

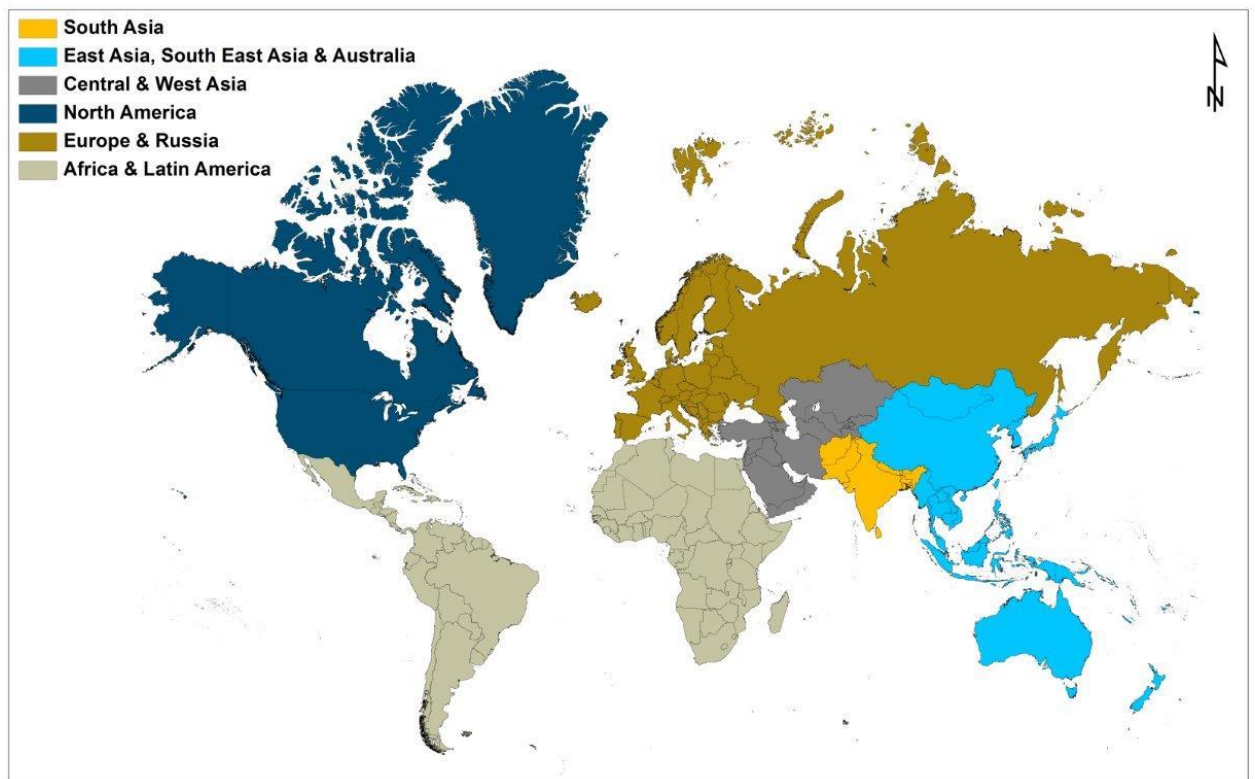


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 12 | March 27, 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

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South Asia

India

[Peace in border areas key to normal ties, India tells China](#)

March 26, 2022, The Hindu

There can be no normality in India-China ties unless the troops amassed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are withdrawn, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Delhi on Friday during talks that ended without any joint statement or agreement on the way forward.

[A good foreign policy must also make a difference at home](#)

March 26, 2022, The Indian Express

S. Jaishankar: It must ensure national security, help citizens in pursuit of their aspirations and help build the country's image abroad.

[107 defence items on phased import ban list](#)

March 25, 2022, Hindustan Times

To be sure, it came on the back of an indigenisation list of 2,851 sub-systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies and components notified by the ministry's department of defence production.

[India's foreign policy better than Pakistan, says Imran Khan](#)

March 20, 2022, Hindustan Times

Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan said despite India being a member of Quad alliance, it continues to import oil from Russia which is facing sanctions.

[The future of India-Japan ties](#)

March 20, 2022, Hindustan Times

While the immediate focus was on the Ukraine crisis, the Narendra Modi-Fumio Kishida Summit on March 19, has set the stage for finding solutions to more pressing challenges in the region.

[India likely to replace West in Russian pharmaceutical market, Moscow claims](#)

March 18, 2022, Mint

The withdrawal of many Western companies from the Russian market and those niches that have been vacated may actually be occupied by Indian companies in many industries, in particular, in pharmaceuticals: Russian envoy to India Denis Alipov.

[India spending less than 1% of defence budget on research: Parliament panel raises alarm](#)

March 16, 2022, India Today

The findings are a part of the Standing Committee Report on Demands for Grants for Defence Research and Development Organisation that was presented in the parliament.

Pakistan

[PTI serves notice on 13 estranged MNAs](#)

March 20, 2022, The News

The ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) issued show-cause notices to its 13 estranged MNAs and asked them to appear before parliamentary party leader PM Imran Khan for explanation till March 26.

[Pakistan in talks with Russia for LNG imports](#)

March 24, 2022, The Express Tribune

As Russia develops the Yamal LNG project facility -- Islamabad and Moscow are in talks to a multi-billion dollar government-to-government import deal. The Yamal LNG Project includes the development of the giant South Tambey (Tambeyskoye) gas field that is located near Sabetta in the Yamal peninsula in Russia. The Russian government has declared the project to be of national interest at a cost of around \$27 billion.

[Trilateral talks on trans-Afghan rail project due next week](#)

March 21, 2022, Dawn

Senior officials of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan will meet in Tashkent next week for a trilateral meeting to discuss a potential railway project aimed at laying a railway track linking Termez, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kabul and Peshawar to promote trade in the region.

[Gwadar Port to be utilised for Afghan transit trade](#)

March 19, 2022, Dawn

The Pak-Afghan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PACCI) and Gwadar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI) agreed to utilise Gwadar Port for Afghan transit trade. The chambers also agreed to take measures for boosting bilateral trade.

[OIC adopts 70-point Islamabad Declaration](#)

March 24, 2022, Dawn

The two-day meeting of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Council of Foreign Ministers ended on March 23. Forty-six countries participated in the meet at the ministerial level, while the other countries were represented by senior officials. Nearly 800 delegates attended the meeting hosted by Islamabad. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was the special guest at the conference. It was the first time in OIC's history that a Chinese foreign minister attended its foreign ministers' meeting, indicating Beijing's expanding role in the Muslim world.

[Ties with Islamabad through diplomatic channels: US](#)

March 20, 2022, Dawn

The Biden administration has indicated its desire to continue a careful engagement with Pakistan without committing to either improving or degrading ties with a country that was once a close ally.

[New phase unfolding in economic ties, note Pak, Austrian FMs](#)

March 18, 2022, Dawn

The Austrian foreign minister's four-day visit to Pakistan, along with a group of 20 businessmen, has been dominated by economic agenda, though he also had important geopolitical discussions with both Mr Qureshi and Prime Minister Imran Khan, especially on the situation in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

[Fake CNICs sore point in FATF talks: FBR](#)

March 14, 2022, Dawn

Transactions against fake identity cards make it difficult for the government's negotiators to argue with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman Dr Muhammad Ashfaq said. He said cases related to Rs3.5 trillion taxes would soon be disposed of as the judiciary has promised to resolve this issue 'out of the way'. "It becomes difficult to argue with the international community when business on such a large scale is done against fake CNICs. This situation complicates issues with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," the FBR chief said while speaking to the business community.

['Pakistan wheat import bill may hit record high'](#)

March 13, 2022, The News

A business group warned of a record increase in Pakistan's wheat import bill, saying repercussions of Ukraine crisis and an expected drop in domestic wheat yield would weigh on the bill. PM Imran Khan announcement to import two million tons of wheat from Russia was yet to accompany a proposed timeline,

and a shortfall of 15 percent in wheat yield was looming amid shrinking acreage, poor application of fertiliser, water scarcity, and limited certified seeds, Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) said.

[Pakistan Broadcasters Association condemns govt actions to control media freedom](#)

March 16, 2022, Dawn

The Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) has condemned a series of actions taken by the government aimed at "controlling editorial content, freedom of speech and depriving the citizens of Pakistan of their right to know".

Afghanistan

[Taliban vow to address 'all concerns' of China as FM visits](#)

March 25, 2022, The News

The Taliban said they had assured Beijing's most senior diplomat about any concerns China thinks may "emerge from Afghan soil. China shares only a sliver of a border with Afghanistan. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived in Kabul on his first trip to Afghanistan since the Taliban seized power, meeting Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar and Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi.

[UN okays ties with Afghanistan without recognising Taliban](#)

March 18, 2022, Dawn

The UN Security Council voted to establish formal ties with the Taliban-run Afghanistan without extending diplomatic recognition to the regime. Fourteen of the 15 members voted for the resolution while Russia abstained. The resolution "recognises the need to help address the substantial challenges facing Afghanistan's economy, including through efforts to restore the banking and financial systems".

[Chinese FM lands in Kabul on unannounced visit after OIC moot](#)

March 24, 2022, Dawn

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi arrived Kabul for an unannounced visit. Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi received Yi on arrival in Kabul along with a high-level delegation. The visit comes a week before Beijing hosts a two-day conference, on March 30-31, of Afghanistan's neighbours on how to assist the Taliban government. Pakistan and Iran had earlier hosted similar meetings of these neighbouring countries after the Taliban takeover.

[Taliban Close Girls' Secondary Schools in Afghanistan, Again](#)

March 22, 2022, Human Rights Watch

On March 21 the Taliban promised to reopen all schools in Afghanistan, ending their seven-month de-facto ban on girls attending secondary school. Two days later, as many girls were preparing for the first day of the new school term, the Taliban reversed this decision, announcing that girls' secondary schools were to remain closed – indefinitely – until the Taliban put in place policies they say are compliant with “principles of Islamic law and Afghan culture,” including further restrictions on schoolgirls' dress.

[Afghan embassies defiant of Taliban struggle to stay afloat](#)

March 15, 2022, Dawn

Afghan embassies around the world that have refused to recognise the Taliban regime are struggling to stay afloat and facing increasing pressure from Kabul to accept loyalist replacements.

[Afghan embassy in Washington to close for want of funds](#)

March 13, 2022, Dawn

The Afghan embassy in Washington, under severe financial pressure and cut off from the new Taliban government in Kabul, will close down in the coming week, a senior State Department official confirmed.

[India sends fourth consignment of 2,000 MTs of wheat to Afghanistan](#)

March 15, 2022, The Print

The fourth consignment of 2,000 metric tonnes of wheat is being dispatched for Afghanistan via the Attari-Wagah border. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, said, a total of 8,000 MTs has been sent as on date to Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

[Foreign Minister S Jaishankar Extends Greetings on Bangladesh Independence Day](#)

March 26, 2022, NDTV

India was the second country, after Bhutan, to recognize Bangladesh as a sovereign and independent state on December 6 in 1971. The Bangladesh National Day on March 26 commemorates the country's declaration of independence from Pakistan in 1971. India and Bangladesh observed December 6 as Maitri Diwas as New Delhi had recognised Dhaka on this day in 1971.

[Chinese drone found near India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal](#)

March 19, 2022, India Today

A drone, reportedly made in China, has been found in a village field near the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal.

[Bangladesh, US approve draft pact on defence cooperation](#)

March 20, 2022, The Times of India

Bangladesh and the US on Sunday passed a draft defence agreement during their eighth partnership dialogue here, according to officials.

Nepal

[Chinese Foreign Minister's Nepal visit puts Himalayan nation in headlights of big power rivalry in South Asia](#)

March 26, 2022, SCMP

Wang Yi is expected to kick-start at least two Belt and Road Initiative projects after Nepal accepted a US\$500 million infrastructure grant from Washington.

[PM Modi Likely To Flag Off First Passenger Train To Nepal On 2 April](#)

March 25, 2022, Swarajyamag

The first passenger train service on broad gauge line from India to Nepal is slated to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid the presence of high-level Nepalese delegation including Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba here virtually on 2 April. The 35-km line from Joynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Nepal is going to be the first broad gauge (BG) passenger service in the Himalayan country.

[Deuba to visit India on April 1-3 in first official foreign trip since taking office](#)

March 24, 2022, Kathmandu Post

The prime minister set to leave for Delhi immediately after the Chinese foreign minister concludes his Nepal visit.

[Newly appointed Nepal envoy to India says it's a 'country of great significance'](#)

March 20, 2022, Wion News

Nepal on Sunday (March 20) appointed Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma as its ambassador to India. Commenting on the appointment, Ambassador Sharma expressed his commitment to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

[China promoting new ways to engage Nepal post-MCC compact ratification](#)

March 18, 2022, The Print

China is promoting new ways to engage Nepal post- Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact ratification, a grant of USD 500 million developmental assistance from the US to Kathmandu. This exploration starts with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka's economic crisis: How skyrocketing food, fuel prices in Colombo is forcing citizens to flee](#)

March 24, 2022, Financial Express

Initially hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation in Colombo has worsened after Russia attacked Ukraine last month. The Sri Lankan economy depends on imports for essential items.

[China Turns Its Back On Sri Lanka Amid Massive Economic Crisis: Report](#)

March 23, 2022, NDTV

Sri Lanka had appealed to China if a restructuring of the debt could be arranged to mitigate the economic crisis that had arisen in the face of the COVID-19 outbreak.

[China resumes for Sri Lanka FTA amid Indian tactics over loans, energy deals](#)

March 21, 2022, Economy Next

China has pushed Sri Lanka to complete a Free Trade Agreement saying the deal "would immensely benefit" the island as India is strategically wrapping up energy deals while offering credit lines to the nations strapped for dollars due to money printed to keep rates low.

[Sri Lanka's China-backed port visited by Defence Attachés](#)

March 20, 2022, Economy Next

Defence Attachés from several embassies in Colombo had visited Sri Lanka's China-backed port in Hambantota International Port, its operating firm said.

[India extends \\$1-billion line of credit to Sri Lanka](#)

March 18, 2022, The Indian Express

The assistance is to enable Sri Lanka to import food, other essential commodities and medicines from India, and was described by an Indian official as a "humanitarian measure to help the Sri Lankan people during a difficult time".

East & South East Asia

China

[China, India agree to strengthen communication for furthering ties](#)

March 26, 2022, Xinhua

Visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar agreed on Friday to strengthen communication for the further development of bilateral ties.

[China urges U.S. to stop cyber attacks against other nations](#)

March 25, 2022, CGTN

China urged the United States to fulfill its duties as a responsible country in the international cyberspace and stop attacking global internet users out of political interests.

[Ukraine crisis mirrors China-India common interests: Global Times editorial](#)

March 26, 2022, Global Times

It is generally noticed that the visit took place against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Some believe a subtle turning point has emerged in the bilateral relationship. They even speculate it may lead to an ice-breaking period.

[Xi-Johnson talks stress need for cooperation, show China's mutually trusted communication with Russia, Europe amid Ukraine crisis](#)

March 26, 2022, Global Times

President Xi Jinping spoke with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the phone on Friday, in which he stressed the need for the two countries to take a strategic and long-term perspective, keep an open and inclusive mindset and expand mutually beneficial cooperation.

[Lithuania says EU should scrap summit with China](#)

March 16, 2022, Reuters

A planned summit between China and the European Union should be cancelled until Beijing shows whether it stands with Russia or the West over the conflict in Ukraine, a senior Lithuanian official said.

[How long can US politicians and media continue to play 'double act'? : Global Times editorial](#)

March 21, 2022, Global Times

Recently, over the Ukraine crisis, Washington and the US media have been playing a "double act" again. After repeatedly failing to force China into their game, they have started talking up "exclusive reports," quoting "anonymous US officials" and fabricating many scenarios related to the situation in Ukraine.

[China-Russia relations the most important strategic asset that cannot be damaged by US provocation](#)

March 18, 2022, Global Times

The close relationship between China and Russia has been a thorn in the US' side, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing Ukraine crisis. With the simmering of the situation, it couldn't be any clearer that Washington is eager to exploit the Russia-Ukraine conflict to drive a wedge between Beijing and Moscow.

[Xi stresses joint China-U.S. efforts for world peace, tranquillity](#)

March 18, 2022, Xinhua

China and the United States must not only guide their relations forward along the right track, but also shoulder their share of international responsibilities and work for world peace and tranquillity, Chinese President Xi Jinping said.

[Wuhan aims to become China's 'valley of satellites' by 2025](#)

March 19, 2022, CGTN

China's central city of Wuhan has vowed to develop a 100-billion yuan (\$15.7 billion) space industry by 2025 and become the country's "valley of satellites," signalling a deepening push by China to become a major space power by 2030.

Japan

[Cambodia's Hun Sen avoids condemning Russia during Kishida visit](#)

March 21, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met with Cambodian leader Hun Sen on a visit to the Southeast Asian nation Sunday, part of an overseas tour that included a push to plug holes in international efforts to isolate Russia. Though Kishida and Hun Sen agreed that Russia's invasion of Ukraine violates the United Nations Charter, the joint statement issued after their talks neither mentioned Russia by name nor condemned its assault.

[Russia halts peace treaty talks with Japan over sanctions](#)

March 22, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday said it will withdraw from negotiations with Japan for a peace treaty to formally end World War II hostilities in response to sanctions over the war in Ukraine. Japan, along with the U.S. and Europe, have imposed far-reaching economic penalties on Russia following the invasion. Japan is damaging Russian interests by taking an "obviously unfriendly" stance toward the country, the ministry said in its statement.

[Kishida proposes Biden visit Japan for Quad summit in late April](#)

March 25, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has approached the U.S. President Joe Biden about visiting Japan in late April for a Quad summit, Nikkei has learned. Kishida spoke briefly with Biden on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in Brussels on Thursday. During the exchange, the Japanese leader brought up the Quad meeting that his country will host.

[Japan, Australia and India target Indo-Pacific supply-chain code](#)

March 16, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Trade chiefs from Japan, Australia and India agreed on Tuesday to develop principles that will strengthen supply chains through better data management in the Indo-Pacific region. Koichi Hagiuda, Japan's minister for economy, trade and industry, met virtually with his counterparts Piyush Goyal from India and Dan Tehan of Australia. The three later issued a joint statement calling for "supply-chain principles" in the Indo-Pacific. The principles are due to be finalized next year.

[Japan offered India \\$42bn in investments during Kishida's visit](#)

March 19, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced a plan to invest 5 trillion yen (\$42 billion) in India over five years on Saturday, as reported by Nikkei. Kishida also revealed the public-private funding during an economic forum and pledged growth in direct investment in terms of value, as well as an increase in Japanese companies expanding into India.

[LDP to debate contentious nuclear weapons-sharing proposal](#)

March 14, 2022, The Japan Times

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is set to begin internal discussions on nuclear deterrence, taking up the controversial issue of nuclear weapons sharing with the United States despite the government's opposition to the idea,

party lawmakers. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its threat of using nuclear weapons have prompted calls from conservative party members, including former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, for Japan to discuss the topic.

Korea

[N. Korea fires 4 suspected shots from multiple rocket launchers into Yellow Sea: officials](#)

March 20, 2022, The Korea Herald

North Korea on Sunday fired four suspected shots from its multiple rocket launchers into the Yellow Sea, South Korean military officials said, the latest in a series of provocations that could have heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. South Korea's National Security Council held an emergency vice-ministerial meeting over the four shots that fell into the western waters during a span of an hour from 7:20 a.m. from an unspecified location in South Pyongan Province, according to officials.

[Korea-US FTA helps boost trade, investment, but more should be done: USTR](#)

March 17, 2022, The Korea Herald

The South Korea-US free trade agreement (KORUS FTA) has greatly increased bilateral trade and investment but more can and should be done to further advance the countries' economic ties, US Trade Representative Katherine Tai said Wednesday. Her remarks come as the allies marked the 10th anniversary of the implementation of their bilateral trade pact this week.

[Korea, Turkey seek deeper economic ties via FTA](#)

March 22, 2022, The Korea Times

Korea and Turkey checked the outcome of their free trade agreement that went into effect nine years ago and discussed ways to further deepen trade and investment ties within the framework, Seoul's industry ministry said Tuesday. The matter was discussed during the director-level meeting of the Korea-Turkey FTA Joint Committee, the fifth of its kind, which was held via teleconferencing and brought together some 20 trade officials from the two countries.

[Yoon, Vietnamese president agree to develop bilateral ties](#)

March 23, 2022, The Korea Times

President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol held telephone talks with Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc on Wednesday during which they agreed to develop bilateral ties, Yoon's spokesperson said Wednesday. During the 30-minute talks, the Vietnamese president congratulated Yoon for winning the election.

and asked him to visit Vietnam as soon as possible, the spokesperson Kim Eun-hye said.

[Yoon meets with Israeli ambassador, assures ratification of FTA](#)

March 24, 2022, The Korea Times

President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol met with the top Israeli envoy to Seoul, Thursday, and assured him that a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two nations will be ratified. "I believe the FTA passage will be done well in a bipartisan manner, because it helps our national interest," Yoon said during the meeting with Ambassador Akiva Tor after the envoy said Israel ratified the pact last week. The pact was signed last year, making South Korea the first Asian country to have an FTA with Israel.

[Yoon, Xi discuss cooperation between two countries in phone call](#)

March 25, 2022, The Korea Herald

President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed bilateral cooperation for peace on the Korean Peninsula in a telephone conversation on Friday. During the 25-minute phone conversation, Yoon stressed that the two countries should cooperate for peace on the Korean Peninsula and the complete denuclearization of North Korea. "Yoon said the South Korean people are greatly worried about the tension between the two Koreas following the consecutive intercontinental ballistic missile tests by North Korea, including the latest test launch on Thursday," Yoon's spokesperson Kim Eun-hye said in a statement.

Southeast Asia

[India, Indonesia hold second security dialogue, vow to combat terror](#)

March 17, 2022, Hindustan Times

Ajit Doval co-chaired the 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue with Mohammad Mahfud, coordinating minister of political, legal and security affairs.

[India, Philippines seen as good fit for healthcare tie ups](#)

March 23, 2022, Business World

INDIA and the Philippines stand to mutually gain from collaborating in healthcare and health technology (healthtech), the Indian ambassador to the Philippines said.

[Rethinking the Philippines' Deterrence in the South China Sea](#)

March 26, 2022, The Diplomat

Manila should change the narrative from a focus on "how to defend" against China toward a more active strategy of deterring China.

[China has fully militarized three islands in South China Sea, US admiral says](#)

March 21, 2022, The Guardian

China has fully militarized at least three of several islands it built in the disputed South China Sea, arming them with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment and fighter jets in an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating nearby, a top US military commander said.

[World's largest trade deal comes into effect in Malaysia](#)

March 18, 2022, Business Standard

The country is expected to see a \$200 million increase in export gains, making the RCEP a vital tool in recovering from the economic disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, it said.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyz Activists Fined For Protesting Against Russia's Invasion Of Ukraine](#)

March 22, 2022, RFE/RL

Noted Kyrgyz human rights activists Dinara Oshurakhunova and Ondurush Toktonasyrov have been fined for publicly protesting against Moscow's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in front of the Russian Embassy in Bishkek.

[Turkmenistan: New president, old ideas](#)

March 15, 2022, Eurasianet

Vote officials issued a statement on March 15, three days after the presidential election took place, to announce that Serdar Berdymukhamedov, the 40-year-old son of the outgoing leader, won 72.97 percent of the ballots cast.

[Turkmenistan: Berdymukhamedov passes the mantle \(and phone\)](#)

March 22, 2022, Eurasianet

Serdar Berdymukhamedov, 40, was inaugurated as Turkmenistan's third president on March 19, ending a transition process years in the making. The Berdymukhamedovs and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke on March 16. After the older Berdymukhamedov exchanged some words with Xi, he "passed the handset to the newly elected president of Turkmenistan," as the state news agency [observed](#). His coronation at the Rukhyet Palace in Ashgabat was an aggressive celebration of continuity.

[Kazakhstan: CPC pipeline shutdown poses serious economic threat](#)

March 23, 2022, Eurasianet

A consortium operating the pipeline that Kazakhstan uses to export the bulk of its oil has said the route may be largely unusable for up to two months because of infrastructure damage caused by a recent storm.

[Ethnic Central Asians Among Those Killed With the Russian Army in Ukraine](#)

March 25, 2022, The Diplomat

Media in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan recently reported on the deaths of ethnic Central Asians in Ukraine. Bodies of those killed in Ukraine were reportedly returned to their native villages for burial in March, bringing the war — whether local media call it that or not — closer to the region.

[Investigation Reveals Dozens Of Kyrgyz Officials Might Have Faked Their Degrees](#)

March 25, 2022, RFE/RL

An ongoing investigation by the Kyrgyz security services has revealed that dozens of officials and lawmakers might have faked their university degrees to get important posts or to run in elections, prosecutors say.

[Uzbekistan puts up 'for sale' sign amid chill of Ukraine war](#)

March 25, 2022, Eurasianet

Never mind the warnings of global economic gloom, Uzbekistan is open for business. That was President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's sales pitch at the inaugural Tashkent International Investment Forum, which opened on March 24.

[Russia did not violate international conventions on use of prohibited weapons – Kremlin](#)

March 25, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia has never violated international conventions on the use of prohibited weapons, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said when asked about phosphorus bombs in Ukraine.

[Kazakhstan restricts export of foreign currency and gold](#)

March 15, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan has banned the export of hard currency in amounts worth more than \$10,000, as well as gold and silver bullion, as it attempts to stabilise a national currency battered by the knock-on effect of international sanctions against its main trading partner, Russia.

[In Break With Moscow, Uzbeks Won't Recognize Separatist 'Republics' In Ukraine](#)

March 17, 2022, RFE/RL

Uzbekistan says it does not recognize the pro-Russian separatist-controlled districts in Ukraine's Donbas, known as the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics," and has called for a "peaceful solution" to end Russia's unprovoked attack against Ukraine.

West Asia

[Iran Ready To Meet India's Energy Needs, Tehran Envoy Tells New Delhi](#)

March 18, 2022, Business Standard

Iran is ready to meet India's energy needs by launching rupee-rial trade for export of oil and gas, said Ali Chegeni, Tehran's Ambassador to New Delhi.

[After IOC, HPCL Buys 2m Barrels of Russian Crude, MRPL Seeks 1m Barrels](#)

March 17, 2022, The Economic Times

After Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has bought two million barrels of Russian crude oil as Indian refiners stepped up efforts to secure Russian oil available at deep discounts.

[India's Adani Group Exploring Partnerships With Saudi Aramco: Report](#)

March 20, 2022, Arab News

Indian multinational conglomerate Adani Group headed by Gautam Adani is apparently exploring potential partnerships in Saudi Arabia, including the possibility of buying a stake in the world's largest oil exporter Aramco.

[Saudi Arabia in Talks to Use Chinese Yuan in Oil Deals: Report](#)

March 16, 2022, CNBC

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is considering future deals where China could purchase oil from the country using the CNY, instead of the USD, which dominates the global oil trade.

[China's Covid Resurgence is Part of The Reason Oil Prices Plummeted from Record Highs](#)

March 16, 2022, CNBC

China's recent Covid wave and subsequent lockdowns in Shenzhen have helped oil prices ease from record highs reached roughly a week ago.

[India Reportedly Explores Yuan in Oil Trade with Russia, as Frustration Grows Over US Sanctions](#)

March 15, 2022, Global Times

India is reportedly planning to buy Russian oil at discounted prices and even considering the Chinese yuan as a reference currency in an India-Russia payment settlement mechanism.

[Israeli PM Bennett To Visit India Next Month to Mark 30 Years of Diplomatic Ties](#)

March 20, 2022, The Times of Israel

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is slated to pay an official visit to India in April 2022 to commemorate 30 years of full diplomatic relations between the two nations.

[India Boosts Fertiliser Imports From Canada, Israel as Russian Supply Disrupted](#)

March 16, 2022, The Economic Times

India is boosting fertiliser imports from nations including Canada and Israel to ensure sufficient supplies for the coming summer sowing season after the disruption of shipments caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[Oman's Foreign Minister to Visit India This Week](#)

March 17, 2022, WION

Oman's foreign minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi will visit India next week. He is expected to be in Delhi from 23rd to 24th.

[India to Boost Wheat Exports To Egypt, Oman, Israel, Nigeria, And South Africa To Fill Void Left by Ukraine Conflict](#)

March 21, 2022, Mint

Israel, Oman, Nigeria and South Africa have approached India to secure wheat supplies, two government officials said, as the Russia-Ukraine conflict entered its fourth week, threatening a global food crisis.

[Russia Backs Down on Demands in Iran Nuclear Deal Talks, Making Revival of 2015 Pact Imminent](#)

March 18, 2022, CNBC

Russia has walked back its threat to torpedo the revival of the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal over recent sanctions imposed over its invasion of Ukraine, reopening the way to an agreement after nearly a year of talks in Vienna.

[US Ready To Make 'Tough Decisions' To Revive Iran Nuclear Deal, Official Says](#)

March 19, 2022, The Times of Israel

"We are not negotiating in public and are not going to respond to specific claims about what sanctions we would be prepared to lift as part of a mutual return to full implementation of the JCPOA," the State Department official said.

[Qatar to Help Germany Cut Reliance on Russian Gas, Says Economy Minister Robert Habeck](#)

March 20, 2022, Deutsche Welle

Germany and Qatar have agreed upon a long-term energy partnership to help cut reliance on Russian gas over the invasion of Ukraine, German Economic Minister Robert Habeck said.

[Saudi Aramco Reports Profit Surge on Day Sites Hit By Yemen Rebels](#)

March 20, 2022, Moneycontrol

As the world economy started to rebound from the Covid pandemic, "Aramco's net income increased by 124 percent to \$110 billion in 2021, compared to \$49 billion in 2020," the company said.

[UAE Leaders Receive Syrian President Assad](#)

March 18, 2022, Arab News

Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed welcomed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the UAE, saying he hoped his visit will be the beginning of good, peace and stability for Syria and the entire region.

United States

United States

[SpaceX launches Starlink satellites from Florida](#)

March 19, 2022, USA Today

SpaceX launched another batch of Starlink satellites into space on Saturday from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

[U.S. to Sanction Companies Providing Technology for Russian Military, Intelligence Services](#)

March 25, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration is preparing sanctions targeting Russian companies it says provide goods and services for the military and intelligence services, including dual-use components used in weapons proliferation, U.S. officials said. The Treasury Department sanctions, which could be announced as early as next week, come as the U.S. and allies continue to target a range of economic sectors in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions are the latest action under an executive order signed by President Biden that aims at blocking or prohibiting transactions with entities or people linked to harmful foreign activities on behalf of Moscow.

[U.S. Charges Russian Government Hackers With Campaign of Global Energy Cyberattacks](#)

March 24, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Justice Department on Thursday unsealed charges against four Russian nationals it accused of carrying out a yearslong hacking campaign that targeted thousands of computers in the U.S. and around the world in a bid to gain access to systems that could disrupt or physically damage vital energy facilities. The defendants all worked for the Russian government and targeted hundreds of companies in 135 countries, U.S. authorities said.

[Biden Sticks With Longstanding U.S. Policy on Use of Nuclear Weapons Amid Pressure From Allies](#)

March 25, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden, stepping back from a campaign vow, has embraced a longstanding U.S. approach of using the threat of a potential nuclear response to deter conventional and other nonnuclear dangers in addition to nuclear ones, U.S. officials said Thursday. During the 2020 campaign Mr. Biden

promised to work toward a policy in which the sole purpose of the U.S. nuclear arsenal would be to deter or respond to an enemy nuclear attack.

[Central Banks Grapple With Dual Threat of Slowing Growth, Rising Inflation](#)

March 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The war in Ukraine is casting a stagflationary shadow over the world economy and posing a dilemma for central banks: Should they support flagging growth or fight skyrocketing inflation? Central bankers—who were already struggling to predict when surging inflation would come under control—say the war has deepened the uncertainty they face as they seek to rein in price increases without killing the recovery from the pandemic. They face the risk of having to squeeze their economies hard and drive up unemployment to get inflation in check.

[How Joe Biden turned into a leading boogeyman for Republicans](#)

March 25, 2022, CNN

One year ago, Republicans were struggling to find a line of attack that stuck to President Joe Biden, who enjoyed approval ratings in the mid-50s. It would be an understatement to say much has changed since then. While there were some signs the public's views of Biden were on the uptick following his State of the Union address and initial response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, his job performance numbers have still been mostly mired in the low 40s.

[Fed Raises Interest Rates for First Time Since 2018](#)

March 17, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Federal Reserve officials voted Wednesday to lift interest rates and penciled in six more increases by year's end, the most aggressive pace in more than 15 years, in an escalating effort to slow inflation that is running at its highest levels in four decades. The Fed will raise its benchmark federal-funds rate by a quarter percentage point to a range between 0.25% and 0.5%, the first rate increase since 2018.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Lead negotiators for India-EU FTA to meet in March end, plan for talks](#)

March 25, 2022, Mint

Boosted by its exports touching the \$400 billion-mark, India is set to relaunch talks with the European Union (EU) on a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), with their lead negotiators meeting as early as this month for preliminary talks, said two government officials aware of the development.

[‘India-EU FTA to be a game changer for mutual trade’](#)

March 17, 2022, Mint

The proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union will be a game changer for India-Ireland bilateral trade, with talks likely to resume soon, said Robert Troy, minister of state for trade promotion, Ireland.

[US, EU draft to amend India’s TRIPS waiver proposal shows West hypocrisy at its best](#)

March 24, 2022, The Print

The TRIPS Agreement focused on the IPRs that restricted access and Covid vaccine supplies. India must shout a defiant ‘no’ against a sloppy US draft.

[Moldova pursues neutrality, EU membership amid Ukraine war](#)

March 24, 2022, Al Jazeera

Ukraine’s neighbour maintains a military non-alignment over its fear of Russia, but submits a bid to join the EU.

[Ukraine offers EU to completely block transport links with Russia, Belarus](#)

March 25, 2022, Ukinform

The Ministry of Infrastructure has sent a letter to the European Commission proposing that the EU completely block transport connections with Russia and Belarus.

[Beyond China’s economic coercion: Time for a resilient EU](#)

March 17, 2022, India Today

The EU’s approach to China’s assertiveness has so far been half-hearted, shaped by its own fragmentation running deeply between member states.

[With eye on China, EU sets rules to force open tenders](#)

March 15, 2022, Reuters

The European Union agreed on Monday new rules to limit access to its 2 trillion euros (\$2.2 trillion) worth of public tenders in a move designed to pressure countries such as China to open up their markets.

Russia

[Russia Breaks Off WWII Peace Talks Over Japan's Stance On Ukraine Invasion](#)

March 21, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia said it was withdrawing from negotiations with Japan aimed at signing a formal World War II peace treaty because of Tokyo's tough stance against Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

[Russia Says It Could Target Western Arms Supplies To Ukraine](#)

March 12, 2022, RFE/RL

A senior Russian official warned on March 12 that Moscow could target Western shipments of military equipment to Ukraine. Speaking on state television, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said that Moscow has warned the United States that it would see the deliveries of Western weapons to Ukraine as targets.

[Russia expels American diplomats](#)

March 23, 2022, Russia Today

Russia has announced the expulsion of an unspecified number of American diplomats in response to a US government order to remove 12 staffers from Moscow's mission to the United Nations, in New York.

[Navalny Sentenced to 9 More Years in Prison](#)

March 23, 2022, The Moscow Times

A Moscow court has sentenced jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny to nine more years in prison on fresh charges of embezzlement and contempt of court, raising fears among allies that his life may be in danger in a remote colony after his near-fatal poisoning.

[Russia Says 'Unfriendly' Countries Will Have To Pay In Roubles For Gas Supplies](#)

March 23, 2022, RFE/RL

President Vladimir Putin says Russia will start forcing "unfriendly countries" -- including all European Union states -- to pay for their natural gas supplies in roubles.

[India can buy up to 15 million barrels of oil from Russia by year end](#)

March 24, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian oil companies have a good chance of increasing the volume of deliveries to the Indian market, according to head of the operational department of the Russian trade mission in India Evgeny Ostapkevich.

[Russia, Ukraine Exchange Prisoners](#)

March 24, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia and Ukraine have exchanged prisoners, Kyiv and Moscow confirmed on March 24, in what Ukraine said was the first swap of soldiers since Moscow ordered troops into Ukraine one month ago.

[Russia has Launched 'Exit Procedure' From Council of Europe](#)

March 15, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia's foreign ministry said it was launching the procedure to exit the Council of Europe, as pressure grew for Moscow's expulsion from the pan-European rights group. The ministry posted a statement on "launching the procedure to exit the Council of Europe" on its Telegram account, saying it had given notification of its departure to the Secretary General Marija Pejcinovic Buric.

[Russia ready to consider possibility of selling S-500 to India – ambassador](#)

March 18, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia is prepared to closely study the possibility of selling its newest air defence systems S-500 to India, should New Delhi display interest in such a deal, Russian ambassador in New Delhi, Denis Alipov, told Russian media.

[Putin Marks Crimea Anniversary, Defends 'Special Operation' in Ukraine in Stadium Rally](#)

March 18, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian President Putin led a pro-government rally that was beset by "technical difficulties" and reports of people being forced to attend. The event marking the eighth anniversary of Russia's annexation of Crimea, which is not recognized

by most countries, came three weeks into Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine that has sparked fierce international condemnation.

[Russia says foreign ships can't leave Ukrainian ports due to mines, threat of shelling](#)

March 25, 2022, TASS News Agency

Colonel General Mikhail Mizintsev, head of the Russian National Center for Defense Management, said the danger of mines created by the Kiev government along with the threat of shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces are preventing 67 foreign ships from 15 countries to safely leave the ports of Nikolayev, Chernomorsk, Ochakov, Odessa and Yuzhny.

[Putin hits back at attempts to 'cancel' Russia](#)

March 25, 2022, Russia Today

Russian President Vladimir Putin has compared efforts by the elites in the West to weaponize "cancel culture" against famous Russian composers and writers – in response to the country's military offensive in Ukraine – to Nazi book burnings.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Two Decades On, the African Union Needs to Rediscover its Founding Spirit](#)

March 21, 2022, Medium

Last month, for the first time since 2017, a summit took place in Brussels between leaders from the European Union and the African Union. The EU is increasingly worried about its influence on the continent amid China's efforts to entrench its position of dominance.

[Drought in Somalia worsened by funding gap, Ukraine war](#)

March 24, 2022, Al Jazeera

Millions of people are facing severe hunger as a result of the worst drought in 40 years in the Horn of Africa.

[Zimbabwe-Rwanda Trade and Investment Conference Starts Set for Next Week](#)

March 23, 2022, All Africa

A total of 60 Rwandan businesses are expected to participate in this year's Zimbabwe-Rwanda Trade and Investment Conference, slated for March 28 through April 1.

[Food Insecurity An Evolving Concern in Covid-19-Hit Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

March 23, 2022, All Africa

As the world marks the second anniversary of the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the health, economic, and social disruptions caused by this global crisis continue to evolve.

[China ready to move ties with South Africa to deeper level: Xi](#)

March 19, 2022, Esns.cn

China stands ready to work with South Africa to move their ties forward toward a deeper level with higher quality and broader scope, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Friday afternoon.

[China's special Horn of Africa envoy has work cut out ahead of first peace meet in conflict-hit region](#)

March 21, 2022, SCMP

China will heed calls to do more in region 'fed up' with Western interventions, newly appointed envoy Xue Bing says. As prolonged conflict threatens investments, China needs to see that economic growth and stability are a two-way street, observers point out.

[China, Africa Urged to Cement Diplomatic Ties Through Closer Exchanges](#)

March 15, 2022, All Africa

China and the countries of Africa should cement their ever-deepening diplomatic ties by further enhancing people-to-people exchanges, an Ethiopian expert has said.

[General Says China Is Seeking a Naval Base in West Africa](#)

March 17, 2022, US Department of Defense

The Chinese are actively seeking a military naval base in Africa on the Atlantic coast, which would threaten U.S. national security, Army Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, commander of U.S. Africa Command said. Townsend and other Defense Department officials testified today at a House Armed Services Committee hearing on national security challenges and U.S. military activities in the Middle East and Africa.

Latin America

[Mexico faces fuel price challenges due to Ukraine-Russia conflict](#)

March 25, 2022, CGTN

The conflict in Ukraine is raising concerns around the world about rising gasoline prices.

[Mexico's president downplays U.S. claim of Russian agents in Mexico](#)

March 25, 2022, Reuters

Mexico's president on Friday said he had no information about comments from a U.S. general that Russian intelligence agents are based in Mexico, and reiterated Mexico's non-interventionist stance.

[IMF approves USD 44 billion extended arrangement for Argentina to tackle high inflation](#)

March 26, 2022, The Print

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board approved a USD 44 billion extended arrangement for Argentina to strengthen the country's debt sustainability and tackle high inflation, the IMF said in a statement.

[Ukraine War Boosts Brazil's Case for Lifting U.S. Steel Limits](#)

March 16, 2022, Bloomberg

Brazilian steel mills see trade disruptions spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine as motivation for the U.S. to lift restrictions on imports of the alloy.

[Why Brazil and Argentina Chose Russia Over Ukraine](#)

March 20, 2022, National Interest

One of the more bizarre aspects of Russia's war on Ukraine has been the behaviour of both Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro and his Argentine counterpart, Alberto Fernandez. Both leaders paid visits to Russia where they met with Vladimir Putin shortly before Ukraine was invaded on February 24. The visits were not part of any effort to head off the invasion, which many already saw as likely, as Russian forces were menacing Ukraine.

[How to Have a Successful Summit of the Americas](#)

March 15, 2022, National Interest

American negotiators will need to temper expectations of what the United States will be able to do with Latin America in the near term, but it is profoundly in U.S. national interest to reassert itself as the region's international partner of choice.



Delhi Policy Group
Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India
www.delhipolicygroup.org