



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[New chapter in ties as Indian foreign secy meets Germany navy chief, warship 'Bayern' visits](#)

January 20, 2022, The Print

With Germany identifying India as one of the key partners in its Indo-Pacific policy, a German frigate entered Indian waters for a port call in Mumbai, in a major signal to China.

[Why India needs a dedicated defence export department](#)

January 20, 2022, India Today

An export-focused department could help build on export successes like the recent sale of BrahMos missiles to the Philippines.

[Second defence export deal this month: India to supply ALH \(MkIII\) to Mauritius](#)

January 19, 2022, The New Indian Express

The Indian defence manufacturing setup has earlier got a major export order worth USD 374 million from the Philippines to supply shore-based anti-ship missiles for the country's navy.

[Indian Navy hones anti-submarine warfare skills in Exercise Sea Dragon](#)

January 21, 2022, The Hindu

An Indian Navy P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft participated in multinational Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Exercise Sea Dragon-22 at Guam in the U.S. that saw the participation of Quad countries, Canada and South Korea. The two-week exercise began on January 5 and concluded on January 20.

[China Mouthpiece Delinks Pangong Bridge From LAC Faceoff; Asks India To Not Make A "fuss"](#)

January 20, 2022, Republic

China asserted that India should not make a "fuss" about its construction of a bridge connecting the north bank to the south bank of the Pangong Tso lake.

Bangladesh

[Like India, Bangladesh too should adopt an 'Act East' policy](#)

January 18, 2022, Scroll

The country prioritises economic diplomacy and embraces regional economic integration in South Asia.

[China mega-tech drives Bangladesh mega highway](#)

January 22, 2022, China.org.cn

Work on a joint Chinese-Bangladeshi venture to build a transformational highway bypassing Bangladesh capital Dhaka is well underway.

Pakistan

[Large cache of 'military arms' recovered](#)

January 16, 2022, Dawn

Police claimed to have recovered a large quantity of anti-aircraft guns, sten guns, revolvers and other sophisticated arms from a British-era building belonging to a charitable trust in the old city area.

[National Security policy places economy front and centre](#)

January 15, 2022, Dawn

Amid spiralling inflation and a significant rise in the cost of living for nearly all Pakistanis, it is perhaps fitting that the country's first-ever National Security Policy acknowledges economic stability as a key component of national security. Approved by the federal cabinet last week, a public version of the policy was unveiled by Prime Minister Imran Khan on January 14.

[Pakistan keen to work on gas project, PM Imran assures Putin](#)

January 18, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan reassured Russian President Vladimir Putin of Pakistan's commitment to collaborate with Russia on the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project as the two leaders discussed the expansion of bilateral economic and energy cooperation. PM Khan and President Putin spoke by phone about the progress in relations between the two countries.

[ECP declassifies key documents in PTI foreign funding case](#)

January 19, 2022, Dawn

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ordered the declassification of all critical documents linked to the foreign funding case against the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). The documents were part of the ECP scrutiny

committee report, released a couple of weeks ago, which had been kept secret and were not released alongside the report when it was made public.

[Bomb blast in Lahore market leaves three dead](#)

January 21, 2022, Dawn

In what appears to be a re-emergence of terrorism in the provincial capital, a powerful blast ripped through the crowded Anarkali market, killing three people and injuring 33 others on January 19. Police and other law enforcement agencies initially declared it a gas cylinder explosion, but later investigations confirmed it was a bomb blast.

['Work on Dasu dam site back on track'](#)

January 21, 2022, Dawn

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian brushed away media reports that suggest the Chinese contractor has demobilised from the Dasu dam project site. At his regular briefing at International Press Centre (IPC), Mr Zhao said he was unaware of any preconditions put forward by the contractor for resuming work on the dam site. "I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned. As far as I know, the Dasu hydropower project has resumed," he said. A terrorist attack on the dam site last July took the lives of 10 Chinese and four Pakistani nationals while injuring 28 others.

[Indonesia offers coal to fire up CPEC projects](#)

January 19, 2022, Dawn

Indonesia's refined coal industry could provide fuel for the power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and to Large Scale Manufacturing Industries in Pakistan, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam M Tugio said.

[Rally held in favour of presidential form of govt in Pakistan](#)

January 15, 2022, The Express Tribune

The Pakistan Awami League (PAL) organised a rally on Murree Road in Rawalpindi, demanding imposition of the presidential form of government in the country. The rally, led by PAL Chairman Chaudhry Nasir Mahmood, marched from Liaquat Bagh to Chandni Chowk and chanted slogans against the government and rising inflation.

[Talks under way for Kazakhstan gas pipeline](#)

January 16, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan Energy Minister Hammad Azhar said discussions were under way with Russia to bring a gas pipeline from Kazakhstan, which will be cheaper than the imported LNG.

[Gwadar rights leaders urge government to fulfil agreement](#)

January 21, 2022, The Express Tribune

Protesters blocked the Ormara-Karachi Highway, cutting off the Coastal Highway route between Makran and certain areas of Sindh. The call for the protest was given by Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, the leader of Gwadar Rights Movement, who had led the month-long sit-in in the port city of Balochistan. Hidayat claimed that the agreement signed last month was yet to be implemented by the provincial government. He accused the authorities of using delaying tactics.

[Islamabad on alert after terror incident](#)

January 19, 2022, The News

Pakistan's federal capital was put on alert after incidents of terrorism and a warning issued by Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad of more terrorism-related incidents. A policeman was shot dead and two others were injured at a checkpoint. On January 17 a gun battle took place in which two militants were shot dead, before two gunmen riding a motorcycle opened fire on a police checkpoint in the vicinity of the Karachi Company police station.

Afghanistan

[Washington must listen to UN and release Afghan funds: Taliban](#)

January 15, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban urged Washington to heed a call by the United Nations chief to unlock Afghan funds frozen in the United States, as a humanitarian crisis deepens.

[26 killed in Afghan earthquake](#)

January 18, 2022, Dawn

At least 26 people were killed after an earthquake hit western Afghanistan. The victims died when roofs of their houses collapsed in Qadis district in the western province of Badghis. The shallow quake was magnitude 5.3, according to the US Geological Survey.

[Taliban fighters pepper spray women protesters](#)

January 17, 2022, Dawn

Taliban forces fired pepper spray at a group of women protesters in Afghanistan's capital demanding rights to work and education. Since seizing control of the country in August, the Taliban authorities have imposed creeping restrictions on Afghans, especially on women.

[Not possible to unite Afghanistan under one govt, says Biden](#)

January 21, 2022, Dawn

US President Joe Biden said that he withdrew his troops from Afghanistan because it's not possible to unify the war-torn country under one single government. At a White House news conference, Mr Biden also said that the United States was "spending a billion dollars a week in Afghanistan for 20 years" and could not afford to do so indefinitely.

[Taliban erasing Afghan women from public life, say UN experts](#)

January 19, 2022, Dawn

Taliban leaders in Afghanistan are institutionalising large scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, says a UN report released this week.

[Taliban collect \\$1 bn in exports](#)

January 21, 2022, The News

Five months into their rule over Afghanistan, the Taliban have increased revenue, cracked down on corruption and collected a surprising \$1 billion in exports, the UN representative for the country said. At the same time, Deborah Lyons, head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, stressed the need for the Taliban to be inclusive and guarantee the rights of minorities and women.

[Afghan Trade Increases With Central Asia, Drops With Pakistan](#)

January 17, 2022, Tolo News

Numbers provided by the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) indicate that the volume of trade between Afghanistan and three Central Asian republics – Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan -- has increased in the current year.

[Over half a million lost jobs in Afghanistan since Taliban takeover: UN](#)

January 20, 2022, Business Standard

More than half a million people have lost or been pushed out of their jobs in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) said. In a warning that the economy has been "paralyzed"

since the de facto authorities took control last August, ILO said that there have been huge losses in jobs and working hours, the United Nation said in a statement.

[Pak NSA cancels Afghan visit amid anti-Islamabad protests, says report](#)

January 20, 2022, The Indian Express

Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has cancelled his planned visit to Afghanistan in view of a planned anti-Pakistan protest in Kabul. Yusuf was scheduled to lead an inter-ministerial Pakistani delegation to Afghanistan on Jan 18 to discuss the issue of border-fencing and take stock of the humanitarian needs of the war-torn country with the Taliban regime.

Nepal

[India's stance on Nepal boundary well known, consistent & unambiguous: Embassy](#)

The statement of the Indian Embassy here came days after Nepal's main Opposition Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) urged Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to speak up on the boundary issue and make its position clear on Lipulekh.

[India's position on border unambiguous, government tells Nepal](#)

January 16, 2022, The Indian Express

India's position on the India-Nepal boundary is well known, consistent and unambiguous and has been communicated to Nepal government, the Indian government said reacting to a series of statements by political parties in Kathmandu slamming India for allegedly undermining Nepal's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sri Lanka

[India and Sri Lanka have shown an ability to quickly act on promises to each other](#)

January 17, 2022, The Hindu

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's virtual meeting with Sri Lanka's Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa on Saturday, with an assurance that India will support Sri Lanka "in all possible ways for overcoming the economic and other challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic", was significant and timely.

[Road to Sri Lanka's economic recovery via India: Lankan envoy](#)

January 19, 2022, The Times of India

The economic roadmap charted by India and Sri Lanka, which has seen a slew of measures by the former to mitigate its island neighbour's mounting debt crisis, will help address the trust deficit between the 2 countries and also render peripheral concerns over Chinese activities in the country , Lankan high commissioner Milinda Moragoda said.

East & South East Asia

China

[China's Economic Downturn Gives Rise to a Winter of Discontent](#)

January 21, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

China's economic future isn't looking all that bright and is starting to have political implications for President Xi Jinping. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences expects annual growth to slow to 5.3% in 2022 from 8% in 2021. Real-estate giant Evergrande, declared in default last month by ratings agencies, unleashed a wave of defaults in the country's property sector, which is worth about 29% of gross domestic product.

[Exports could be key driver for China's growth as Covid drags down spending, say analysts](#)

January 19, 2022, CNBC

Exports will continue to drive China's economy for the rest of the year as the domestic market remains sluggish, according to analysts. Chinese leaders have indicated for many years that they want to move away from exports as the main source of growth and toward domestic consumption for sustainable economic growth, said Mattie Bekink, China director at the Economist Intelligence Corporate Network.

[We Are Taiwanese': China's Growing Menace Hardens Island's Identity](#)

January 19, 2022, The New York Times

Well over 90 percent of Taiwan's people trace their roots to mainland China, but more than ever, they are embracing an identity that is distinct from that of their Communist-ruled neighbor. Beijing's strident authoritarianism — and its claim over Taiwan — has only solidified the island's identity, now central to a dispute that has turned the Taiwan Strait into one of Asia's biggest potential flash points.

[China, Germany pledge to deepen cooperation and refrain from 'microphone diplomacy'](#)

January 21, 2022, Global Times

China and Germany have pledged to enhance mutual understanding and refrain from "microphone diplomacy" on the basis of mutual respect on Thursday when Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock via video link.

[PLA expels US warship trespassing Chinese territorial waters in S.China Sea](#)

January 20, 2022, Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) expelled a US warship that trespassed Chinese territorial waters in the South China Sea on Thursday, a move experts said displays the PLA's capability to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity amid several other recent US muscle-flexing moves in the region.

[No 'countercurrents' can stop globalization trend: Xi](#)

January 18, 2022, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday delivered his first major speech of the New Year at a global event at the World Economic Forum (WEF), where he issued stern warnings against acts of containment, confrontation and suppression as well as practices of hegemony and bullying, while calling on global efforts to seek peaceful coexistence and win-win results.

[Using 5G in Chinese aircraft will not affect wireless services, official said, after US airlines' chaos](#)

January 21, 2022, Global Times

China's technological innovation will not come at the cost of sacrificing safety, China's civil aviation regulator said on Friday, noting the deployment of 5G in aviation will not affect aircraft wireless services.

[Xi Jinping promotes seven military, armed police officers to rank of general](#)

January 22, 2022, CGTN

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), on Friday, presented seven military and armed police officers with certificates of order, promoting them to the rank of general, the highest for officers in active service in China.

[Contact in 'transit' with Taiwan official opposed](#)

January 21, 2022, China Daily

China is always firmly opposed to official contact in any form between the United States and Taiwan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said after reports that a senior member of the island's Democratic Progressive Party will transit via the US when visiting Honduras next week.

Japan

[Biden and Kishida plan Quad summit in Japan in late spring](#)

January 22, 2022, Nikkei Asia

U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed to establish an economic "two-plus-two" framework to deepen cooperation on supply chains and tech development along with discussing in detail the allies' response to China in their first full-fledged summit Friday. During the 80-minute virtual meeting, Kishida invited Biden to visit Japan in the first half of this year, with plans to hold a summit with the other leaders of the Quad alongside the trip. The security framework consists of the US, Japan, India and Australia.

[Japan under pressure to observe U.N. nuke ban treaty meeting](#)

January 22, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan, the only country to have been attacked with an atomic bomb is facing growing calls to observe the first meeting of signatories to a treaty banning nuclear weapons. Japan, however, relies on the U.S. nuclear umbrella for its security and is not one of the treaty's 86 signatory countries and regions.

[Japan's got the 2+2 bug, engaging with France, Germany and Indonesia](#)

January 21, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan held its seventh foreign and defense ministers' meeting in a year with France on Thursday, the most ever, as the format regains favour under a U.S. president who promotes a multilateral approach to countering China's rising influence. President Joe Biden values the unique opportunity these "two-plus-two" meetings offer for two nations to discuss foreign policy and defense issues. Within six months of Biden taking office in January 2021, Japan held "two-plus-two" talks with the U.K. the U.S., Indonesia, Germany and Australia.

[Japan's December exports grew faster than expected](#)

January 20, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's exports rose faster than expected in December to mark the 10th straight month of year-on-year growth, data showed on Thursday, as supply bottlenecks continued to ease toward the end of 2021. However, a persistent semiconductor shortage remains a headache for Japanese firms such as car maker Toyota, which on Tuesday slashed its near-term output target, in addition to uncertainties around the Omicron coronavirus variant.

[U.S. and Japan to jointly stockpile munitions, including near Taiwan](#)

January 16, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. and Japan are discussing stockpiling munitions in each other's defense facilities across Japan, including islands in Taiwan's vicinity, to prepare for contingencies. The issue of joint usage of facilities was discussed in last week's two-plus-two meeting of foreign and defense ministers. The ministers "committed to increase joint/shared use of U.S. and Japanese facilities, including efforts to strengthen Japan Self-Defense Forces' posture in areas including its southwestern islands," the sides said in a statement after the meeting.

Korea

[Presidential candidates hesitant to push for Jeonju financial center](#)

January 21, 2022, The Korea Times

Korea has often been criticized for a populist approach to policies in key industries. Previous administrations claimed the relocation of state-run institutions, once concentrated in Seoul, to across the country was a means to drive the growth of provincial areas. But this has led to questionable outcomes such as having the state pension fund moving to Jeonju, 240 kilometers south of Seoul, which has little related infrastructure. This in turn has resulted in a brain drain at the world's third-largest pension fund.

[S. Korea not mulling lifting import ban on Japanese seafood to join CPTPP](#)

January 21, 2022, The Korea Herald

South Korea is not considering lifting a ban on imports of Japanese seafood to win Japan's support for joining a mega free trade agreement in the Asia-Pacific region, Seoul's oceans minister has said. South Korea is working to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which involves 11 nations, including Australia and Japan.

[S. Korea, US discuss new economic framework, supply chains](#)

January 19, 2022, The Korea Herald

The top trade officials of South Korea and the United States on Wednesday agreed to strengthen their strategic partnership to actively respond to supply chain issues, new technologies and other major trade issues, Seoul's industry ministry said. South Korean Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo and US Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai held a teleconference earlier in the day ahead of Yeo's planned visit to the US next week.

['Tactical guided missiles' now under production, N. Korea says](#)

January 18, 2022, The Korea Herald

North Korea on Monday test-fired a pair of "tactical guided missiles" for the first time in around two years, Pyongyang's state media reported the following day, saying it did so to confirm the accuracy and efficiency of the weapon system "under production." The report suggested that North Korea test-fired KN-24 short-range ballistic missiles, which look similar to the US MGM-140 Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS.

[Opposition party's presidential candidate vows tough response to unauthorized labor rallies](#)

January 16, 2022, The Korea Times

Main opposition presidential candidate Yoon Suk-yeol said Sunday he will deal sternly with illegal labor rallies if elected in March. In a Facebook post, Yoon of the conservative People Power Party slammed the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, a major umbrella labour group, over its massive street rally in downtown Seoul, Saturday.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN challenge: Myanmar under Cambodia chair](#)

January 22, 2022, Bangkok Post

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) may face a bigger challenge on Myanmar issues in 2022 as the group's semblance of unity may be tested under the leadership of Cambodia, the group's rotating chair for this year.

[Discord over Myanmar as ASEAN postpones year's first meeting](#)

January 17, 2022, Reuters

Unresolved differences about engagement with Myanmar's military rulers are causing discord among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), diplomats and government officials say, as a ministers' meeting set for this week was pushed back.

[Myanmar Crisis and Hun Sen's Visit: ASEAN in Disarray?](#)

January 19, 2022, The Diplomat

Hun Sen was the first foreign leader to visit Myanmar since the military's overthrow of the country's democratically elected government.

[How Energy is Aiding ASEAN's Post-Pandemic Recovery](#)

January 21, 2022, The Diplomat

The energy sector is in a good position to drive ASEAN's recovery and its transition to a greener economy.

['No Progress' on ASEAN Peace Plan for Myanmar: Singaporean PM](#)

January 17, 2022, The Diplomat

Four Southeast Asian nations have now expressed criticisms of Cambodia's unilateral crisis diplomacy on Myanmar.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Uzbekistan poised to produce its own military drones](#)

January 18, 2022, Eurasianet

Uzbekistan is poised to begin production of its own range of unmanned aerial vehicles for both military and civilian purposes. The State Defense Industry Committee said that the winged drones and quadcopters will be designed to cope with tasks including reconnaissance, offensive military operations, firefighting and farming.

[Uzbekistan Reacts to the Crisis in Kazakhstan](#)

January 18, 2022, The Diplomat

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan were the only Central Asian states whose militaries did not put boots onto Kazakhstan's soil as a result of the crisis that started on January 2. Tashkent reiterated its anti-CSTO sentiments and says it can independently control domestic issues if needed.

[Turkmenistan: TAPI talk turns to pragmatic matters](#)

January 18, 2022, Eurasianet

The Taliban delegation headed by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi flew into Ashgabat on January 14 to discuss three important infrastructure projects: the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline; the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan high-voltage power transmission line, and new railway connections between the countries.

[Kazakh President Replaces Defense Minister, Parliament Removes Nazarbaev From Lifetime Posts](#)

January 19, 2022, RFE/RL

Kazakhstan's leaders have taken further steps to replace government officials and concentrate the powers of President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev by stripping former President Nursultan Nazarbaev of lifetime posts a week after deadly protests swept across the Central Asian country.

[Kazakh Officials Say 'Secret Graves' Found In Almaty Following Deadly Unrest](#)

January 20, 2022, RFE/RL

Kazakh officials say "secret graves" have been found in the Central Asian nation's largest city, Almaty, following deadly unrest in early January amid mass anti-government protests.

[Kyrgyzstan may construct a small modular reactor nuclear power plant with Russia](#)

January 21, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

On the sidelines of Expo 2020 in Dubai, where on 20 January 2022 Russian nuclear SMR technology was presented, Russian atomic company ROSATOM and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the construction of small modular reactor nuclear power plants.

West Asia

[India's Vedanta Group Plans Investments in Mineral Sector in Saudi Arabia](#)

January 14, 2022, Business Standard

"Vedanta plans to invest in the mineral sector in Saudi Arabia. The company is in discussions to identify investment opportunities in Saudi Arabia, which aims to transform itself into a mineral hub in the Middle East," the statement said.

[UAE Investment a Sign that OIC Countries Are Seeing Kashmir as Integral Part of India](#)

January 11, 2022, News 18

Addressing the Investors and Business Leaders Summit at Dubai Expo 2020, Indian Union Territory of J&K's LG Manoj Sinha said, "The relationship between India and the UAE has matured enough over the years to become enduring 'Global Partners' in the 21st century. These are those times in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir where opportunities are in plenty."

[Bodies of Two Killed Indians in Abu Dhabi Attack To Reach Home Today: Envoy](#)

January 21, 2022, Outlook India

Two Indians and a Pakistani national, all staff of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), were killed and six others injured in the suspected drone attacks near the Abu Dhabi airport that sparked multiple explosions in the capital of the UAE. The Houthi rebels had claimed responsibility for the attack.

['Govt Making All Effort To Secure Release of Indian Sailors on UAE Ship Seized By Houthis'](#)

January 11, 2022, Hindustan Times

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the government was making all efforts to secure the early release of Indian sailors who were onboard the United Arab Emirates (UAE)-flagged ship Rwabee that has been seized by Houthis.

[Yemen's Houthis Reject UN Call To Free UAE-Flagged Ship](#)

January 16, 2022, AL Jazeera

Yemeni Houthi rebels have rejected a UN request to release an Emirati-flagged vessel they seized earlier this month, along with its 11-member crew, saying the ship was carrying "military assets".

[China Meets Gulf Oil Bloc With Sights Set On Free-Trade Agreement and Energy Security](#)

January 12, 2022, South China Morning Post (SCMP)

As China scrambles to ensure a stable supply of energy, Beijing is looking to boost bilateral relations with oil-abundant Gulf countries (GCC) by entering into a strategic partnership and expediting the implementation of a free-trade agreement.

[Middle East Doesn't Need A New External Chief, China Says as US Pivots to Indo-Pacific](#)

January 16, 2022, South China Morning Post (SCMP)

There is no "power vacuum" in the Middle East and the region does not need an "external patriarch", Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, capping a flurry of talks with envoys to strengthen ties with the region.

[Syria Joins China's Belt and Road Initiative](#)

January 13, 2022, Xinhua

Syria joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which will help Damascus open broad horizons of cooperation with China and other countries.

[FM Amir Abdollahian: Iran-China 25-year Partnership Agreement Goes Into Effect](#)

January 15, 2022, Tehran Times

Iranian Foreign Minister, Amir Abdollahian, who was leading a high-ranking delegation, held talks with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. In the meeting, the two foreign ministers discussed a broad range of political, economic, trade, consular, cultural, regional and international issues and explored ways of expanding cooperation over those matters.

[Secretary Blinken Says 'A Few Weeks Left' To Save Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

January 14, 2022, AL Jazeera

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken says there are only "a few weeks left" to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal before Tehran's advancements will become too difficult to reverse.

[Israeli Air Force, US Military Hold Joint Aerial Drill Over Negev](#)

January 16, 2022, The Times of Israel

The Israel Defense Forces and the US military's Central Command held a joint aerial exercise over southern Israel last week, simulating airstrikes and mid-air dogfights.

[US Congress To Promote More Normalisation with Israel](#)

January 11, 2022, Middle East Monitor

A group of US lawmakers from both the Senate and the House of Representatives have launched the Abraham Accords Congressional Caucus to encourage more Arab countries to normalise diplomatic relations with the State of Israel.

United States

United States

[U.S., Russia Agree to Keep Negotiating to Defuse Ukraine Crisis](#)

January 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Washington and Moscow on Friday agreed to continue talks triggered by Russia's military buildup near the Ukrainian border, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying the U.S. would formally address the Kremlin's concerns that Western powers threaten Russian security and its demands regarding the future of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Mr. Blinken, after meeting his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, said that the U.S. would also submit its own security proposals and that the two sides planned to meet again. In Washington later, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki indicated the U.S. wouldn't concede to the Kremlin's key demand that Ukraine be forbidden to join the NATO alliance.

[Democrats Push to Revive \\$250 Billion Tech Investment Bill to Counter China](#)

January 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

A \$250 billion spending initiative to boost U.S. investment in high-tech research and manufacturing has stalled in the House, despite lawmakers' increasing concerns over global competitiveness. The Senate passed its version—dubbed the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act—last year with bipartisan supporters, saying the U.S. needs to make big investments in science and technology to meet the challenge posed by China and other global rivals.

[How the U.S. Messed Up Its New 5G Rollout: 'It Wasn't Our Finest Hour'](#)

January 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden and Trump administrations had years of warnings. But the government failed this week to avoid a collision between U.S. telecom companies and airlines over the rollout of new 5G cellular networks. That failure, rooted in longstanding disagreements over potential risk and a lack of cooperation by U.S. regulators, led to a last-minute scramble that threatened the cancellation of thousands of flights and raised tensions between two powerful industries.

[Mitch McConnell says Black people vote just as much as 'Americans'](#)

January 20, 2022, USA Today

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is trending on Twitter after making a comment related to voting rights in which he implied African Americans are not Americans. Prior to a vote to move the John Lewis Voting

Rights Advancement Act to the Senate floor failed Wednesday, McConnell was asked by a reporter about concerns among voters of colour.

[Janet Yellen Views Biden Policies as Modernized Supply-Side Economics](#)

January 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the Biden administration is aiming to boost U.S. economic capacity by focusing on issues like labour supply and public infrastructure, an approach she called “modern supply-side economics.” The administration’s approach is a departure from traditional supply-side economics, which seeks to promote economic growth through tax cuts and deregulation, Ms. Yellen said in a speech Friday to the World Economic Forum. She pointed to a bipartisan infrastructure bill that became law last November and President Biden’s proposal for social programs—such as child care and paid family leave—and climate-change initiatives as examples of the administration’s approach to economic policy.

[Supreme Court Permits Continued Enforcement of Texas Six-Week Abortion Ban](#)

January 20, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Supreme Court allowed Texas’ six-week abortion ban to remain in effect indefinitely, issuing an order Thursday blocking litigation against the law while the state’s highest court weighs a procedural question related to the measure’s enforcement. The court’s order was unsigned and, as is typical, provided no explanation. The three liberal justices dissented, arguing that Thursday’s order undermined the court’s December decision permitting abortion providers to proceed in limited fashion with their lawsuit against the Texas law.

[Georgia D.A. Requests Grand Jury to Probe Trump Bid to Overturn 2020 Vote](#)

January 20, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The top prosecutor for Georgia’s most populous county has requested a special grand jury to investigate efforts to overturn Georgia’s 2020 election results, the first indication in months that a probe is proceeding into the actions of former President Donald Trump and supporters after his loss in the state.

[Texas, Arizona Have Recovered All the Jobs Lost When Covid-19 Hit](#)

January 18, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Texas and Arizona have joined two other states in recovering all the jobs they lost at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, leading a trend that is expected to include another dozen states by the middle of this year. The states, which also include Utah and Idaho, have benefited from demographic shifts before and during the pandemic—experiencing outsize payroll growth in retail,

warehousing, technology and transportation industries. Companies have moved operations to the states, and workers have moved in as well, sometimes leaving more crowded and expensive urban areas. The states—all Republican controlled—also have had relatively relaxed Covid-19 restrictions during the pandemic, which economists say softened the blow on their economies.

[Pennsylvania's candidate-packed, toss-up, celebrity-laden Senate race could decide control of Congress](#)

January 15, 2022, USA Today

If Democrats are going to hold the Senate, they must win the very few closely contested states up for grabs – particularly Pennsylvania, a politically divided state that includes volatile sections like this old industrial corner of the southwest. Democrats in western Pennsylvania fully believe they will decide the political fate of the Senate in a unique 2022 contest: the most populous state with a toss-up Senate race, and probably a close contest for an open seat in a state that President Joe Biden carried.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[A Contemporary Analysis of India–EU Cooperation in Counterterrorism](#)

January 17, 2022, ORF

India and the EU— one, the world’s second largest population and the other, a union of states home to less than half of India’s population but collectively the world’s third largest economy—have overlapping interests in the international order. They both want to perpetuate democratic norms and a rules-based order, and to securitise those norms. Despite commonalities, however, as highlighted by EU’s high Representative for the Common Foreign Policy and Security Policy, Javier Solana, the bilateral relationship has underperformed.

[Foreign Secretary suggests European states to avoid debt traps & build eco linkages](#)

January 21, 2022, The Economic Times

Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla in a subtle message to Europe on Friday suggested the continent to reduce its economic dependence on China and avoid debt traps and called for building economic linkages.

[BRI in Central and Eastern Europe: China’s gateway to EU](#)

January 20, 2022, The Economic Times

China has been exploiting the BRI, to focus on the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) for land connectivity with the European Union (EU) and increase its influence in the region. Yet Slovenia after Lithuania has taken a stand on Taiwan that has irked Beijing. Slovenia will allow Taiwan to open a representative office in its capital under the name Taiwan.

[EU, China plan summit in March, Borrell says](#)

January 16, 2022, Taipei Times

The EU and China are planning to hold a summit in late March, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said on Friday amid concerns over a Chinese blockade of Lithuania’s exports.

[China’s Bullying of Lithuania Spurs European Unity](#)

January 18, 2022, Carnegie Europe

Beijing has gone to great lengths to punish Lithuania for opening a Taiwanese representative office. In the long run, China’s tactics may end up making the EU stronger and more resilient.

Russia

[How to Halt Putin's Ukraine Push](#)

January 17, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

As the Ukrainian crisis deepens, there is only one option that would stop a Russian invasion—and that is the one that all the serious players in Washington say is off the table: dispatching an American and coalition force to defend Ukraine. Vladimir Putin is not ready for war with the U.S.; informing his gamble is a well-grounded conviction that America is not committed enough to Ukraine to defend it by force.

[Kremlin identifies 'red line' in NATO-Russia relations](#)

January 16, 2022, Russia Today

NATO's "gradual invasion" into Ukraine has brought the US-led bloc right up to Moscow's "red line," the Kremlin has told CNN. President Vladimir Putin's spokesman says the situation poses an imminent threat to European security.

[Russia Rejects Claim That Security Proposals are Attempt to Restore 'Spheres of Influence'](#)

January 17, 2022, Sputnik News

Moscow rejects claims made by Western officials and media that its security proposals constitute an attempt to reconstitute 'spheres of influence' in the world, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko has said.

[India begins deploying Russia-made S-400 air defense systems – paper](#)

January 17, 2022, TASS News Agency

India has begun work on deploying the first regiment of S-400 'Triumf' surface-to-air missile systems purchased from Russia. The first S-400 unit will be made operational in early April. Overall, India intends to deploy five S-400 regiments purchased from Russia, it said.

[NASA warns that Russia module may be isolated from rest of space station](#)

January 19, 2022, Russia Today

A Russian International Space Station (ISS) module has been experiencing air leaks and may need to be permanently isolated from the rest of the facility, NASA has announced.

[Iran, Russia, China to Stage Indian Ocean War Games](#)

January 20, 2022, The Moscow Times

Iran, Russia, and China will begin on Friday joint naval drills for three days in the Indian Ocean, seeking to reinforce "common security," an Iranian naval

official said. The announcement of the manoeuvres coincides with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's official visit to Moscow, where he said Tehran has "no limits for expanding ties with Russia."

[Russia Sends All Sputnik V Data to WHO, Visit of Experts Expected in Q1](#)

January 20, 2022, Sputnik News

Russia has sent all data on the Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine to the World Health Organization (WHO), a visit of its experts to Russia is expected in the first quarter, tentatively in February, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said.

[Central Bank seeks ban on issuance, mining, circulation of cryptocurrencies in Russia](#)

January 20, 2022, TASS News Agency

The Bank of Russia has proposed to ban the issuance, mining and circulation of cryptocurrencies in Russia in order to alleviate the dangers caused by the proliferation of cryptocurrencies, the regulator said in a report.

[Russian Lawmakers to Decide on Recognizing Ukraine Separatist 'Republics'](#)

January 21, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian lawmakers have scheduled a hearing next week on whether to recognize the independence of two pro-Russian separatist regions of Ukraine, Russia's parliament speaker said Friday as pro-Kremlin lawmakers suggested the move would trigger full-scale war between Moscow and Kyiv.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[5 priorities for Africa in 2022](#)

January 18, 2022, World Economic Forum

A failure to restore trust and solidarity will likely result in a divergence in the global economic recovery, partly reflecting inequitable access to vaccines and financing. Africa's rapid economic and social change will give the continent a bigger role in world global affairs and the global economy. Here are five ways in which the world and Africa can work together to restore trust on solidarity on key priorities for the region's development.

[The contrasting role of India and China in Africa](#)

January 18, 2022, Financial Express

Trade between China and Africa increased by 700% during the 1990s, and China is currently Africa's largest trading partner. Unlike China which has concentrated on creating infrastructure and in extracting natural resources, India through its investments of over \$11b, has focused on its core competencies of human resources development, information technology, maritime security, education and health care.

[Kenya is refusing to release the loan contracts for its Chinese-built railway](#)

January 20, 2022, Quartz

Kenya has declined to make public the loan contracts for its Chinese-built railway in response to a court petition by two activists, saying they have non-disclosure clauses and that releasing them would amount to breaching a bilateral agreement, impairing relations between Kenya and China. This sheds light on the secrecy surrounding Chinese deals with developing countries, which experts say complicates debt renegotiation.

[Israel's return to African Union is creating division among member states](#)

January 18, 2022, The Africa Report

Israel is preparing to open a new chapter in its long relationship with the continent by obtaining observer status at the AU in February 2022. First granted last July, this accreditation was denounced in September by more than 20 member countries, which were upset that Moussa Faki Mahamat had presented it as a fait accompli.

[Africa renews push for favorable UN Security Council reforms](#)

January 20, 2022, ABC News

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni is urging U_N_ Security Council reforms that would give Africa permanent representation there, saying such changes would prevent "aggression against Africa."

Latin America

[U.S. airs concerns over Mexico energy plan, points to economic risk](#)

January 22, 2022, Reuters

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm on Friday flagged concerns about Mexico's plan to tighten state control of the electricity market, saying it could impede investment and economic development in North America.

[China's 2021 soy imports from U.S. rise while Brazilian shipments fall](#)

January 20, 2022, Reuters

China's soybean imports from the United States in 2021 rose from the previous year as it stepped up agricultural purchases under a trade deal agreed with Washington, while annual Brazilian shipments fell, customs data showed.

[Argentina signs 3 memorandums with China to modernize railways](#)

January 20, 2022, Bnamericas

The transport minister, Alexis Guerrero, and the head of Trenes Argentinos Infraestructura y Operaciones, Martin Marinucci, signed three memorandums of understanding for the analysis and evaluation of concession financing for the execution of railway projects.

[United States confident Argentina will reach IMF deal, says senior official](#)

January 21, 2022, Buenos Aires

Washington is confident Argentina will reach an agreement with the IMF to restructure its multi-billion dollar debt, and is ready to support that process, a senior US official said.

[Four jailed for plot to smuggle cocaine through Russia's embassy in Argentina](#)

January 20, 2022, The Guardian

A Russian court has sentenced four men to lengthy jail terms for trying to smuggle nearly 400kg (880lb) of cocaine in suitcases from the Russian embassy in Argentina.



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