



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

[Navy's largest exercise Milan to bring together over 35 countries](#)

February 11, 2022, The Hindu

The Navy is set to hold the 12th President's Fleet Review (PFR) on February 21 at Visakhapatnam and few days from that it will host the largest multilateral exercise in this region, Milan 2022, which will see participation of all major Navies including Quad countries, Russia and from West Asia amid tensions in Ukraine and developments in West Asia.

[US Navy delegation visits Western Naval Command in Mumbai](#)

February 11, 2022, Deccan Herald

In a significant development, a ten member United States Navy delegation led by Rear Admiral Leonard visited the Mumbai headquartered Western Naval Command, the sword arm of the Indian Navy.

[Myanmar and Pakistan in arms deal, guided by China](#)

February 11, 2022, The Economic Times

Pakistan's military partnership with India's eastern neighbour Myanmar is gathering momentum with a senior level military delegation from the Directorate of Military Procurement from the SE Asian country scheduled to visit Pakistan for pre-shipment inspection of arms.

[The BrahMos deal and India's defence exports](#)

February 8, 2022, The Hindu

On January 28, Philippines signed a \$374.96 million deal with BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. for the supply of shore based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. This is the first export order for the missile which is a joint product between India and Russia and also the biggest defence export contract of the country. This adds impetus to the efforts to boost defence exports and meet the ambitious target set by the Government to achieve a manufacturing turnover of \$25 billion or ₹1,75,000 crore including exports of ₹35,000 crore in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2025.

[India doesn't follow national sanctions: Jaishankar on Myanmar at Quad meet](#)

February 12, 2022, The Times of India

As the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada work towards ensuring 'accountability' for the military coup in Myanmar by imposing fresh sanctions on more local officials, India Friday said it didn't follow the policy of 'national

sanctions". The assertion by foreign minister S Jaishankar came in the presence of US secretary of state Antony Blinken in the joint Quad press conference in Melbourne.

[At India-Australia Talks, A Vow For Inclusive Growth In Indo-Pacific](#)

February 12, 2022, NDTV

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said at a joint press conference, he and his Australian counterpart Marise Payne held productive, useful, and wide-ranging discussions.

Pakistan

[\\$3 bn Stream Gas Pipeline: Pak-Russia talks remain inconclusive over sovereign guarantees](#)

February 11, 2022, The News

The three-day Pakistan and Russia talks on Shareholding and Facilitation Agreements on \$3 billion Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project (PSGP) ended on a positive note but the issue of Pakistan defaulting on its sovereign guarantees extended to Russian lenders remained unresolved. This sticking point may prevent the signing of the shareholding and facilitation agreement during Prime Minister Imran Khan's Russia visit.

[Pak, Royal Saudi forces start joint training](#)

February 9, 2022, The News

A contingent of Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) arrived for Joint Mechanized Training, to be conducted for two months, at Multan Garrison to strengthen the military cooperation between Pakistan Army and the Saudi Royal Forces.

[Pakistan, China pledge to maintain defence cooperation momentum](#)

February 7, 2022, The News

Pakistan and China agreed to continue the momentum in defence cooperation at various levels between the armed forces of the two countries. They underscored that stronger defence and security cooperation between Pakistan and China was an important factor of peace and stability in the region.

[Pakistan's gross financing needs may peak to \\$41.8bn by FY24](#)

February 6, 2022, The News

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that Pakistan's external gross financing needs will peak to \$41.8 billion at the end of this government's five-year term, which concludes in the fiscal year 2023-24. In the same breath, the lender of the last resort strongly suggested enforcing a rigorous fiscal

discipline regime, boosting cash flow management via a treasury single account, constituting a central debt management office, etc to ease the burden of surging gross financing needs on economy in the medium term.

[IMF wants Pakistan to 'do more' than just levying taxes](#)

February 9, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan should not be limited to taking measures related to tax alone, but it should also find other ways to enhance the competitiveness of the economy, said IMF's Resident Representative Ms Esther Perez Ruiz.

[TTP still active with up to 5,000 fighters: UN](#)

February 9, 2022, Dawn

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) still has between 3,000 and 5,000 fighters in Afghanistan, reports a team of UN monitors. The report, sent to the UN Security Council, also warns that a Taliban-run "Afghanistan has the potential to become a safe haven for Al Qaeda and a number of terror groups with ties to the Central Asia region and beyond".

[South Punjab is most deprived region in province: UNDP](#)

February 9, 2022, Dawn

The poor endowment of social services in south Punjab has raised the issue of whether the region has been 'neglected' in the provincial and local development allocations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) says in a new report. South Punjab is the most deprived region in the province in terms of basic services, such as sanitation facilities, and data shows only 56.2 per cent of the population uses improved sanitation facilities.

[Five soldiers martyred as Afghan-based terrorists target post in Kurram](#)

February 7, 2022, Dawn

Five soldiers were martyred and four others suffered injuries when terrorists from across the Afghan border attacked a post in Kurram tribal district during. Informed sources said that Angoor Tangi, a check-post adjacent to Afghanistan's Khost province, was targeted by the attackers.

[Islamabad, Beijing vow to boost links at all levels](#)

February 7, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to strengthen institutional links at all levels, cementing mutual strategic, diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries.

[FM Qureshi says will make follow-up visit to China next month](#)

February 7, 2022, Dawn

Terming Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China "extremely successful and productive, more than their expectations", Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that he would undertake a follow-up visit to Beijing next month where he would also participate in a conference of the "immediate neighbours of Afghanistan".

[Accord signed with China for industrial cooperation](#)

February 5, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan's Board of Investment (BoI) and China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) signed the much-needed 'Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation' that will inter alia facilitate relocation of industries as well as investment from China and other parts of the world to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan.

[SBP receives \\$1.05bn IMF tranche](#)

February 5, 2022, Dawn

The much-awaited International Monetary Fund (IMF) tranche of over \$1 billion was received by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The latest tranche will help improve the country's investment environment and increase foreign exchange reserves.

[ECC extends Saindak contract to Chinese firms](#)

February 10, 2022, Dawn

The government approved pricing guidelines for the supply of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to K-Electric along with amendments to the existing legal framework and extended agreement with Saindak Copper-Gold Project with existing Chinese contractors for another 15 years.

[19 killed in avalanche on Afghan-Pakistan border](#)

February 8, 2022, Dawn

At least 19 people were killed by an avalanche while crossing a remote mountain pass from Afghanistan to Pakistan. Scores of Afghans cross illegally to Pakistan every day through the porous mountain border in search of jobs or to buy essential goods for trade.

Afghanistan

[Only five Afghanistan hospitals still treating Covid-19 patients](#)

February 11, 2022, Dawn

Only five hospitals in Afghanistan still offer Covid-19 treatment, with 33 others having been forced to close in recent months for lack of doctors, medicines and even heating.

[Taliban can take part in reward for catching IS leader, says US](#)

February 11, 2022, Dawn

The US government has had "a number of conversations" with Afghanistan's Taliban rulers on plans to counter the Khorasan faction of the militant Islamic State (IS) group, according to officials. At a news briefing in Washington, they said the Taliban could also benefit from the two \$10 million reward offers, for catching the Khorasan chief and his associates.

[Taliban detain UNHCR staff, two foreign journalists](#)

February 12, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban have detained two foreign journalists on assignment with the UN refugee agency and a number of its Afghan staff working in the country's capital. The development in Kabul comes as President Joe Biden was expected to issue an executive order that would allow US financial institutions to facilitate access to \$3.5 billion of assets for Afghan aid.

[Terror groups enjoy greater freedom in Afghanistan than any time in recent history: U.N. report](#)

February 9, 2022, The Hindu

Terror groups enjoy greater freedom in Afghanistan than at any time in recent history and there are no signs that the Taliban leadership has taken steps to limit the activities of foreign terrorists in the war-torn country, a report of the U.N. Secretary-General has said. The report says the dreaded Islamic State terrorist group aims to position itself as the "chief rejectionist force" in Afghanistan, expands into neighbouring Central and South Asian countries and is viewed by the Taliban as its primary armed threat.

[CENTCOM needs more resources to counter Afghanistan terror threat: nominee](#)

February 8, 2022, Military Times

Military leaders need to invest more in intelligence capabilities — particularly informants on the ground — if they expect to be able to continue effective counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan, according to the White House's

pick to head U.S. Central Command. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Kurilla, in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee. During his confirmation hearing, he said that maintaining "over the horizon" monitoring of Afghanistan is "extremely difficult, but not impossible" in the wake of the American military exit there last summer.

[Biden proposes splitting billions in Afghanistan funds between 9/11 victims and humanitarian aid](#)

February 12, 2022, The Washington Times

President Biden began clearing a pathway for releasing about \$3.5 billion in frozen Afghan reserve funds held in the United States to be used for humanitarian and other assistance in Afghanistan, while an equal amount would be reserved for families of 9/11 victims who have legal claims against the Taliban.

Bangladesh

[India, Bangladesh and Pakistan have new opportunities – exporting online labour to the West](#)

February 12, 2022, The Print

Asia has the highest mobile phone users globally; around two-thirds of people use mobile services, and there is still room for further expansion.

[Bangladesh-UK to hold first defence dialogue in March](#)

February 6, 2022, The Daily Star

Bangladesh will hold its first ever defence dialogue with the UK in March this year as the two countries seek to take the bilateral relationship to a strategic level for the shared objectives of prosperity and security.

Nepal

[Ground report: China imposes 'undeclared blockade' against Nepal](#)

February 10, 2022, WION

China's imposition of 'undeclared blockade' against Nepal has severely disrupted traffic of consumer items across the border between the two countries. This is resulting in loss of millions of rupees. China is attempting to tighten its grip on Rasuwagadhi and Tatopani, the two most crucial trading points.

[Nepal govt's row with China may flare up over alleged encroachment](#)

February 9, 2022, The Times of India

An "official" Nepal government report leaked to BBC has accused China of encroaching into the Himalayan nation's territory. The development is expected to further fan the border strife that saw Nepal form a high-level panel to look into the alleged encroachments.

[India-Nepal Territorial Dispute Flares up Again](#)

February 09, 2022, The Diplomat

Indian Prime Minister Modi spoke of a road through disputed Lipulekh, that could deepen anti-India nationalism in Nepal.

Sri Lanka

[In talks with India on two Dornier aircraft: Sri Lanka FM](#)

February 10, 2022, The Indian Express

Peiris, who assumed office in August 2021, said relations between India and Sri Lanka had reached a "high point". India's concerns about China, which he said had no "rational basis", had been "consigned to the past".

[Sri Lankan envoy meets finance minister Sitharaman to discuss \\$1-bn line of credit](#)

February 11, 2022, Hindustan Times

The progress in finalising the \$1-billion line of credit was last reviewed at a virtual meeting between Rajapaksa and external affairs minister S Jaishankar on January 18.

[Sri Lanka takes emergency measures to avoid food crisis](#)

February 11, 2022, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka is trying to replenish its food stock to avoid an imminent food crisis. Recently, Sri Lankan Commerce Ministry signed an agreement with its Myanmar's counterpart for import of rice to augment its food stock. Under the agreement, Myanmar would sell up to 1000,000 metric tons of white rice and 50,000 metric tons of paraboiled rice to Sri Lanka.

East & South East Asia

China

[China-Russia Statement: A quest for diversity](#)

February 12, 2022, Global Times

On February 4, on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a Joint Statement on the International Relations Entering a New Era and the Global Sustainable Development. It is a rather lengthy document, outlining common approaches of China and Russia to some of the most fundamental issues of the modern world including regional and worldwide security, democracy and political inclusion, social justice and climate change, arms control and nuclear non-proliferation, national sovereignty and multilateralism.

[US ropes in Quad allies to fight 'two-front wars' with China and Russia despite spent force](#)

February 11, 2022, Global Times

The sign is clearer than ever that the US is turning Quad into a tool to serve its own strategic goal of countering China and Russia simultaneously, observers said, as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken brought the topic of the Ukraine crisis to the Friday meeting of Quad foreign ministers even though this group of US, Australia, Japan and India was formed for "Indo-Pacific" affairs and to target China.

[BBC correspondent blocks Chinese follower after being asked to 'report China objectively,' revealing foreign media's long-standing double standards](#)

February 11, 2022, Global Times

Some foreign media have been hyping affairs related to Beijing 2022 long before the Games began. In the latest example, BBC's China correspondent Stephen McDonnell blocked a follower from the Chinese mainland after the latter asked him to be objective and balanced in his reporting on the Games, given his continued indulgence in double standards, sarcasm and ignorance of the facts.

[Malta-China ties expected to be enhanced in 2022, says Maltese president](#)

February 12, 2022, Xinhua

Malta and China have strengthened economic and cultural ties in recent years, and the relations are expected to be enhanced, said Maltese President George Vella here.

[Top-level exchanges between China, Mideast to deepen mutual trust, cooperation](#)

February 7, 2022, Xinhua

Following the grand opening ceremony of the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday held a flurry of meetings with leaders from the Middle East, charting the course for ever closer ties marked by deepening political trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

[China to empower modern financial system by 2025](#)

February 9, 2022, CGTN

China's financial regulators issued a plan to advance standardization of the financial sector over the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) on Tuesday, aiming to establish a financial standard system to fit modern finance by 2025.

[China suspends beef imports from Lithuania](#)

February 10, 2022, CGTN

China suspended Lithuanian beef imports, the country's General Administration of Customs said in a notice, without providing further information.

Japan

[Moon expects next S Korean government to improve ties with Japan](#)

February 12, 2022, Japan Today

South Korean President Moon Jae In has expressed expectations that the government led by his successor, to be picked in an election next month, will keep striving to improve ties with Japan, describing it as a leftover task from his presidency.

[Japan's Infrastructure Investment in Northeast India](#)

February 8, 2022, The Diplomat

Japan has invested around \$2 billion in improving infrastructure in India's Northeast, which Tokyo sees as a crucial part of its own Free and Open Indo-Pacific Vision. Beijing urges Japanese politicians not to harm China's sovereignty after Shizo Abe held talks with Taiwanese President.

[EAM Jaishankar meets his Japanese counterpart in Australia ahead of Quad meeting](#)

February 12, 2022, Daily Excelsior

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi met here on Friday and discussed a range of bilateral and global issues of mutual interest ahead of a crucial meeting of Quad foreign ministers.

[Weak supply chain link: Japan reliant on Chinese phones, laptops](#)

February 6, 2022, Nikkei Asia

China accounts for a larger share of imports in Japan than in other major economies, heightening the risk posed by supply chain disruptions there, a report released Thursday by the Japanese government warned. The latest edition of the Cabinet Office's twice-yearly World Economic Trends report looked at Japanese, American and German goods trade with China. Japan got 23.3% of its imports from China in 2019, compared with 18.1% in the U.S. and 8.5% in Germany, the data shows.

[China becomes top importer of Japanese food for 1st time](#)

February 6, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Mainland China became the largest importer of Japanese food products for the first-time last year, dethroning longtime leader Hong Kong. Exports of food, farm, forestry and marine products to mainland China surged 35.2% to 222.4 billion yen (\$1.93 billion) in 2021, official data released Friday shows. Japanese sake, whisky and snack foods were among the most popular items.

[U.S. rolls back Trump-era tariff on Japanese steel](#)

February 8, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. has reached a deal with Japan that will lift a portion of the additional 25% tariff imposed on steel imports under former President Donald Trump in 2018. Washington will introduce a tariff-rate quota under the agreement announced Monday, suspending the duties on Japanese steel shipments up to 1.25 million tons a year -- the average imported in 2018 and 2019 -- starting April 1.

[Rahm Emanuel emphasizes importance of U.S. being in Asia](#)

February 8, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The United States intends to maintain its strong Indo-Pacific presence as it strengthens its economic dialogue with key regional partners, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel said on Tuesday. "We understand, and our allies in the Indo-Pacific understand, the importance of America's presence," Emanuel said in a phone interview with Nikkei Asia.

[Kishida says Japan looking to ease entry restrictions on foreign workers and students](#)

February 12, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan will ease its tight entry restrictions for non-resident foreign nationals this month, gradually allowing in more business travellers and students, the Nikkei business daily reported Saturday, after mounting frustration over the stringent curbs..

[Japanese Foreign Ministry urges citizens to immediately leave Ukraine](#)

February 11, 2022, TASS

The Japanese Foreign Ministry announced on Friday it has decided to raise the threat level of being on the territory of Ukraine to the maximum fourth and calls on its citizens to immediately leave the country's territory.

[Japan, Australia agree to propel revision of security declaration](#)

February 12, 2022, Kyodo News

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and his Australian counterpart Marise Payne agreed Saturday to "work strenuously" toward revising their 2007 joint declaration on security cooperation, the Japanese government said, apparently in the face of China's increasing military presence.

[Japan's Changing ODA Diplomacy](#)

February 10, 2022, The Diplomat

From ending aid to China to a new emphasis on health amid the pandemic, Japan's Official Development Assistance is evolving.

Korea

[Korean trade chief to visit Britain, Switzerland for trade meetings](#)

February 7, 2022, The Korea Times

Trade Minister Yeo Han-koo will visit London and Geneva this week to explore ways to enhance trade cooperation with Britain and various international organizations. During his two-day visit to London beginning Monday, Yeo is scheduled to hold an initial meeting of the Korea-Britain free trade agreement (FTA) committee with his British counterpart to check the implementation of the bilateral trade pact and plans for negotiations for possible revisions, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

[Moon meets with Cambodian PM](#)

February 11, 2022, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in held a meeting with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Friday, and discussed ways to enhance exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, including a bilateral free trade agreement. During the meeting, Moon described Cambodia as a major partner for South Korea's economic strategy of reducing its reliance on China, noting that relations between the two countries "have dynamically developed in various fields."

[Korea, US not mulling additional THAAD deployment: defense ministry](#)

February 7, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea and the United States are not considering the deployment of an additional Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system here, Seoul's defense ministry said Monday amid a heated debate on the issue rekindled ahead of the March 9 presidential election. Ministry spokesperson Boo Seung-chan made the remarks following a media report that government-commissioned research in 2015 noted the need for South Korea's military to acquire its own THAAD battery, separate from the one operated by the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK).

[Lee pledges to seek constitutional revision for renewable, 4-year presidential term](#)

February 11, 2022, The Korea Herald

Ruling party presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung pledged Friday to pursue a constitutional revision if elected to change the current single, five-year presidential term to a renewable, four-year term. Lee of the liberal Democratic Party has talked about the idea before, saying he would gladly become the first president to shorten their term to four

Southeast Asia

[India is in discussion with ASEAN to start FTA review: Patel](#)

February 9, 2022, The Times of India

India is in discussion with the 10-nation bloc ASEAN for initiating the review of the free-trade agreement in goods between the two regions to seek more market access for domestic products, Parliament was informed on.

[India, ASEAN can develop entire ecosystem for renewable energy: R K Singh](#)

February 7, 2022, The Economic Times

Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh on Monday said India and ASEAN together can develop the entire ecosystem for renewable energy (RE) and explore the joint initiative for building RE manufacturing hubs in the region.

[Philippines takes cue from India & defer RCEP ratification](#)

February 12, 2022, The Economic Times

Philippines Senate has deferred ratification of RCEP after Farmers and other civil society groups in the SE Asian country took cue from New Delhi's decision to stay out of RCEP and expressed strong reservations against the mega trade deal signed by the Duterte government.

[Chinese potshots at QUAD betrays Beijing's insecurity](#)

February 10, 2022, Hindustan Times

By describing QUAD as a confrontational bloc, China has displayed its middle-kingdom mentality, where a rapidly rising Beijing is at the centre of the globe and the rest are only vassal states.

[India, ASEAN in talks to start FTA review](#)

February 10, 2022, The Hindu

India is in discussion with the 10-nation bloc ASEAN for initiating the review of the FTA (free-trade agreement) in goods between the two regions to seek more market access for domestic products, Parliament was informed.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Central Asia leaders queue for Xi time in Beijing](#)

February 4, 2022, Eurasianet

Central Asia's leaders were never going to join a diplomatic boycott of Beijing's showpiece Winter Olympics. Face time with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the region's top hope for trade and investment, is too precious. No other region in the world was as solidly represented by its heads of state at the dazzling February 4 opening ceremony in Beijing's "Bird's Nest" stadium.

[HRW Urges Independent Inquiry Into Deadly Kazakh Protests](#)

February 9, 2022, RFE/RL

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on the Kazakh authorities to invite international experts to join its domestic investigative efforts into serious human rights violations during a deadly wave of unrest in the country last month.

[Kazakhstan: President demands plan for the repatriation of offshore assets](#)

February 9, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has given the government a two-month deadline to develop a plan for repatriating what he described as vast sums of money illegally spirited out of the country.

[Is Turkmenistan Planning A Leadership Change?](#)

February 10, 2022, RFE/RL

Speculation is rife that Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov may move toward formally clearing the way for his son, Serdar, to be his heir apparent when an extraordinary session of the upper parliament is held on February 11.

[Kyrgyzstan prosecutors threaten to take sting out of critical media](#)

February 10, 2022, Eurasianet

On February 1, prosecutors announced that they were initiating criminal proceedings against independent media outlet Kaktus on the unusual charge of "war propaganda." The accusation comes in response to the outlet reprinting a report by a Tajik news website during a bout of border unrest late last month. Informing readers about the other country's narrative on those events, Kyrgyz prosecutors say, is a criminal offense.

[Kyrgyz Opposition Politician Investigated Over Land Deal Near Tajik Border](#)

February 10, 2022, RFE/RL

Adakhan Madumarov, a Kyrgyz lawmaker and the leader of opposition Butun (United) Kyrgyzstan party, says a probe has been launched against him into allegations that he committed treason over a real estate deal signed 12 years ago.

West Asia

[India, Oman to Look at New Avenues for Defence Industry Cooperation](#)

February 01, 2022, The Indian Express

India and Oman agreed to identify new avenues and examine areas of mutual interest for joint ventures to enhance the defence industry cooperation between the two countries.

[Abu Bakar, One of India's Most Wanted Terrorists and 1993 Mumbai Blast Accused, Held in UAE](#)

February 04, 2022, India Today

In a major operation overseas, Indian agencies have succeeded in apprehending one of India's most wanted terrorists involved in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case.

[India, Bahrain Ties Has Seen Progress in Diverse Sectors Including Energy, Health, Trade and Investment: MEA](#)

February 01, 2022, ANI

PM Narendra Modi spoke to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad al Khalifa, Crown Prince and PM of Bahrain, and reviewed bilateral relations.

[US Will Designate Qatar as Major Non-NATO Ally, President Biden Tells Emir](#)

January 31, 2022, AL Jazeera

The United States is planning to designate Qatar as a major non-NATO ally, President Joe Biden has told Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, a move that would formally upgrade the partnership between Doha and Washington.

[Iraq Top Target of China's Belt and Road \(BRI\) in 2021: Study](#)

February 04, 2022, Taipei Times

Iraq was the top target for China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative in 2021, receiving US\$10.5 billion in financing for projects including a heavy oil

power plant, according to a study published by the Green Finance and Development Centre at Shanghai's Fudan University.

[Iran: US Sanctions Move 'Good But Not Enough'](#)

February 06, 2022, Arab News

The US State Department said it was waiving sanctions on Iran's civilian nuclear program in a technical step necessary to return to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

[Waived Iran Sanctions Allow Redesign of Fordo Plant, Cooperation with Russia, China](#)

February 06, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel is yet to officially respond to move by US, but sources say that relief on Tehran's civil atomic program is a technical step, not a sign of progress in nuclear talks.

[Israel Participates in Huge US Mideast Naval Exercise](#)

February 02, 2022, AL Jazeera

Israel is taking part in a huge US-led naval exercise in the Middle East, for the first time publicly joining Saudi Arabia and Oman, two countries it has no diplomatic relations with despite its normalization of ties with some Gulf states.

[Israel To Operate Laser-Based Defence System Within Year: PM](#)

February 02, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, said that the nation's army will deploy a laser air defence system to intercept drones, missiles and UAVs within one year. Bennett made the announcement at the annual international conference of the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS).

[UAE and Israel Expanding "Security Cooperation"](#)

February 06, 2022, Tehran Times

Israel and the United Arab Emirates are expanding both their security and intelligence cooperation following an increase in attacks carried out by Yemen's Houthis against targets in the UAE.

[ISIS Leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi Dead After U.S. Raid in Syria, President Biden Says](#)

February 03, 2022, The Washington Post

U.S. troops carried out a raid in northwest Syria that led the Islamic State's top leader to kill himself and his family as American forces closed in, President

Biden said, capping months of secretive planning for an assault designed to minimize the risk to innocent bystanders.

[Crude Oil Tests \\$95 Per Barrel; Saudi Arabia Increases Oil Prices](#)

February 07, 2022, Business Standard

Saudi Arabia raised oil prices for customers in Asia, the US and Europe after crude's surge to almost \$95 a barrel.

United States

United States

[U.S. Inflation Rate Accelerates to a 40-Year High of 7.5%](#)

February 10, 2022, Wall Street Journal

A relentless surge in U.S. inflation reached another four-decade high last month, accelerating to a 7.5% annual rate as strong consumer demand collided with pandemic-related supply disruptions. The Labour Department on Thursday said the consumer-price index—which measures what consumers pay for goods and services—in January reached its highest level since February 1982, when compared with the same month a year ago. That put inflation above December's 7% annual rate and well above the 1.8% annual rate for inflation in 2019 ahead of the pandemic.

[U.S. Says Russia Could Invade Ukraine at Any Time](#)

February 12, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The White House said Friday it believes Russia could invade Ukraine at any time with a major military action and urged Americans to leave the country as soon as possible. In the White House briefing room Friday, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the U.S. wouldn't conduct a military evacuation of citizens from a war zone. He said Americans should leave Ukraine on their own in the next 24 to 48 hours while land, rail and air routes out of the country remain open, in the most pointed directive yet from the White House.

[US to evacuate Ukraine embassy in Kyiv amid Russian invasion fears](#)

February 12, 2022, USA Today

The United States is set to evacuate its embassy in Kyiv as Western intelligence officials warn that a Russian invasion of Ukraine is increasingly imminent. U.S. officials say the State Department plans to announce early Saturday that all American staff at the Kyiv embassy will be required to leave the country ahead of a feared Russian invasion. The State Department would not comment.

[Biden picks former sanctions enforcer as ambassador to South Korea](#)

February 12, 2022, Nikkei Asia

U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Friday he intends to nominate Philip Goldberg, a career diplomat and a former North Korea sanctions enforcer, as ambassador to South Korea, a White House statement said. Goldberg has served since 2019 as ambassador to Colombia and previously as charge d'affaires in Cuba and ambassador to the Philippines and Bolivia, among other postings.

[U.S. vows stepped-up Indo-Pacific effort in push back against China](#)

February 12, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The United States vowed on Friday to commit more diplomatic and security resources to the Indo-Pacific to push back against what it sees as China's bid to create a regional sphere of influence and become the world's most influential power. In a 12-page strategy overview, the Biden administration said it would focus on every corner of the region from South Asia to the Pacific Islands to strengthen its long-term position and commitment.

[Collapse of Nvidia deal costs SoftBank an Arm and a leg](#)

February 11, 2022, Nikkei Asia

SoftBank's deal to sell the chip designer Arm to U.S. semiconductor giant Nvidia was worth \$66 billion on paper when it collapsed this week -- more than twice what SoftBank paid for the U.K. business in 2016. Now, instead of a fat profit from a sale, SoftBank is looking at an initial public offering for Arm in which it might struggle to break even.

[U.S. to host APEC in 2023 in push for Indo-Pacific economic pact](#)

February 11, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. will play host to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in 2023, the White House said Thursday. "President [Joe] Biden and Vice President [Kamala] Harris offered to host APEC next year because of our focus on expanding and deepening economic ties in the region -- and we thank our fellow APEC economies for supporting the U.S. offer to host," press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[India to benefit from USD 21.5 mn EU funding for infra investments](#)

February 10, 2022, The Print

India alongwith five South Asian nations are set to benefit from a new USD 21.5 million funding from the European Union (EU), which will help to accelerate climate-smart, inclusive infrastructure investments in the region.

[EU, China set April 1 summit amid tension on trade, geopolitics](#)

February 11, 2022, Politico

The meeting is widely seen as a high-stakes diplomatic effort to calm the recently escalating trade and geopolitical tensions between the two, particularly over Lithuania. It will also be held against the background of China's deepening ties with Russia, which is currently posing the biggest security threat to Europe since the end of the Cold War over what the West says is a likely Russian invasion of Ukraine.

[Canada seeks to join EU challenge against China at WTO](#)

February 10, 2022, Reuters

Canada will seek to join the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia to be included in consultations as part of the European Union's dispute with China at the World Trade Organization over Beijing's alleged trade curbs on Lithuania.

[Britain joins EU-China WTO challenge over Lithuania](#)

February 8, 2022, Reuters

Britain will join the United States and Australia in backing a European Union trade case against China at the World Trade Organization over Beijing's alleged trade curbs on Lithuania, a move the UK trade minister said would oppose "coercive trading practices".

[French EU presidency: What's in it for China?](#)

February 12, 2022, Macau Business

On 1 January, France took the helm of the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first half of 2022. Priorities range from creating a more sovereign Europe, to developing a new European model for growth and a more "humane Europe". But what about China? Is the new presidency to bring a breath of fresh air for the Sino-European relationship?

Russia

[Xi Meets Putin as Tensions Rise With West](#)

February 4, 2022, The Moscow Times

China's President Xi Jinping held his first face-to-face talks with a world leader in nearly two years, meeting Russia's Vladimir Putin who hailed "unprecedented" ties between the neighbors as tensions grow with the West.

[Russia sounds alarm over military drones in Ukraine](#)

February 5, 2022, Russia Today

An agreement inked between Ankara and Kiev, which could soon see Turkish military drones being mass produced in Ukraine, has come under fire from one of Russia's most senior politicians, who has argued that the plan risks greater confrontation when tensions are so high.

[Japan issues protest to Russia against upcoming shooting practice near Kurils](#)

February 7, 2022, TASS News Agency

The Japanese government has issued a protest to Russia over a forthcoming shooting practice in the southern part of the Kuril Islands, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a press conference.

[Kremlin confirms arrangements for visit of Pakistani PM to Russia](#)

February 7, 2022, TASS News Agency

Preparations for a visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan to Moscow are underway and the Kremlin will report the exact date in a timely fashion, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

[Russia names condition for talks on new nuclear deal](#)

February 7, 2022, Russia Today

The chances of clinching a major deal to reduce the risk of nuclear war will depend on current talks about NATO expansions and tensions in eastern Europe, a top Russian official has said.

[Six Russian Warships Sailing From Mediterranean To Black Sea For Drills](#)

February 8, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia says six warships from its navy are heading to the Black Sea from the Mediterranean to take part in military maneuvers amid heightened tensions with the West over Moscow's troop buildup on its border with Ukraine, which has raised fears of a possible invasion of the former Soviet republic.

[Moscow Has No Plans to Mediate India-China Talks on Ladakh, Russian Ambassador Says](#)

February 10, 2022, Sputnik News

Moscow has no plans to mediate between India and China over the longstanding border conflict in the Ladakh region, new Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov said in an interview with Sputnik, adding that Russia is counting on resolving the situation through diplomacy.

[Kremlin Says Macron Sat At Long Table With Putin After Refusal To Take COVID-19 Test](#)

February 11, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia says French President Emanuel Macron was made to sit at the opposite end of a long table for his talks earlier this week with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin due to his refusal to take a Kremlin-administered COVID-19 test.

[UK Chief of Defense Staff to meet with Russian counterpart in Moscow](#)

February 11, 2022, TASS News Agency

UK Chief of Defense Staff Tony Radakin will meet on February 11 in Moscow with Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov, Russian Ambassador to the UK Andrey Kelin said in an interview with BBC.

[Biden and Putin to speak as US warns Russia could attack Ukraine 'any day'](#)

February 12, 2022, The Moscow Times

US President Joe Biden spoke to Vladimir Putin on February 12 after the United States warned that a Russian invasion of Ukraine could begin in days. The US had dramatically raised the alarm over Ukraine, saying a Russian invasion starting with civilians caught under aerial bombing could begin in days and telling US citizens to leave within 48 hours.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Why have civilians welcomed the recent coups in West Africa?](#)

February 11, 2022, Al Jazeera

Citizens in Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea are punishing corrupt political elites who have long ruled their countries by ascribing legitimacy to military juntas.

[US aims to thwart China's plan for Atlantic base in Africa](#)

February 12, 2022, Livemint

An American delegation wants to convince Equatorial Guinea against giving Beijing a launchpad in waters the U.S. considers its backyard. The Biden administration is intensifying its campaign to persuade Equatorial Guinea to reject China's bid to build a military base on the country's Atlantic Coast.

[EU in whirlwind of Africa diplomacy. Did it work?](#)

February 11, 2022, EU Observer

EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen has been on a whirlwind tour of African nations ahead of the key African Union-EU summit in Brussels next week, seeking to woo them with Europe's recent investment plan, rivalling China's belt-and-road initiative.

EU keen to 'scale up' military training in Africa

[EU and African leaders preparing to meet in Brussels next week](#)

February 11, 2022, EU Observer

The EU wants to "scale up" its military presence in Africa, but with strings attached on human rights, and amid broader concern on civil liberties, according to a leak of the draft EU-African Union summit statement seen by EU observer.

[UN: 13 million face hunger in Horn of Africa as drought worsens](#)

February 8, 2022, Al Jazeera

An estimated 13 million people in the Horn of Africa are facing severe hunger, the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has said.

[African Opportunities in China-Africa Relations](#)

February 11, 2022, The Diplomat

African countries have the agency to use relations with China to their own advantage. Whether African leaders will use their power to benefit their people is another question.

[China has invested more in Africa than the other top eight lenders combined](#)

Published February 10, 2022, QUARTZ AFRICA

China, in addition to being Africa's biggest trading partner, is building the future of the continent's urban landscapes almost single-handedly. And in spite of rhetoric from US president Joe Biden and other leaders from wealthy countries on the urgent need to improve infrastructure on the continent, investment from those countries and international development banks has stagnated at levels far below what is needed.

[Europe counters China's Belt and Road strategy with plans for €150 billion investment in Africa](#)

February 11, 2022, RFI

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday unveiled plans to invest €150 billion in Africa, explaining that her goal is to make Europe the continent's biggest and "most reliable" partner.

['Born free': Somaliland says China can't dictate to it over Taiwan](#)

February 11, 2022, Reuters

China cannot dictate who Somaliland can have relations with as it was a sovereign nation and "born free", the foreign minister of the breakaway Somali region said on Friday during a trip to Taiwan which has been condemned by Beijing.

Latin America

[Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest hits record January high](#)

February 11, 2022, Tribune

Brazil recorded the most deforestation ever in the Amazon rainforest for the month of January, according to government data on Friday, as destruction continues to worsen despite the government's recent pledges to bring it under control.

[Venezuela says eight civilians killed by armed groups](#)

February 11, 2022, France 24

Eight civilians were killed by armed groups in recent days in Venezuela's restive southwest region that borders Colombia, the country's defense minister said Friday.

[The bounceback of Argentina](#)

February 10, 2022, CGTN

Argentina is a large South American country that during the late 19th century was one of the five largest economies in the world. One of the most cultured people around, large portions of its population are characterized by a fierce way of fighting and thinking about their country. From the Argentine Republic, a political concept as interesting as strategic was born: "popular nationalism."

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

February 10, 2022, The Diplomat

The Argentine president's attendance at the Beijing Winter Olympics brought big strides in the relationship.

[Chile's Green Dream to Reinvent Itself Is Spooking Investors](#)

February 10, 2022, Bloomberg

The country's efforts to create a new constitution could serve as a model or warning for tackling climate change and inequality.



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