

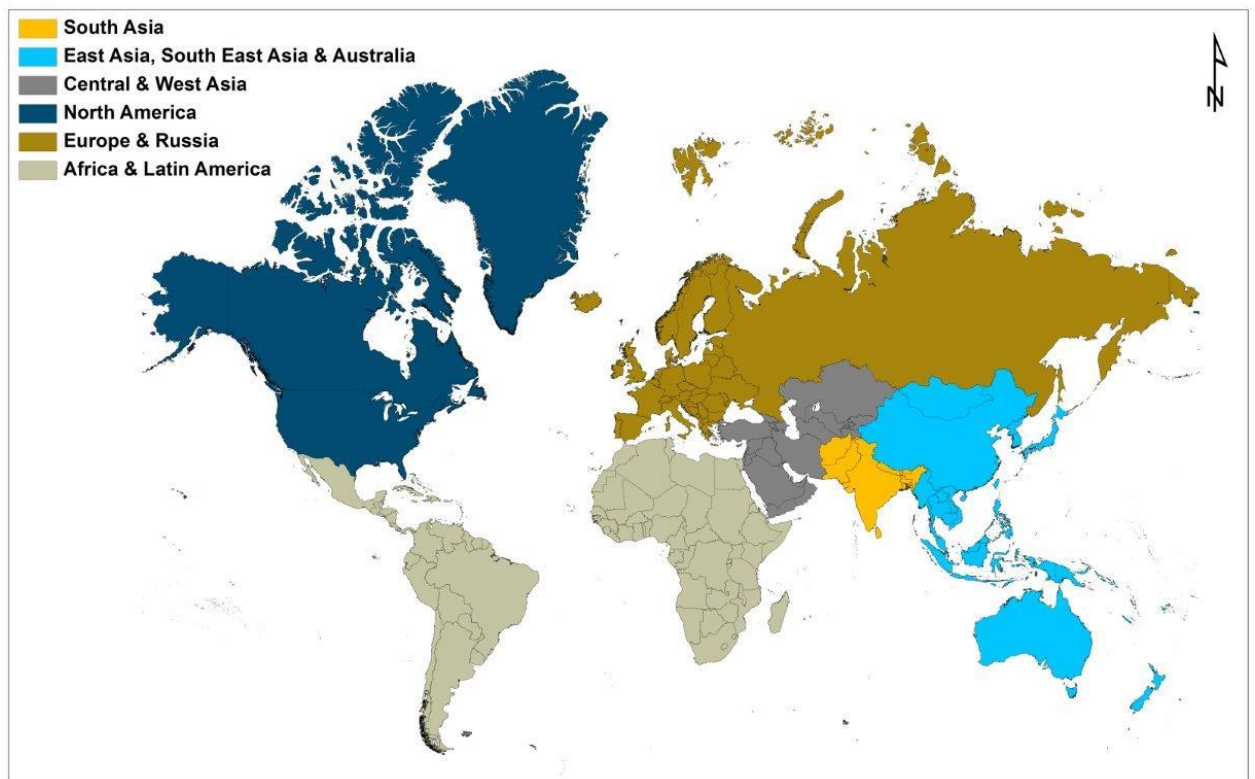


Delhi Policy Group

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

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

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India Strikes Back At China For 'Inventing' Names In Arunachal Pradesh](#)

December 31, 2021, NDTV

India- China Conflict: The renaming of residential areas, rivers and mountains in Arunachal Pradesh followed a similar move in 2017 involving six other locations in the same area.

[China implements new border law, India concerned](#)

January 1, 2022, Deccan Herald

India is likely to face more challenges at the northern border as China implements its new border law from Saturday. Sources said that from now, China is likely to dig in its heels at the current disputed positions at the Line of Actual Control.

[India, Russia to boost defence ties in Indian Ocean region](#)

December 31, 2021, The Economic Times

India and Russia, are not only exploring joint projects in Central Asian Region, but also exploring partnership in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), often viewed as New Delhi's backyard.

[Deployment of first regiment of S-400 to be completed next month](#)

January 1, 2022, The Economic Times

The Indian Air Force is likely to complete the deployment of the first regiment of the S-400 Triumph missile systems at an airbase in Punjab by February, military officials said on Saturday. They said the process of deployment of the missile system has begun and it will take at least six more weeks to complete the deployment.

[Indian Navy Evacuates Its Sailor From Mozambique After Medical Emergency](#)

December 30, 2021, NDTV

An aircraft of the Indian Navy on a routine deployment to the southern Indian Ocean was diverted for the medical evacuation, officials said.

Pakistan

[Border spat with Taliban resolved: official](#)

December 25, 2021, Dawn

Pakistan and Afghan Taliban authorities have overcome the recent row over border fencing by agreeing that further fencing would be done through consensus. The official, who spoke to a group of journalists on the background, said: "It has been decided at a senior level that fencing-related issues would in future be dealt with through mutual agreement."

[PTI's organisational structure dissolved after LG poll setback](#)

December 25, 2021, Dawn

Just a few days after the shocking defeat of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) in the local government elections in its stronghold of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Prime Minister Imran Khan dissolved the party's organisational structure across the country. During a meeting with senior PTI leaders, Prime Minister Khan constituted a 21-member committee to form a new structure of the party organisations.

[EVM-based general polls may cost up to Rs350 bn](#)

December 29, 2021, The News

The ECP's initial estimates about the basic cost of Electronic Voting Machine-based polls is around Rs 200 billion while total spending is estimated to reach Rs 350 billion for one general election. Senior sources in the Election Commission of Pakistan say holding EVM-based elections would also require many amendments in different statutes.

[110 terrorists killed, 599 held in KP this year](#)

December 28, 2021, The News

As many as 110 terrorists were killed and 599 were arrested by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police during the year 2021, the provincial police chief said. The IGP said there was a significant decrease recorded in cases of terrorism as well as other crimes in KP during 2021 as compared to the past years. The police chief said the CTD during the actions this year recovered 2,397 kilograms of explosives, 206 hand grenades, five suicide jackets, 31076 detonators and seven RPG rockets.

[New debate erupts over Nawaz's return](#)

December 26, 2021, The News

Rumors about possible return of former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif have sparked off a

heated debate on the country's already charged political scene with the government and the opposition party camps peddling and defending their own viewpoints.

[New security policy](#)

December 29, 2021, Dawn

THE federal cabinet has approved the National Security Policy after its green-lighting by the National Security Committee and the military spokesman has said that the armed forces will play their role in achieving the vision laid out in the policy.

[ITI freight train leaves for Iran](#)

December 27, 2021, Dawn

The Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) freight train left Taftan for Iran. According to Pakistan Railways, eight carriages of the train were loaded with pink salt. Representatives of the Iranian government, Pakistan's consulate in Zahedan and Pakistan Railways saw off the train when it left for the Iranian city.

[Four killed in bomb attack on workers of JUI faction in Quetta](#)

December 31, 2021, Dawn

Four people were killed and 16 others injured in a bomb explosion near the main gate of a college at Jinnah Road area. The target of the blast was leaders and workers of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-Ideological group) who had come to attend Shuhada Conference organised by the party's student wing.

[Pakistan, India nearing deal on Afghan wheat transit](#)

December 30, 2021, The Express Tribune

New Delhi has provided the list of Afghan contractors and truck drivers to Islamabad who would transport Indian wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan, as the two sides inch closer to finalise the agreement.

[National Assembly resolution seeks debate on Sialkot tragedy](#)

December 25, 2021, Dawn

Tabling a resolution in the National Assembly to hold a debate on the Sialkot tragedy in which Sri Lankan national Priyantha Kumara was lynched by an unruly mob for allegedly committing blasphemy, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan described the delay in deciding cases such as motorway rape case, Zainab rape and murder case and Noor Muqaddam beheading case as loopholes or flaws in the penal laws of the country, which needed to be improved.

Afghanistan

[Taliban govt scraps Afghan election commission](#)

December 26, 2021, Dawn

The Taliban have dissolved Afghanistan's election commission, a panel that supervised polls during the previous Western-backed administration. "There is no need for these commissions to exist and operate," Taliban government spokesman Bilal Karimi said, referring to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission.

[Exemptions allow US to deal with Taliban, Haqqani Network](#)

December 26, 2021, Dawn

Three general licences issued by the US Treasury this week allow US government officials and international agencies to conduct "official business" with the Taliban and Haqqani Network. An official statement issued by the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) explains how this "official business" can be conducted.

[Taliban bar women from long trips without male escort](#)

December 27, 2021, Dawn

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities said that women seeking to travel long distances should not be offered road transport unless they are accompanied by a close male relative. The guidance issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice called on vehicle owners to refuse rides to women not wearing headscarves.

[Putin concerned over security situation at Afghan-Tajik border](#)

December 28, 2021, Dawn

The security situation at the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border is a concern, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, a risk Moscow has sought to mitigate by strengthening its military base in Tajikistan with weapons and other equipment.

[British man detained in Afghanistan: UK govt](#)

December 25, 2021, The News

A British man working in Afghanistan has been detained, the UK foreign ministry said, following a newspaper report of the arrest of a security consultant by the Taliban.

[Uzbekistan provides 3,700 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan](#)

December 25, 2021, The Statesman

Uzbekistan has provided 3,700 tonnes of humanitarian aid to war-torn Afghanistan in an effort to help millions of people in need amidst the chilling winter. Transported by 63 rail wagons to Afghanistan's northern city Mazar-I-Sharif and received by Afghan officials, the batch includes foodstuffs, fuel and winter clothes that will be distributed among destitute Afghans as the country is undergoing an economic crisis.

[Several electricity projects in Afghanistan halted due to funds suspension](#)

December 25, 2021, Business Standard

Several electricity supply projects to Afghanistan have been halted since the past four months due to the suspension of funds from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the US development aid in the wake of the country's takeover by the Taliban, according to officials from the national power company.

[Ashraf Ghani: Ex-Afghan president describes moment he fled the Taliban](#)

December 30, 2021, BBC

Afghanistan's former president has defended his decision to flee the country as the Taliban closed in earlier this year, saying he did it to prevent the destruction of Kabul.

Bangladesh

[India has offered Bangladesh use of inland waterways up to Varanasi'](#)

January 2, 2022, The Sentinel

The High Commissioner of India in Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami has said that India has offered the use of its inland waterways system up to Varanasi

[Main structure of 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in Pirojpur completed](#)

December 30, 2021, The Daily Star

Construction of the main structure of 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge -- over Kocha river in Pirojpur -- was completed on December 28, according to the Chinese embassy in Bangladesh.

Nepal

[Nepal as a bridge between India and China](#)

December 26, 2021, The Annapurna Express

India-China trade is increasing but the mode of transport is lengthy and cumbersome, especially marine transport from the east coast of China to Indian ports. No alternative land trade route has been identified beside the Nathu-La Pass, which too is inconvenient due to its high altitude and recent India-China border disputes. In comparison, the route from the northern Indian state of Bihar to the proposed Kerung dry port at Nepal-China border of TAR is only 265 km. Its use could save a lot of time and transport costs for India and China.

[Nepal Begins Hydropower Export to India](#)

December 27, 2021, The Diplomat

The Himalayan country needs Chinese investment and the Indian market to tap the full potential of its hydropower sector. Can Nepal walk the fine line?

Sri Lanka

[India has an upper hand over China in jostle for foothold in Sri Lanka. But it can slip away](#)

December 31, 2021, The Print

A proactive New Delhi has increased its vigil and speeded up strategic cooperation with Colombo to counter Beijing's movements so far. But it needs more.

[Sri Lanka seeks \\$1.5 billion Indian credit line amid crisis](#)

December 31, 2021, The Policy Times

Discussions are in progress for a \$ 400 million swap facility under the SAARC Finance Arrangement from the Reserve Bank of India, he further informed.

[India to enter Sri Lanka's 'China Bay' with Trincomalee oil farm deal](#)

December 29, 2021, WION

India is all set to sign a long-dragging deal with Sri Lanka to jointly develop oil tank farm in the island's north-eastern Trincomalee province, making its entry into the 'China Bay', according to reports.

East & South East Asia

China

[Closer trade ties between China, India benefit both](#)

December 26, 2021, Global Times

If India were to choose an ally, it would be China first and foremost, not the US, as this is in line with the laws of economic development under globalization, and the needs of the two peoples' interests.

[PLA sent more warplanes near Taiwan island than DPP authority claimed: China's Defense Ministry](#)

December 30, 2021, Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) sent a larger number of warplanes for drills near Taiwan in 2021 than the figure recently claimed by the island's secessionist Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authority, China's Defense Ministry revealed

[India's tariffs on Chinese products might backfire](#)

December 27, 2021, Global Times

India's latest antidumping duties on five types of Chinese goods are protectionist in nature and may not fare well with the country's industries by taking away the option of choosing cost effective goods, Chinese analysts said.

[Canada's move to push out Chinese telecom firm draws fire in China](#)

December 30, 2021, Global Times

A move by the Canadian authorities to force CMLink, the Canadian subsidiary of China's largest telecom carrier China Mobile, to shut down its services in the country, citing national security risks, has drawn widespread criticism in both China and Canada, where many slammed the decision as politically motivated.

[China, Russia to sign new 5-year space cooperation program, build international lunar station by 2035: Roscosmos](#)

December 29, 2021, Global Times

China and Russia will sign a new space Cooperation Program for 2023-2027 next year, which will include a plan to create an open and inclusive International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) by 2035, Russia's national space.

[New land-sea cargo route connects China, Germany](#)

January 2, 2022, Xinhua

New land-sea cargo delivery services were launched between Xi'an, the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, and Mannheim in Germany.

Japan

[Japan-India Relations at 70: From the Peripheries to Center Stage](#)

December 30, 2021, Japan Forward

Friendship, independence, the road less travelled have led these two Asian nations into steadily strengthening ties and sharing visions on the side-lines of global politics.

[Japan and China agree to launch military hotline](#)

December 28, 2021, Financial Times

Tokyo's defence minister confirms planned link amid rising tensions over Taiwan and disputed islands.

[Komeito chief calls for Japan to create Asian security framework](#)

January 2, 2022, The Japan Times

The leader of Komeito, the junior party in the ruling bloc, on Sunday urged Japan to take the lead in creating a permanent regional framework that includes the United States, China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region to promote dialogue and avoid conflict amid soaring tensions between Washington and Beijing.

[Chinese aircraft carrier the Liaoning back home after being shadowed by Japanese warship during drills](#)

December 31, 2021, SCMP

Chinese strike group has spent 20 days conducting combat training in the Yellow and East China seas and the western Pacific, PLA Daily says. Navy and state broadcaster release images and footage of Japan's Izumo aircraft carrier and a Japanese fighter jet close by.

[Japan aerospace cyberattacks show link to Chinese military: police](#)

December 29, 2021, Nikkei Asia

Japanese police obtained an arrest warrant Tuesday for a Chinese national wanted in connection to a cyberattack on the JAXA space agency, an attack believed to be linked to China's military.

Korea

[South Korea's Taiwan Conundrum](#)

December 31, 2021, War on the Rocks

What would South Korea do if China attacked Taiwan? Many people in Washington, Taipei, and Tokyo are wondering. South Korea's position remains much more ambivalent than Japan's. Seoul is understandably more worried

about the possibility of retaliation from China, akin to Beijing's fury over the basing of a U.S. defensive missile system in South Korea several years ago.

[South Korea: Unidentified individual crosses border into North Korea](#)

January 2, 2022, Hindustan Times

Observing from a surveillance instrument, the South Korean army found a person crossing the highly fortified borders between the countries.

[North Korea's Kim talks food, not nukes, for 2022](#)

January 2, 2022, The Times of India

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un capped off his 10th year in power with a speech that made more mention of tractor factories and school uniforms than nuclear weapons or the US.

[North Korea's Kim vows to build up military and maintain anti-virus measures](#)

January 1, 2022, NPR.org

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further bolster his military capability, maintain draconian anti-virus measures and push hard to improve the economy during a speech at a key political conference this week, state media reported

Southeast Asia

[What ASEAN Centrality?](#)

January 1, 2022, The Asean Post

Each time a regional process risks impacting ASEAN's role in driving the wider regional architecture, ASEAN proponents would warn of ASEAN's centrality under siege. The formation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement was a case in point. The latest episode relates to the movements propagated by members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad in developing a nascent Indo-Pacific region that some observers view as an affront to China.

[ASEAN and Myanmar: Crisis and Opportunity](#)

January 2, 2022, The Diplomat

The regional bloc must use the situation in Myanmar to bolster its capabilities.

[ASEAN and the new geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific](#)

December 29, 2021, East Asia Forum

Southeast Asia is no stranger to strategic competition. But its 'new geopolitics' is different from those that existed during the Cold War.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakh Delegation Visits Kabul To Discuss Trade, Cooperation With Taliban](#)

December 25, 2021, RFE/EL

A Kazakh delegation led by Trade and Integration Minister Bakhyt Sultanov visited Kabul on December 25 to discuss trade, transit routes, and other economic cooperation as well as political ties with the Taliban-led government, Afghan media reported.

[Central Asia of strategic import for India](#)

December 29, 2021, The Tribune

India is considering a proposal to invite the Presidents of five Central Asian states, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan as chief guests at the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations. The decision is a recognition of the shifting geo-political trends following the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

[Kyrgyzstan: Town near Tajik border renamed in nationalist gesture](#)

December 30, 2021, Eurasianet

The president of Kyrgyzstan has ended the year on a populist crowd-pleasing note by ordering that a town in the country's southwestern-most corner be renamed after a local hero.

[Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi hails security ties with Central Asian states](#)

December 30, 2021, South China Morning Post

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has hailed Beijing's relationship with five Central Asian states, saying it has reached new heights with cooperation in regional security. In an article for the Communist Party's mouthpiece People's Daily, Wang marked the 30th anniversary of China establishing diplomatic relations with five former Soviet republics.

West Asia

[India and Gulf Region: First Ever Tie Up Between BEL and Saudi Company For Defence Technologies](#)

December 22, 2021, The Financial Express

In an effort to promote deeper cooperation in defence and aerospace technologies, for the first time a Saudi Arabia based company Power For

Defense Technologies Co (PDTC) has inked an agreement with DPSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

[PM Modi's Visit to UAE Postponed Amid Omicron Concerns](#)

December 29, 2021, The Economic Times

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to UAE, expected to take place in the first week of January, has been postponed amid a spike in Omicron cases, sources said.

[Iraq Calls For Direct Nuclear Talks Between Iran and US](#)

December 23, 2021, The Times of Israel

Iraq's foreign minister said on a visit to Tehran that the time has come for the Islamic republic of Iran and the United States to negotiate directly on Iran's nuclear ambitions.

[Iran Nuclear Deal Talks To Resume on December 27](#)

December 23, 2021, AL Jazeera

The announcement came amid warnings the landmark agreement would become obsolete within weeks if Iran continued to step up its nuclear activities as it has been doing since 2019, a year after the United States unilaterally withdrew from it and reimposed sanctions against Iran.

[In 'Warning' to Israel, Iran Says It Fired 16 Ballistic Missiles Able To Hit Country](#)

December 24, 2021, The Times of Israel

"These exercises were designed to respond to threats made in recent days by the Zionist regime," armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri told Iranian state television.

[UK Condemns Iran's Launch of Ballistic Missiles in War Games](#)

December 24, 2021, Arab News

Britain said it condemned a launch of ballistic missiles by Iran in war games. "These actions are a threat to regional and international security and we call on Iran to immediately cease its activities," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

[Joint Statement on Meeting of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Consultative Group](#)

December 22, 2021, The White House

U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Israeli National Security Advisor Dr. Eyal Hulata led a December 22 meeting in Jerusalem of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Consultative Group. They discussed the need to confront all aspects of the threat posed by Iran, including its nuclear program, destabilizing activities in the region, and support for terrorist proxy groups.

[Israel Approves NIS 1b Plans For Golan Heights, Will Build Two New Towns](#)

December 26, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

The Israeli government approved a NIS (New Israeli Shekel) 1 billion plan to develop the Golan Heights that will at least double its Jewish population and allow for the creation of two new towns in the region.

[Israeli Companies Sold Weapons To China 'Without Permit'](#)

December 21, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Three Israeli weapons manufacturers have been indicted for selling arms to China without a permit. The three were found to have exported cruise missiles to Beijing.

[Indonesia Confirms Secretary Blinken Raised Normalizing Ties with Israel](#)

December 26, 2021, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised the possibility of Indonesia normalizing its diplomatic ties with Israel during his visit to the Southeast Asian country in mid-December, Indonesia's foreign ministry has confirmed.

[Turkey, Qatar Hold Talks With Taliban For Kabul Airport Operations](#)

December 25, 2021, Daily Sabah

Turkish and Qatari officials are holding negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan to operate Kabul airport, according to Afghan officials.

[Saudi Arabia Appears To Be Building Its Own Ballistic Missiles With China's Help](#)

December 25, 2021, NBC News

Saudi Arabia is building its own ballistic missiles with the help of China, according to United States intelligence assessments and satellite images.

[Arab Coalition Releases Footage Showing Hezbollah, Iranian Involvement in Yemen War](#)

December 26, 2021, Arab News

The Arab coalition released footage and pictures it said provided evidence of Hezbollah and Iran's involvement in Yemen's seven-year war and the use of Sanaa airport as a missile launch site.

United States

United States

[India's Reliance plans to raise up to \\$5 billion in U.S. debt](#)

January 1, 2022, Reuters

India's Reliance Industries Ltd (RELI.NS) said it plans to raise up to \$5 billion in dollar-denominated debt and use proceeds primarily to refinance its existing borrowings.

[The Middle East is stuck in the crosshairs of a worsening US-China rivalry](#)

December 28, 2021, CNN

In a year that has brought profound change to much of the world, the conflict-ravaged Middle East appeared to be finally turning a page. A diplomatic spree that sought to patch up long rifts bore fruit. Iraq transformed from the region's epicenter of violence to one of progress, for example, brokering rare talks between old rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

[Joe Biden Extends US Support For International Space Station Through 2030](#)

January 1, 2022, NDTV

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said that the Biden administration had committed to working with international partners, including Russia, to continue research being conducted in the orbiting laboratory through the rest of this decade.

[Biden inks \\$137 mln contract to boost supply of key material for COVID tests - source](#)

December 30, 2021, Reuters

The Biden administration plans to announce on Wednesday a \$137 million contract for Millipore Sigma, a unit of Germany's Merck KGaA (MRCK.DE), to boost production capacity of a highly constrained component of rapid coronavirus tests, a senior administration official told Reuters.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU Faces Backlash Over Suggesting Gas And Nuclear Energy As Climate Friendly](#)

January 2, 2022, Outlook

The European Commission published a draft proposal on Saturday that suggested classifying gas and nuclear energy as climate-friendly.

[India must track the dangerous developments in Ukraine](#)

December 27, 2021, The Indian Express

Current military tensions are symptom of structural conflict. India will benefit from reconciliation between two sides.

[EU has "cognitive split" in its China policy - senior Chinese diplomat](#)

December 30, 2021, Reuters

Europe has a "cognitive split" in its policy towards China by trying to both be a partner and also seeing it as an opponent, Wang Yi, state councillor and foreign minister, said in an interview with state media.

[German minister takes lone stand on China rights abuse](#)

December 31, 2021, EU Observer

Germany's foreign minister will boycott Beijing's Winter Olympics on human-rights grounds, but the EU has a "cognitive split" on China, it said.

Russia

[Russia withdraws troops from regions near Ukraine](#)

December 25, 2021, Russia Today

Over 10,000 Russian soldiers are now heading back to their home bases following month-long drills held in various regions, including those bordering Ukraine. The pullback was announced by the Southern Military District Command, with Interfax reporting that forces have finished their "operational coordination" exercise.

[Russia Denies Withholding Gas Supplies to Europe](#)

December 26, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian energy giant Gazprom has rejected accusations that Moscow is limiting gas deliveries to Europe and denounced Germany's resale of gas to Poland amid soaring prices. Poland this week accused Moscow of having

stopped its deliveries via the Yamal-Europe pipeline that sends Russian gas to Western Europe, accusing Gazprom of "manipulation".

[Russian Defense Ministry says NATO expansion hurt European security](#)

December 27, 2021, TASS News Agency

NATO's eastward expansion hurt the security of the European continent, said Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin. "The strengthening of NATO didn't go without leaving a mark on Europe's security," Fomin said at a briefing for military attaches and representatives of foreign embassies accredited in Moscow.

[Russia Stages 'Successful' Third Launch of New Rocket](#)

December 28, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia has conducted a third launch of its new heavy-class Angara rocket, the first developed after the fall of the Soviet Union 30 years ago this month. Space agency Roscosmos announced that the next-generation Angara-A5 rocket had been launched with a mock payload from Plesetsk in northern Russia.

[First S-550 air defense systems enter service in Russia — source](#)

December 29, 2021, TASS News Agency

Russia's new S-550 air defense system has successfully passed state trials and entered combat service, a source close to the Russian defense ministry has told TASS.

[Top 5 new Russian export weapons named](#)

December 30, 2021, Russia Today

Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboronexport has named its top five new weapons, citing the attention they've got on the international market. They range from assault rifles to an upcoming 5th-generation fighter jet, and sophisticated drones.

[Biden and Putin Trade Warnings Over Ukraine, but Vow Diplomacy](#)

December 31, 2021, The Moscow Times

President Joe Biden warned his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin of a tough US response to any invasion of Ukraine, while the Kremlin leader said anti-Moscow sanctions would be a "colossal mistake." After their second call in just over three weeks, both presidents indicated support for further diplomacy on the tense standoff between Russia and Western-backed Ukraine.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Anti-coup protestors rally again amid violent crackdown](#)

January 1, 2022, Africa News

Anti-government protestors blocked roads in Khartoum on Friday to protest against an outburst of violence the day before that left five people dead and prompted a wave of condemnations.

[Sudanese forces kill four, raid media house in Khartoum](#)

December 31, 2021, Africa News

Sudanese security forces raided Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television and its Al Hadath news channel in Khartoum and confiscated their equipment.

[Somalia's allies fear instability as political crisis deepens](#)

December 28, 2021, Al Jazeera

Intensifying row between president and prime minister sparks concerns as the country struggles to hold long-delayed elections.

[Somalia's allies fear instability as political crisis deepens](#)

December 28, 2021, Al Jazeera

Intensifying row between president and prime minister sparks concerns as the country struggles to hold long-delayed elections.

[Eight soldiers killed in Mali attack, army says](#)

December 30, 2021, Al Jazeera

Seven more soldiers were seriously injured after their patrol was ambushed by fighters in western Mali.

[UN Reports Record Number of Civilians Killed in Airstrikes Across Ethiopia's Tigray Region](#)

December 31, 2021, All Africa

Dozens of civilians have been reportedly killed over the past week in a barrage of air strikes in Ethiopia's northernmost Tigray region - the highest casualties recorded since October.

Latin America

[Brazil government to send relief funds to flood-ravaged northeast](#)

December 29, 2021, Reuters

The Brazilian government has allocated 200 million reais (\$35.5 million) in disaster relief funds to northeastern Brazil, where 20 people have died and tens of thousands have been displaced amid severe flooding, according to a Tuesday presidential decree.

[Dams burst in northeastern Brazil as region hit by floods](#)

December 27, 2021, Reuters

Two dams gave way in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia after weeks of heavy rains, swamping already swollen local rivers as flooding hit towns across the region, authorities said.

[Why deforestation in Brazil's Amazon has soared to its highest level in 15 years](#)

December 30, 2021, CNBC

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest surged in 2021, reaching a 15-year high as it emerged that the forest has begun emitting more carbon than it can absorb.

[Argentina to raise energy rates to help cut fiscal deficit - source](#)

December 29, 2021, Reuters

Argentina has authorized an increase in electricity and natural gas rates starting in 2022, a government source and local media reported on Wednesday, in a bid to reduce public subsidies that have helped send the country's fiscal deficit higher.

[Chile rewrites its constitution, confronting climate change head-on](#)

December 29, 2021, The Indian Express

Chile prospered by exploiting its natural riches: copper and coal, salmon and avocados. But even as it became one of Latin America's richest nations, frustrations mounted over inequality. Mineral-rich areas became known as "sacrifice zones" of environmental degradation.



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