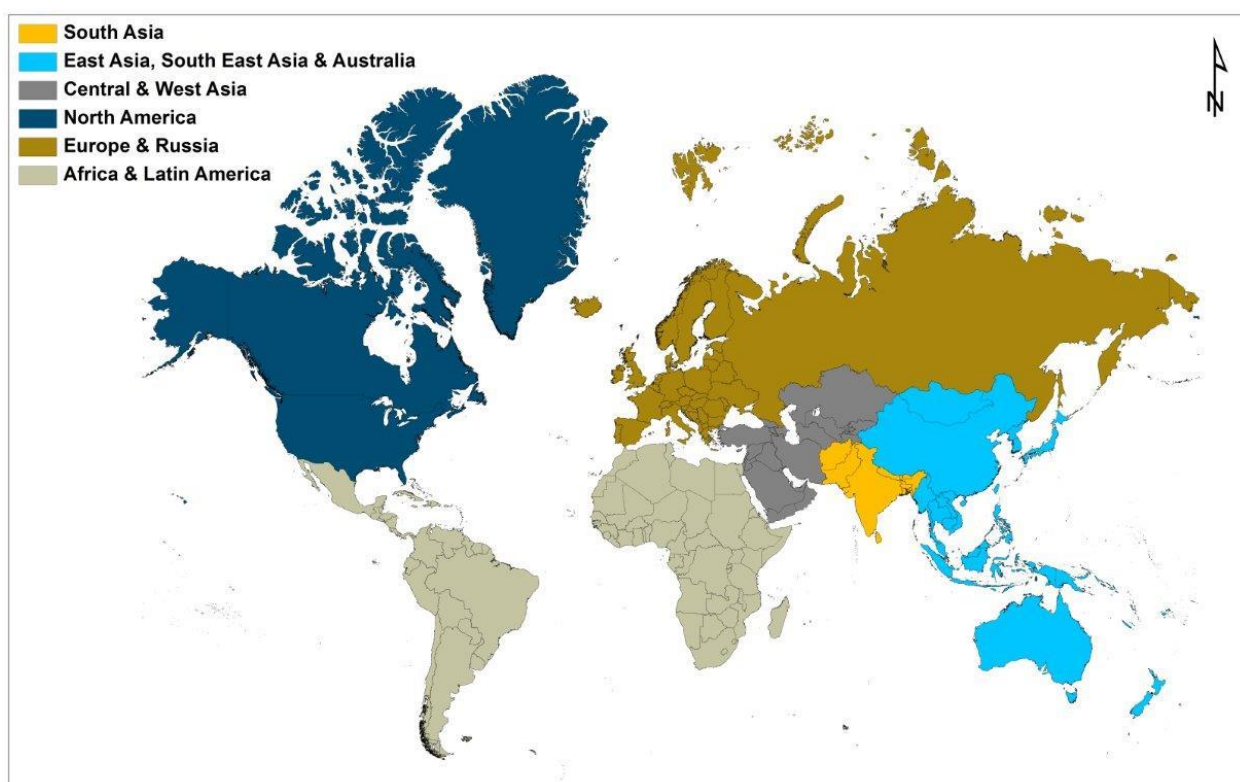




# Delhi Policy Group

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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## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume VI, Issue 32

### 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

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## South Asia

### India

#### [In Tashkent, Rajnath Singh holds talks with Uzbek, Kazakh counterparts](#)

August 23, 2022,

He is on a three-day visit to attend meeting of Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation grouping.

#### [Six Indian fishermen from Rameswaram arrested by Sri Lankan Navy](#)

August 28, 2022, The Hindu

Six fishermen, who ventured into the sea, from Rameswaram fishing harbour on Saturday, were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy on charge of fishing in their waters after crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.

#### [Indian Navy Tests Vertical Launch Short-Range Missile](#)

August 25, 2022, The Defense Post

The Indian Navy has flight-tested its vertical launch short-range surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM) at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur.

#### [India launches new aircraft carrier as concerns over China grow](#)

September 2, 2022, Al Jazeera

INS Vikrant is the largest warship built in India and can carry a crew of 1,600 and operate a fleet of 30 fighter aircraft.

#### [Joint Press Release on the 8th Brazil-India Joint Commission Meeting \(August 24, 2022\)](#)

August 27, 2022, MEA

The 8th Brazil-India Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), co-Chaired by Mr. Carlos Alberto Franco França, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, and Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, was held in Brasilia on 24 August 2022.

## **Pakistan**

### [Court Extends Pre-Arrest Bail For Former Pakistani Prime Minister](#)

August 25, 2022, RFERL

A court in Pakistan has extended by one week the pre-arrest bail set for former Prime Minister Imran Khan over terrorism charges that have ignited political tensions in the country. The court's move on August 25 prolongs the measure until September 1. Khan, a former international cricket star turned politician, was present at the hearing in Islamabad. The terrorism charge, laid on August 22, followed a speech made by Khan in Islamabad during which he vowed to sue police officers and a judge and alleged that a close aide had been tortured after his arrest.

### [Pakistani City's Decision To Close Women's Park Following Islamist Protests Sparks Uproar](#)

August 26, 2022, RFERL

The Jinnah Family Park was a rare recreational area reserved for women and girls in Pakistan's conservative northwestern city of Bannu. But following protests by Islamists and religious leaders, who alleged the park was "spreading obscenity and vulgarity," authorities in the city of around 1 million people have closed off the area.

### [Pakistan's political turmoil echoes in US, UN corridors](#)

August 24, 2022, Dawn

The political turmoil in Pakistan echoed far away in the United States as well, where the UN chief urged Islamabad to keep the legal process impartial while the State Department underlined the need to follow "democratic, constitutional and legal" principles. The controversy that followed PTI chief Imran Khan's controversial remarks against a female judge and the Islamabad police also drew the attention of the US media and Washington's think tanks, where experts urged ruling and opposition forces in Pakistan not to rock the boat.

### [Pakistan seeks world aid to cope with flood emergency](#)

August 24, 2022, Dawn

As massive floods across Pakistan have so far claimed at least 830 lives since July, the government decided to launch an international appeal seeking funds for relief and rehabilitation of flood-hit people and restoration of damaged infrastructure.

### [FM puts off Europe visit due to floods](#)

August 22, 2022, Dawn

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has postponed his visit to four European countries in the wake of calamities triggered by ongoing heavy monsoon rains and flooding and subsequent casualties in the country.

### [In major boost, PTI wins Karachi by-election](#)

August 22, 2022, Dawn

Marred by low turnout amid least interest of voters, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) won the by-election of Karachi's NA-245 and retained its mandate from the constituency in a major boost to the party a week before the local bodies' elections in the city giving setback to the key contestant Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) which was enjoying the support of the ruling parties at the Centre.

### [Visas to truck drivers will boost trade with Kabul](#)

August 21, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and Afghanistan have reached an agreement to give six-month visas to truck drivers on a reciprocal basis to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods between the two countries.

### [Doha declares intent to invest \\$3bn in Pakistan](#)

August 25, 2022, Dawn

The state-owned investment fund of Qatar is going to invest \$3 billion in Pakistan. The Emiri Diwan, the administrative office of the emir, released the statement as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held official talks with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Doha following a meeting with the sovereign fund officials a day ago.

### [Pakistan declares emergency in the face of calamitous floods](#)

August 26, 2022, Dawn

Calling the incessant monsoon rains a "climate-induced humanitarian crisis of epic proportions", the Pakistan government officially declared a 'national emergency' in light of the rain-induced floods which have so far killed 937 people, including 343 children, and left at least 30 million without shelter. As per the latest data compiled by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Sindh reported the highest number of deaths as 306 people lost their lives due to floods and rain-related incidents from June 14 to date.

### [Army top brass hints at tougher approach against TTP](#)

August 27, 2022, Dawn

The army top brass hinted at a tougher approach against the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as it emphasised continuation of counter-terrorism operations in Khyber-Pakhtunkhawa and Balochistan.

### [Riyadh confirms \\$1bn investment in Pakistan](#)

August 26, 2022, Dawn

The Saudi king has directed his government to invest \$1 billion in Pakistan "in confirmation of the kingdom's support of the Pakistani economy" and its people, a report from the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. The investment commitment was conveyed to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari during a phone call with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

### [Pakistan, Qatar on course to improving economic ties: PM Shehbaz](#)

August 26, 2022, Dawn

Upon the conclusion of his two-day official visit to Qatar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the two countries had a clear vision of future with new opportunities and greater awareness to improve bilateral ties and economic cooperation.

### [Floods to cause \\$4b loss to economy](#)

August 27, 2022, The Express Tribune

The unusual heavy monsoon rains and flash floods are initially estimated to cost Pakistan's economy over \$4 billion in the current fiscal year as the calamity has badly hurt agricultural activities in Sindh and Balochistan. While it is early to assess the actual impact, Pakistan, where agriculture has a 23% share in gross domestic product (GDP), can remain highly vulnerable in the aftermath of the floods.

### [Pakistan to negotiate transit deal](#)

August 20, 2022, The Express Tribune

In a bid to diversify export markets, Pakistan is negotiating a transit trade agreement with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Pakistan has traditionally depended on the export markets of the Middle East, United States and European Union (EU). However, Central Asian states offer a big potential for exports, which remains an untapped market for Pakistan.

### [China announces emergency aid for flood victims of Pakistan](#)

August 25, 2022, The News

A spokesman of the Chinese government said the emergency humanitarian aid, including 25,000 tents and relief materials, is being dispatched forthwith while 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets, 50,000 tarpaulins and other reserves provided by China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) social and people's livelihood cooperation have been put into the frontline for relief.

### [Power sector circular debt rises to Rs2.6 trillion: PAC told](#)

August 25, 2022, The News

The Public Accounts Committee was informed that the circular debt of the power sector had risen to Rs2.6 trillion, increasing by Rs1.6 trillion in one year. It was also revealed in the Public Accounts Committee meeting that no progress had been made on the investment of 8 billion dollars from Saudi Arabia in Pakistan due to the absence of the oil refinery policy. It may be mentioned here that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to Pakistan had announced to invest in oil refinery in Pakistan.

### [Pak Army to assist Qatar on FIFA World Cup security](#)

August 23, 2022, The News

The Pakistan Army will assist Qatar with security in the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2022 being held in the Middle Eastern country. The approval was given by the federal cabinet to the Pakistan Army-Qatar agreement on providing assistance during the mega football event. The world cup will be played from November 20 to December 18 in Qatar. The Gulf country will be hosting the extravaganza for the very first time.

## **Afghanistan**

### [Senior Clerics Caught In The Crossfire Of The Taliban's Intensifying War With IS-K](#)

August 24, 2022, RFERL

As the Taliban intensifies its war against Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), religious clerics associated with the rival militant groups are being caught in the crossfire. IS-K militants have been blamed for the assassination of several pro-Taliban clerics in Afghanistan in recent weeks. The Taliban has also been accused of killing religious figures with alleged links to IS-K.



### [Iran welcomes increased investment in Chabahar Port](#)

August 21, 2022, Irna

Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber said that Tehran welcomes increased investment in Chabahar Port in southeastern country. Speaking during a meeting in Tehran with India's Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, Mokhber said that the development of Chabahar Port is an exceptional chance for Iran, India and the entire region. He said that the completion and development of Chabahar Port will help facilitate trade transit via International North-South Transit corridor (INSTC).

### [Taliban in Talks with Russia to Import 1 Million Metric Tons of Oil](#)

August 19, 2022, VOA

Afghanistan's Taliban say they are in talks with Russia to import 1 million metric tons of petroleum products, possibly in exchange for raisins, raw material for medicines and minerals.

A Taliban delegation currently is in Moscow holding meetings with Russian officials and private businesses to boost mutual trade ties and encourage investment in the war-torn South Asian nation.

### [Indian embassy in Afghanistan resumes operations after a year of suspension](#)

August 20, 2022, India Today

After a year of suspension of diplomatic ties with Afghanistan and the Indian Embassy shutting down operations in August 2021, the embassy in Kabul resumed its functionality on August 15. The Indian Embassy had adjourned its offices while functionaries had left Kabul after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan which led to the collapse of the civic government and then President Ashraf Ghani fleeing Afghan land.

### [Afghanistan is Key to Preserving Peace and Security in SCO Region, Say Secretaries of SCO Security Councils in Tashkent](#)

August 20, 2022, Astana Times

The secretaries of the Security Councils of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) focused on addressing security and stability issues in the SCO region during their 17th meeting in Tashkent. The sides discussed the development of cooperation in such areas as countering terrorism, separatism and extremism, illicit trafficking of weapons and drugs, transnational organized crimes and ensuring international information security.

### [India Delivers Its 10th Consignment of Medical Aid to Afghanistan](#)

August 21, 2022, Khaama Press

As part of its continued humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, India provided 32 tons of essential medical aid in 10 batches; the tenth batch, according to a press statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, arrived in Afghanistan. According to the statement, the medical assistance consigned by the Indian government was delivered to the UN's World Health Organization (WHO) and the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul, the Afghan capital.

### [Afghanistan floods kill more than 180, Taliban say](#)

August 25, 2022, Al Jazeera

Flooding in Afghanistan this month has killed more than 180 people as torrential rains wrought widespread devastation in central and eastern Afghan provinces. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said at a news conference that 182 people had been killed and 250 injured. More than 3,100 houses were destroyed and thousands of livestock were killed, exacerbating the country's economic and humanitarian crisis.

### [United Nations helps cash-strapped Pakistan, Afghanistan deal with heavy flooding](#)

August 25, 2022, The Tribune

The United Nations said it is helping Pakistan and Afghanistan deal with recent heavy flooding that has caused severe casualties and material damage in both countries. "The UN team in Pakistan is boosting support to authorities in the most-affected provinces of Balochistan and Sindh. Till date, the UN team has mobilised USD 7 million to respond to the floods and has provided 1,100 metric ton of food rations, therapeutic feed and nutritional supplements," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

### [Afghanistan: Boosting local food production, generating income and reviving rural markets](#)

August 25, 2022, Reliefweb

A new \$80 million grant from the United States of America is an important step-forward in the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to support farmers and agriculture in Afghanistan as they struggle to produce food, build resilience and achieve food security in the face of continuing drought and deep economic crisis.

### [Pak considering India's request to extend deadline for humanitarian wheat transportation to Afghanistan](#)

August 27, 2022, Indian Express

Pakistan said it is considering a request by India to extend the deadline for the transportation of remaining 15,000 metric tonnes of wheat as humanitarian assistance to war-torn Afghanistan.

### [Taliban Ban Crypto in Afghanistan, Arrest Dealers of Tokens](#)

August 26, 2022, Bloomberg

Afghanistan's central bank imposed a nationwide ban on cryptocurrencies this month and the Taliban regime has arrested several dealers who defied orders to stop trading digital tokens, according to a senior police official. The crackdown comes after some Afghans turned to cryptocurrencies to preserve their wealth and keep it out of the Taliban's reach. Crypto has become a popular way of moving money in and out of the country, which is shut off from the global banking system due to sanctions leveled on the militant group.

## **Bangladesh**

### [India - Bangladesh Joint Statement during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India](#)

September 7, 2022, PIB

E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid a State Visit to India from 05-08 September 2022 at the invitation of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. During the visit, H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and the Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy called on her. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's programme also includes launching of "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Student Scholarship" for 200 descendants of Indian Armed Forces personnel martyred and critically injured during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. She also addressed a business event, jointly organized by Indian and Bangladesh business communities on 7 September 2022.

## **Nepal**

### [Nepal's Ad Hoc Policies Toward China](#)

August 25, 2022, The Diplomat

Nepal's foreign policy establishment needs to reach a consensus on what constitutes actions against the interest of its neighbors.

### [China-Nepal Railway: Hope in the Himalayas](#)

August 26, 2022, Cision

Have you ever imagined traversing through the middle of the mighty Himalayas by train?

### [Nepal and China take step towards one of 'world's toughest railways'](#)

September 6, 2022, The Third Pole

China is to start a feasibility study for the Tibet-Nepal Railway through the fragile Himalayas, but there are concerns that environmental impacts are not being considered

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Chinese Military Ship Leaves Sri Lanka After Controversial Visit](#)

August 22, 2022, US News

A Chinese military survey ship that docked at Sri Lanka's Chinese-built port of Hambantota despite opposition from neighbouring India left on Monday after a week-long stay, the port company told

### [Sri Lanka Signals Its Unreliability as a Partner Yet Again](#)

August 30, 2022, The Diplomat

It has repeatedly scrapped deals and flip-flopped on decisions with an array of partners, including India, Japan, China and Russia.

### [Sri Lanka president wants China to dramatically change stance on debt relief](#)

August 25, 2022, Economy Next

Sri Lanka is urging China to dramatically change its stance on debt relief, Tokyo-based Nikkei Asia quoted President Ranil Wickremesinghe as saying.

### [IMF set to provide \\$2.9 billion to help crisis-hit Sri Lanka](#)

September 1, 2022, IMF

The International Monetary Fund will provide Sri Lanka \$2.9 billion over four years to help salvage the country from its worst economic crisis under a preliminary agreement the agency announced.

## East & South East Asia

### China

[CSIS' war games, designed for cognitive warfare against China, will have little influence](#)

US politicians' provocative visits to Taiwan island, especially the one led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have triggered a new round of escalation of tensions in the Taiwan Straits. Western media is hyping the possibility of a conflict accidentally being sparked. Against this backdrop, not only the US military, but also private think tanks have been focusing on research and predictions on regional military situations and war scenarios.

[Flatteries from US and West are belittling India: Global Times editorial](#)

September 6, 2022, The Global Times

As India overtook the UK and became the fifth largest economy in the world, the US and Western media have seized the opportunity to build momentum for a new round of rhetoric of "India is replacing China," saying that due to the accelerated export of low-cost labor-intensive products such as Christmas decorations to the US, India is to become "the next China."

[US in no position to call itself 'defender of freedom and openness' in Indo-Pacific](#)

September 1, 2022, Global Times

"Free and open Indo-Pacific" has become one of the favorite clichés Washington would like to use in recent years.

[Audit oversight agreement of US-listed Chinese companies a symbolic case of China-US cooperation: Global Times editorial](#)

August 27, 2022, The Global Times

The China-US cross-border regulatory cooperation has taken an important step forward. On Friday, China Securities Regulatory Commission and Ministry of Finance signed an audit oversight cooperation agreement with the US Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, with a view to advancing relevant cooperation in the near future. Some US media outlets couldn't wait to release the news in advance, and Chinese stocks in the US market surged in response. This has provided a helpful side note to our perception of the basic logic of the China-US relations, as well as the real attitude of the market and public opinion on bilateral ties.

## Japan

### [Japan to Build Two 20,000-ton Missile Defense Warships, Indian Carrier Commissions](#)

September 6, 2022 , USNI News

Japan's Ministry of Defence is proposing to build a pair of ballistic missile defense ships – the among largest warships in the Japanese inventory since World War II – government officials said last week.

### [Indo-Pacific Deployment 2022:Japan's Strategic Communications to the Free and Open Indo-Pacific](#)

September 1, 2022, SPF

The MSDF's annual Indo-Pacific deployment has garnered international attention as Japan works to expand its sphere of influence to the wider Indo-Pacific. Notably, the IPD embodies Japan's messages to the world and indicates how Tokyo has refined its strategic communications toward the FOIP. This article outlines Japan's use of strategic communications to support its national goals and its application in the IPD. In particular, it will examine two crucial elements of this year's ongoing IPD as parts of its strategic communications. Finally, it will offer a brief analysis of the successes and limitations of Japan's strategic communications efforts as it works toward achieving the FOIP.

### [Gantz arrives in Tokyo for visit marking 70 years of diplomatic relations](#)

August 29, 2022, The Times of Israel

Defense minister will meet with high-ranking Japanese government and security officials, as well as with US ambassador Rahm Emanuel.

### [Javelin anti-tank missiles test-fired at joint drill with GSDF, U.S. Army](#)

August 29, 2022, Asahi Shimbun

YAMATO, Kumamoto Prefecture--Members of the Ground Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Army demonstrated on Aug. 28 here the deadly accuracy of the Javelin anti-tank missile system, which Ukraine has employed in its war against Russia.

### [Japan defense chief says world has entered 'a new era of crisis'](#)

August 29, 2022, The Japan Times

The international community has entered "a new era of crisis," Japan's recently installed defense chief said Monday, pointing to a drastic need for Tokyo to rethink its security approach amid growing threats from China, Russia and North Korea.

## South East Asia

### [Myanmar junta 'losing control' as armed resistance digs in, rights experts say](#)

September 5, 2022, SCMP

A briefing, released by the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar (SAC-M), said the junta's legitimacy has been shredded since its February 2021 coup.

### [Rohingya refugees from Myanmar mark 'Genocide Remembrance Day' in Bangladesh camps](#)

August 25, 2022, SCMP

Thousands of refugees staged rallies to mark 5 years since they fled military offensive, now subject of landmark genocide case at UN court.

### [Indonesia cements membership of China-backed RCEP trade bloc](#)

August 30, 2022, SCMP

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a 'toll way' that allows Indonesia to 'storm the international markets', its trade minister said

### [Indonesia cements membership of China-backed RCEP trade bloc](#)

August 30, 2022, SCMP

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is a 'toll way' that allows Indonesia to 'storm the international markets', its trade minister said

### [Why haven't Philippines, Myanmar followed Indonesia and ratified the RCEP trade deal?](#)

September 4, 2022, SCMP

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a free-trade agreement including the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).



## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [USAID provides medical equipment to Kyrgyzstan](#)

August 17, 2022, Times of Central Asia

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on August 16 said it provided state-of-the-art equipment to leading hospitals in the Kyrgyz Republic that will strengthen their capacity to diagnose COVID-19 and other communicable diseases and prevent their spread. This assistance is a part of USAID's ongoing support to the country's response to COVID-19 pandemic.

#### [Russia increasing combat readiness of its military bases in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan](#)

August 24, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that Russia is increasing the combat readiness of its military bases in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as the situation in Afghanistan, where international terrorist organisations such as ISIS and al-Qaeda are on the rise, remains a serious challenge to security in Central Asia, the Russian Defense Ministry reported..

#### [Japan contributes to strengthening horticulture value chain in Uzbekistan](#)

August 30, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

On August 29, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of Uzbekistan in Tashkent to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to 200 million US dollars for the Horticulture Value Chain Promotion Project (Phase 2).

#### [Uzbekistan and Belarus discuss trade cooperation](#)

August 26, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

MINSK — Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Piotr Parkhomchik on August 25 met with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khodjayev, who was in Belarus on an official visit, Belarusian news agency BelTA reported.

### West Asia

#### [14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting](#)

September 2, 2022, Ministry of External Affairs - Government of India

The 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of UAE H.H.

Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on 01 September 2022. Both Ministers expressed their deep satisfaction at the continued high growth trajectory of bilateral relations between India and UAE.

#### [Mossad to CIA: Israel Will Not Stand by as Iran Defrauds the World](#)

September 8, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

Mossad Director David Barnea has told CIA Director William Burns and other top American officials that "Israel will not stand by while Iran continues to defraud the world," about its nuclear program and terrorism, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office said.

#### [Nuclear Deal with Iran Off the Table for Time Being, US Has Indicated to Israel](#)

September 7, 2022, The Times of Israel

A new nuclear deal between Iran and world powers is off the table and will not be signed in the foreseeable future. This is the message that was conveyed to Prime Minister Yair Lapid in his recent conversations with US President Joe Biden and other administration officials.

#### [Albania Cuts Diplomatic Ties with Iran Over Cyberattack](#)

September 7, 2022, AL Jazeera

Albania has cut diplomatic ties with Iran and expelled the country's embassy staff over a significant cyberattack nearly two months ago that was allegedly carried out by Tehran on Albanian government websites, according to the prime minister.

#### [Albania Takes Orders from America About Iran](#)

September 7, 2022, Tehran Times

The White House statement and its coordination with the Albanian government severing Tirana's diplomatic ties with Tehran raise suspicions about an American-orchestrated effort to up the ante against Iran amid stalemated nuclear talks.

#### [China, Israel Free-trade Deal, Beijing's First in the Middle East, in 'Last Stages' Amid Troubles with the US](#)

September 8, 2022, South China Morning Post

China and Israel aim to sign a free-trade agreement by the end of 2022, an Israeli official said, in a breakthrough that would give Beijing its first deal in the Middle East plus a boost after years of trade friction with Australia and the United States.

### [India Eases Russian Oil Buying in July, Boosts Saudi Imports](#)

August 17, 2022, Reuters

India's crude oil imports from Russia in July fell for the first time since March along with its overall purchase while supplies from Saudi Arabia rebounded for the first in five months, data obtained from trade and industry sources showed.

### [Iran Renews Demands for U.S. Guarantees in Nuclear Deal Talks](#)

August 17, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Iranian demands for guarantees from the U.S. have once again stalled efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear pact, leaving Washington and European capitals unsure if a deal is possible.

### [World Must 'walk away' from Iran Nuclear Talks, Israeli PM Lapid Tells Western Leaders](#)

August 18, 2022, The Times of Israel

The time has come for Western powers to walk away from JCPOA talks with Iran on returning to the nuclear deal, top Israeli officials are telling their counterparts in Washington and in European capitals.

### [Israel and Turkey to Restore Ambassadors in Full Renewal of Diplomatic Ties](#)

August 17, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel and Turkey announced a full renewal of diplomatic ties, following a recent phone conversation between Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

### [India, Oman's 13-day Joint Military Exercise 'Al Najah' Concludes in Rajasthan](#)

August 13, 2022, Ministry of Defence Government of India

The aim of the exercise was to achieve inter-operability and to acquaint each other with operational procedures and combat drills in a Counter Terrorism environment under the United Nations mandate. Both armies were able to achieve the stated objectives.

### [50 Indian Companies Invest Total \\$3.15bn in Egypt: Ambassador Gupte](#)

August 15, 2022, Daily News Egypt

Around 50 Indian companies have invested in various sectors in Egypt with a combined investment exceeding \$3.15bn, according to the Indian ambassador in Cairo, Ajit Gupte.

## [Saudi Oil Giant Aramco Tops Own Record with \\$48-billion Profit in Q2](#)

August 14, 2022, Business Standard

Saudi energy company Aramco said its profits jumped 90 per cent in the second quarter compared to the same time last year, helping its half-year earnings reach nearly \$88 billion.

## United States

### United States

[Asia entering a 'sinister period' amid China tensions, warns Japan envoy to US](#)

August 24, 2022, SCMP

Koji Tomita said Beijing had used Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan as a 'pretext to do something very aggressive', and called for the US 'to act firmly'.

[Joe Biden cancels US\\$10,000 in student loan debts for millions of Americans](#)

August 25, 2022, SCMP

The move could boost support for the Democrats in the coming midterm elections, but could also fuel inflation

[US keen to 'manage differences' with China amid strains over Taiwan trip: State Department](#)

August 25, 2022, SCMP

Beijing described as having 'shut down' some key communication, according to readout of meeting between Chinese ambassador and No 2 American diplomat

[US blasts 'cynical' Russia for blocking UN nuclear declaration](#)

August 29, 2022, SCMP

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) aims to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, promote complete disarmament and promote peaceful cooperation

[Biden to host Pacific Island summit amid power struggle with China](#)

September 3, 2022, SCMP

The first US-Pacific Island Country summit will be at the White House on September 28-29

[US-China climate cooperation can have huge economic and ecological benefits for the world](#)

September 7, 2022, SCMP

Although the US and China are both making significant strides towards carbon-free electricity generation, they could move even faster if they worked together

## [Russia and US clash over West's weapons for Ukraine](#)

September 9, 2022, SCMP

Russia calls UN Security Council meeting to discuss threats to peace caused by foreign governments supplying arms to Ukraine. UN meeting came as Ukraine claimed its troops had recaptured over 1,000 sq km of territory from Russia since start of September.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [The Latest Kosovo-Serbia Tensions Reveal the EU's Diplomatic Limits](#)

August 25, 2022, Carnegie

Brussels is scrambling to find a solution before Prishtina implements its controversial license plate decision.

#### [Taiwan conundrum looms for EU officials winding up summer break](#)

August 22, 2022, SCMP

The EU earlier stayed well out of the blazing US-China fallout over Pelosi's Taipei visit

#### [EU could act as 'moderator' in Taiwan Strait, top diplomat says](#)

August 22, 2022, SCMP

Josep Borrell 'seriously concerned' about flare-up in tensions after US House speaker visited Taipei and says he has no plans to travel to the island

### Russia

#### [Work on Russia's Concept of Foreign Policy underway – Kremlin](#)

September 5, 2022, TASS

The international landscape is rapidly changing and a new global reality emerges, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

#### [Kremlin appreciates Biden not recognizing Russia as state sponsor of terrorism](#)

September 6, 2022, TASS

Dmitry Peskov also made no connection between Biden's words and the work of the IAEA mission at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant.

#### [China has right to protect sovereignty in Taiwan issue – Russian Foreign Ministry](#)

September 6, 2022, TASS

Relations between the parties to the Taiwan Strait is the purely internal affair of China, the Russian Foreign Ministry told

[Statements on NATO's presence in Arctic reveal plans to confront Russia – Peskov](#)

August 29, 2022, TASS

According to the Russian presidential press secretary, Russia's cooperation with other countries in the Arctic region is geared solely toward further development of the Arctic zone and cannot be a threat to any other country

[The Russian Economy: Failing To Plan, Planning to Fail](#)

August 17, 2022, Moscow Times

Is there a way to stop the Russian economy from spinning down to disaster?

[Lavrov: Russia condemns Israeli strikes on Syria, demands to comply with international law](#)

August 23, 2022, TASS

According to the Russian foreign minister, Russia demands that Israel "respect UN Security Council resolutions and, above all, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic"

[Top Russian security official welcomes idea of reforming SCO based on political reality](#)

August 23, 2022, TASS

SCO leaders are expected to discuss a draft reform package at a summit slated to be held in the Uzbek city of Samarkand on September 15-16

[Russia to expand cooperation with ASEAN states in all directions – top security official](#)

August 22, 2022, TASS

Nikolay Patrushev stressed that ASEAN was one of the fundamental formats of political interaction in the Asia-Pacific Region.



## Africa & Latin America

### Africa

#### [Burundi sends troops into Congo as part of East African force](#)

August 15, 2022, Reuters

Burundian troops entered the Democratic Republic of Congo on Monday as the first deployment of an East African regional force aiming to quell rebel violence, Congo's army said.

#### [Somali government vows responsibility over shebab attack on hotel](#)

August 22, 2022, Africa News

Somalia's prime minister has pledged that the government will be held accountable for the deadly Mogadishu hotel siege by Al-Shabaab jihadists whom he branded "children of hell."

#### [The African Union cannot deliver peace to Tigray](#)

August 22, 2022, The Africa Report

Tigray leaders are highly critical of African Union-led efforts to bring peace to Ethiopia - including AU negotiator Olusegun Obasanjo's suggestion that Eritrea should join the peace process.

#### [Ethiopia, Eritrea forces launch new offensive in Tigray: TPLF](#)

September 1, 2022, Al Jazeera

Troops from the two countries have attacked fighters in the northern Adayabo area, a Tigrayan rebel spokesman says.

#### [Mozambique's jihadi rebels launch new offensive in North](#)

August 23, 2022, Africa News

A new offensive by Mozambique's Islamic extremist rebels in the embattled northern province of Cabo Delgado has increased the number of displaced by 80,000 and undermines the government's claims of containing the insurgency.

#### [AfDB, Japan to support Central Africa projects with new \\$5B in funding](#)

September 6, 2022, Africa Times

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is inviting private sector organizations in the Central Africa region to reach out with plans for viable projects, now that there's an additional US\$5 billion in funding through the AfDB Enhanced Private Sector Assistance (EPSA) program.

### [France and Algeria sign joint declaration](#)

August 28, 2022, Africa News

French President Emmanuel Macron concluded a three-day visit to Algeria with a new pact between the two countries.

### [Ethiopia, Eritrean forces launch joint offensive in Tigray](#)

September 1, 2022, Africa News

Ethiopian and Eritrean forces on Thursday launched a massive "joint" offensive against areas of Tigray bordering Eritrea, say authorities in the rebel region in northern Ethiopia.

## **Latin America**

### [Brazil: Lula and Bolsonaro disappoint in election debate](#)

August 30, 2022, Le Monde

Ratings for the debate doubled compared to the 2018 edition. But neither of the two main candidates ended up convincing undecided voters.

### [Colombia, Venezuela restore full diplomatic relations](#)

August 29, 2022, Al Jazeera

Colombian envoy to Venezuela arrives in Caracas as the neighbouring countries normalise relations that were severed three years ago.

### [Thousands protest in Haiti over insecurity, rising costs](#)

August 22, 2022, Al Jazeera

Haitian demonstrators demand removal of Prime Minister Ariel Henry as rallies held in several cities across the country.

### [Venezuela to support reconstruction of Cuban port damaged by oil fire](#)

August 16, 2022, Reuters

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said on Tuesday that Venezuela would support Cuba in the reconstruction of its only supertanker port in Matanzas, which was partially destroyed by a fire after lightning struck one of the its crude tanks.

[Chinese defence firm has taken over lifting Venezuelan oil for debt offset - sources](#)

August 17, 2022, Reuters

China has entrusted a defence-focussed state firm to ship millions of barrels of Venezuelan oil despite U.S. sanctions, part of a deal to offset Caracas' billions of dollars of debt to Beijing, according to three sources and tanker tracking data.

