be read alongside the overarching five-year plan for the economy that Beijing unveiled in March. That program placed a renewed emphasis on manufacturing after many years when Beijing had said it wanted to boost services.

[How is China's regulatory crackdown already hurting its economy?](#)

August 27, 2021, The South China Morning Post

China's campaign to clamp down on industries ranging from steel to education to property has roiled financial markets and curbed the outlook for growth in the world's second-largest economy. Beijing has signalled there is more regulation for businesses in years to come, but economists say authorities will need to carefully manage the pace and intensity of that against an economy weakening faster than expected this year following fresh virus outbreaks in the country.

[Taiwanese shrug off China threat and place their trust in 'Daddy America'](#)

August 22, 2021, The Financial Times

Beijing's more belligerent stance has alarmed the US, Taiwan's unofficial protector. In March, Admiral Philip Davidson, then-commander of US forces in the Pacific, said that a Chinese attack on Taiwan could be launched within six years. But on the ground in Taiwan, there is no sign of panic.

[Japan and Taiwan to hold talks to counter Chinese aggression](#)

August 25 2021, Financial Times

The ruling parties of Japan and Taiwan will hold their first bilateral security talks on Friday as the two nations seek to strengthen ties to counter an increasingly belligerent China. In an interview with the Financial Times on Tuesday, Masahisa Sato, a parliamentarian who runs foreign affairs for Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party, said deeper dialogue was needed because Taiwan's future would have "a serious impact" on Japan's security and economy.

[China warns Tibet climate risks could soar despite short-term gains](#)

August 24, 2021, The Reuters

Rapid climate change in China's Qinghai-Tibet plateau could destabilise water supplies and cause more frequent disasters, even though warmer temperatures have improved conditions in the short term, scientists said after an expedition to the region.

[China's Sinopec flags new oil and gas find in Xinjiang](#)

August 26, 2021, Reuters

China's state-run energy major Sinopec said on Wednesday it had discovered a new 100-million-tonne oil and gas field in the Shunbei area of the Tarim Basin in the country's Xinjiang region.

Japan

[Japan urges Iran to ensure safe navigation in Persian Gulf](#)

August 24, 2021, Japan Today

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Monday urged Iran's next foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, to ensure the safety of vessels in the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

[India, Japan, Australia, US kick off annual maritime Exercise Malabar](#)

August 26, 2021, Business Standard

The four countries that have formed the Quadrilateral grouping (The Quad) — the US, India, Japan and Australia — began the annual maritime Exercise Malabar in the Philippine Sea on Thursday. The sea phase of the exercise will run till August 29.

[Japan and India to conduct first-ever air combat exercises](#)

August 26, 2021, Aviacionline

A joint air combat exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF) will be held this year, the first of its kind between the two countries.

[Alliance with Japan remains "credible deterrent": new U.S. commander](#)

August 27, 2021, Kyodo News

The bilateral alliance with Japan remains "a credible deterrent" against adversaries, the new commander of U.S. forces in Japan said Friday, at a time when China is trying to increase its clout in the region.

[Japan Keeps Intercepting China Military Drones and Spy Planes](#)

August 26, 2021, Newsweek

Japan says it has scrambled fighter aircraft to intercept Chinese military drones and accompanying surveillance aircraft on three consecutive days this week as its defense forces took part in a series of readiness exercises with regional allies.

Korea

[Military aircraft with Afghan evacuees arrives in South Korea](#)

August 26, 2021, Deccan Herald

Nearly 400 evacuated Afghans arrived on Thursday in Seoul, where the government said it was amending the law to allow long-term stays for those who worked on South Korean projects in Afghanistan before the Taliban seized power this month.

[Debating North Korea: US and Chinese Perspectives](#)

August 25, 2021, 38 North

The deteriorating US-China relationship is hindering prospects for meaningful cooperation on persistent security challenges, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear issue. The threat perception gap, different long-term objectives and increasing mutual suspicion between the

two major powers continue to widen despite mutual interest in ensuring peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

[US approves \\$258 million arms sale to South Korea](#)

August 26, 2021, Defense News

The U.S. State Department has approved a sale of precision-guided weapons worth about \$258 million to South Korea.

[South Korea's top nuclear envoy to visit US for talks on North Korea](#)

August 27, 2021, The Korea Times

South Korea's top nuclear envoy, Noh Kyu-duk, will visit the United States next week for talks with his U.S. counterpart, Sung Kim, about efforts to resume dialogue with North Korea, the foreign ministry said.

[N. Korea's main paper urges ideological education for youth ahead of anniversary](#)

August 27, 2021, The Korea Herald

North Korea's main newspaper on Friday stressed the importance of ideological education for younger generations ahead of the country's Youth Day, urging officials to look out for any "exotic elements" in their lifestyles.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN luminaries call for inclusive digital trade ecosystem: NIKKEI-ISEAS forum](#)

August 26, 2021, APN News

Co-organized by NIKKEI Group and ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS), the "Nikkei-ISEAS Forum on Digitalizing Trade in South East Asia and ASEAN" brought together luminaries from the region including the Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Indonesia, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), ISEAS, Honey Consulting Ltd. and Huawei to explore initiatives to unlock the potential of digital trade in the region. The need for a connected, inclusive and multilateral digital trade ecosystem was emphasized during the discussion.

[India's exports to ASEAN estimated at \\$46 billion in FY22: MoS Anupriya Patel](#)

August 25, 2021, Mint

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel on Monday said that India is expected to export USD 46 billion to ASEAN in the financial year 2022.

[Kamala Harris ends Asia tour with fresh jab at China](#)

August 26, 2021, The Hindu

Vice-President Kamala Harris launched a new broadside against China as she ended her Southeast Asian tour in Hanoi on Thursday, warning the U.S. would continue to push back against Beijing's claims in disputed Asian waters.

[Kamala Harris tries to improve Southeast Asia ties as China prods from sidelines](#)

August 26, 2021, Mint

Vice President Kamala Harris said the Biden administration would continue to call out China for its aggressive maritime claims in the South China Sea but doesn't want a conflict with Beijing, as she sought to strike a balance with countries in the region caught between the rival powers.

[China's Wedge Strategy Towards the US-Vietnam Partnership](#)

August 25, 2021, The Diplomat

Through a variety of measures, Beijing is seeking to reinforce Vietnam's neutrality in the competition between the superpowers.

[Cambodia in between China and US](#)

August 24, 2021, The Phnom Penh Post

The world is now entering an era of new geopolitics which is in a difficult transition towards a multiplicity where old, new and other emerging actors are competing for roles in regional and global affairs. Power rivalry between China and the US has created some uncertainties in the region and the world, leading some countries to reassess their strategic and foreign policy outlooks in their relations with both powers. Cambodia is not an exception.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Work On Water Facility Stops As Kyrgyz-Tajik Border Tensions Rise](#)

August 23, 2021, RFE/RL

Border officials for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have discussed the latest developments along the disputed segments of the frontier between the two Central Asian nations amid a fresh rise in tensions over the weekend.

[Kyrgyz President Signs Controversial 'False Information' Bill Into Law](#)

August 24, 2021, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov has signed into law the controversial "false information" bill that many domestic and international rights groups have harshly criticized, saying the legislation could be used to suppress press freedoms in the Central Asian nation.

[Former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Remanded In Pretrial Detention In Kumtor Case](#)

August 25, 2021, RFE/RL

Former Kyrgyz Prime Minister Temir Sariyev, who was charged with corruption during the development of the Kumtor gold mine project, has been remanded in pretrial detention. Last week, another former prime minister, Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev, who was also charged with corruption in the Kumtor case.

[Tajikistan: President demands Tajik role in running Afghanistan](#)

August 25, 2021, Eurasianet

The president of Tajikistan has said that his government will not recognize the Taliban's rule over Afghanistan unless the country's ethnic Tajik minority is accorded a "worthy role" in the running of the country.

[Dozens Injured In Explosions At Kazakh Ammunition Depot](#)

August 26, 2021, RFE/RL

Kazakh authorities say at least 60 people have been injured in a series of blasts at an ammunition warehouse in the southern province of Zhambyl. Fire services were working overnight on extinguishing the blaze that followed the August 26 explosions, officials said. Hundreds of military personnel, police officers, and medics were mobilized to help the rescue efforts.

[Kazakhstan wheat redirected away from Afghanistan](#)

August 26, 2021, Eurasianet

With Afghanistan gripped by uncertainty and unrest, leading grain producer of Kazakhstan has begun exploring new markets for its wheat and flour. The impasse, precipitated by U.S. moves to cut off the Taliban's access to Afghan central bank reserves, is portending a double blow: Afghan people are being pushed further into a daily worsening humanitarian catastrophe, and Kazakhstan has lost its main buyer for the commodity.

[Tajikistan president calls for 'inclusive government' in Afghanistan](#)

August 26, 2021, The times of Central Asia

Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon has expressed his vision of the future government of Afghanistan under the Taliban's control, saying that Dushanbe wants to see all ethnic groups in the country represented in the next cabinet.

[US out, Taliban in: Central Asia facing new challenges from Afghanistan](#)

August 26, 2021, The times of Central Asia

Although the Taliban has declared that it has no intention of threatening neighboring Central Asian nations, security threats can emerge from numerous other sources that may be out of the Taliban's control in Afghanistan.

West Asia

[PM Modi Speaks with Israeli PM, Discusses Potential of Strategic Ties](#)

August 16, 2021, Mint

PM Modi today spoke with his Israeli counterpart Naftali Bennett to congratulate him on his appointment as prime minister. The two prime ministers also reviewed all areas of bilateral cooperation and agreed on the tremendous potential of the strategic partnership.

[Indian Govt Starts Selling Oil From Strategic Reserves After Policy Shift](#)

August 18, 2021, Mint

India has begun selling oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to state-run refiners as it implements a new policy to commercialise its federal storage by leasing out space, three sources familiar with the matter said.

[India and Qatar Conduct Joint Naval Exercise in Persian Gulf](#)

August 17, 2021, India Today

The second edition of the joint naval exercise, Zair-Al-Bahr, between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted between August 9 and 14 in the Persian Gulf.

[Passage Exercise \(PASSEX\) Held Between India and Bahrain Ships in the Gulf](#)

August 19, 2021, India in Bahrain Official Twitter Handle

Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, Indian Navy called on Commander, RBNF and discussed Navy to Navy partnership. Later, a Planning conference for exercise at sea between both Navies was held between the operational planning teams.

[EAM Jaishankar Meets Qatar Foreign Minister, Exchange Views on Afghanistan](#)

August 20, 2021, Mint

Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar stopped off in Doha on his way back home from the US against the backdrop of the Taliban overrunning Afghanistan. Qatar has been a host to the Taliban's political office in Doha since 2013 and is seen as wielding influence over the group.

[India Ready to Provide More Domestic Workers to Kuwait: Ambassador](#)

August 19, 2021, Kuwait Times

India is ready to provide more domestic workers as it wishes to increase the number of its manpower in the Gulf state, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George said. The envoy made his statement during a meeting with the acting director of Kuwait's Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Dr Mubarak Al-Jafour.

[India's SV Pittie Sohar Textiles Commences Commercial Operations at Oman Plant](#)

August 17, 2021, Outlook India

Compact cotton yarn manufacturer SVP Global announced that its subsidiary SV Pittie Sohar Textiles has commenced commercial operations at its mega textile plant in Oman. The group has invested USD 150 million (around Rs 1,100 crore) in setting up 1.5 lakh spindles and 3,500 rotors facility at Sohar Free Trade Zone in Oman, the company said in a statement.

[India's DCM Shriram Buys 30% Stake in Turkish Drone Maker Zyrone Dynamics](#)

August 20, 2021, The Week

DCM Shriram is investing \$1 million in Zyrone Dynamics, taking a 30 per cent stake in the company. Murat Kanber, co-founder of Zyrone Dynamics, was quoted by Turkey's Anadolu Agency as saying, "Both sides' expectation is the creation of products for civilian use, especially for cargo transportation..."

[As US Turns Inward, China's Xi Jinping Pledges Support to Iran and Iraq](#)

August 19, 2021, South China Morning Post

China is pushing for a bigger role in the Middle East, with President Xi Jinping engaging the Iranian and Iraqi leaders with pledges of help, as the United States beats a hasty retreat from Afghanistan and remains in a deadlock with Iran.

[Iran: Japanese FM Discusses Nuclear Deal, Afghanistan Turmoil](#)

August 21, 2021, AL Jazeera

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi is in Tehran for a string of top-level meetings on a range of issues including Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and the developing situation in Afghanistan.

[Iran Says It is Expanding Defence beyond Borders, Will Continue Missile Program](#)

August 21, 2021, The Times of Israel

The Iranian Defense Ministry said that it was expanding its defence efforts beyond the borders of the country, in an apparent message of deterrence to Israel and the West, as hopes for a return to the 2015 nuclear deal continue to fade.

[US Calls on Iran to Halt 'Nuclear Escalations'](#)

August 17, 2021, AL Jazeera

Iran has made progress in its work on enriched uranium metal, the UN nuclear watchdog said in a report to member states, despite Western warnings that such work threatens talks on reviving the Iran nuclear deal.

[Gulf Arabs Jittery About Taliban Takeover But May Seek Pragmatic Ties](#)

August 20, 2021, Reuters

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, among the few who recognised the Taliban's radical 1996-2001 rule in Afghanistan, will likely take a pragmatic approach to its return to power despite fears it could embolden militant Islam abroad.

[Al-Qaeda-linked Groups in Syria, Yemen Welcome Taliban Victory in Afghanistan](#)

August 20, 2021, The Arab Weekly

The Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan following two decades of US occupation risks emboldening jihadists worldwide as al-Qaeda-connected groups in Syria and Yemen have already welcomed the Taliban's victory, in a sign they could be emboldened to ratchet up their activities in the period to come.

United States

United States

['We Will Not Forgive,' Biden Says, Vowing Retaliation for Kabul Attack](#)

August 26, 2021, The New York Times

President Biden on Thursday denounced a terrorist attack at the Kabul airport that killed at least 13 American service members and injured 18 more, saying that the frantic evacuation of U.S. citizens and allies from Afghanistan will continue even as he pledged to hunt down those responsible for the attacks.

[Biden Faces a Tragedy He Pledged to Avoid](#)

August 26, 2021, The New York Times

President Biden's decision to end America's longest war was driven, he had said repeatedly, by his determination not to sacrifice even one more member of the military on behalf of an effort he had long believed was no longer in the interests of the United States. But on Thursday morning, the withdrawal he set in motion claimed the lives of 13 U.S. troops, along with scores of Afghan civilians – the first American casualties in Afghanistan in 18 months and the deadliest day there for the U.S. military since 2011.

[Kamala Harris Pledges U.S. Help for Afghan Women and Children](#)

August 26, 2021, The New York Times

Vice President Kamala Harris said on Thursday that the United States would work with its allies to protect women and children in Afghanistan, as the Taliban takeover forced her to confront troubling historical parallels and diverted attention from her original mission on a five-day trip to Southeast Asia.

[Blinken says 'no deadline' to get out Americans, Afghans, but many will be left behind by evacuation flights](#)

August 26, 2021, ABC News

After President Joe Biden's withdrawal of all U.S. troops by Aug. 31, the U.S. will continue to help U.S. citizens and residents and Afghans who worked with Americans or are otherwise at risk from the Taliban get out of the country, according to Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

[Ahead of meeting Biden, Israel's Bennett meets with Austin, Blinken](#)

August 26, 2021, Al Monitor

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met Aug. 25 in Washington with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

[Israeli PM and Biden postpone meeting because of Afghanistan](#)

August 26, 2021, Associated Press

President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett have postponed their White House meeting as Biden focused his attention on dealing with the aftermath of deadly explosions near the Kabul airport.

[Kamala Harris heading back to Washington after canceling campaign rally with Gavin Newsom in California](#)

August 27, 2021, CNN

Vice President Kamala Harris's decision to cancel her Friday rally in California with embattled Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom dealt a setback to Democrats' intensive efforts to spur their voters to vote against the effort to recall the first-term governor.

[US Vice President Harris ends Asia tour with fresh jab at China](#)

August 26, 2021, Al Jazeera

The United States welcomes competition and does not seek conflict with Beijing – but will speak up on issues like maritime disputes in the South China Sea, Vice President Kamala Harris has declared as she concluded a trip to Southeast Asia.

[Kamala Harris Tries to Improve Southeast Asia Ties as China Prods From Sidelines](#)

August 26, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

"We welcome stiff competition. We do not seek conflict, but on issues like the South China Sea, we are going to speak up," Ms. Harris said Thursday, as she wrapped up a weeklong trip to Southeast Asia. She has offered a string of pointed statements against Beijing during visits to Singapore and Vietnam, where she made the case for stronger economic and security ties with both countries.

[Vote on US 'China bill' recedes to Fall or beyond](#)

August 27, 2021, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. Congress will not vote this summer on comprehensive legislation to boost American competitiveness against China in semiconductors and other

critical technologies, with the House and the Senate struggling to bridge the divide between their proposals.

['Strategic Patience' Turns to Exasperation at Lagging US-China Trade Talks](#)

August 25, 2021, Voice of America

What began as an exercise in “strategic patience”, as the business community waited for the White House and various agencies to come together on a strategy for approaching China, has become a state of exasperation with the lack of communication.

[The U.S. is reviewing its trade policy with China, says USTR Katherine Tai](#)

August 25, 2021, CNBC

Seven months since U.S. President Joe Biden took office, his administration has yet to establish a trade policy with China. U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said Tuesday the “Biden-Harris Administration and USTR are conducting a comprehensive review of U.S.-China trade policy,” according to a readout of a virtual meeting with two business associations, the U.S. Chamber China Center Advisory Board and the U.S.-China Business Council.

[US INDOPACOM commander holds talks with India's top military brass](#)

August 25, 2021, The Economic Times

Admiral Aquilino, on a visit to India, held extensive talks with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with a focus on further strengthening the bilateral defence partnership.

[The Deeper Crisis Behind the Afghan Rout](#)

August 23, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The Afghan debacle doesn't create a crisis of belief in American military credibility. Informed global observers don't doubt our willingness to strike back if attacked. The debacle feeds something much more serious and harder to fix: the belief that the U.S. cannot develop—and stick to—policies that work. It all fuels fears that the U.S. is incapable of persistent, competent policy making in ways that will be hard to reverse. It seems increasingly evident that despite, or perhaps because of, all the credentialed bureaucrats and elaborate planning processes in the Washington policy machine, the U.S. government isn't good at producing foreign policy.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Security dominates EU draft statement on Afghan migration](#)

August 26, 2021, Politico

The EU emphasized security and keeping Afghan migrants outside the bloc in a draft statement. The two-page document – dated August 25 and slated for discussion at an EU interior ministers meeting Tuesday – used the word “security” five times while pledging resources and support to Afghanistan’s neighbors willing to host refugees. Absent was any mention of how many refugees the EU might accept.

[The G7 met to debate Afghanistan. The decisions were already made.](#)

August 24, 2021, Politico

A call between the leaders of the world’s wealthiest nations was meant to buy more time for a coordinated response in Afghanistan. Instead, it was over before it began. All the G7 leaders could muster was a set of conditions for dealing with the Taliban, with no agreement on extending troop presence to assist with evacuations beyond August or a resettlement program for refugees.

[S Jaishankar Discusses Kabul "Evacuation Challenges" With German Foreign Minister](#)

August 21, 2021, NDTV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday spoke to his German counterpart Heiko Maas on the latest developments in Afghanistan and challenges relating to emergency evacuation from Kabul.

[Greece will not be 'gateway' to Europe for Afghans fleeing Taliban, say officials](#)

August 26, 2021, The Guardian

Greek officials have said that Greece will not become a “gateway” to Europe for Afghan asylum seekers and have called for a united response to predictions of an increase in refugee arrivals to the country.

[8 US bases in Europe prepared to accept as many as 25,000 Afghan refugees](#)

August 26, 2021, Military Times

More than 7,000 Afghan evacuees have been processed through Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, where they’re expected to spend up to two weeks finalizing their visas before resettling in the U.S., the head of U.S. European Command told reporters on Wednesday.

[On the EU's eastern border, Poland builds a fence to stop migrants](#)

August 26, 2021, Reuters

Polish soldiers were building a fence on the border with Belarus on Thursday, as the European Union's largest eastern member takes steps to curb illegal border crossings despite criticism that some migrants are being treated inhumanely.

[Russia is pumping a lot less natural gas to Europe all of a sudden – and it is not clear why](#)

August 24, 2021, CNBC

Russia has slowed the delivery of piped natural gas to Europe in recent weeks, according to analysis from ICIS, a commodity intelligence service, raising questions about the potential causes behind the drop and its implications for global gas markets.

[China's trade halt with Lithuania over Taiwan ties sends warning to Europe](#)

August 26, 2021, The Guardian

China's use of trade as a weapon in diplomatic disputes appears to be now targeted at Lithuania, home to fewer than 3 million people, after the Baltic nation agreed to exchange diplomatic offices with Taiwan.

[How Europe could get China and the U.S. on its side with new carbon tax](#)

August 26, 2021, CNBC

The European Union's proposed carbon pricing rules could hit a major snag in the form of China and the U.S., but one expert predicts it will still be possible to convince the economic superpowers to get onboard using a series of cautious steps.

[Slowdown in UK recovery may be more than a supply chain issue](#)

August 26, 2021, The Guardian

As pinged people stay home, the unpinged may be getting more cautious, suggesting a longer-than-expected recovery

[After wildfires, Greek PM says climate crisis demands radical action](#)

August 25, 2021, Reuters

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said wildfires that ripped through the outskirts of Athens and other parts of Greece this month underlined the need for radical shifts in behaviour to tackle global warming.

Russia

[Mandatory Vaccination Shouldn't Be Forced on Anyone, Putin Declares, Arguing People Should be Encouraged to get Jab Instead](#)

August 22, 2021, Russia Today

Those who are reluctant or anxious about signing up for a Covid-19 vaccine should be encouraged and incentivized to roll up their sleeves, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said, while railing against coercion and intimidation.

[Russian Reaches Japan From Kurile Islands On Rubber Boat, Asks For Political Asylum](#)

August 23, 2021, RFE/RL

A Russian man has asked Japan for political asylum in Japan after making a treacherous trip in a rubber dinghy in the disputed Kurile Islands. Japanese media reports said that the 40-year-old man left the Russian-administered island of Kunashir on August 17 and several days later was detained by Japanese border guards near the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

[India, Russia Constitute a Permanent Bilateral Channel to Discuss Afghanistan Crisis](#)

August 24, 2021, Sputnik News

India and Russia have formed a permanent channel to discuss and formalise joint efforts on Afghanistan. The decision was taken during a 45-minute Tuesday telephone conversation between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

[Saudis Sign Military Cooperation Agreement With Russia](#)

August 24, 2021, RFE/RL

Saudi Arabia and Russia have signed a military cooperation agreement at an arms expo outside Moscow. Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman announced on Twitter on August 24 that he signed the agreement with Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin "aimed at developing joint military cooperation between the two countries."

[Nord Stream 2 Construction to Be Completed Within Weeks, Russian Foreign Ministry Says](#)

August 24, 2021, Sputnik News

Only a few weeks remain before the completion of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to carry Russian gas to Europe, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's

Department of Economic Cooperation, Dmitry Birihevsky, said in an interview with Sputnik.

[Putin, Xi Agree to Jointly Combat Afghanistan 'Threats'](#)

August 25, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have agreed their countries will step up efforts to counter "threats" emerging from Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover, the Kremlin said.

[New Russian Missile-defense Radar System is World-first for Helping Intercept Nuclear Warheads, Military Industry Chief Reveals](#)

August 26, 2021, Russia Today

Russia's Soviet-era nuclear defense shield has had a major overhaul and has now become one of the world's most advanced military installations, benefitting from secret technology, one of the businesses behind the project has said.

[Russia to Supply Weapons to Afghanistan's Neighbors](#)

August 26, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia said it has received new orders for arms and helicopters from Central Asian republics bordering Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover of the country. The orders come as countries in the ex-Soviet region, where Moscow holds military bases, have raised concerns over the militant group sweeping to power.

Africa & Latin America

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Africa

[Amnesty: Europe's weapons sales are arming Sahel extremists](#)

August 24, 2021, Africa Times

Weapons from Serbia and other European nations are being used by extremists in the Sahel and supporting armed conflict, according to a new Amnesty International report.

[How political management is hindering Djibouti's renewable energy hopes](#)

August 23, 2021, Africa Times

Siemens Gamesa is making important moves in Africa. The subsidiary of German engineering conglomerate Siemens installed the first turbine in Djibouti's new wind farm project in early August and is on course to build the first renewable energy plant in the country.

[France's Castel calls for inquiry after report on C.A.R. operations](#)

August 22, 2021, Africa Times

France's Castel Group, one of the largest wine producers in the world, says it will launch an investigation into claims that it paid armed group members to provide security for its operations in the Central African Republic.

[Ethiopia: African intellectuals call for urgent action over Tigray war](#)

August 27, 2021, The African Report

With multiple actors joining the fray in Ethiopia's civil war, a group of concerned African intellectuals call for dialogue and an end to the fighting.

[#BlackTikTokStrike: Black dancers call for TikTok boycott](#)

August 26, 2021, The African Report

Black dancers have decided to boycott TikTok. The issue at the heart of this is the invisibility and lack of recognition for their creations on the social network.

[Algeria breaks off relations with Morocco, citing fires and Israel](#)

August 25, 2021, The African Report

During a press conference held late afternoon on Tuesday August 24, Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra officially announced the break of diplomatic relations with the neighbouring country Morocco, accused of "hostile actions".



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