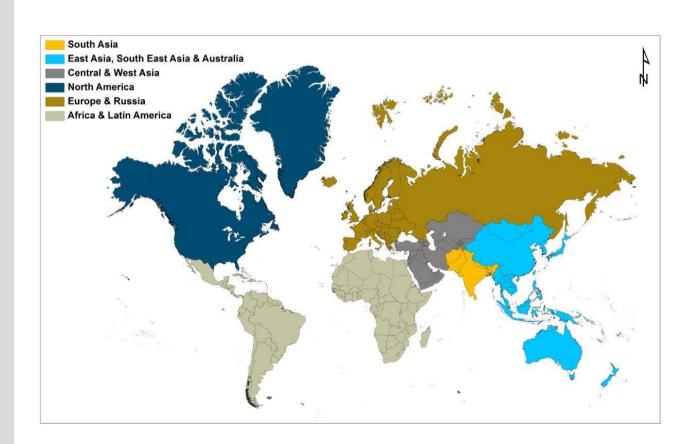


DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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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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South Asia

India

<u>Trade with India saw single-biggest jump among 15 nations in the past year:</u>
<u>U.S. envoy</u>

September 14, 2022, The Hindu

In 2021, overall U.S.-India bilateral trade in goods and services was \$157 billion, as per official data

India, US keen to strengthen economic relations, strategic partnership: Goyal

September 10, 2022, Mint

Goyal said two free trade agreements have already been finalised this year, and hoped for the conclusion of at least two more by the end of this year.

No war no peace in PP15 but China wants more in Depsang Plains, Charding-Ninglung Nala

September 15, 2022, The Print

Sumdorong Chu confrontation that happened under Rajiv Gandhi took 9 yrs for status quo restoration; movement on PP15 13 months.

<u>Disengagement of Indian, Chinese troops in Ladakh's Gogra-Hot Springs area</u> set to be wrapped up today

September 12, 2022, Hindustan Times

The much-awaited disengagement, announced on September 8, is likely to result in the creation of a buffer zone of 2 to 4km.

Will India and China Escape the Thucydides' Trap?

September 12, 2022, The Diplomat

A Taiwan Strait conflict could also spark a Sino-Indian war in the Himalayas.

Russia and India: A New Chapter

September 20, 2022, Carnegie

The balance in Russian-Indian relations is shifting decidedly toward New Delhi. Russia's break with the West and ever closer ties with China as a result of the war against Ukraine will make sustaining its partnership with India more challenging.

View: PM Modi's Samarkand remarks were carefully crafted

September 18, 2022, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Modi's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand should be placed in the context of the group's several geopolitical dimensions which impinge on India's strategic interests:

Stability in landlocked Central Asia, Russia and China competing there, Central Asian states seeking India's enhanced presence, religious extremism and terrorism in the region (especially from Afghanistan), China's Belt and Road penetration, Iran's membership, the potential.

Pakistan

Biden 'determined' to continue helping flood-ravaged Pakistan

September 23, 2022, The Express Tribune

US President Joe Biden, in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, expressed determination to continue extending support to the people affected by floods in Pakistan. The two leaders met at a reception for world leaders participating in the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Pakistan mulls importing Russia oil on deferred payment

September 18, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan can import oil from Russia on deferred payment as both countries are in talks to discuss the possibility, a senior government functionary revealed after the recent meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Samarkand.

World Bank pledges up to \$1.7 b in flood relief

September 23, 2022, The Express Tribune

The World Bank said that it planned to provide flood-related support of up to \$1.7 billion through existing and new projects, while financial support of \$22.2 million would be provided for the rehabilitation of flood-affected farmers.

Cotton production falls 19%

September 20, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan's cotton production has shrunk 19% to 2.19 million bales till September 15, 2022 in the current season mainly due to the devastation caused by heavy rainfall and flash floods nationwide.

One soldier martyred in cross-border attack from Afghanistan

September 21, 2022, Dawn

A Pakistan Army soldier embraced martyrdom in an exchange of fire with the terrorists in Dwatoi area of North Waziristan, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. The attackers opened fire on the security forces from inside Afghanistan.

ADB cuts Pakistan growth forecast to 3.5pc

September 22, 2022, Dawn

Bringing down its growth forecast for Pakistan's economy to 3.5pc, from 4.5pc projected in April, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) linked the country's medium-term prospects to the restoration of political stability and uninterrupted implementation of the IMF programme to rebuild economic stability and fiscal and external buffers.

Japanese govt agrees to defer \$160m debt

September 22, 2022, Dawn

The governments of Japan and Pakistan have agreed on a debt deferral amounting to \$160 million as the third and last phase of the 'G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)'.

Islamabad 'fortified' as Imran reveals march plans

September 22, 2022, Dawn

As Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan finally announced the launching of a fresh movement from September 23, to press the government to announce snap polls, the interior minister threatened with the imposition of governor's rule in the provinces supporting the PTI's long march on the capital and warned of "strong action" against the marchers attempting to reach D-Chowk.

Three soldiers martyred as Pakistan asks Afghanistan to rein in terrorists

September 13, 2022, The Express Tribune

At least three Pakistani soldiers embraced martyrdom when, the army said, terrorists from across Afghanistan opened fire in a latest incident that is likely to complicate relationship between Islamabad and Kabul. A statement issued by the military's media wing said terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border, opened fire on Pakistani troops in general area Karachi of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district.

Water level begins receding in parts of Sindh

September 15, 2022, The Express Tribune

The floodwater in Dadu and Jamshoro districts had started to subside with a decrease in water level in the Indus River. The water level had reduced around three feet in all union councils of Jamshoro district which were inundated by the rise in water level in Manchhar Lake last week.

Country in severe liquidity crunch

September 10, 2022, The News

Pakistan is reeling under a severe dollar liquidity crunch while the recent flash floods have aggravated the macroeconomic fundamentals despite resumption of the IMF programme after a pause of seven months.

Gen Bajwa, US defence secy hold talks over phone

September 10, 2022, The News

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and US Secretary of Defense General Lloyd James Austin had a telephonic conversation. During the call, matters of mutual interests, regional stability as well as defence and security cooperation were discussed.

PM mingles with 'other bloc'; Putin offers pipeline deal

September 16, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif rubbed shoulders with leaders of 'the other economic bloc' at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan, where he was told by Russian President Vladimir Putin that pipeline gas supplies to Pakistan were possible since part of the infrastructure was already in place.

Even friendly countries 'fatigued' by our aid seeking: PM

September 15, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif presented a dismal picture of the country's economy and regretted that friendly countries had started looking at Pakistan as a country that was always asking for money. "Today, when we go to any friendly country or make a phone call, they think that we have come [to them] to beg for money," the prime minister regretted while addressing a lawyers' convention.

Govt rules out use of imported fuel in future power plants

September 15, 2022, Dawn

The government will not opt for any new power project run on expensive imported fuel in the future, Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir declared. Speaking at a press conference here, he said that the foundations for the provision of inexpensive electricity under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were being laid by the government, adding that a proposed solar energy project would be completed as soon as possible.

Pakistan lacking 'effectiveness' on four FATF-linked goals

September 13, 2022, Dawn

The Asia-Pacific Group (APG) on Money Laundering has rated Pakistan's level of effectiveness as 'low' on 10 out of 11 international goals on anti-money

laundering and combating the financing of terror (AML/CFT), even though the country is now compliant on 38 out of 40 technical recommendations.

Four police officials martyred in Tank attack

September 10, 2022, Dawn

Four policemen were killed and two others sustained injuries when a convoy of Tank tehsil chairman Saddam Hussain Khan was ambushed by unidentified gunmen near Pai village, police said.

Govt to start clearing dues of Chinese IPPs from next week

September 10, 2022, Dawn

The government promised to start making payments to independent power producers (IPPs) set up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor early next week and set a schedule for regular monthly payments for a full fiscal year to the satisfaction of Chinese investors.

Flood crisis to hit GDP growth projection

September 10, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan expects to cut its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for the financial year 2022-2023 from five per cent to three per cent due to losses from the catastrophic monsoon rains and floods, Planning Minister Ahsan Igbal said.

Congress notified on sale of F-16 equipment to Pakistan: State Dept

September 15, 2022, The News

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price has said that they recently notified Congress of a proposed foreign military sale valued at \$450 million for maintenance and sustainment services for the Pakistani Air Force s F-16 programme.

Islamabad asks Kabul to arrest Masood Azhar

September 14, 2022, The News

In an unusual development, Islamabad has formally written a letter to Kabul for locating reporting and arresting, Maulana Masood Azhar, the founding head of a banned religio-militant organization, Jaish E Mohammad (JEM).

Pakistan, China decide to boost CPEC security

September 13, 2022, The News

Pakistan and China have agreed to counter the agendas of hostile elements through mutual efforts for ensuring safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan. The understanding was reached during the 9th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Safety and Security of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in Islamabad. During the meeting, both sides

reiterated that ensuring safety and security of CPEC projects is of immense significance in furthering the bilateral relations.

Afghanistan

Taliban Rebuke US for Afghan Assets' Transfer to Swiss-Based Trust Fund

September 16, 2022, VOA

Afghanistan's Taliban denounced the U.S. decision to transfer \$3.5 billion in Afghan central bank reserves to a Swiss-based trust fund, declaring it an "illegal venture" and vowing to impose financial penalties on entities that facilitate it. Washington said it would move the previously frozen financial assets into the newly created Afghan fund in Switzerland to be used to help stabilize the Afghan economy, but the ruling Islamist Taliban will have no role in disbursement.

Afghanistan national among three arrested in Mundra drugs case

September 16, 2022, The Tribune

The NIA arrested three more accused for their alleged involvement in the smuggling of heroin in large consignments concealed in containers of talc stones and bituminous coal through the maritime route in connection with Mundra Port drug haul case. The accused were identified as Rah Matullah, an Afghan national living in Delhi, Ishwinder Singh of Panipat and Jasbir Singh of Delhi's Tilak Nagar.

India Eyes Cooperation with Iran on Afghanistan

September 17, 2022, Tasnim News Agency

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi called for closer interaction with Iran on issues relating to Afghanistan. In a meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Samarkand, Modi said his country and Iran share views about the developments in Afghanistan. He also called for the continuation of regional and international cooperation between New Delhi and Tehran in regard to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan sees sharp rise in deaths as Taliban struggle to take on ISIS, NRF

September 17, 2022, Hindustan Times

With both the principal challengers to the Taliban regime – the National Resistance Front (NRF) and Islamic State-Khorasan Province (Da'esh) – intensifying operations, the security situation deteriorated through August in Afghanistan. Despite the Taliban's claims that Da'esh does not physically exist in Afghanistan and does not pose a threat, the group had claimed responsibility for deadly attacks on mosques, schools, and cars.

American Hostage in Afghanistan Freed in Prisoner Swap With Taliban

September 19, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Mark Frerichs, a civil engineer and U.S. Navy veteran who was kidnapped in Kabul more than two years ago, was freed in a prisoner exchange between the U.S. government and the Taliban, according to the White House. In exchange for Mr. Frerichs, believed to be the last U.S. citizen still being detained by the Taliban when U.S. forces departed the country last year, Washington handed over Bashir Noorzai, a drug lord who was handed a life sentence in the U.S. in 2009 for trafficking \$50 million of heroin.

Taliban official: explosion kills 3 people in Afghan capital

September 21, 2022, AP

An explosion in Afghanistan's capital has killed at least three people and wounded 13 others, a Taliban official said. According to Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the Kabul police chief, the blast occurred in a restaurant in the city's western Dehmazang neighborhood. A team has arrived in the area to find out the cause of the blast, he added.

U.S. in talks to swap former Afghan aircraft for help hunting terrorists

September 19, 2022, Politico

The U.S. is negotiating with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to trade nearly 50 military aircraft flown across the border as the Afghan government collapsed last summer for help hunting terrorists in Afghanistan, according to two people with knowledge of the talks. The fate of the U.S.-donated aircraft has been in limbo for more than a year, after Afghan air force pilots flew them to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan last August to escape Taliban capture.

Communiqué of the U.S.-Europe Group on Afghanistan

September 22, 2022, US Department of State

Special Envoys and Representatives for Afghanistan of the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States met in Washington D.C. on September 15, 2022, to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. Other officials from Japan, Qatar, Switzerland and UNAMA also participated in the meeting as observers, which included technical sessions with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

<u>First containers on the move on new China-Afghanistan corridor</u>

September 19, 2022, RailFreight.com

Several containers are currently on the move to test the newly established corridor China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan. The first 2 containers left the Chinese city of Kashgar on 13 September. The trial period is to last 3 months. This was confirmed by the Kyrgyz national rail operator Kyrgyz Temir Zholu. The new corridor was formed in August by the railway companies of Central

Asian countries, and Chinese logistics company Zhejiang Union of Railway International Logistics. On 11 September, they signed a protocol, and four days later the first containers were on the road.

Kabul Denies Masoud Azhar's Presence in Afghanistan

September 14, 2022, Tolo News

Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid denied that Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Maulan Masood Azhar was in Afghanistan, and said he is in Pakistan. Pakistani media reported that Pakistan's Foreign Ministry in a letter asked the Islamic Emirate to find and arrest Azhar.

<u>Afghanistan: Taliban torture and execute Hazaras in targeted attack – new investigation</u>

September 15, 2022, Amnesty International

Taliban fighters killed six Hazara people in a deliberate attack on the ethnic minority group in Afghanistan's Ghor province, Amnesty International said following a new investigation. On 26 June 2022, the Taliban detained and unlawfully executed four men during a night raid operation in search of a former security official. The body of at least one of those executed showed signs of torture. A woman and a 12-year-old girl were also killed during the raid.

<u>The United States and Partners Announce Establishment of Fund for the People of Afghanistan</u>

September 14, 2022, US Department of State

The United States, through the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State, and in coordination with international partners including the government of Switzerland and Afghan economic experts, announced the establishment of a fund to benefit the people of Afghanistan, or the "Afghan Fund."

Afghanistan sellers wary of increasing customs tax on fresh fruits by Pakistan

September 10, 2022, The Print

Afghanistan sellers are frustrated by Pakistan's action of increasing customs tariffs on fresh fruit every year during the export season and said if the tariffs continue it will incur heavy losses to them.

Taliban stop 60 Afghan Sikhs carrying religious scripture from leaving for India

September 15, 2022, Wion

Taliban reportedly stopped a group of 60 Afghan Sikhs from taking their religious scripture Guru Granth Sahib with them during their scheduled departure to India on September 11, citing it to be a heritage of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

India, Bangladesh and the Indo-Pacific

September 12, ORF

Strengthening India's ties with Bangladesh made it possible for New Delhi to reimagine its strategic periphery by making the Bay of Bengal the maritime link space between India and the Pacific Ocean.

India's top lender asks exporters to trade with Bangladesh in rupee, taka

September 21, 2022, The Economic Times

Top lender State Bank of India has asked exporters to avoid settling deals with Bangladesh in the dollar and other major currencies as it looks to curb exposure to Dhaka's falling reserves, according to an internal document and a source.

Latest Water-Sharing Deal Between Bangladesh, India Is 'Drop in the Ocean'

September 16, 2022, Mint

Bangladesh and India recently signed an agreement on sharing water from the Kushiara River for irrigation.

Nepal

Nepal, India reach 7-point understandings on water resources

September 24, 2022, The Siasat Daily

The meeting also reached an understanding on releasing water to Nepal from Tanakpur Barrage. The River Mahakali is known as Sarada in India.

<u>Integrated initiative launches in Nepal, India and Bangladesh</u>

Collaborative project between CGIAR research centers aiming to improve food security in South Asia launches in three countries.

Sri Lanka

China keeps Pakistan, Sri Lanka waiting on loan deals

September 20, 2022, The Hindu

China has offered Pakistan's visiting Army Chief technical help as the country deals with record floods, but did not announce any substantial financial assistance which its "all-weather" ally has been seeking.

Sri Lanka can't count on China to solve its debt problems

September 12, 2022, The Washington Post

The country owes a lot of money to a lot of creditors

China firmly supports Sri Lanka at 51st UNHRC Session

September 13, 2022, DAily FT

On 12 September, Permanent Representative of China to the UN Office at Geneva Ambassador Chen Xu, openly spoke for Sri Lanka and opposed external interference during the Interactive Dialogue on the island nation at the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

East & South East Asia

China

Washington scaremongering China's normal trade: China Daily editorial

September 8, 2022, China Daily

The warnings and threats the United States has issued to try and cajole and coerce countries not to trade with Russia have no legitimacy, as they represent only the will of Washington, if not just a small group of politicians who are trying to hijack the agenda of the country.

Brinkmanship on Taiwan question dangerous: China Daily editorial

September 18, 2022, China Daily

The US government seems intent on proving that it cannot be trusted to keep its word.

Its piecemeal provocations on the Taiwan question are a "salami-slicing" tactic intended to hollow out the promises that were made to Beijing in the three communiques.

Sino-Russian ties contribute to regional stability: China Daily editorial

September 20, 2022, China Daily

As two of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as two major pillars of the United Nations-centered international system, both China and Russia consider it a shared responsibility to deepen their strategic coordination to prevent the law-based international order from being hijacked by the United States and its clique for their own narrow ends.

Japan

Diet session in fall crucial for Kishida to win back public trust

September 16, 2022, Asahi Shimbun

Nearly a month has passed since opposition parties called on the Cabinet to convene an extraordinary Diet session according to a constitutional provision.

Italy Air Force chief heads to Japan to talk next-gen fighter jets

September 21, 2022, Defense News

The head of the Italian Air Force will travel to Japan next month to hold talks with his Japanese counterpart about collaboration on sixth-generation fighter technology.

Strengthening Integrated Air and Missile Defense for the Japan-US Alliance

September 23, 2022, Diplomat

The Japan-U.S. alliance has made steady and incremental progress toward preparing for future crises and contingencies. More needs to be done.

Isolation ends: Japan reopens its borders to the world

August 26, 2022, The Japan Times

The government is relaxing Japan's COVID-19 protocols in line with other major economies in a bid to attract overseas visitors wanting to take advantage of a weakening yen.

Time for Japan and China to get their relationship right

September 30, 2022, The Japan Times

The two sides need to work together, but that does not mean Tokyo should turn a blind eye to Beijing's misbehavior

South East Asia

What China's shifting relationship with Western media says about its ambition in Taiwan and the South China Sea

September 11, 2022, ABC News

Something fascinating is happening with regard to China right now. A nation that for many years has shunned engagement with the Western media is changing by the day, a new-found public confidence on display for all to see.

Chinese troops drive away fishing vessels from disputed waters

September 13, 2022, Benar News

A newly emerged video made by the Chinese military shows how People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops on China-occupied islands in the South China Sea have been driving away fishing boats from neighboring countries despite a tribunal ruling against Chinese claims.

Biden, Philippines' Marcos discuss tensions in South China Sea

September 22, 2022, Reuters

U.S. President Joe Biden takes part in a bilateral meeting with Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez

U.S. President Joe Biden and his Philippine counterpart, Ferdinand Marcos, underscored their support for freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea on Thursday, in response to China's efforts to exert its influence there.

Reporting by Steve Holland in New York and David Brunnstrom in Washington; Writing by Doina Chiacu; Editing by Jonathan Oatis

China stokes encirclement fear in next-door Vietnam

September 13, 2022, Asia Times

China's rising engagement of Cambodia and Laos is shifting neighboring Vietnam's strategic focus from sea to land

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

China's Xi Kicks Off Central Asia Trip With Visits to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

September 14, 2022, VOA

Chinese President Xi Jinping is visiting Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, two of the most populous countries in Central Asia, on a trip that some experts say is aimed at highlighting the success of China's Belt and Road Initiative. It is Xi's first foreign trip since the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a public health emergency in 2020.

In the 'Great Game' of Central Asia, China's leader seeks the advantage

September 17, 2022, The Japan Times

As Xi Jinping, China's leader, visited Central Asian countries this week, he stepped off planes to rousing performances by rows of dancers, musicians and ceremonial guards. Uzbekistan's leader called him "the greatest statesman," Chinese state media declared, while the leader of Turkmenistan praised his "wise leadership." They draped him in medals.

West Asia

U.S. Calls Iranian Demand to End Nuclear Probes 'Unreasonable'

September 22, 2022, Reuters

Iran said it saw no point in reviving a 2015 nuclear pact without guarantees from the United States that it would not withdraw again and unless U.N. inspectors close probes of Tehran's atomic program, a stance a U.S. official rejected as "unreasonable."

UAE, Indian and French Foreign Ministers Hold Tripartite Meeting in New York

September 20, 2022, Khaleej Times

The meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, touched on bilateral cooperation and strategic partnership and ways to further develop them to support the three countries efforts to achieve economic prosperity and sustainable development.

Oil slips, WTI Falls Below \$80/bbl Amid Weakening Demand Outlook

September 23, 2022, Moneycontrol

Oil prices slid on September 23 with the US crude benchmark slipping below the \$80-mark for the first time since early January 2022 as rising interest rates around the world darken the demand outlook for crude.

Mahsa Amini Protests: US Sanctions Iran's 'Morality Police'

September 22, 2022, AL Jazeera

The Biden administration has sanctioned Iran's so-called "morality police" for alleged abuses and violence against Iranian women and protesters, as Iranians have taken to the streets over the recent death of a 22-year-old woman after her detention by the police force.

<u>Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Meets Saudi Arabia's Commerce Minister, Discusses Ways to Attract Investment</u>

September 18, 2022, The Print

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal met Saudi Arabia's Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Information in charge Majid Alkassabi on Sunday (September 18) and discussed ways to attract investment in order to boost the economic ties between New Delhi and Riyadh.

Abraham Accords Have Led to Greater Regional Cooperation, Expanding Opportunities for India

September 16, 2022, The Indian Express

As we mark the 2nd anniversary of the Abraham Accords, new joint ventures among the US, Bahrain, Israel, UAE and India are being undertaken in critical sectors such as clean energy, health, innovation, technology, agriculture, water, trade, tourism, sustainability and much more.

<u>India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Embark on Key Egypt Visit Next</u> Week

September 15, 2022, Times Now

The two-day visit by Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh to Egypt next week will be part of India's attempt to strengthen strategic ties with the Middle East.

India-Saudi Ties Promise Shared Growth, Security, Stability, Says External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar

September 12, 2022, The Indian Express

Emphasising the importance of strategic economic ties between India and Saudi Arabia, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar said that the collaboration holds the "promise of shared growth, prosperity, stability, security and development".

Iran Nuclear Talks in 'Stalemate': Borrell

September 14, 2022, AL Arabiya

Negotiations to bring Iran and the US back into the nuclear deal curbing Tehran's nuclear programme in exchange for lifting sanctions are in "stalemate", EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

Israel's Defence Minister: Iran Nuclear Deal 'in ER Room'

September 15, 2022, Arab News

Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers is "in the ER room" and is unlikely to be renewed soon if at all, Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz said.

Iran Signs Memorandum to Join Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

September 15, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran has signed a Memorandum of Obligations to become a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a central Asian security body, the Iranian foreign minister said.

UAE, India, Israel Ties Win-Win for All: Envoy

September 13, 2022, Khaleej Times

The UAE strives for a "righteous narrative" and is keen to connect people and businesses from India to Israel from its unique position in the Middle East. "Linking people together and making new friends is what makes businesses stronger," said Mohamed Al Khaja, the UAE's Ambassador to Israel, in Tel Aviv.

United States

United States

U.S. military leaders are reluctant to provide longer-range missiles to Ukraine

September 17, 2022, NBC News

Senior U.S. military leaders have advised the White House against sending longer-range missiles to Ukraine over fears it could provoke a wider war with Russia, officials said.

Biden administration imposes sweeping tech restrictions on China

October 7, 2022, The Guardian

New rules include measure to exclude China from using semiconductor chips made anywhere in world with US tools

U.S. military leaders are reluctant to provide longer-range missiles to Ukraine

September 17, 2022, NBC News

Senior U.S. military leaders have advised the White House against sending longer-range missiles to Ukraine over fears it could provoke a wider war with Russia, officials said.

Ukrainian Officials Drew on U.S. Intelligence to Plan Counteroffensive

September 10, 2022, The New York Times

Overcoming a reluctance to share their strategy, the Ukrainians were able to use U.S. resources to identify key Russian targets.

<u>U.S. MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE GROWS TO HISTORIC PROPORTIONS —</u> ALONG WITH RISKS

September 10, 2022, The intercept

Ukraine is on track to become the largest recipient of U.S military assistance in the last century. But questions surround the policy.

Taiwan Strait Crisis Strengthens US Resolve to Support Taiwan, Counter China

September 10, 2022, The Diplomat

The Washington Consensus remains united and the direction of U.S. policy is clear.

Proposed U.S. Taiwan Policy Act draws mixed views from experts

September 16, 202, Focus Taiwan

Taiwanese experts on Friday were divided over the implications for Taiwan-China relations of a bill in the United States Senate that its sponsors have said would restructure U.S. policy toward Taiwan.

Taiwan portfolio change in US prompts concern

September 18, 2022, Taipei Times

WRONG MESSAGE? A regulatory change putting Washington's Taiwan oversight into its 'China' office waters down focus on Taipei and is inappropriate, critics said

U.S., Norway Defense Leaders Discuss Ukraine, Importance of High North

September. 20, 2022, US DOD

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III thanked Norwegian Defense Minister Bjorn Arild Gram for his country's aid to Ukraine and for the crucial role it plays in the Arctic and North Atlantic.

Europe & Russia

Europe

Potential and Opportunities for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific between India, Germany and the EU

Septembner 21, 2022, ORF

Ensuring a free, open and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific has become a major policy priority for countries of the region.

<u>EU to propose ban on forced labour goods amid pushback over China's alleged</u> Xinjiang abuses

September 10, 2022, SCMP

European Commission hopes its risk-based proposal can rid the market of tainted goods without flouting global trade rules

EU faces growing pressure to stress test for attack on Taiwan by mainland China

September 15, 2022, SCMP

Spiralling tensions over Taiwan would 'dwarf all other geopolitical crises', former WTO chief says

EU seeks to strengthen Taiwan's 'silicon shield' as military tensions with China threaten chip supply

September 16, 2022, SCMP

European Parliament overwhelmingly passes resolution calling for a supplychain agreement with Taiwan, weeks after China formed a 'virtual blockade' of the island

<u>Ukraine war: EU moves to cut peak electricity use by 5%</u>

September 14, 2022

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen has called for cuts to electricity use across the bloc and windfall taxes on energy firms to tackle high prices.

Russia

Russia extends retaliatory sanctions against EU on its top military leaders — statement

September 7, 2022, TASS

The ministry pointed out that the persons on the sanctions list are banned from entering Russia

<u>China, Russia to step up cooperation amid sanctions — China's parliament speaker</u>

September 8, 2022, TASS

The chairman of China's NPC Standing Committee pointed out that China and Russia would intensify contacts between their legislative institutions

Russia's UN envoy asks US, UK to present evidence of arms purchases from Iran, N.Korea

September 9, 2022, TASS

Vasily Nebenzya demanded recognition of the dissemination of false information within the walls of the Security Council

Russian, South African top diplomats discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation

September 12, 2022, TASS

The sides reiterated their commitment to closer foreign policy coordination within the United Nations, BRICS, the Group of Twenty and other multilateral formats

Military-technical cooperation between India, Russia developing steadily, ambassador says

September 14, 2022, TASS

Countries are working together on production, research, and export of defense products

Putin says pipeline gas supplies from Russia to Pakistan possible

September 15, 2022, TASS

But "the Afghan issue" have to be solved first, the president notes.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

Can Somalia's new president win the fight against al-Shabaab?

September 15, 2022, The Africa Report

Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has designated security and the war against terrorism as his number-one domestic policy agenda, noting that al-Shabaab insurgency remains the country's foremost existential threat.

Somalia President Sees Progress in Fight Against Al-Shabab, Seeks More US

September 17, 2022, VOA News

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has said that his country is seeing gains in the fight against the Somali-based, al-Qaida-affiliated Islamist militant group al-Shabab, following recent clashes in central Somalia between the Somali National Army supported by pro-government local clan militias and al-Shabab.

Floods in Sudan kill dozens and destroy thousands of homes

September 22, 2022, Africa News

More than 75 people have been killed, more than 12,000 homes destroyed and more than 20,000 damaged by heavy rains and seasonal flooding in Sudan. The worst affected provinces are Al-Jazirah, North Kordofan, South Kordofan, South Darfur and Nile. The rainy season in Sudan usually lasts until September, with flooding peaking just before then.

Drought and hunger in Somalia, Ethiopia and region: What to know

September 7, 2022, Al Jazeera

Millions of people in the Horn of Africa are facing food shortages due to the worst drought in 40 years and rising global food costs.

Angola Presidential Elections

September 9, 2022

We congratulate President-elect Joao Lourenco on his election as Angola's next president. We look forward to working with him to strengthen the vital relationship between Angola and the United States. We will continue to collaborate closely with the Angolan government and the Angolan people to promote our shared goals as we work together to advance a more sustainable, secure, inclusive, and prosperous future.

Nigerian oil exports at lowest level in 25 years due to oil theft

October 9, 2022, Al Jazeera

Nigeria slipped behind Angola as Africa's largest exporter in July, according to OPEC figures.

The real winners of Angola's election

African Arguements, September 14, 2022

The electorate's popular will may have been defied by the MPLA's victory, but the people were more organised, engaged and vigorous than ever before.

Latin America

<u>Diplomatic spat after Chile leader snubs new Israeli ambassador</u>

September 17, 2022, Al Jazeera

Chilean President Boric postponed meeting with Israeli envoy following Israeli army killing of Palestinian boy on the same day.

The Chilean constitutional vote: A tectonic shift?

September 4, 2022, Al Jazeera

Fifty years after the US tried to derail Chilean democracy, Chile is paving the way for a new, progressive model of governance.

Maduro: Venezuela Is Ready To Send Its Oil To The World

September 19, 2022, Oil Price.com

President Maduro explained, "Venezuela is ready and willing to fulfil its role and supply, in a stable and secure manner, the oil and gas market that the world economy needs."

<u>Iranian plans to build oil refineries in Venezuela, Uruguay certain to catch</u> Washington's eye

September 16, 2022, Stabroeknews

As the Maduro administration in Venezuela continues to find ways to circumvent Washington's unyielding pressure on its oil industry, the authorities in Caracas have disclosed a collaborative initiative with Iran that seeks to put a brake on the huge financial losses which the country has had to endure on account of the US' squeeze on the country's economy.

What is Nicolás Maduro's Foreign Policy?

September 13, 022, Global Americans

Venezuela used to be a country with a proactive foreign policy profile. Yet, since 2013, the Venezuelan political system has become increasingly authoritarian, and its foreign policy has changed dramatically. In March 2013,

the death of the then president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, was announced. The announcement followed several weeks of speculation about Chávez's health and his stay in Cuba for medical treatment. Nicolás Maduro, appointed by Chávez himself as his vice-president and successor in case of his absence, was tasked with announcing the news. In the months and years since then, Venezuela has seen contentious presidential elections, dissatisfaction with the government, repression, nationwide protests, and economic and social turmoil.

Venezuelan Government Defends Detention of US Nationals

September 11, 2022, VOA News

The Venezuelan government defended the detention of United States citizens, rejecting an earlier statement from the Department of State marking the two-year confinement of a Marine veteran.



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