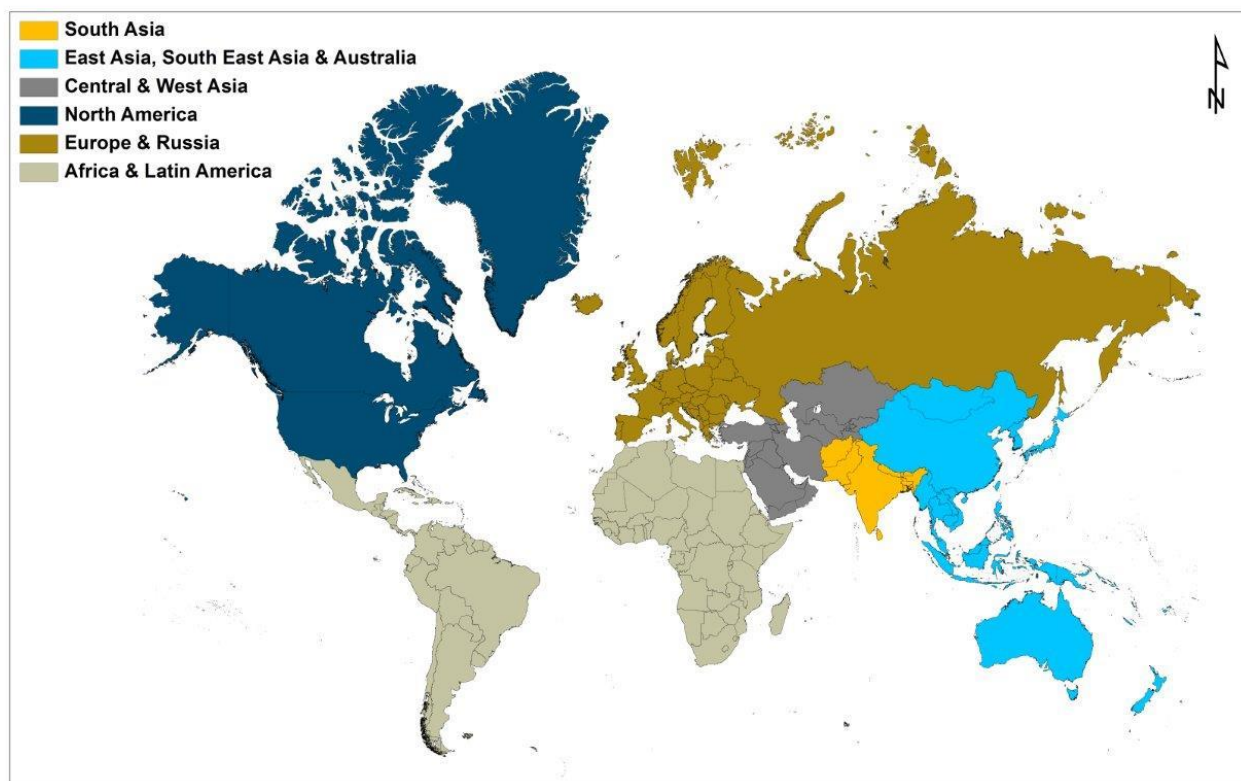




Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 11 | March 15, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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ABOUT US

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

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Accidentally fired missile into Pakistan due to tech glitch, says India. 'It was BrahMos'](#)

March 11, 2022, The Print

India said malfunction in the 'course of routine maintenance' had caused missile to be launched into Pakistan Wednesday. Govt has ordered high-level court of enquiry.

[France Looks To Equip Indian Navy With Cutting-Edge Submarines, Heavyweight Torpedoes But Russian Action Delays The Plan](#)

March 6, 2022, Eurasian Times

The Russia-Ukraine conflict puts a damper on India's much-awaited DefExpo 2022, prompting the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to postpone the event. The exhibition was originally scheduled to take place from March 10 to March 14 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

[Jaishankar hails Operation Ganga as students, evacuated from Ukraine's Sumy, arrive in India](#)

March 11, 2022, Hindustan Times

External affairs minister S Jaishankar on Friday hailed Operation Ganga, launched by India to evacuate its citizens from war-hit Ukraine, as Indian students, who were stranded in the besieged north-eastern Ukrainian city of Sumy, arrived in India on special flights.

[Ladakh standoff: India, China agree to maintain stability along LAC](#)

The 15th round of Corps-Commander level talks took place at the Chushul-Moldo border point on the Indian side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh. India and China fail to resolve remaining issues in eastern Ladakh at 15th round of military talks but agree to maintain the dialogue to reach a mutually acceptable resolution at the earliest.

[Indian Exporters Sitting On Large Orders Due To Russia-Ukraine War: Nitin Gadkari](#)

March 12, 2022, NDTV

Owing to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, exporters are sitting on large orders as logistics costs have risen, union minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Pakistan

[Officials claim breakthrough as Peshawar blast death toll rises to 62](#)

March 6, 2022, Dawn

The death toll from a suicide attack on a mosque in Peshawar surged to 62, while the federal and provincial governments claimed a breakthrough in the ongoing investigation, saying the suicide bomber and other suspects and facilitators had been identified.

[PAF-USAF bilateral exercise 'Falcon Talon' culminates](#)

March 6, 2022, The News

The bilateral exercise 'Falcon Talon' between Pakistan Air Force (PAF) and the United States Air Force (USAF) culminated at an operational air base of PAF. The exercise started on 26th of last month with the deployment of USAF fighter jets at an operational base. The exercise was aimed at interoperability in complex air operations in realistic contemporary scenarios.

[Uzbek president winds up 'productive' Pakistan tour](#)

March 5, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and Uzbekistan agreed to promote science and technology linkages and cooperation between the youths to benefit the people of two countries. The bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between President Arif Alvi and his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev, before wrapping up his two-day official tour to Islamabad.

[US warns Pakistan of Ukraine war consequences](#)

March 5, 2022, Dawn

The United States informed Pakistan the war in Ukraine could have both regional and global consequences, even as the Foreign Office objected to the issuance of a press release by a group of 23 envoys earlier this week, saying the move was undiplomatic. "We have briefed the government of Pakistan on the impact that Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine could have on regional and global security," a US State Department spokesperson said.

[UK-Pakistan relations hit a new low over Ukraine](#)

March 9, 2022, The News

The diplomatic relations between the UK and Pakistan have hit a new low as two important visits have been cancelled, following Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Russia and his recent speech condemning the Western countries.

[Checkposts planned to stop fertiliser smuggling to Afghanistan](#)

March 11, 2022, Dawn

Mobile checkposts will be set up at various points on highways across Balochistan to stop fertiliser smuggling. This was decided at a meeting that discussed measures to stop smuggling of fertiliser to Afghanistan from Balochistan.

[Six martyred in attack after president's motorcade leaves Sibi](#)

March 9, 2022, Dawn

A suicide bomber struck along the route of President Arif Alvi's motorcade in Sibi, claiming the lives of six security personnel and leaving 22 others, including 19 law enforcers, wounded. This is a second major suicide attack in the country within a week, as the deadly assault inside a Peshawar mosque had claimed 62 lives and injured 189 others.

[World Bank okays \\$435m loans for Punjab](#)

March 12, 2022, The Express Tribune

The World Bank's board of executive directors approved \$435 million in financing for three projects in Pakistan, i.e. the Pakistan Housing Finance project, Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement project and Punjab Affordable Housing Programme, according to a statement.

[Six China-made J-10C jets inducted into PAF](#)

March 12, 2022, Dawn

Six J-10C multirole fighter aircraft were commissioned by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The aircraft acquired from China were commissioned into the PAF's Squadron 15 — a tactical fighter squadron. The first batch of the newly acquired aircraft arrived in the country earlier this month. China delivered these jets within eight months of the signing of the deal.

[Impasse with IMF over PM's tax amnesty](#)

March 12, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan could not break its impasse with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over Prime Minister Imran Khan's tax amnesty scheme and his Rs246 billion relief package.

Afghanistan

[Haqqani makes rare public appearance to 'build trust'](#)

March 6, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban's acting interior minister and one of the most secretive leaders of the group, Sirajuddin Haqqani, made his first formal public appearance when he addressed new Afghan police recruits at a passing-out parade.

[Truck convoy with Indian wheat leaves for Kabul via Wagah](#)

March 6, 2022, Dawn

A fleet of 36 Afghan trucks received the second consignment of 2,000 tonnes of wheat from India and left for Afghanistan after being cleared by the customs, immigration and security officials at the Wagah border. The convoy had earlier entered Pakistan via Torkham border night and reached the Indo-Pak border morning under the tight security of the respective police authorities.

[Funds running dry in Afghanistan but economic crisis continues: UN agency](#)

March 7, 2022, Business Standard

Underlining the need for more humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, the food-assistance branch of the United Nations, has once again raised concern about the growing multi-fold crisis in the country.

"WFP funds are running dry but the economic crisis continues. Nearly no family can access enough to eat and humanitarian needs may reach levels we cannot meet," World Food Programme (WFP) tweeted.

[Nearly 400 civilians killed in Afghanistan since Taliban takeover, UN says](#)

March 8, 2022, Reuters

Nearly 400 civilians have been killed in attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, more than 80% of them by a group affiliated to Islamic State, a U.N. report shows, underscoring the scale of the insurgency faced by the new rulers.

[India sends third consignment of wheat to Afghanistan via Pak](#)

March 8, 2022, India Today

India sent the third consignment of 2,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistani land route as part of its humanitarian aid to the Afghan people who have been reeling under food shortages. India had despatched 2,500 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan through Pakistan on February 22 and it reached the Afghan city of Jalalabad on February 26. Earlier this month, India sent the second shipment of 2,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan.

[Statement on accidental firing of missile](#)

March 11, 2022, PIB

On March 9 2022, in the course of a routine maintenance, a technical malfunction led to the accidental firing of a missile. The Government of India has taken a serious view and ordered a high-level Court of Enquiry. It is learnt that the missile landed in an area of Pakistan. While the incident is deeply regrettable, it is also a matter of relief that there has been no loss of life due to the accident.

Bangladesh

[India seeks FTA with Bangladesh, says Goyal](#)

March 8, 2022, Livemint

Goyal listed four focus areas for strengthening bilateral relationship including uninterrupted supply chain, joint production of defense equipment, and pharmaceuticals

[Bangladesh, India, Nepal move ahead on motor vehicle agreement project](#)

March 9, 2022, The Hindu

With Bhutan continuing to sit out the Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) of the sub-regional Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) grouping, a meeting of the other three countries was held to discuss the next steps in operationalising the agreement for the free flow of good and people between them.

[Envoy: China won't build military base in Bangladesh](#)

March 13, 2022, Dhaka Tribune

Li Jiming, the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, has said that China will not build any military base in Bangladesh or any other foreign land.

Nepal

[Nepal capable of making decisions, says Nepali leader on China's forceful diplomacy on MCC](#)

March 13, 2022, WION

In any bilateral cooperation, Nepal is capable of deciding what is best for the country, said Spokesperson of the Nepali Congress party and Former Foreign Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat, asserting that the "decision should be respected by all sides".

[China encroaching into Nepal's territory](#)

March 12, 2022, The Economic Times

A Nepalese government report, dated September 2021, has accused China of encroaching into Nepal's territory along their shared border.

[Nepal PM thanks India for evacuating 4 Nepalese citizens from Ukraine](#)

March 12, 2022, Hindustan Times

The evacuation of the Nepalese students was done as part of India's 'Operation Ganga' that was launched to bring back the Indians stuck in Ukraine after Russia launched a military attack on February 24.

Sri Lanka

[China silent on Sri Lanka's request for debt waiver](#)

March 9, 2022, Millennium Post

Sri Lanka, which has emerged as a key foothold for China in the Indian Ocean region, is currently reeling under a severe foreign exchange crisis with falling reserves and the government is unable to foot the bill for essential imports.

[India committed to stand shoulder to shoulder with Sri Lanka in addressing common challenges: envoy](#)

March 12, 2022, The Print

India on Saturday reaffirmed its commitment to stand shoulder to shoulder with Sri Lanka in addressing the common challenges faced by both countries as four ships of the Indian Navy concluded a four-day visit to the island nation as part of the efforts to achieve greater interoperability at sea.

[Indian Navy Western Fleet visits Sri Lanka to strengthen ties between two navies](#)

March 12, 2022, Colombo Page

In continuation of Indian Navy's endeavour to build 'Bridges of Friendship', four ships of the Western Fleet of Indian Navy under the charge of Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF), Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena visited Sri Lanka from 09-12 March 2022, Indian High Commission in Colombo said.

East & South East Asia

China

[China-U.S. cooperation benefits both countries, world: Chinese premier](#)

March 11, 2022, Xinhua

China-U.S. cooperation benefits both countries and the world, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Friday, adding that there should be more dialogue and communication between the two countries.

[China, India should be partners rather than adversaries: FM](#)

March 7, 2022, Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday expressed the hope that China and India will be partners for mutual success instead of adversaries of mutual attrition.

[China-India border talks consolidate trust from previous round, as both disregard US agitation](#)

March 12, 2022

The 15th round of China-India corps commander level meeting concluded on Friday, continuing the positive atmosphere since the 14th round of talk, as the two sides reached consensus on agreeing to maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels to reach a mutually acceptable resolution to the remaining issues at the earliest time.

[Russia-Ukraine tensions an occasion for India to reassess ties with US](#)

March 13, 2022, Global Times

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee on "Military Posture in the Indo-Pacific Region" on Thursday, Admiral John Aquilino, Commander of US Indo-Pacific Command said the US will continue to support India with equipment and other things it needs along the Line of Actual Control - the border with China, and asserted that Washington and New Delhi share a "tremendous partnership." He also said that the military-to-military relationship between the two countries is probably at its highest point.

[BRI to foster faith in economic cooperation](#)

March 14, 2022, China Daily

China's unwavering efforts to promote joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative will convey more confidence and strength to the international community on global economic cooperation despite rising external

uncertainties and challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts, analysts and experts said.

[Xi urges joint support for talks](#)

March 9, 2022, China Daily

"China will also be pleased to see dialogue on an equal footing among the European Union, Russia, the United States and NATO," Xi added.

[The more things change, the more China's Xi Jinping focuses on stability](#)

March 13, 2022, South China Morning Post

In the annual legislative session held over the past week in Beijing, none of the reports were delivered by President Xi Jinping himself, and the top leader did not chair any press conferences. But no one has any doubt whose show it was.

Japan

[Japan to ban exports of oil refining equipment to Russia](#)

March 8, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan will further sanction Russia and Belarus over the invasion of Ukraine, freezing assets held by government officials and other entities, the top government spokesman said. As Russia escalates its attacks in Ukraine with Belarus "clearly involved," Japan will ban exports of oil refining equipment to Russia and dual-use products to Belarus, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a news conference.

[Japan wholesale prices rise at record annual pace as fuel soars](#)

March 10, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's wholesale inflation accelerated in February at the fastest annual pace in roughly four decades on rising fuel costs, a sign inflationary pressures were building up even before the Ukraine crisis triggered a broad-based surge in commodity prices.

[Kishida speaks with Yoon as Japan-South Korea ties remain chilly](#)

March 11, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held a 15-minute phone call with South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol on Friday, as Tokyo gauges the incoming conservative political newcomer's views on historical grievances that have darkened bilateral relations for decades. They agreed to work together to improve ties that have fallen to a historic low, agreeing to hold a face-to-face meeting as early as possible.

[Senior Japanese lawmakers eye 'nuclear sharing' option with U.S.](#)

March 12, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Calls are growing within Japan's ruling party to discuss a nuclear-sharing arrangement with the U.S., a contentious issue for a country that has vowed not to maintain or introduce nuclear weapons. The topic has come into the spotlight as Russian President Vladimir Putin has called attention to Moscow's nuclear arsenal amid his invasion of Ukraine. Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a heavyweight in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said in late February that Tokyo should "not consider it taboo to have an open discussion" of the issue.

[In veiled criticism of China, Abe urges unity against attempts to alter status quo](#)

March 12, 2022, The Japan Times

Former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged other countries Saturday to join forces in halting attempts to alter the status quo in Asia by force, taking aim at China's assertive territorial claims in the region. During a visit to Malaysia, the former Japanese leader said in a speech that Russia's aggression in Ukraine poses a "serious threat" to the international order. "Unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or economic coercion pose a serious threat in Asia, too," Abe said. "We should raise a voice of opposition in unison."

[Japan likely to hold Upper House election on July 10](#)

March 13, 2022, The Japan Times

The official campaign period for this year's election for the House of Councillors is expected to start on June 22, ruling party executive Toshimitsu Motegi said Sunday. If the campaign period begins on June 22, voting is likely to take place on July 10. "The June 22 start of the campaign period is 100 days away," Motegi, secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party, said at an annual party convention.

Korea

[North Korea says it conducted test for reconnaissance satellite](#)

March 6, 2022, Nikkei Asia

North Korea's latest launch was conducted to develop a reconnaissance satellite, state-run media reported Sunday, a day after what was described by neighboring countries as a ballistic missile launch toward the Sea of Japan. Saturday's test indicated that North Korea is seeking to develop its weapons capabilities while the United States is focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, some foreign affairs experts said.

[Yoon Suk-yeol elected president by fine margin](#)

March 10, 2022, The Korea Herald

The main opposition People Power Party's Yoon Suk-yeol confirmed his place as South Korea's next president after his opponent, Democratic Party of Korea candidate Lee Jae-myung, conceded defeat in the early hours of Thursday morning. He will become the first former prosecutor to be elected president and the first president without any political experience.

[Korea, Africa seek to strengthen economic ties](#)

March 6, 2022, The Korea Times

Korea and African countries have come together to build stronger economic and diplomatic ties beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the theme of "Strengthening Korea-Africa Partnership in the post-COVID19 Era," the 5th Korea-Africa Forum was held on March 3 in Seoul. Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong and ministerial-level officials from African Union (AU) member states — including Senegal, Malawi, Libya and Chad — discussed partnerships in public health, trade and investment, and peace and security.

[US confirms exclusion of Korea from its export controls against Russia](#)

March 8, 2022, The Korea Times

The U.S. government has formally announced the exclusion of South Korea from its expanded export restrictions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, which enhances partner nations' joint efforts to implement strong sanctions against Moscow, Seoul's trade ministry said Tuesday. Last month, the U.S. government announced the Foreign Direct Product Rule (FDPR) for all of Russia, calling on companies to receive a license from the United States for tech-related items using U.S. technology before they can be shipped to Russia.

[Yoon says Seoul-Beijing relations will develop further](#)

March 11, 2022, The Korea Times

President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol said Friday he is certain South Korea-China relations will develop further during a meeting with Beijing's top envoy to Seoul. Yoon made the remark in the meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Seoul Xing Haiming two days after his election, noting China is South Korea's largest trading partner and South Korea is China's third-largest.

Southeast Asia

[Cambodia Announces Postponement of Special US-ASEAN Summit](#)

March 10, 2022, The Diplomat

The March 28-29 meeting has been delayed due to scheduling clashes with some Southeast Asian governments.

[China-Laos Railway marks 100 days of service, invigorating trade with ASEAN](#)

March 13, 2022, The Global Times

The China-Laos Railway celebrated the 100th day of operation on Saturday, having carried more than 1.2 million tons of goods and injected fresh momentum into economic and trade cooperation between China and ASEAN, officials and analysts noted.

[Myanmar defectors describe military culture of abuse, fear](#)

March 8, 2022, Al Jazeera

Defectors say at least 2,500 soldiers have deserted Myanmar's military to join the resistance since last year's coup.

[Taiwan confirms Chinese military plane crashed into South China Sea](#)

March 13, 2022, The Economic Times

Taiwan's National Security Bureau (NSB) has confirmed that a Chinese military aircraft crashed into the South China Sea earlier this month.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyzstan: Opposition TV channel shuttered following Ukraine report](#)

March 4, 2022, Eurasianet

Kyrgyzstan's security services have arrested the head of a local television station founded by an opposition politician only days after the broadcaster allegedly reported claims that the Kyrgyz government was lending material support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[Ukraine war threatens Kazakh oil exports](#)

March 7, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan is facing an economic crisis as the war in Ukraine threatens crude oil exports, which alone account for around 14 percent of GDP and 57 percent of exports.

[How Will the War in Ukraine Affect Central Asian Remittance Flows?](#)

March 8, 2022, The Diplomat

Remittance flows to Central Asia are likely to be severely affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the subsequent sanctions on Russia, as a recent article by a pair of World Bank analysts makes clear.

[Turkmenistan: Vote early, vote often](#)

March 8, 2022, Eurasianet

Early voting has already got underway for the snap March 12 presidential election in Turkmenistan. That is just a distracting sideshow, however. The president's son, Serdar Berdymukhamedov, will easily sweep aside his eight seat-warming rivals.

[Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan Hold New Talks After Shooting At Border Leaves One Dead](#)

March 10, 2022, RFE/RL

Authorities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have held talks after an exchange of gunfire killed one person and wounded another near a disputed segment of the border between the Central Asian neighbours. Officials from Kyrgyzstan's Batken district and Tajikistan's Sughd region held talks after border guards from the two sides exchanged fire.

[Kazakhstan: Ex-security services boss in frame for treason also accused of corruption](#)

March 10, 2022, Eurasianet

The former head of Kazakhstan's security services, Karim Masimov, who was arrested in January on treason charges, is now being accused by the authorities of amassing millions of dollars through corrupt schemes.

[Turkmen Public-Sector Workers Ordered To 'Vote For Incumbent's Son'](#)

March 10, 2022, RFE/RL

Turkmen public-sector workers and their families in a southeastern district have been ordered to participate in early presidential voting and cast their ballots for the son of the current president, Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov.

West Asia

[India, Israel Discuss Avenues to Expand Cooperation in Space Sector](#)

February 23, 2022, Business Standard

"The ongoing interactions between the space agencies and the avenues for expanding space relations between India and Israel, in view of space reforms announced by the Government of India, were discussed during the meeting" [between the Israeli Ambassador to India and Chairman of ISRO].

[Turkey's Ayci Declines Air India CEO Role](#)

March 01, 2022, Reuters

Ayci said in a statement that in a recent meeting with Tata Chairman N Chandrasekaran he declined to take the post after reading about attempts "to colour my appointment with undesirable colours" in some sections of the Indian media.

[Middle East to Suffer from Grain Shortage Due to The War in Ukraine](#)

March 07, 2022, Business Standard

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues unabated, many countries of the Middle East are seriously concerned about the inevitable shortage of grain as Russia and Ukraine together account for 30 per cent of global wheat exports.

[Iran, IAEA Agree Timeline to Remove Obstacle To Reviving Nuclear Deal](#)

March 06, 2022, Reuters

Iran and the IAEA agreed on a three-month plan that in the best case will resolve the long-stalled issue of uranium particles found at old but undeclared sites in the country, removing an obstacle to reviving the Iran nuclear deal.

[Russia Demands for US Guarantees Before Backing Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

March 05, 2022, News 18

Russian FM Lavrov said that Moscow is demanding guarantees from the US before backing the Iran nuclear deal, citing the current wave of unprecedented Western sanctions against Russia.

[US Secretary of State: Russia Sanctions Have Nothing to Do with Iran Nuclear Talks](#)

March 06, 2022, Press TV

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken says the sanctions imposed on Russia over its ongoing military action in Ukraine have nothing to do with a potential nuclear agreement with Iran.

[Israeli PM Meets President Putin on Ukraine in 'Risky' Diplomatic Gamble](#)

March 06, 2022, The Moscow Times

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett stepped into the role of mediator as Russia's invasion of Ukraine intensified, holding a three-hour meeting at the Kremlin with President Vladimir Putin before calling Ukraine's President and flying to Berlin.

[We Need Air Defences From Israel, Not Goodwill Statements Says Ukrainian Commander based in Lviv](#)

March 04, 2022, The Times of Israel

Ukraine needs Israeli weapons far more than it needs sympathetic statements from Jerusalem, a top official in western Ukraine said, joining the country's leadership in urging Jerusalem to help arm their embattled military.

[Russia Recruiting Syrians for Urban Combat in Ukraine, U.S. Officials Say](#)

March 06, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Moscow is recruiting Syrians skilled in urban combat to fight in Ukraine as Russia's invasion is poised to expand deeper into cities, according to U.S. officials.

[OPEC+ Sticks to Plan of Gradual Output Hikes as Crude Soars](#)

March 03, 2022, ABC News

The OPEC+ coalition of oil producers — made up of OPEC members led by Saudi Arabia and non-cartel members led by Russia — chose to increase oil production by 400,000 barrels per day in April.

[Fueling Inflation: Petrol, Diesel Prices Set To Rise as Crude To Range Around \\$95-\\$125](#)

March 05, 2022, The Economic Times

Hostilities between Russia and Ukraine, along with sustained demand, is expected to keep global crude oil prices in the range of \$95-to-\$125 per barrel in the short term.

[Saudi Crown Prince Says 'Do Not Care' if President Biden Misunderstands Him](#)

March 03, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The de facto ruler of the world's top oil exporter warned the United States not to interfere in the internal affairs of the Kingdom. "Simply, I do not care," he said. It is up to President Biden "to think about the interests of America," he said when asked whether Biden misunderstood things about him.

[Saudi Crown Prince Says Kingdom Could Reduce U.S. Investments](#)

March 03, 2022, Reuters

"In the same way we have the possibility of boosting our interests, we have the possibility of reducing them," the Saudi Crown Prince said, speaking about Saudi Arabia's U.S. investments that reportedly amount to \$800 billion.

[Israel Can Be a 'Potential Ally', Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Says](#)

March 03, 2022, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Mohammed bin Salman, said he sees Israel as a "potential ally" with shared interests, not an enemy - but that it must solve its conflict with the Palestinians first.

United States

United States

[U.S. Moves to Deny Russia 'Most Favoured' Trade Status](#)

March 11, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. moved Friday to sever normal trade ties with Russia—and ban imports of its seafood, vodka and diamonds—as it joined other countries in ratcheting up economic pressure on Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. President Biden said the measures would deal “another crushing blow to the Russian economy” and President Vladimir Putin, following other efforts by the U.S. and allies to isolate Russia from international commerce.

[Biden Administration Pushes for Higher Construction-Worker Pay](#)

March 11, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration is proposing changes designed to push up wages for workers at federally-funded construction projects such as interstates. The proposal would rewrite the rules around the Davis-Bacon Act, a 90-year-old law that applies to government contractors, in an attempt to better account for the increased earnings of construction workers over time, officials said. Many of the changes would alter a 1983 overhaul, enacted under the Reagan administration.

[Higher Vehicle, Energy Imports Push January U.S. Trade Deficit to New Record](#)

March 8, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. trade deficit hit a fresh record in January ahead of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, as imports of vehicles and energy supplies increased while exports fell. The foreign-trade gap in goods and services expanded 9.4% from the prior month to \$89.7 billion in January, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

[U.S. State Governments Hit in Chinese Hacking Spree](#)

March 8, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Hackers believed to be sponsored by the Chinese government have accessed computer systems in six U.S. state governments in a continuing espionage campaign that included the use of the widespread Log4J computer bug detected late last year, according to cybersecurity researchers. The hacks, which took advantage of vulnerable internet-facing web applications, date to at least May 2021, according to new findings made public by the U.S.-based cybersecurity firm Mandiant. As recently as February, two of the victims were hacked again by the same group.

[Missouri anti-abortion bills seek to stop crossing of state lines, ending ectopic pregnancies](#)

March 11, 2022, USA Today

New anti-abortion proposals in the Missouri House would allow lawsuits against those who help residents cross state lines for the procedure, as well as making the abortion of nonviable pregnancies a crime. Missouri is one of more than two dozen states looking to curtail access to abortions.

[Harris meets with troops in Poland, vows 'an attack against one is an attack against all'](#)

March 11, 2022, USA Today

Vice President Harris headed to Romania where she discussed the refugee crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU leaders in Versailles united on Ukraine, but won't offer fast-track membership](#)

March 11, 2022, Deutsche Welle

EU leaders meeting for talks in France's historic Versailles Palace discussed the bloc's relationship with Ukraine, but stopped short of offering immediate membership.

[Ukraine crisis: EU to boost military support to Kyiv, mulling new sanctions](#)

March 11, 2022, Business Standard

The EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said the 27 officials taking part at two-day summit outside Paris will agree to inject an extra 500 million euros into the fund for military aid to Ukraine. European Union leaders said they will continue applying pressure on Russia by devising a new set of sanctions to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine while stepping up military support for Kyiv.

[What The European Union Is Doing To Help Ukraine War Refugees](#)

March 12, 2022, News 18

In the two weeks since Russia invaded Ukraine, around 2.5 million people have fled — the great majority of them to European Union countries. More than half have entered Poland while hundreds of thousands more are seeking refuge, mostly in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

[Biden, EU, G7 Announce Further Sanctions On Russia](#)

March 12, 2022, NDTV

The measures announced by the EU, the United States and other G7 allies amount to a fourth set of sanctions against Russia over the Feb. 24 invasion.

Russia

[Thousands Detained At Anti-War Protests Across Russia](#)

March 6, 2022, RFE/RL

Thousands of people have been detained at protests in dozens of cities across Russia against President Vladimir Putin's unprovoked war in Ukraine, the Russian Interior Ministry and an independent protest monitor said on March 6.

[Russia & Ukraine start third round of talks](#)

March 7, 2022, Russia Today

Moscow and Kiev officials started talks in western Belarus' Brest region on March 7, amid Russia's ongoing offensive in Ukraine. The Russian delegation is led by President Vladimir Putin's aide, Vladimir Medinsky.

[Russian Foreign Ministry: Gas Prices in Europe Soaring Due to Ban on Nord Stream 2](#)

March 8, 2022, Sputnik News

The freeze of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline has led to the current surge in gas prices on the European market and Moscow regrets the "politicisation" of this economic project, a senior official in the Russian Foreign Ministry, Dmitry Biriachevsky, said.

[Biden Announces Ban on Russian Oil Imports](#)

March 8, 2022, Sputnik News

US President Joe Biden has announced a total ban on Russian energy imports, including oil and gas. Biden said he had consulted allies around the world before making the decision, particularly in Europe. Energy market experts previously warned that a US move to ban on Russian energy without first finding an alternative would lead to a further climb in prices.

[Russia Bans Foreign Currency Sales](#)

March 9, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia has banned foreign currency sales for six months, its latest measure to attempt to avert a deep economic crisis and run on the Russian rouble. The Central Bank said that banks and brokers would be prohibited from selling dollars, euros and other foreign currency in exchange for roubles until at least Sept. 9, 2022.

[Mariupol Maternity Hospital Destroyed By Russian Air Strike, Triggering Global Horror, Outrage](#)

March 9, 2022, RFE/RL

A Russian air strike has devastated a maternity hospital in the beleaguered port of Mariupol and wounded at least 17 people, Ukrainian officials said, triggering international condemnation from Washington, London, and the Vatican, among others.

[Ex-German Chancellor Schroeder arrives in Moscow to meet with Putin — media](#)

March 10, 2022, TASS News Agency

Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has arrived in Moscow to discuss the situation in Ukraine with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Politico wrote on March 10, citing "sources familiar with the matter."

[Russia withdraws from Council of Europe](#)

March 10, 2022, Russia Today

After being suspended from the Council of Europe over its military attack against Ukraine, Russia has announced, on March 10, that it has no wish to be part of a body it describes as subverted to the geopolitical goals of the US.

[Russian Forces at Northeastern Edge of Kyiv](#)

March 11, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian forces on March 10 rolled their armoured vehicles up to the northeastern edge of Kyiv, edging closer in their attempts to encircle the Ukrainian capital. An AFP team saw plumes of smoke rise over the village of Skybyn, just a few hundred metres past the last checkpoint marking Kyiv's northeastern city limits.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[The new Cold War spells trouble for Africa](#)

March 10, Al Jazeera

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the West has little reason to even pretend it cares for defending democracy in Africa.

[Rwanda has reopened the border with Uganda but distrust could close it again](#)

March 10, 2022, The Conversation

The border stalemate is about two presidents who know each other well, and their mutual dislike and distrust is deeply ingrained.

[UN urges for stopping violence in Sudan, restoring stability in Darfur region](#)

March 13, 2022, CGTN Africa

The United Nations mission in Sudan has called on the Sudanese authorities to work to stop violence in all parts of the country and restore stability in Sudan's Darfur region.

[Somalia Drought Sparks Humanitarian, Displacement Crisis](#)

March 11, 2022, VOA News

The U.N. refugee agency said Friday that drought in Somalia was causing a humanitarian and displacement crisis, with thousands of people fleeing their parched lands in search of fertile territory and humanitarian assistance to help them survive.

[At Least 200 Terrorists Killed in Somali Army Operation](#)

March 13, 2022, All Africa

Somali sources reported that the country's army has launched a military operation on its borders and managed to kill at least 200 of al-Shabaab terrorists.

[Mnangagwa accuses West of destabilising Zimbabwe](#)

March 13, 2022, The East African

Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa has accused Western diplomats of trying to destabilise the southern African country following criticism over growing cases of political violence ahead of next year's elections.

Latin America

[The mystery of a disappearing lake and the struggle over water rights in Chile](#)

March 8, 2022, Deutsche Welle

When a large lagoon in central Chile dried up, climate change seemed the likeliest culprit. But researchers found a more insidious threat: systematic privatization of water. Could a new constitution change all that?

[Chile swears in new President Gabriel Boric in 'historic shift'](#)

March 11, 2022, Al Jazeera

Boric, elected on an ambitious social-democratic agenda, will oversee a referendum on Chile's new constitution.

[Argentina's IMF deal bill passes in lower house, heads to Senate](#)

March 11, 2022, Buenos Aires Times

In early hours of Friday morning, Argentina's lower house of Congress approved bill underpinning government's US\$45-billion agreement with the IMF.

[The Ukraine Crisis and Latin America's response](#)

March 10, 2022, ORF

Latin American countries remain divided over their stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine as Russia finds consonance with leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Brazil on its "anti-West" agenda

[Can Venezuela help tame global energy prices?](#)

March 13, 2022, Deutsche Welle

In a bid to cushion the impact of the US ban on Russian oil imports, Washington is aiming to help increase production in countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and even heavily sanctioned Venezuela.

[As Biden and Maduro governments talk, a brief history of US-Venezuela ties](#)

March 9, 2022, The Indian Express

Some senior US officials flew down to Caracas in Venezuela, a Russian ally, to meet members of the left-wing authoritarian Venezuelan government under president Nicolás Maduro. The meeting marks one of the first high-level discussions in over five years between oil-rich Venezuela and the US, which sees Maduro's re-election as not having been free and fair.

