



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India, EU to start formal talks on FTA this month, says EAM S Jaishankar](#)

September 9, 2021, Hindustan Times

Progress has been made on the resumption of the India-EU free trade agreement negotiations and the formal talks would start this month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

[Endgame was not something that anybody saw coming: Jaishankar on Afghanistan](#)

September 6, 2021, WION

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that "nobody saw the endgame coming" in Afghanistan and called on the international community to "work in the collective interest" of Afghans.

[Talks with Taliban 'reassuring', says Foreign Secretary Shringla](#)

September 4, 2021, The Hindu

Four days after announcing that the Indian government has held talks with the Taliban in Doha, Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla said that the Taliban thus far had been "reassuring" and "reasonable", but stressed the government continues to approach the new regime in Kabul cautiously. His comments came as the Taliban continued to work on government formation, which was delayed for the second day, amidst reports of differences between various factions.

[Taliban indicated will be reasonable on India concerns: Harsh Vardhan Shringla](#)

September 5, 2021, The Indian Express

Days after India made public its first official contact with the Taliban, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said New Delhi's engagement has been "limited" and the Taliban have indicated that they will be "reasonable" in the way they "handle" Indian concerns.

[India & U.S. 2+2 dialogue to be held in November: Foreign Secretary Shringla](#)

September 4, 2021, The Hindu

The fourth annual 2+2 dialogue between India and the U.S. would be held in November this year in Washington, according to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

[India Calls For "Well-Planned Transitions" Of UN Peacekeeping Missions](#)

September 8, 2021, NDTV

Union Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said the drawdown of a UN Peacekeeping Operation and its reconfiguration into a minimal modified UN presence represents a critical phase for the success of a UN Peacekeeping Mission.

[Australia And India Begin Maritime Exercise AUSINDEX 21](#)

September 6, 2021, Naval News

Indian Navy Task Group comprising IN Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt, under the Command of Flag Officer Commanding, Eastern Fleet, Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti, VSM is participating in the 4th edition of AUSINDEX from 06 to 10 Sep 21. Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Anzac Class Frigate, HMAS Warramunga which participated in Exercise MALABAR along with the IN units is also part of the exercise. This edition of AUSINDEX includes complex surface, sub-surface and air operations between ships, submarines, helicopters and Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the participating Navies.

Pakistan

[COAS, CIA chief discuss regional security, situation in Afghanistan](#)

September 9, 2021, Dawn

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns called on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, according to a statement issued by the military's media affairs wing. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, the regional security situation and the current situation in Afghanistan were discussed.

[Pakistan, Qatar ask world to unfreeze Afghanistan's assets](#)

September 10, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Qatar urged the international community not to make humanitarian aid for Afghanistan conditional and unfreeze financial assets belonging to the war-ruined country. The call was made by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani at a press conference after their talks.

[EU envoy, army chief discuss Afghanistan](#)

September 9, 2021, Dawn

European Union's ambassador in Islamabad Androulla Kaminara and Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa discussed the situation in Afghanistan. Ambassador Kaminara called on the army chief at the General Headquarters. The meeting took place against the backdrop of the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

[EU-Pakistan business forum for SMEs launched](#)

September 9, 2021, Dawn

The first-ever EU-Pakistan Business Forum for Small and Medium Enterprises was which is aimed at boosting trade with countries in the European Union. The objective of the forum is to provide opportunities to both EU and Pakistani businesses to work together to become engines of development and partnership and contribute to enhancing bilateral trade.

[Navies of Pakistan, Germany, US hold exercise in Arabian Sea](#)

September 8, 2021, Dawn

Navies of Pakistan, German and the United States conducted a two-day passing exercise in the Arabian Sea. Multiple ships including Pakistan Navy's PNS Alamgir, the USS Shiloh and the German Navy's FGS Bayern, operated in close proximity to promote interoperability, share maritime knowledge, and improve maritime domain awareness.

[Jl celebrates Taliban's victory in Afghanistan](#)

September 4, 2021, The News

Jamaat-e-Islami Sindh chief Muhammad Hussain Mehanti said that the Taliban brought the United States of America to its knees in Afghanistan after 20 years of sacrifices and hardships. He was addressing one of the various events held in Karachi as a part of the party's countrywide thanksgiving and prayers day in connection with the defeat of the US and coalition forces by the Taliban in the neighbouring country.

[ISI chief meets Hekmatyar, Taliban leaders in Kabul](#)

September 6, 2021, The News

Chief of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed met the Hezb-e-Islami leader and former Afghan prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and Taliban leaders in Kabul. According to the reports of Afghan media, the ISI chief and Hekmatyar shared views on the anticipated inclusive government in Afghanistan.

[Four three-star generals reshuffled](#)

September 8, 2021, The News

The Pakistan Army has reshuffled four three-star generals, posting Lt. Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza as the new Corps Commander Rawalpindi. He would replace Lt. Gen Azhar Abbas who has been appointed as Chief of the General Staff in his place. Lt. Gen Waseem Ashraf, who was serving as Commander of Strike Corps Multan, has been given assignment of Director General Joint Staff Headquarters. He would be replaced by Lt. Gen Muhammad Chiragh Haider as Corps Commander Multan who was serving as DG Joint Staff Headquarters.

[Taliban control over Kabul 'new reality': Qureshi](#)

September 4, 2021, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi described the Taliban control over Kabul as the "new reality" and said Pakistan has no option but to work with the group in power in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

[Afghan journalists tell of Taliban beatings after covering protests](#)

September 9, 2021, Dawn

Two Afghan journalists were left with ugly welts and bruises after being beaten and detained for hours by Taliban enforcers for covering a protest in the Afghan capital. The pair were picked up at a demonstration and taken to a police station in the capital, where they say they were punched and beaten with batons, electrical cables and whips after being accused of organising the protest.

[Blinken says Taliban will have to 'earn' legitimacy](#)

September 9, 2021, Dawn

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that the Taliban would have to earn legitimacy from the world, after talks with allies on how to present a united front to the hardliner government in Afghanistan.

[Taliban bring old guard into cabinet, dash hopes for inclusive govt](#)

September 8, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban announced their government, with a UN-blacklisted veteran of the hardline movement in the top role, weeks after they swept to power and toppled the US-backed president.

[Taliban advance deep into Panjshir valley; US fears civil war in Afghanistan](#)

September 8, 2021, Dawn

Taliban fighters advanced deep into the last holdout province of Panjshir, as the top US general warned Afghanistan faces a wider civil war that would offer fertile ground for a resurgence of terrorism.

[US, EU reject interim Taliban government](#)

September 9, 2021, The News

The US, EU have termed the "caretaker" government unveiled by the Taliban in Afghanistan as failing to honour vows from the new rulers to include different groups, while Washington underlined the Taliban would have to earn legitimacy from the world.

[Taliban to be held accountable on counterterrorism: Afghan conference](#)

September 9, 2021, The News

The US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas co-hosted a Ministerial Coordination Session on Afghanistan with allies and partners, urging to mitigate a potential humanitarian crisis and on holding the Taliban accountable on counter terrorism.

[Taliban Closes Bank Accounts of Officials From Former Govt](#)

September 9, 2021, Tolo News

Bank accounts of some former government officials who fled the country have been closed by the Taliban. Anaamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban Cultural Commission, said that the Taliban has closed some bank accounts of officials who worked in the previous government, but he did not mention names.

[Well-Known Journalist Fahim Dashti Killed in Panjshir](#)

September 6, 2021, Tolo News

Fahim Dashti, a well-known journalist and spokesperson for the Resistance Front, was killed during a clash in Panjshir province. The National Resistance Front officials said that he was targeted by Pakistan Air Force drones in Anaba district of the province.

Bangladesh

[US provides 20 vessels to Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard](#)

September 9, 2021, Dhaka Tribune

The United States has provided 20 vessels to Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Coast Guard to improve their abilities to conduct maritime security operations and increase their capacity to monitor, patrol and respond to threats within Bangladesh's coastal waters and Economic Exclusive Zone.

[Bangladesh Army Chief Holds Talks with Gen Bipin Rawat, MM Naravane on Defence Ties, Afghanistan](#)

September 7, 2021, News 18

Chief of Bangladesh Army Gen SM Shafiuddin Ahmed held extensive talks with India's top military brass on ways to further deepen defence cooperation between the two countries. Gen Ahmed held separate meetings with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar.

[India promised more vaccines after local situation improves: Bangladesh minister](#)

September 7, 2021, The Indian Express

Bangladesh's Information and Broadcasting Minister, Hasan Mahmud, said India has assured his country of more deliveries of Covid-19 vaccines "when the situation further betters here" and that Bangladesh understands India's "local demands".

Nepal

[India examining diplomatic note sent by Nepal over July death in Mahakali river near border](#)

September 7, 2021, The Print

India is believed to be examining a diplomatic note sent by Nepal regarding an incident that took place more than a month ago, when a Nepali man fell into the Mahakali river near the two countries' border in the state of Uttarakhand.

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

September 3, 2021, The Hindu

Under the post-earthquake reconstruction package, India has allocated a total grant of \$250 million, including \$50 million each for education, cultural heritage and health sector, and \$100 million for the housing sector.

[China, Nepal border is free of dispute: Chinese embassy](#)

September 4, 2021, WION

Days after the Nepal Government formed a committee to study border issue between Nepal and China, the Chinese embassy in Nepal said the borders between the two countries is free of dispute.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka's economic crisis poses challenges for India](#)

September 9, 2021, Mint

The Colombo port is crucial for India as it handles 60% of India's trans-shipment cargo. Regional platforms like the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the Indian Ocean Rim Association could be leveraged to foster cooperation in common areas of interest like technology-driven agriculture and marine sector development, IT and communication infrastructure, renewable energy, and transport and connectivity. Both countries could also cooperate on enhancing private sector investments to create economic resilience.

[Sri Lanka looks to bolster India defence ties amid China threat](#)

September 6, 2021, The Economic Times

With an integrated country strategy paper drafted under Sri Lanka's new high commissioner Milinda Moragoda, the island nation is looking to bolster defence and security ties with India amid growing concerns of China's footprint in the region.

East & South East Asia

China

[Exclusive: New Afghan govt eyes exchanging visits with China; ETIM has no place in Afghanistan: Taliban spokesperson](#)

September 9, 2021, Global Times

While the Taliban announced an interim government consisting of important Taliban figures in Afghanistan, which to many is not as inclusive as they once promised, Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen told the Global Times in an exclusive interview that they are in talks with other Afghan politicians and, if an agreement is reached, other people outside the current cabinet will have the chance to take high-ranking jobs in the new government.

[Indian think tank report fabricates unwarranted charges to discredit China](#)

September 5, 2021, Global Times

As India has reportedly launched an information war against China and Pakistan, some Indian think tank has proactively fired false countercharges.

[US' China policy causes serious difficulties in bilateral ties, Xi says to Biden over phone](#)

September 10, 2021, Global Times

The US' China policy has resulted in serious difficulties in bilateral relations and runs counter to the fundamental interests of the peoples in the two countries and the common interests of all countries, Chinese President Xi Jinping said to US President Joe Biden over the phone, in the first call in seven months since February and days after the Taliban announced an interim government following the US' pull-out from Afghanistan.

[NATO chief apes Washington's words in accusing China opacity in nuclear policy: Global Times editorial](#)

September 7, 2021, Global Times

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that "China's nuclear arsenal is rapidly expanding" and "all of this is happening without any limitations or constraints... and with a complete lack of transparency." He repeated the cliché advocated by Washington: "We also need to include more countries in future arms control, in particular China."

[The BRICS have become an important world power that cannot be overlooked: Chinese President Xi Jinping](#)

September 9, 2021, Global Times

The five countries of BRICS have upheld multilateralism, participated in global governance, and have become an important power in the world that cannot be overlooked, Chinese President Xi Jinping said at the 13th BRICS Summit.

[China hopes Afghanistan can find its suitable development path: envoy](#)

September 10, 2021, Xinhua

A Chinese envoy expressed the hope that Afghanistan would be able to make the right choice and find a development path that is suited to its national conditions.

[China slams 'Uygur tribunal' as farce](#)

September 10, 2021, China Daily

China strongly condemned the second set of public hearings by a "Uygur tribunal" on false accusations about the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, calling its activities a farce to smear the region.

[China Sees Its Nuclear Arsenal as More Than a Deterrent](#)

September 07, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The military threat from Beijing is accelerating at a pace few anticipated. Recently released satellite imagery shows that China is rapidly constructing nearly 300 hardened underground silos in its western desert to house intercontinental ballistic missiles. Also unexpected was the revelation that China recently began work on a third site of similar size near Ordos City that was not previously associated with ICBMs.

[Biden, China's Xi Jinping Hold First Call in Months](#)

September 10, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

President Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke by phone night in an effort to ease hostilities between the two powers and reset lines of communication after recent high-level meetings were described by U.S. officials as unproductive. The call was the second time the leaders have spoken since Mr. Biden took office. In the seven months since then, the U.S. has accused China of human rights violations, imposed sanctions and warned businesses about operating in Hong Kong. The two countries have continued to trade barbs rather than cooperate on combating the Covid-19 pandemic.

[China-Australia relations: Beijing lobbies Canberra for help to join CPTPP regional trade pact despite spat](#)

September 10, 2021, The South China Morning Post

China is lobbying the Australian government for its support to join a multilateral regional trade pact – despite the two nations being in a worsening geopolitical dispute that’s spilled over into economic reprisals.

[China's economy gets welcome boost from surprisingly strong Aug exports](#)

September 7, 2021, Reuters

China's exports unexpectedly grew at a faster pace in August thanks to solid global demand, helping take some of the pressure off the world's second-biggest economy as it navigates its way through headwinds from several fronts.

[China: New airports, routes for PLA to transport personnel to Tibet, Xinjiang](#)

September 09, 2021, The Hindustan Times

The remote Chinese regions of Xinjiang and Tibet bordering India will soon have 30 airports at the disposal of the Western Theatre Command (WTC) to facilitate the movement of army personnel, a state media report said this week. The WTC is the largest military command of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) and oversees the disputed border with India. While some of these airports have been built and are functional, the remaining are under construction.

Japan

[Asian shares rebound after Xi, Biden discuss troubled ties](#)

September 10, 2021, Japan Today

Shares advanced in Asia as investors step up buying despite another decline on Wall Street that kept the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq on track for their first weekly losses in three weeks.

[Takaichi joins race to be next PM; outlines 'Sanaenomics' policy](#)

September 9, 2021, Japan Today

Sanae Takaichi, one of Japan's few prominent female politicians, announced she will run for head of the ruling party as it seeks new leadership before a general election.

[Kishida calls for new type of capitalism to address income, social gaps](#)

September 9, 2021, Japan Today

One of the main candidates to be Japan's next prime minister said the country needs a new type of capitalism to address income and social gaps caused by the pandemic.

[IAEA seeks transparency from Japan in release of Fukushima water](#)

September 8, 2021, India Today

Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency asked Japan for full and detailed information about a plan to release treated but still radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean.

[Japan, U.S., Australia and India eye first in-person 'Quad' summit](#)

September 10, 2021, The Japan Times

Japan, the United States, Australia and India are finalizing a plan to hold their first face-to-face summit under the Quad grouping in Washington on Sept. 24 to discuss their ties to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region, Japanese and U.S. diplomatic sources said.

[Japan, U.S. and South Korea to hold talks in Tokyo on North Korea](#)

September 7, 2021, The Japan Times

Senior officials from Japan, the United States and South Korea are expected to hold talks in Tokyo next week to discuss issues on North Korea, including how to move forward stalled denuclearization negotiations with Pyongyang, diplomatic sources said.

Korea

['Money or freedom': Is South Korea safe from China's infiltration?](#)

September 8, 2021, The Korea Times

Australian author Clive Hamilton explains in his best-selling book "Silent Invasion," the CCP has taken multiple approaches to "infiltrate" foreign countries, utilizing party-backed institutions and the Chinese community overseas to spread Beijing's propaganda, lobbying politicians, and making generous donations and investments to get what the country wants.

[Top nuke envoys of S. Korea, US, Japan to meet in Tokyo next week](#)

September 10, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea's top nuclear envoy, Noh Kyu-duk, will visit Tokyo next week for bilateral and trilateral talks with his U.S. and Japanese counterparts, the foreign ministry said, as Seoul steps up diplomacy to resume dialogue with Pyongyang.

[Korea, China may be part of expert group monitoring Fukushima water release](#)

September 10, 2021, The Korea Herald

The International Atomic Energy Agency will send a group of experts, possibly including some from South Korea and China, to the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant in December to monitor the safety and transparency of Japan's planned disposal of treated radioactive water, an official from the agency said.

[Chinese foreign minister to visit Seoul next week](#)

September 7, 2021, The Korea Herald

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will make a two-day visit to Seoul next week to discuss bilateral relations and other pending issues, including North Korea, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said.

[S. Korea, ASEAN nations agree to boost defense ties](#)

September 8, 2021, The Korea Herald

South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed to boost exchanges and cooperation in security and defense fields, Seoul's defense ministry said.

Southeast Asia

[Sea Ltd looks to raise \\$6.3 billion in Southeast Asia's biggest fundraising](#)

September 9, 2021, The Economic Times

E-commerce and gaming company Sea Ltd is looking to raise \$6.3 billion in a share and convertible bond sale in Southeast Asia's largest-ever capital raising, tapping growing investor interest in the region.

[The Future of Southeast Asia-DPRK Engagement](#)

September 9, 2021, 38 North

Bilateral relations between North Korea and Malaysia share similar characteristics to other ties between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and its friends in the Global South based on their shared ideology of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism.

[It was the 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise \(SIMBEX\)](#)

September 4, 2021, The Hindu

India and Singapore have carried out a mega naval wargame in the southern fringes of the South China Sea over the last three days, in reflection of their growing congruence of interests in the strategically key region.

[Indonesia, China implement local currency settlement](#)

September 6, 2021, The Jakarta Post

Indonesia and China implemented a local currency settlement (LCS) agreement to make trade and direct investment between the two countries more efficient.

[RCEP seen boosting China-Philippines trade](#)

September 10, 2021, ECNS.cn

The expected implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement will generate fresh momentum for China and the Philippines to boost bilateral trade in both goods and services in the coming years, said senior Philippine diplomats in China.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Tajik Lawmakers Approve Amnesty Bill To Mark Independence Anniversary](#)

September 6, 2021, RFE/RL

Tajikistan's lower chamber of parliament has approved a mass amnesty affecting more than 16,000 people to mark the 30th anniversary of the Central Asian nation's independence on September 9.

[Kazakhstan bars entry to Xinjiang repression researcher](#)

September 6, 2021, Eurasianet

A leading researcher on the repression of Muslims in China's Xinjiang region has been barred from entering Kazakhstan in a fresh sign that Nur-Sultan is buckling under pressure from Beijing to prevent activism on the issue.

[Kyrgyzstan Effectively Suspends Visas for Pakistan, India Amid Afghanistan Stress](#)

September 7, 2021, The Diplomat

Last week, Kyrgyzstan apparently suspended issuing tourist visas to citizens of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. Local media cited a travel agency director and noted that the four countries had been taken off the Kyrgyz Foreign Ministry's visa regime information list.

[Russia-led CSTO holds military drills in Kyrgyzstan due to situation in Afghanistan](#)

September 8, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

The Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) has started three days of military exercises in Kyrgyzstan it says are needed in response to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan.

[Turkmen Foreign Minister Reportedly Being Treated For COVID In Hospital](#)

September 8, 2021, RFE/RL

Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov has been reportedly hospitalized with COVID-19 even as authorities continue to deny the presence of the coronavirus within the country's borders.

[Jailed Kyrgyz Opposition Party Leader Faces Additional Charges He Calls Fake](#)

September 8, 2021, RFE/RL

Authorities in Kyrgyzstan have added new charges against Jenish Moldokmatov, the jailed leader of the opposition party Turan, which he denies.

Moldokmatov, an outspoken critic of President Sadyr Japarov, was arrested in May and charged with the seizure of buildings during anti-government rallies against the official results of parliamentary elections in October 2020.

[Uzbekistan president accepts nomination to run for second term](#)

September 10, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has accepted the nomination from the pro-government Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan to be its candidate and seek a second term in office in next month's election.

West Asia

[MoS MEA V. Muraleedharan Visits Bahrain](#)

September 01, 2021, Official Twitter Handle V. Muraleedharan

Indian Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs V. Muraleedharan visited Bahrain and met King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

[Turkey, India Would Benefit From Improved Ties: Turkish Envoy](#)

September 05, 2021, Daily Sabah

Turkey's envoy to India, Fatma Sunel, has called for improved and multifaceted relations between Ankara and New Delhi.

[BRICS New Development Bank Admits Bangladesh, UAE, Uruguay; India Welcomes New Members](#)

September 04, 2021, Republic World

As a part of an extensive membership expansion program by the New Development Bank (NBD), the BRICS group of nations has admitted Uruguay, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Bangladesh in its first batch of new members. India welcomed the newly appointed members chosen under the expansion drive.

[UAE to Grow Asia, Africa Trade, Seek \\$150 Billion Investment](#)

September 05, 2021, Bloomberg

The United Arab Emirates plans to deepen its trade ties in fast-growing economies in Asia and Africa and draw \$150 billion in foreign investment from mainly older partners to reposition itself as a global hub for business and finance.

[UAE Introduces New Residency Guidelines to Attract Foreigners](#)

September 05, 2021, Business Standard

The new 'Green Visas' will allow expatriates to apply for work without being sponsored by an employer, and include children up to the age of 25 on their permits. The government also said it will allow people who've lost their jobs to remain in the country for up to 180 days, a major boost as most visas are tied to employment contracts.

[Suspected ISIL Attack Kills At Least 12 Iraqi Police near Kirkuk](#)

September 05, 2021, AL Jazeera

At least 12 Iraqi police officers have been killed in an attack the ISIL (ISIS) armed group is suspected of carrying out at a security checkpoint in the country's north.

[New Zealand Attacker's Mother Believes He Was 'Brainwashed' by Neighbours from Syria and Iraq](#)

September 05, 2021, Firstpost

The mother of an Islamic State-inspired extremist who stabbed shoppers in a New Zealand supermarket said her son was radicalised by neighbours from Syria and Iraq who helped him recover from an injury. The attacker, Ahamed Samsudeen, was a 32-year-old Tamil Muslim from Sri Lanka.

[Iran Says Nuclear Talks Won't Resume for 2-3 Months](#)

September 01, 2021, The Times of Israel

Stalled Vienna talks aimed at reviving Iran's nuclear agreement with world powers will likely not resume for another two to three months, Tehran's foreign ministry said.

[US Special Envoy for Iran Says US is Patient But Can't 'Wait Forever' to Resume Talks](#)

September 04, 2021, Iran International

The United States "understands" that Iran is going through a government transition, but Washington cannot "wait forever" for Tehran's return to nuclear talks, Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley said.

[Israeli Navy Holds Joint Security Patrol with US 5th Fleet](#)

September 01, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

The Israeli Navy participated in a combined maritime security patrol with the US Naval Forces Central Command's 5th Fleet in the Red Sea for the first time. The activity comes after Israel moves to the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

[Israel Warns US Over Plan to Reopen Jerusalem Consulate](#)

September 01, 2021, AL Jazeera

Israel has said that the United States's plan to reopen its consulate in Jerusalem is a "bad idea" and could destabilise Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's government. The previous administration of US President Donald Trump signalled support for Israel's claim on Jerusalem as its capital by moving the US embassy there from Tel Aviv and shuttering the consulate.

[OPEC Steadily Adds Back Production as Economy Recovers](#)

September 01, 2021, The Washington Post

The OPEC oil producers' cartel and allied non-member countries led by Russia signed off on gradually increasing production as the global economy and demand for fuel continue to recover from the worst of the coronavirus pandemic.

[President Biden Orders Declassification of 9/11 Investigation Documents](#)

September 03, 2021, AL Jazeera

US President Joe Biden has directed the Justice Department and other agencies to begin a six-month process of declassifying documents related to the FBI's investigations into the September 11, 2001 attacks.

United States

United States

[Biden speaks with Chinese President Xi Jinping amid tensions in recent months](#)

September 10, 2021, CNN

President Joe Biden spoke with China's President Xi Jinping evening as relations between the two countries have remained tense in recent months, particularly in cyberspace, with the US having accused China of widespread malfeasance, including a massive hack of Microsoft's email system and other ransomware attacks.

[First in-person Quad summit likely in Washington on Sep 24: Report](#)

September 9, 2021, Business Standard

The first in-person summit of the leaders of the Quad countries is likely to take place in Washington on September 24 with a focus to chart a new roadmap for expanding the overall cooperation in diverse areas, diplomatic sources said.

[U.S., Japan, S. Korea prepare for possible meeting on N. Korea -report](#)

September 7, 2021, Reuters

The United States, South Korea and Japan are preparing for a possible meeting of officials handling North Korea next week in Tokyo, Kyodo news agency reported.

[Japan, U.S. and Europe agree to cooperate over Afghanistan situation](#)

September 9, 2021, The Japan Times

Foreign ministers from Japan, the United States, Europe and elsewhere agreed to work together in dealing with the situation in Afghanistan, as they seek to ensure safe departures for those fleeing the Taliban-controlled country, the Japanese government said.

[US top diplomat Blinken and Def Sec Austin visit Qatar in wake of Taliban takeover](#)

September 7, 2021, Al Jazeera

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin have met with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and other top Qatari officials in Doha for talks on Afghanistan – shortly after the Taliban claimed to have taken full control of the country.

[Biden Administration Seeks New Law to Ease Afghan Refugees' Path to Green Cards](#)

September 8, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

The White House is asking Congress to pass a law providing green cards for the tens of thousands of Afghans the Biden administration evacuated from Kabul and is bringing to the U.S. on temporary humanitarian grounds.

[New Taliban government 'more of the same,' says Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin](#)

September 9, 2021, ABC News

The United States has not seen evidence that the Taliban's newly formed government will be as inclusive as promised, and it appears to be "more of the same" with "many of the same actors," according to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

[Austin: Al Qaeda may try to 'regenerate' in Afghanistan](#)

September 9, 2021, The Hill

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the international community is monitoring the situation in Afghanistan to see if Al Qaeda attempts to make a comeback in the region now that the U.S. has withdrawn its troop presence.

[Blinken to testify to U.S. Congress on Afghanistan next week](#)

September 8, 2021, Reuters

Secretary of State Antony Blinken will testify at least twice in Congress next week as lawmakers examine the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, after Senate and House of Representatives committees promised aggressive investigations.

[CIA Chief Visits Pakistan, India to Discuss Afghanistan](#)

September 9, 2021, Voice of America

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns flew to India and Pakistan this week to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and the region as well as the way forward.

[Blinken warns US 'getting closer' to giving up on Iran nuclear deal](#)

September 8, 2021, The Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that time was running out for Iran to return to a nuclear deal after a scathing report by the UN atomic watchdog.

[Blinken invites Lapid for Washington visit next month](#)

September 8, 2021, The Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has invited Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid to visit Washington, the State Department said.

[India, US agree to collaborate on emerging fuels](#)

September 10, 2021, Tribune India

India and the US have agreed to expand their energy partnership by adding emerging fuels to the list of areas of cooperation that previously included power and energy efficiency, oil and gas, renewable energy and sustainable growth, an official statement said.

[Biden announces new vaccine mandates that could cover 100 million Americans](#)

September 10, 2021, CNN

President Joe Biden imposed stringent new vaccine rules on federal workers, large employers and health care staff in a sweeping attempt to contain the latest surge of Covid-19.

US urge the Houthis to agree to a comprehensive ceasefire immediately

September 6, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

One of President Biden's first acts in office was ending U.S. weapons support for Saudi Arabia in its war against the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen. The U.S. hoped the concession would persuade the Houthis to negotiate. Instead, they have escalated.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU says provisional Taliban government falls short of promises](#)

September 8, 2021, Reuters

The European Union voiced disapproval of the Taliban's provisional government in Afghanistan after the Islamist militants named several leaders, saying they had not kept a promise to include women and other religious groups.

[Italy's Draghi, Turkey's Erdogan discuss Afghan crisis, G20 summit](#)

September 9, 2021, Reuters

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi discussed the Afghan crisis with Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan ahead of a G20 summit to be held in Rome on Oct. 30-31, Draghi's office said.

[Dominic Raab says the UK has shared interest in a stable country](#)

September 4, 2021, BBC

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab says the UK and Pakistan have a "shared interest" in securing a "stable and peaceful future for Afghanistan". Mr Raab has met his Pakistani counterpart and the country's prime minister as part of his regional tour.

[Germany not optimistic about Taliban government - minister](#)

September 8, 2021, Reuters

Germany is not filled with optimism by the make-up of the new government in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said, after the Taliban appointed hardline veteran figures to top positions.

[German finance ministry raided in money laundering probe](#)

September 9, 2021, Reuters

German prosecutors raided the finance and justice ministries as part of an investigation into the government's anti-money laundering agency, putting a spotlight on Germany's failings in tackling financial crime.

[After Merkel, Europe Eyes Looming Shift in Germany](#)

September 10, 2021, Bloomberg

The EU is watching eagerly to see how the election in its largest economy plays out as Angela Merkel's tenure draws to a close. Social Democrat Olaf Scholz is

the favorite to become Germany's next chancellor, but polls suggest he'll need to form a messy three-party coalition to secure power.

[EU rejects UK demand to renegotiate N. Ireland protocol](#)

September 8, 2021, Reuters

The European Union and Britain must resolve problems over Northern Ireland trading using the protocol agreed between them, the EU's Brexit coordinator said, rejecting a British demand to renegotiate it.

[Denmark is first in EU to lift all coronavirus restrictions](#)

September 9, 2021, Politico

Denmark is set to lift all remaining coronavirus restrictions, making it the first EU country to go completely back to pre-pandemic daily life.

[Russia and Belarus agree closer energy, economic integration](#)

September 10, 2021, Reuters

The leaders of Russia and Belarus agreed to set up a unified oil and gas market and to deepen economic integration in the face of what they regard as unjustified Western sanctions on both their economies.

[Transatlantic trade deal rises from the grave to fight China](#)

September 9, 2021, Politico

The first meeting of the Trade and Tech Council (TTC) in Pittsburgh on September 29 is intended to build a diplomatic platform for the European Union and the United States to work together on industrial and tech standards to counter China's rise in sectors ranging from microchips and robots to artificial intelligence and the alleged antitrust abuses of Google and Amazon.

[India, EU strategic convergence reflects 'our positions' on Afghanistan: Jaishankar](#)

September 8, 2021, The Times of India

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the strategic convergence between India and the European Union (EU) is reflected in "our positions" on key regional and global issues, including Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

[India, EU to start formal talks on FTA this month, says EAM S Jaishankar](#)

September 9, 2021, Hindustan Times

Progress has been made on the resumption of the India-EU free trade agreement negotiations and the formal talks would start this month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said.

Russia

[India, Russia to Team Up to Open Northern Sea Route for International Trade](#)

September 3, 2021, Sputnik News

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi said at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Russia that India would partner with Russia to jointly open the Northern Sea Route for international trade and commerce.

[Four More Media Organizations Added To Russia's 'Foreign Agent' List](#)

September 4, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia has branded four more media outlets as "foreign agents," adding to the growing list of news organizations and individual journalists caught up in what critics say is an accelerated Kremlin campaign against independent media ahead of nationwide legislative elections later this month.

[Asia-Pacific region accounts for around 50% of Russia's defense orders portfolio](#)

September 4, 2021, TASS News Agency

The share of the Asia-Pacific region in Russia's portfolio of export orders for military products reaches around 50%, Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation Dmitry Shugaev told reporters at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF-2021).

[Zakharova: Russia Receives 'Signals' From Berlin, Paris on Possible Meeting, But Not at G7](#)

September 5, 2021, Sputnik News

Germany and France hinted at a possibility of a joint meeting with Russia, but no discussions about inviting Moscow to the G7 summit are underway, the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, said.

[Russian Authorities Block Final Access Point To Navalny's 'Smart Voting' Website](#)

September 7, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia's media watchdog, Roskomnadzor, has blocked the last remaining portal open to the Smart Voting website developed by jailed opposition politician Aleksei Navalny's team to support candidates in the upcoming elections to defeat Kremlin-linked figures and candidates for the ruling United Russia party.

[Ahead Of Putin-Lukashenka Summit, Russian Jets Arrive To Help Patrol Belarusian Borders](#)

September 8, 2021, RFE/RL

Belarusian officials say Russian fighter jets have arrived to help patrol Belarus's borders, as part of a new joint military effort. The arrival of the Sukhoi jets, announced on September 8, came a day ahead of a critical meeting between Belarusian leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

[Russian Emergencies Minister Dies in Arctic Drills](#)

September 9, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian Emergency Situations Minister Yevgeny Zinichev, an ally and former bodyguard of President Vladimir Putin, has died at age 55 while trying to save a prominent filmmaker during strategic drills in the Arctic, the ministry said.

[Astronauts Smell Smoke, Burning on Russia's ISS Module](#)

September 9, 2021, The Moscow Times

A smoke alarm sounded in Russia's segment of the International Space Station and astronauts smelled "burning" on board, Russia's space agency and NASA said. The incident, which the Russian space agency Roscosmos said happened ahead of a scheduled spacewalk, is the latest in a string of problems to spur safety concerns over conditions on the Russian segment.

[Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline has been completed, Russia's Gazprom announces](#)

September 10, 2021, Russia Today

The final sections of the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline have now been welded into place, Moscow's state energy giant Gazprom has revealed, bringing construction of the underwater link between Russia and Germany to an end.

[Russia Kicks Off Arctic Military Drills to Secure Sea Route](#)

September 10, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia's military has kicked off Arctic drills to secure a key navigation route against the backdrop of major exercises held simultaneously in neighbor Belarus. Some 8,000 troops, 120 aircraft and 50 warships have been deployed across waters abutting the entire stretch of Russia's vast northern coast, according to the Russian Armed Forces' Northern Fleet.

[Russian Military Base in Tajikistan to Receive 30 Modern Tanks by Year-End](#)

September 10, 2021, Sputnik News

The Russian military base in Tajikistan will be provided with 30 modernised tanks by the end of 2021, Russia's Central Military District said. The batch will

come as an addition to some 100 units of armored weapons, including 30 T-72B3M tanks with enhanced combat capacities, received by the Central Military District earlier this year.

[Russian Tech Giant Yandex Says It Was Targeted In Biggest Attack Ever](#)

September 10, 2021, RFE/RL

Russian tech company Yandex said a cyberattack on its servers this summer was the largest known distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack in the history of the Internet. Yandex said it had identified a powerful new botnet, a network of computers infected with malware and controlled without the owners' knowledge, that has also carried out attacks in other countries.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[French President against EU-Mercosur deal over environmental concerns](#)

September 4, 2021, MercoPress

France's President Emmanuel Macron insisted his government would oppose the trade deal between the European Union and Mercosur due to "incompatible" differences regarding climate issues. The French leader thus vowed to stick to his viewpoint when he assumes the rotating EU presidency in early 2022.

[Argentina recants opening border crossings with Uruguay for now over sanitary concerns](#)

September 6, 2021, MercoPress

The Government of Argentina has finally decided not to go ahead with the reopening of the bridge crossings into Uruguay, citing COVID-19 epidemiological reasons. Earlier last week, Uruguay's Ambassador in Buenos Aires Carlos Enciso and Argentina's National Migrations Director Florencia Carignano had announced what in the end is not happening.

[More arson and terrorist attacks in Mapuche claimed territory, south of Chile](#)

September 5, 2021, MercoPress

Following another arson attack in the Chilean region of La Araucanía, the land of the Mapuche indigenous communities, the presidential delegate Victor Manoli has called on Congress to speed legislation "to pursue and arrest the culprits of these terrorist actions".

[Chile approves Coronavac for children aged six and older](#)

September 7, 2021, MercoPress

Chilean health authorities have approved the emergency use of the Sinovac Biotech (CoronaVac) coronavirus vaccine on children aged six years or older. Five experts from the National Institute of Public Health of Chile favored the use of the drug on patients, as the country's vaccination plan becomes one of the most successful worldwide. A study published in The Lancet in June said that Sinovac's drug was safe and effective in children over three years of age.

[Brazilian industry in bilateral trade talks with UK, wants to include Mercosur](#)

September 8, 2021, MercoPress

The Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, CNI, has launched a Brazil/UK Task Group to explore and identify trade and investment

opportunities in both countries, as part of the UK initiative to increase and open markets in the post-Brexit scenario.

[Brazil terminates bilateral shipping agreements with Argentina and Uruguay](#)

September 9, 2021, MercoPress

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro has decided to terminate both bilateral maritime transport agreements with Argentina and Uruguay. The presidential decree, which was released through the Official Gazette, "makes public the decision of the Federative Republic of Brazil not to renew the validity of the Agreement between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on Maritime Transport, signed in Rivera, on June 12, 1975, and the Agreement on Maritime Transport between the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Argentine Republic, signed in Buenos Aires, on August 15, 1985."

Africa

[AU, UN call for Condé's release after Guinea coup](#)

September 5, 2021, Africa Times

Leaders of the African Union and United Nations have called for the immediate release of President Alpha Condé following a coup attempt in the West African nation of Guinea.

[FAO to step up climate commitments on food, sustainable agriculture](#)

September 8, 2021, Africa Times

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations plans to put climate action at the center of all its projects and offices, following a meeting in Rome to evaluate a new strategy and discuss its impact.

[Ethiopia makes plans to become Africa's clean energy hub](#)

September 9, 2021, The African Report

Ethiopia is on course to become a net exporter of energy as it unveiled a \$40bn roadmap to build 71 power projects over the next ten years.

[Mozambique: Without dialogue will SADC's intervention be another Afghanistan?](#)

September 6, 2021, The African Report

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Rwanda's military interventions are delivering quick wins on the ground, but will that be enough to turn the tide of the Islamist insurgency in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province? Analysts have some doubts.

[Tunisia: What role is the army playing in the country's political crisis?](#)

September 6, 2021, The African Report

After Tunisia's President Kaïs Saïed led an institutional coup de force on 25 July, the military rapidly mobilised itself, notably to prevent members of parliament from entering the Assembly. As a result, questions have been asked about the military's involvement in the head of state's surprising manoeuvre.

[Identity Politics Goes Global](#)

September 6, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Preoccupied by the pandemic, climate change and the intensifying rivalry between the U.S. and China, policy makers and pundits aren't paying enough attention to the news in Africa. That is a mistake. What is happening on the continent offers insights into the destructive role identity politics seems destined to play in world politics.



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