



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 36 | September 3, 2021

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



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume V, Issue 36

ABOUT US

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

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

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

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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

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

© 2021 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| South Asia..... | 1 |
| East & South East Asia | 7 |
| Central & West Asia | 11 |
| United States..... | 15 |
| Europe & Russia | 18 |
| Africa & Latin America | 22 |

South Asia

India

[India in chair, UNSC adopts resolution on Taliban; Russia and China abstain](#)

September 1, 2021, The Indian Express

The resolution, sponsored by France, UK and the US, was adopted with 13 members, including India, voting in favour, none against it. But permanent and veto-wielding members Russia and China abstained.

[India surges ahead of China in the Maldives](#)

August 31, 2021, Deccan Herald

The ongoing jostling for strategic influence between New Delhi and Beijing in the Indian Ocean archipelago of Maldives has just seen India surge ahead after it bagged the contract to build the \$500 million Greater Malé Connectivity Project (GMCP).

[India's 1st N-missile tracking ship Dhruv to be launched on Sept 10](#)

September 3, 2021, Hindustan Times

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is expected to commission India's first satellite and ballistic missile tracking ship Dhruv from Visakhapatnam on September 10. Built by Hindustan Shipyard in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), INS Dhruv has the capability to also map ocean beds for research and detection of enemy submarines.

[India-Africa Maritime Cooperation: Naval exercises for the first time with Morocco and Algeria](#)

August 21, 2021, Financial Express

India which has been at the forefront in developing a Maritime Domain Awareness network in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) recently conducted bilateral naval exercises with Morocco and Algerian navies. According to the Indian Navy, last week from August 25-26, INS Tabar, as part of her overseas deployment, made a port call at Casablanca in Morocco. INS Tabar participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with 'Lieutenant Colonel Arrahman' Royal Moroccan Navy ship, off Casablanca port.

[EAM Jaishankar discusses key challenges facing India and EU with Slovenian president](#)

September 3, 2021, India Today

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday met Slovenian President Borut Pahor and discussed key challenges facing India and the European Union.

[India favours an inclusive Afghanistan govt: foreign minister S Jaishankar](#)

September 3, 2021, The Economic Times

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday shared New Delhi's views and perspective on Afghanistan including necessity for inclusive Govt and preventing territory from promoting cross-border terror with the European Union seeking to widen coordination on the biggest geo-political challenge currently days after India held first formal talks with the Taliban.

Pakistan

[Pak-Afghan border fully secured: DIG FC](#)

September 3, 2021, The News

Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Frontier Corps North, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the Pak-Afghan border had been fully secured after completion of fencing, construction of new forts and placement of technical surveillance system equipped with drones, which helped control mobility and contain unwanted elements.

[Pak Navy inducts first Long Range Maritime Patrol jet](#)

September 3, 2021, The News

Pakistan Navy inducted its first modern Long Range Maritime Patrol twin-engine jet aircraft at a ceremony held at PNS Mehran, Karachi. The newly-inducted twin-engine aircraft is a variant of Brazilian-built Embraer Jet globally utilized in air operations. Two more aircraft of the series equipped with the latest weapons and sensors to undertake Maritime Air Operations have also been contracted by Pakistan Navy.

[UK Foreign Secretary to visit Pakistan](#)

September 2, 2021, The News

The UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab will be visiting Pakistan to hold high level talks with Pakistani officials against the backdrop of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Officials of Pakistan and the UK spoke to finalise the visit of Dominic Raab as the Foreign Secretary has been under intense fire for not being on the scene as Kabul fell and thousands of Britons were left stranded as the government of Ashraf Ghani collapsed.

[External debt, liabilities climb to \\$122.1bln in FY21](#)

August 31, 2021, The News

Pakistan's foreign debt and liabilities (outstanding) jumped by \$9.18 billion or 8.12 percent to \$122.1 billion at the end of June last fiscal year. The external debt

and liabilities (EDL) were \$113 billion as of June 30, 2020. The foreign debt and liabilities were 40.3 percent of the country's gross domestic product in fiscal 2020/21, lower than the prior fiscal year's 45.7 percent.

[TTP a matter Pakistan must take up: Taliban spokesman](#)

August 29, 2021, The News

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has said that the issue of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is one that the Pakistan government must resolve, not Afghanistan.

[Pakistan to seek 2 years extension in GSP plus status](#)

August 29, 2021, The News

Pakistan will seek two years extension in Generalized Preferential System (GSP) plus status, set to expire in 2022, from the European Union, a minister said.

[11 ISKP terrorists killed in Mastung](#)

August 31, 2021, The News

Eleven terrorists of ISKP were gunned down during a heavy and prolonged shootout in Mastung, neutralizing a major camp of terrorists. The ISKP terrorists belonging to the Abdul Hayee group were wanted for involvement in attack on police in May 2021, in which two policemen were martyred.

[Waziristan MNA, nationalists form political party](#)

September 3, 2021, Dawn

MNA Mohsin Dawar of North Waziristan tribal district along with a corps of nationalist announced the launch of the National Democratic Movement, apparently breaking ranks with the Pakhtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM).

Afghanistan

[Male and female students to study in separate classrooms: Taliban](#)

August 30, 2021, The News

Abdul Baqi Haqqani, who has been newly appointed as the acting minister for the Ministry of Higher Education, said that in the new government, classrooms for female students will be separate from those of males.

[Turkey, Taliban hold first official talks in Kabul: Erdogan](#)

August 28, 2021, The News

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ankara held first official talks with the Taliban in Kabul, as the situation rapidly changes in Afghanistan after the group's take over.

[China to keep embassy in Afghanistan, increase humanitarian aid, says Taliban spokesman](#)

September 3, 2021, Dawn

A Taliban spokesman said that China has promised to keep its embassy in Afghanistan open and to increase humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged country.

[UN softens up to Taliban, but keeps them on sanctions list](#)

September 2, 2021, Dawn

The UN Security Council has quietly omitted the word 'Taliban' from its statements naming the groups that are required not to support terrorists operating from Afghanistan.

[Taliban parade shows off seized US hardware](#)

September 2, 2021, Dawn

A Black Hawk helicopter flew circles over the Taliban's heartland in southern Afghanistan while fighters below stood aboard captured Humvees as the Islamist group paraded US military hardware.

[IS planners hit in Nangarhar drone strike: US](#)

August 29, 2021, Dawn

The United States has attacked a militant Islamic State group's "planner" in the Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan in retaliation for bombing outside the Kabul airport and said there is a high risk of further blasts and attacks as it winds up its evacuation efforts.

[Taliban co-founder Baradar to lead new Afghanistan govt](#)

September 3, 2021, Tolo News

Taliban co-founder Mullah Baradar will lead a new Afghan government set to be announced shortly, sources in the Islamist group said, as it battled rebel fighters in the Panjshir Valley and strived to ward off economic collapse.

[Taliban Report Advances in Panjshir Fighting](#)

September 2, 2021, Tolo News

The Taliban said they had captured the center of Shutul district in Panjshir along with 11 outposts held by opposition forces. A member of the Taliban's cultural commission said that 34 members of the opposition forces were killed in the ongoing clashes.

[UN: Afghan Food Supply May Run Out 'This Month'](#)

September 2, 2021, Tolo News

The United Nations warned that the food supply in Afghanistan could run out as soon as this month. The UN official statement warning of a food supply shortage called on the international community to step up support for providing humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

[Restoration of Kabul's Closed Airport Begins as Some Afghan Aid Resumes](#)

September 2, 2021, The NYT

Afghanistan's plunge into chaos, isolation and near-destitution under its newly ascendant Taliban rulers appeared to slow, with the first significant moves to salvage Kabul's inoperable airport, an increased flow of U.N. aid and word that international money transfers had resumed to the country, where many banks are shuttered.

[Meeting in Doha](#)

August 31, 2021, MEA India

Ambassador of India to Qatar, Deepak Mittal, met Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai, the Head of Taliban's Political Office in Doha. The meeting took place at the Embassy of India, Doha, on the request of the Taliban side.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh: INS Savitri arrives at Chittagong port with two medical oxygen plants](#)

September 2, 2021, News on Air

Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Savitri arrived Chattogram harbour, Bangladesh today carrying two 960 Litres Per Minute Medical Oxygen Plants to support the ongoing efforts of the Bangladesh military and government agencies in combating the ongoing wave of the COVID pandemic in the country. The Medical Oxygen Plants have been developed and manufactured by DRDO in India.

[EU wants to see Bangladesh as an important actor among Bay of Bengal littorals](#)

September 2, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, Ambassador Rensje Teerink has said she wants to see Bangladesh more and more as an important actor not only in the Bay of Bengal but also as part of Indo Pacific Strategy due to its strategic position and looking at how they can work together as like-minded partners in broad areas.

Nepal

[No official communication on Darchula issue from Nepal yet, India says](#)

September 2, 2021, The Kathmandu Post

India will not be speaking about the Mahakali incident in Darchula since there has been no official communication from the Government of Nepal with the Indian government, said Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

[India, Nepal sign pacts to reconstruct over 100 projects damaged by 2015 earthquake](#)

September 3, 2021, Outlook India

India and Nepal on Friday signed memorandum of understandings for the reconstruction of 14 cultural heritage and 103 health sector projects damaged by the devastating 2015 earthquake in the country.

[Nepal government forms committee to study border issues with China](#)

September 2, 2021, The Hindu

The Nepal government has decided to form a committee to look into the border issues with China in the northern Himalayan region of the country.

Sri Lanka

[China expands its activities to Sri Lanka's north; India worried](#)

Red flags are going up in India over China's fresh attempts to expand its footprint in northern Sri Lanka in the garb of infrastructure projects, with Beijing even making efforts to woo the ethnic Tamil community there.

[China assures to do utmost to help Sri Lanka to overcome economic, COVID challenges](#)

September 1, 2021, Colombo Page

The Chinese government will do its utmost to help overcome the economic challenge as well as the COVID challenge in Sri Lanka, the Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC), and China's Speaker Li Zhanshu has assured his Sri Lankan counterpart, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena.

East & South East Asia

China

[China warns US: strained relations could sink climate cooperation](#)

September 3, 2021, The Indian Express

China and the United States agree that climate change is a crisis whipping up worsening droughts and storms across the planet. Yet escalating tensions over trade, security and human rights threaten to overshadow efforts between the world's top two greenhouse gas polluters to stop global temperatures from hitting catastrophic levels.

[China's new ambassador to the U.S. goes full wolf in first major speech](#)

September 1, 2021, Politico

China's newly minted ambassador to the United States arrived only in July, but the honeymoon is already over. Qin Gang on Tuesday reinforced his reputation as a sharp-edged avatar of Chinese diplomacy with a speech that excoriated U.S. "wrong beliefs" and cautioned against violating Beijing's "red line" of core interests in areas including the South China Sea, Taiwan and Xinjiang.

[China's 'baseless' challenge to US solar panel tariffs rejected by WTO](#)

September 3, 2021, South China Morning Post

A World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel rejected all four of China's claims against the United States relating to safeguard measures that the Trump administration imposed on solar panels imported from Chinese manufacturers.

[Why China's new maritime law may spike tensions in South China Sea](#)

September 3, 2021, The Indian Express

From September 1, China's new maritime rules designed to control the entry of foreign vessels in what Beijing calls "Chinese territorial waters" take effect. The move is expected to have far-reaching consequences for passage of vessels, both commercial and military, in the disputed South China Sea, East China Sea and Taiwan Strait, and is likely to escalate the existing tension with the US and its neighbours in the region.

[Japan-Taiwan security talks poke and stir China](#)

August 27, 2021, Asia Times

Taipei and Tokyo held unprecedented security talks on Friday, a move that prompted China's diplomatic displeasure.

[China likely to watch Japan's stance on Taiwan after PM Suga resigns](#)

September 3, 2021, Kyodo News

China is expected to closely watch whether Japan's stance on the Taiwan issue will change under a new leader, after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga expressed his intention to resign, diplomats said.

Japan

[Japan-India drills to feature Sukhoi Su-30 fighters like those flown by China, Russia over disputed waters](#)

September 2, 2021, SCMP

Quad members India and Japan will use the upcoming air force exercises to strengthen their security ties, with China seen as a shared threat.

[The RCEP Conundrum: Japan Awaits India's Return](#)

August 27, 2021, The Diplomat

India's return to the FTA would benefit not only the Indian economy, but also all RCEP member countries.

[U.S. signals surprise over Japan PM Suga's intention to resign](#)

September 3, 2021, Kyodo News

The U.S. government has apparently been caught off guard by news that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga intends to resign, with one official expressing surprise at the development on Friday and showing interest in who will succeed him.

[Japan defence ministry seeks record budget amid China worries](#)

September 1, 2021, The Economic Times

Japan's Defence Ministry on Tuesday asked for a 2.6% increase over this year's record budget as it seeks to further strengthen the country's military in the face of China's growing assertiveness in the region.

[Japan's Prime Minister Suga to drop out of party election](#)

September 3, 2021, Al Jazeera

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has announced that he will not run in a ruling Liberal Democratic Party leadership race later this month, setting the stage for his replacement after just one year in office.

Korea

[Developing more powerful missiles to deter North Korea: South Korea](#)

September 2, 2021, The Times of India

South Korea is in the final stages of developing a ballistic missile that can carry a warhead of upto 3 tons.

[North Korean troops preparing for military parade: Reports](#)

September 2, 2021, The Times of India

North Korean troops have been spotted in commercial satellite imagery preparing for a likely military parade, according to two organizations that track the country.

[Tackling monopoly: South Korea 'anti-Google law' likely to set precedent for nations](#)

September 3, 2021, The Indian Express

South Korea's crackdown on the in-app billing processes that force companies like Apple and Google to open up their app stores to alternative forms of payment systems may be the first formal development with such restrictions on the tech companies but the decision may act as a precedent for other jurisdictions, including India, where now a complaint has been filed with the antitrust regulator against Apple for App Store policies.

[S. Korea denounces Houthi rebels' drone attack on Saudi airport](#)

September 2, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea strongly denounces the recent drone attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels on an airport in Saudi Arabia and urges the militants to take part in UN-led peace talks, the foreign ministry said.

[Give To Countries In "Greater Need": North Korea Rejects Covid Vaccines](#)

September 2, 2021, NDTV

South Korea has rejected around three million doses of a Chinese Covid-19 vaccine, suggesting they should be given to countries in greater need, Unicef said.

[Phased approach to North Korea's nuclear program gaining traction](#)

September 3, 2021, The Korea Times

Grappling with the fallout from its withdrawal from Afghanistan, the United States is weighing the possibility of shifting its tone on North Korea's nuclear program — in other words, seeking to maintain the status quo on the Korean Peninsula rather than aggressively pursuing complete denuclearization.

Southeast Asia

[India delivers 100 tonne of liquid oxygen to Vietnam](#)

August 30, 2021, Livemint

India on Monday delivered 100 metric tonnes of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) and 300 oxygen concentrators to Vietnam to help the southeast Asian country in its battle against covid-19.

[Vietnam says it will not side against China, before US' Kamala Harris visits country](#)

August 28, 2021, The Star

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has told China his country will not enter an alliance to confront Beijing, before he met US Vice-President Kamala Harris. In a meeting with Xiong Bo, the Chinese envoy to Hanoi, Pham said Vietnam had always maintained an independent foreign policy that prioritised self-reliance, multilateralism and diversification of ties.

[Chinese High-Speed Rail Network Reaches Myanmar's Border](#)

September 2, 2021, The Diplomat

The opening of the Chengdu-Lincang line will further mainland Southeast Asia's historic reorientation toward the north.

[China opens first road-rail transport link to Indian Ocean](#)

August 31, 2021, The Hindu

The first shipments on a newly-launched railway line from the Myanmar border to the key commercial hub of Chengdu in western China, that provides China a new road-rail transportation channel to the Indian Ocean, were delivered last week, state media reported.

[Pentagon holds talks with Chinese military for first time under Biden, official says](#)

August 28, 2021, Reuters

A senior Pentagon official held talks with the Chinese military for the first time since President Joe Biden took office in January to focus on managing risk between the two countries, a U.S. official said.

[Vietnam Prime Minister To Make First Visit To India At Year-End](#)

September 2, 2021, NDTV

Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh will visit India at the end of 2021 to discuss with PM Narendra Modi measures to advance bilateral comprehensive and strategic partnership, the country's ambassador, Pham Sanh Chau, said.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Opening ceremony Indo – Kazakhstan joint military exercise Kazind-21](#)

September 1, 2021, PIB

The India – Kazakhstan joint military exercise “KAZIND-21” commenced at Training Node Aisha Bibi, Kazakhstan. This is the 5th Edition of Annual bilateral joint exercise of both Armies and will continue till 10th September 2021. The fourth edition of the exercise was held at Pithoragarh, India in Sep 2019.

[Uzbekistan offers to act as hub for Afghanistan aid](#)

August 27, 2021, Eurasianet

Uzbekistan has said it is offering the use of a logistics facility in a city on its border with Afghanistan to help international efforts in supplying humanitarian aid to its strife-ridden neighbor.

[Hundreds Of Russian Troops Take Part In Military Drills In Tajikistan](#)

August 30, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia says about 500 of its troops are taking part in military drills in Tajikistan amid fears of instability across its Central Asian allies after the Taliban gained control of much of Afghanistan, including its northern areas.

[Tajikistan temporarily takes in around 1,000 Afghan refugees](#)

August 30, 2021, Eurasianet

Around 1,000 Afghan nationals have been offered temporary refuge in Tajikistan pending onward travel to a third country under a U.S.-organized relocation program. The refugees are being accommodated in a tent camp near the airport in the southern city of Kulob.

[Kazakh Defense Minister Resigns Over Deadly Explosions At Military Warehouse](#)

August 31, 2021, RFE/RL

Kazakhstan's Defense Minister Nurlan Ermekebaev has resigned after a series of explosions last week in the Central Asian nation's south that left at least 15 people dead. Kazakh President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev accepted Ermekebaev's resignation letter, presidential spokesman Berik Uali said on August 31.

[Kyrgyzstan: Activists complain of mass wiretapping campaign](#)

August 31, 2021, Eurasianet

An opposition politician in Kyrgyzstan has complained that police wiretapping of dozens of activists and opposition figures is tantamount to persecution for holding dissident views. Klara Sooronkulova, a leader of the liberal-leaning Reforma party, said on August 30 that the surveillance appears to have primarily targeted individuals critical of the current government.

[Not To Be Left Out, Uzbek Lawmakers Pitch 'Head Of Nation' Title For Mirziyoev](#)

September 2, 2021, RFE/RL

Two senior lawmakers have suggested that President Shavkat Mirziyoev, who enjoys virtually unrestrained political power in Uzbekistan, should be given the honorary title of "head of the nation." It's a nod to one of the more awkwardly conspicuous of Central Asia's anti-democratic trends -- cults of personality fostered by the countries' first post-Soviet leaders -- since gaining independence in the early 1990s.

[Tajikistan: US to support new border guard detachment along Tajik-Afghan-Uzbek border](#)

September 2, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

The U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan on September 1 said it has launched a project to construct new facilities for a Border Guard Detachment in Ayvoj, along the Tajik-Afghan-Uzbek border. The new Detachment Facility will replace the outdated Shahritus Detachment and allow the Border Guard Service to deploy forces more quickly to border areas in response to threats.

West Asia

[MoS V Muraleedharan Embarks on 3-day Visit to Bahrain from August 30](#)

August 29, 2021, India TV

Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs, V Muraleedharan will embark upon a three-day visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from August 30 to September 1, 2021. This will be his first visit to the country. During the visit, the MoS will hold discussions with Bahraini Ministers and dignitaries.

[India Important, Want to Maintain Ties: Taliban Leadership in Qatar](#)

August 30, 2021, The Indian Express

In what is being seen as a signal to India, a member of the Taliban leadership in Qatar has said that India is "very important for this subcontinent" and that

his group wants to continue Afghanistan's "cultural", "economic", "political" and "trade ties" with India "like in the past".

[India's Proposed FTA with UAE to Boost Jewellery, Engineering Exports](#)

August 29, 2021, Business Standard

The proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the UAE can result in enhanced exports of several sectors, including gem and jewellery, engineering, leather goods and chemicals to the Emirates as the pact would enhance competitiveness of domestic traders, according to exporters.

[\\$400 Billion Target: India Seeks to Double UAE Exports, Raise Bar for US and UK](#)

August 30, 2021, The Economic Times

India is looking to double its goods exports to the UAE this fiscal and substantially increase its outbound shipments to the US, the UK, Singapore and Hong Kong as part of its plan to achieve a record \$400 billion in merchandise exports this year.

[Egypt Throws a Spatula in Indian Basmati Rice Exports](#)

August 24, 2021, The Hindu BusinessLine

In what could turn out to be a concern for India in the long-term, Egypt will start growing Basmati rice and market it next year. Egypt by growing the fragrant grain could try to export to Europe and nearby Islamic nations reducing India's export share.

[Iraq Hosts Summit Aimed at Easing Regional Tensions](#)

August 28, 2021, AL Jazeera

Iraq hosted a regional conference on Saturday (August 28) aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East while emphasising the Arab country's new role as a mediator.

[President Macron Vows French Troops Will Remain in Iraq Even if US Withdraws](#)

August 29, 2021, The Times of Israel

"No matter what choices the Americans make, we will maintain our presence in Iraq to fight against terrorism," Macron told a news conference in Baghdad.

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

August 24, 2021, Radio Free Europe

Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman announced 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."

[Egypt, Russia Sign Military, Security Cooperation Protocol](#)

August 26, 2021, Egypt Today

During his visit to Moscow, Minister of Defense and Military Production Mohamed Zaki signed with his Russian counterpart a cooperation protocol that tackles different military and security aspects.

[China, Russia, Iran Military Drills in Gulf Enhance Regional Security, Against External Interference](#)

August 24, 2021, Global Times

China, Russia and Iran will hold joint maritime exercises in the Persian Gulf around late 2021 or early 2022, according to Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzhagaryan. Dzhagaryan said the drills are to "ensure the safety of international shipping and the fight against sea pirates."

[Israeli PM Presented Biden with "Death by a Thousand Cuts" Iran Strategy](#)

August 27, 2021, Axios

The strategy Bennett presented to Biden involves countering Iran through a combination of many small actions across several fronts — both military and diplomatic — instead of a single dramatic strike, the Israeli officials said.

[Israel's Mossad Snubbed the U.S. Can Trust Be Restored?](#)

August 26, 2021, The New York Times

In the spring, Benjamin Netanyahu, then Israel's prime minister, curtailed intelligence sharing with the United States because he did not trust the Biden administration. The question is can Israel and the US rebuild trust in intelligence sharing.

[President Biden Tells Israel, U.S. Has Options if Iran Diplomacy Fails](#)

August 28, 2021, Tehran Times

Israeli PM Bennett was on a mission to lobby the American president into a new confrontational approach towards Iran. "We're putting diplomacy first and we'll see where that takes us. But if diplomacy fails, we're ready to turn to other options," Biden added, without offering specifics.

United States

United States

[As US military leaves Kabul, many Americans, Afghans remain](#)

August 31, 2021, Associated Press

As the final five U.S. military transport aircraft lifted off out of Afghanistan, they left behind up to 200 Americans and thousands of desperate Afghans who couldn't get out and now must rely on the Taliban to allow their departure.

[Biden's Approval Rating Hits A New Low After the Afghanistan Withdrawal](#)

September 2, 2021, NPR

Amid the chaos of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, President Biden's approval rating slid to just 43% in the latest NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll. That is down 6 percentage points from a survey conducted in July and is the lowest mark for Biden in the poll since taking office.

[Secretary of State outlines next steps after US pulls out of Afghanistan](#)

August 30, 2021, CNN

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US will now lead a diplomatic mission with Afghanistan now that the US had withdrawn all of its military forces.

[Biden says another terrorist attack on Kabul airport is 'highly likely' while vowing that US retaliatory strike was not 'the last'](#)

August 29, 2021, CNN

Another terrorist attack on Kabul's airport is "highly likely", President Joe Biden said Saturday, citing US military commanders, while hours later, the US Embassy in Kabul issued a security alert.

[The Afghan Fiasco Will Stick to Biden](#)

September 2, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The president's people think this will all just go away and are understandably trying to change the subject. But the essence of the story will linger. Its reverberations will play out for years. There are Americans and American friends behind Taliban lines.

[Biden's Second Surrender](#)

September 2, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Joe Biden this week completed the U.S. pull-out from Afghanistan, in a humiliating military surrender to the Taliban. The president is more interested in working on a second capitulation—a wholesale economic surrender to China and other rivals.

[FS Shringla meets Blinken and Sherman; discusses bilateral ties and Afghanistan](#)

September 3, 2021, The Economic Times

Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has met top Biden administration officials, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Deputy Secretary Wendy Sherman, and held substantive discussions with them on the strategic bilateral ties and regional and global issues like the current situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized Kabul.

[Biden Affirms Support Against 'Russian Aggression' in Meeting with Ukraine's Leader](#)

September 1, 2021, The New York Times

President Biden on Wednesday assured Ukraine's president that the United States remained opposed to "Russian aggression" in the region, using an Oval Office meeting to affirm his support for a leader unnerved by America's chaotic exit from Afghanistan.

[U.S. to give Ukraine more than \\$45 mln in additional humanitarian aid -Blinken](#)

September 2, 2021, Reuters

The United States will give Ukraine more than \$45 million in additional humanitarian assistance, U.S. Secretary of state Antony Blinken said in a statement on Thursday.

[Biden signals end of US foreign intervention, pivots to threat from China and Russia](#)

September 1, 2021, The Times of India

US President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced the end of an era of major American military intervention abroad, suggesting that Washington needed to move on from narrow counter-terrorism goals and nation building abroad to broader threats to US primacy from the likes of China and Russia.

['Spiral into crisis': The U.S.-China military hotline is dangerously broken](#)

September 1, 2021, Politico

After months of delays, the Pentagon and China's People's Liberation Army last week initiated their first direct contact since Biden took office. That meeting, a video call carried by the U.S.-PRC Defense Telephone Link, focused on "maintaining open channels of communication between the two militaries."

[U.S. Envoy Kerry Says China Is Crucial To Handling The Climate Crisis](#)

September 2, 2021, NPR

China needs to expand its efforts to reduce carbon emissions to help hold back the rise in global temperatures, U.S. envoy John Kerry said Thursday.

[WTO to examine U.S.-China dispute on grain import quotas](#)

August 30, 2021, Reuters

The World Trade Organization said on Monday it would review a long-standing dispute between the China and the United States on Beijing's use of import controls for rice, wheat and corn.

[Biden's Afghan Best-Case Scenario](#)

Aug. 30, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

As the Biden administration struggles to contain the fallout at home and abroad from the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, the president and his team still seem to hope the political pain will be short-lived, that over time the benefits of withdrawal will increasingly bolster their position.

[Biden's Vainglory Brings Abject Humiliation in Afghanistan](#)

August 30, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

If you wanted to capture the geopolitical history of the 21st century so far in a single paragraph, you couldn't do much better than this: Twenty years ago, America fought a brief and successful military campaign to oust from power the people who had enabled a terrorist organization to kill as many American citizens as have ever died at the hands of a foreign power in a single day in the nation's history. A month shy of two decades later, the U.S. pleaded with that same power not to harm its soldiers, its citizens and their allies as it scrambled to complete a chaotic and humiliating retreat that left that former enemy—and American adversaries everywhere—immeasurably stronger.

[Biden's Ugly Defense of His Afghan Failure](#)

September 01, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Joseph R. Biden Jr.'s surrender in Afghanistan and the chaotic, inept and shameful way he effected the capitulation have left an indelible stain on his presidency. The distortions he used Tuesday to justify his actions compounded his historical blunder. The president offered a false choice, saying he could either "follow the agreement of the previous administration . . . for people to get out or send in thousands of more troops and escalate the war." Set aside the fact that Mr. Biden has reversed many of his predecessor's policies. The president's statement ignored the reality that American airpower and support assistance kept the Taliban in check in recent years with minimal risk to U.S. military personnel.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Aid is EU's bargaining chip in any Taliban recognition, says Slovenian EU presidency](#)

September 2, 2021, Reuters

The European Union is far from deciding whether to formally recognise the Taliban government in Afghanistan after it took over the country last month but EU aid money will determine what conditions might apply, Slovenia's foreign minister said.

[EU pushes for more autonomy amid Afghanistan fallout](#)

September 2, 2021, Associated Press

Still reeling from the European Union's shortcomings in Afghanistan, officials from the 27-nation bloc on Thursday discussed ways to improve their response to future crises and not be so reliant on the U.S.

[Proposals for an EU army re-emerge after Afghan pull out – but many remain 'hard to convince'](#)

September 2, 2021, France24

European dismay over President Joe Biden's precipitous withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan has renewed calls for an EU military force. But while proponents of "strategic autonomy" say the fall of Kabul should serve as a wake-up call, others do not see an existential threat and are content to remain as junior partners to US military might.

[Germany sets conditions for Kabul presence, France questions Taliban intent](#)

September 3, 2021, Reuters

Germany is ready to resume a diplomatic presence in Kabul if the Taliban meet certain conditions, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said on Thursday, but his French counterpart said he had yet to see positive signals that the group had changed.

[France, Germany launch joint tactical air squadron and training center](#)

September 2, 2021, Defense News

After several years of planning, the French and German air forces have formally launched a binational tactical air transport squadron starting this month, with plans to fully establish the new unit within three years.

[UK will pay to shelter refugees in countries neighbouring Afghanistan](#)

September 3, 2021, Reuters

Britain said on Friday it would release 30 million pounds (\$41 million) of aid to support nations neighbouring Afghanistan dealing with refugees fleeing the country since the Taliban took control.

[European Lawmakers Seek to Upgrade Ties with Taiwan](#)

September 2, 2021, Bloomberg

A European Union panel called on the bloc to strengthen ties with Taiwan, the latest show of support from an expanding united front of democracies against an increasingly assertive China.

[UK announces new sanctions against Myanmar](#)

September 3, 2021, Al Jazeera

The United Kingdom has announced new Myanmar sanctions, saying it was targeting a key business associate of the military government for providing arms and financial support following a coup earlier this year.

[UK and Australia announce vaccine swap deal](#)

September 3, 2021, Politico

The U.K. will send 4 million Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine doses to Australia this month, while Canberra will return the same overall number by the end of the year under a deal announced overnight.

[EU to Return Millions of Doses of J&J's Covid-19 Vaccine Imported From Africa](#)

September 2, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The European Union will return to Africa millions of doses of Johnson & Johnson's Covid-19 vaccine that it received from a plant in South Africa, following criticism by health activists that the bloc was taking away shots from a continent that has the lowest immunization rate in the world.

[70 percent of adults in the European Union have been fully vaccinated.](#)

August 31, 2021, The New York Times

Around 70 percent of adults in the European Union have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, E.U. officials said on Tuesday, a milestone that puts the bloc among the world's leaders in vaccinations despite a sluggish start earlier this year and worrying discrepancies among member states.

[Merkel prepares to step down with legacy of tackling crises](#)

September 2, 2021, Associated Press

Angela Merkel will leave office as one of modern Germany's longest-serving leaders and a global diplomatic heavyweight, with a legacy defined by her

management of a succession of crises that shook a fragile Europe rather than any grand visions for her own country.

[German elections: As Merkel stands down, the SPD's Scholz emerges as favourite for chancellor](#)

September 2, 2021, Independent

Olaf Scholz's center-left Social Democrats are at the opposite end of the political spectrum to Merkel's Christian Democrats

Russia

[Russia Warns West Against Blocking Afghanistan's Gold Reserves](#)

August 30, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia has urged Western countries not to freeze Afghanistan's gold and foreign exchange reserves abroad following the Taliban's takeover of the country. In an interview with the state-run Rossiya 24 broadcaster, Zamir Kabulov, Russia's presidential envoy to Afghanistan, warned that such a move ultimately harms ordinary Afghans.

[Kremlin 'Tightening Its Grip' On The Internet Ahead Of Elections, Group Says](#)

August 31, 2021, RFE/RL

Reporters without Borders (RSF) says the Russian state is "tightening its grip" on the Internet, "drastically" restricting freedom of the press and of expression ahead of next month's parliamentary elections.

[Putin Gives Cash to Police, Soldiers Ahead of Polls](#)

August 31, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday ordered law enforcement officers and army staff receive \$200, as he seeks support for his unpopular United Russia party ahead of parliamentary elections next month.

[Russian Prosecutor-General's Office Registers Big Jump In Corruption Cases](#)

August 31, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia's Prosecutor-General's Office says it has registered a sharp increase in the filing of corruption cases across the country since the start of the year. According to the office's latest report published on August 30, there were some 24,500 cases of alleged corruption officially registered in Russia between January 1 and June 30, the highest figure in the last eight years.

[Over 15,000 new weapon systems arrive for Russian troops – defence chief](#)

August 31, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russian troops have received over 15,000 new and upgraded weapons this year, Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu said. "In the first eight months of this year, over 15,500 new and upgraded armaments, military and special hardware have been delivered to the armed forces," the defence chief said at the ministry's conference call. "By the end of the year, modern weaponry will make up 71.9%," he said.

[Russian engineering company in talks to produce newly modernized version of world's most popular tank – the iconic Soviet T-55](#)

September 1, 2021, Russia Today

The legendary Soviet T-55 tank, produced in the 1950s, might be in line for a big upgrade. That's according to the Russian engineering company Omsktransmash, which revealed it is holding talks about modernizing the iconic vehicle.

[Moscow to take counter-measures if NATO moves military infrastructure to Russian borders](#)

September 2, 2021, TASS News Agency

Moscow will have to take counter-measures to ensure its security, if NATO moves its military infrastructure closer to Russia's borders, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Izvestia daily on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum.

[First Nord Stream 2 gas delivery may take place by end of 2021](#)

September 2, 2021, TASS News Agency

The first gas delivery via Nord Stream 2 may take place in the coming winter season before the end of 2021, said Gazprom Chairman Alexei Miller, during a conference call dedicated to the Day of Oil and Gas Industry Workers.

[Almost all Russian oil firms interested in energy resources supply to India, says minister](#)

September 2, 2021, TASS News Agency

Almost all large Russian oil companies, such as Gazprom Neft, Rosneft, Novatek, Zarubezhneft, are interested in developing joint projects with Indian oil and gas firms in the field of production and supply of energy resources, Russian Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov said at a meeting with Indian Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Uruguayan President signs decree outlining conditions for foreigners to reenter as of September 1](#)

August 28, 2021, MercoPress

Foreign owners of real estate property in the country will be allowed back into Uruguay starting September 1 and bring along family members up to the second degree, provided they have all been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

[Pandemic, unemployment and inflation increasing Brazilian families debts](#)

August 30, 2021, MercoPress

The percentage of Brazilian indebted families reached 72.9% in August, considered a new record and a direct consequence of the economic hardships because of the pandemic, unemployment and inflation, according to a release from the National Confederation of Retail, Services and Tourism, CNC. The release shows a 5.5 percentage points increase over the same month a year ago and 7.8 percentage points higher than in February 2020 when the pandemic was made official.

[Chile and Argentina agree to discuss ongoing continental shelf differences south of Cape Horn](#)

August 30, 2021, MercoPress

Chile and Argentina have resurfaced an ongoing dispute over the extent of the continental shelf in the extreme south of the South American continent, but hopefully, both sides have agreed to sit and discuss the issue bilaterally, peacefully and abstaining from any statement and/or action that can hamper the process of a harmonious dialogue.

[Argentina, Cuba ratify willingness to strengthen bilateral ties](#)

August 31, 2021, MercoPress

Argentina's International Economic Relations Secretary Jorge Neme held a meeting Monday in Havana with Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez, during which both countries ratified their intention to strengthen bilateral ties. Rodríguez seized the opportunity to thank Neme for Argentina's support condemning the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against the island.

[Ecuador wants to become full member of the Pacific Alliance](#)

September 1, 2021, MercoPress

Ecuador has requested to become a full member of the Pacific Alliance, an issue that was discussed by the country's president Guillermo Lasso during a recent

visit to his Mexican peer Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Mexico allegedly announced its full support for Ecuador to join the four countries, Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Chile block, considered the most dynamic of the Americas.

Africa

[China reaffirms economic commitment to Africa](#)

August 30, 2021, Africa Times

China reaffirmed its commitment to the African continent on Monday, with foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin citing an increase in direct investment, and advances in medicine and other sectors. "Over the past 20 years, the flow of China's direct investment in Africa has been growing by more than 25 percent on a yearly average," said Wenbin. "Despite COVID-19, China's investment in Africa has increased from \$2.71 billion in 2019 to \$2.96 billion in 2020."

[Rights group urges caution on Mauritius COVID vaccine policy](#)

September 2, 2021, Africa Times

The Indian Ocean nation of Mauritius recently touted the success of a COVID-19 vaccination program that, as of Monday, had reached 60% of all adults. The tourism board welcomed the news, calling it a milestone in the effort to reach herd immunity and "allowing the country to reopen to international travel, to get tourism up and running again."

['US failure in Afghanistan serves as a serious warning for the Sahel', says Rama Yade](#)

September 2, 2021, The African Report

Although France withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in 2014, it is still militarily present in the Sahel, despite an announced withdrawal. The disastrous events taking place in Kabul should prompt Paris to reflect on the conditions for the evacuation of its soldiers from the African region.

[Nigeria's amnesty for terrorists re-opens old wounds](#)

August 31, 2021, The African Report

An amnesty programme for terrorists by Nigeria's government is sparking anger among victims of Boko Haram. With over 350,000 killed by the Islamist group, has the administration got its priorities straight?

[Africa's race into global space: Will it take off?](#)

August 30, 2021, The African Report

African countries are looking to space to meet the rising demand for connectivity, fueled by fast-changing data consumption patterns and the growing need to bridge the digital divide in land-locked countries.



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