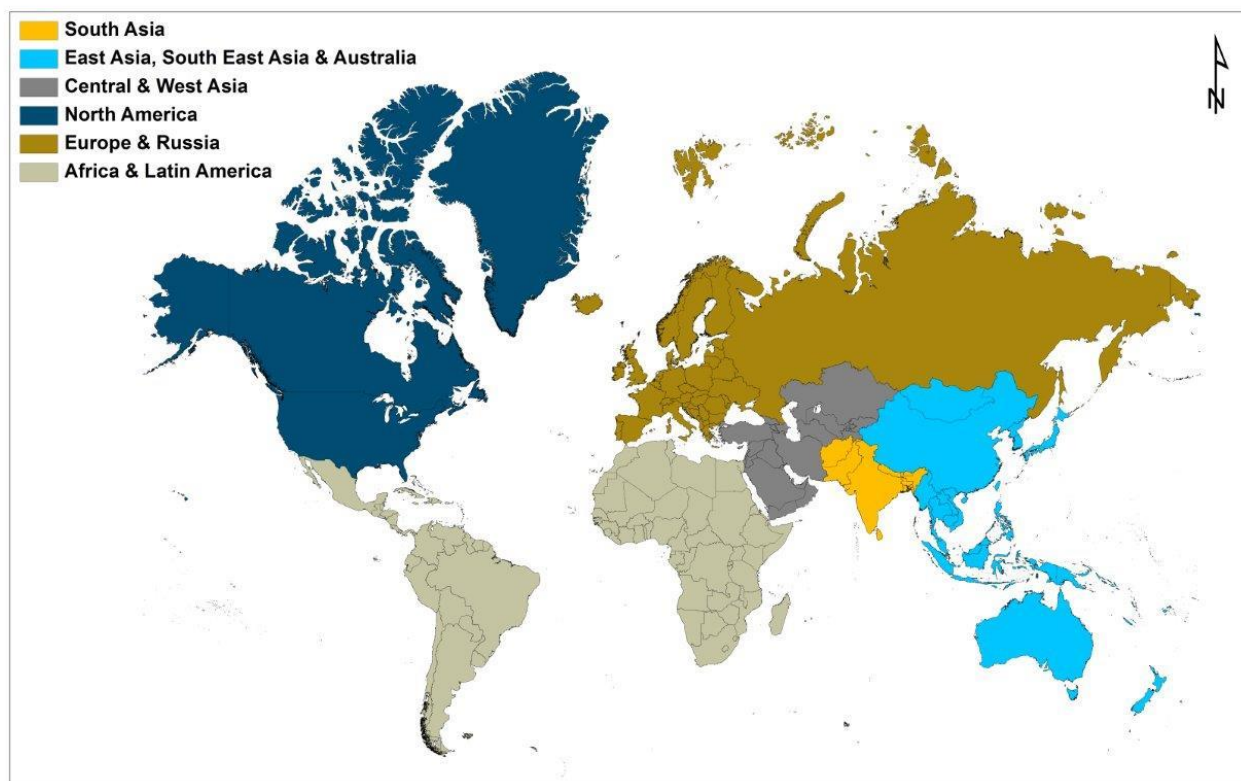




Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 13 | April 4, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume VI, Issue 13

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.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

DPG Weekly World Watch is based on analysis of open source information. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

© 2022 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.

www.delhipolicygroup.org

Contents

South Asia 1

East & South East Asia8

Central & West Asia13

United States.....17

Europe & Russia19

Africa & Latin America 22

South Asia

India

[As summer sets in, military reviews situation on LAC](#)

March 30, 2022, The Times of India

With the onset of summer amidst no signs of de-escalation in the 22 month old troop confrontation in eastern Ladakh, top Army and IAF commanders kicked off a comprehensive review of the operational situation, military preparedness and wargaming strategies along the northern borders with China.

[Indian Navy's second P-8I squadron INAS 316 'Condors'](#)

April 2, 2022, The Indian Express

The Navy has commissioned its second P-8I aircraft squadron – Indian Naval Air Squadron 316. INAS 316 has been christened 'Condors' after one of the largest flying land birds with a massive wingspan.

[Adani Vizhinjam port: Strategic boost to India's maritime credentials](#)

April 3, 2022, Business Line

The ₹7,525-crore deep-water, multipurpose, international seaport and container transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam, near Thiruvananthapuram – being constructed by Adani Vizhinjam Ports Pvt Ltd (AVPPL) – will go to entrench India's position in the maritime world.

Pakistan

[Singapore-based Guvnor backs out from 4 LNG term deliveries](#)

March 26, 2022, The News

Singapore-based Guvnor has decided not to honour its contract to deliver four LNG term cargoes to Pakistan, which would force the dollar-starved country to purchase costly LNG from the spot market to fulfill its energy needs.

[Rupee plunges after SBP reserves fall by \\$2.9bn](#)

April 1, 2022, Dawn

The rupee plunged to a historic low of Rs183.70 against the US dollar in the interbank market after the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported a massive outflow of \$2.9 billion.

[Threatening letter came from US: PM Imran Khan](#)

April 1, 2022, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan lifted the lid on the threatening letter and said it 'came from the US.' In his address to the nation at a time when he has lost majority in the National Assembly, Prime Minister Imran Khan started off with his political ideology and reason for his joining the political arena.

[No truth to allegations: White House](#)

April 1, 2022, The News

The White House has strongly rejected PM Imran Khan's assertion of the US government's involvement in a plot to remove him. Responding to media questions regarding the issue, the White House spokesperson said, "there is absolutely no truth to the allegation."

[Pakistan lodges protest with US over 'threatening memo'](#)

April 1, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan lodged a formal protest with the US over a threatening letter that warned of dire consequences if the opposition's no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan failed.

[Country faces power outages amid 3,000MW shortage](#)

March 31, 2022, Dawn

Homes experienced nationwide power outages amid a power shortage of over 3,000 megawatts in Pakistan. Sources in the National Transmission and Despatch Company said K-2 and K-3 nuclear power plants near Jamshoro — with a generation capacity of 1,200 MW each — were suspended due to a fault in the plants, resulting in a power shortage of 2,400 MW in the country.

[Ties with China termed cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy](#)

March 31, 2022, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi exchanged views on bilateral strategic, economic and security cooperation, Covid-19 pandemic, peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional and international issues of mutual interest. Mr Qureshi is visiting China to attend the third meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries. Mr Qureshi also held separate meetings with his Russian, Iranian and Afghan counterparts Sergey Lavrov, Dr Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Amir Khan Muttaqi.

[Female seminary teacher killed by her students](#)

March 30, 2022, Dawn

A woman teacher at a girls' seminary was killed after she was allegedly stabbed in the neck by three female students. The students accused of carrying out the fatal attack have been arrested. The assailants thought the slain teacher, Safoora Bibi, 21, had committed blasphemy, said Imtiaz Janjua, a spokesperson for the district police.

[China agrees to fresh rollover of \\$2.5bn commercial loans](#)

March 31, 2022, Dawn

Out of the approximately \$21 billion in outstanding official loans, including commercial, bilateral and safe deposits, China has agreed in principle for granting a fresh rollover of \$2.5 billion in commercial loans to Pakistan for one year.

[Six Pakistanis martyred as UN chopper shot down in DR Congo](#)

March 30, 2022, Dawn

Six Pakistani peacekeepers were martyred in the Democratic Republic of Congo when rebels shot down a United Nations helicopter. One Russian and one Serbian peacekeepers also died in the crash.

[Islamabad needs to curtail imports, says Chinese envoy](#)

March 30, 2022, Dawn

China's Consul General Li Bijian said Pakistan should reduce imports from the largest Asian economy as the bilateral trade is highly skewed against Islamabad. At a ceremony to mark the beginning of the local assembling of Chinese home appliances brand Midea, Mr Li said the "heavy imbalance" in the bilateral trade is a "problem" that Islamabad should resolve through import substitution.

[Saudi firm to help Pakistan assess Reko Diq gold, copper quantity](#)

March 27, 2022, Dawn

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, while defending a recently signed agreement on the Reko Diq copper and gold mining project with a Canadian company, has disclosed that a Saudi Arabian firm would set up a refinery in Gwadar to assess the quantity of minerals extracted from the site.

[CERN team reviewing Pakistan's associate membership](#)

March 26, 2022, Dawn

A task force of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) is reviewing to extend the associate membership of Pakistan for another five

years. The task force comprising five experts is holding meetings with different entities in Pakistan to review the associate membership.

[8 personnel martyred in Tank, South Waziristan clashes](#)

March 31, 2022, Dawn

Eight security personnel, including an army captain, were martyred and seven terrorists were killed in clashes between security forces and members of the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district and adjacent South Waziristan tribal district.

Afghanistan

[World Bank freezes Afghan projects](#)

March 31, 2022, Dawn

The World Bank has put four projects in Afghanistan worth \$600 million on hold amid concerns over a decision by the Taliban regime to ban girls from returning to public high schools, the bank said.

[Taliban bar govt employees without beards from work](#)

March 29, 2022, Dawn

Afghanistan's Taliban has instructed all government employees to wear a beard and adhere to a dress code or risk being fired, three sources said, the latest of several new restrictions imposed by the hardline Islamist administration.

[Afghan embassy, consulates in US shut their doors](#)

March 27, 2022, Dawn

The Afghan embassy and their consulates in the United States have ceased operations and transferred custodial responsibility of their properties to the US State Department. Afghan diplomatic missions in the United States faced serious financial issues after the US government froze Afghan assets in the US banking system. The sanctions caused many diplomats and staff members to go unpaid for months.

[Taliban 'block unaccompanied women from flights'](#)

March 27, 2022, Dawn

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers refused to allow dozens of women to board several flights, including some overseas, because they were traveling without a male guardian, whereas dozens of girls demonstrated in the Afghan capital demanding the right to go to school.

[UN donor conference falls billions short of \\$4.4bn target to help Afghanistan](#)

March 31, 2022, The Guardian

The world's donor drought, and growing global divisions over Afghanistan's political direction, have been laid bare when a UN appeal for \$4.4bn (£3.35bn) to help Afghanistan fell massively short, the second UN donor conference in a month to do so.

[Taliban decides to ban international media from airing in Afghanistan](#)

March 28, 2022, Business Standard

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan has decided to ban the broadcasts of international media outlets being telecasted via local media. The BBC became the first to stop broadcasts night, reports Khaama Press. In a statement, the BBC has asked the Taliban to reverse its decision, saying it would affect more than six million viewers of Persian, Pashto and Uzbek language service programmes.

[China holds multinational meetings to discuss Afghanistan](#)

March 30, 2022, Al Jazeera

China is holding two multinational meetings in the ancient town of Tunxi to discuss the economic and humanitarian crisis facing Afghanistan, as Beijing makes a diplomatic push for the country's stability and development under the Taliban. Afghan acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is attending the two-day meeting to be attended by foreign ministers of Afghanistan's immediate neighbours – Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh signs deal with Adani group for Indian Economic Zone](#)

April 3, 2022, Newsonair

The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) signed an agreement with the Indian company Adani Ports and SEZ Limited to set up an Indian Economic Zone at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN) in Mirsarai of Chattogram. The Indian Economic Zone will provide facilities for Indian investors in Bangladesh.

[5 Bangladeshis, who strayed into India, sent back](#)

April 2, 2022, The Print

Five Bangladesh nationals, who strayed into India, were sent back to their country, an official said.

[Indian export to Bangladesh rises 64.5%](#)

April 3, 2022, The Daily Star

India's merchandise exports to Bangladesh went up by 64.5 per cent in the financial year 2021-22 (April to March) over the previous fiscal 2020-21, Commerce Ministry data said.

[BSF promise for India-Bangladesh border villagers](#)

April 4, 2022, The Telegraph

Dinhata 2 block development officer in Cooch Behar district has said the BSF promised that there would be no restriction on farmers cultivating jute on agriculture land located before the fences on the India-Bangladesh border and the movement of residents near the frontier at any time of the day.

Nepal

[From power trade to rail connectivity – India, Nepal work to revamp ties after map row](#)

April 3, 2022, The Print

PM Modi and Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba Saturday attempted to iron out issues in bilateral ties after relations nosedived 2 years ago, when then PM K.P.S. Oli redrew Nepal's map.

[India-Nepal train services begin today; Here's all you need to know](#)

April 2, 2022, Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepal counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba on Sunday inaugurated the rail service between the two countries. The train between the two countries will operate from Jaynagar in Bihar to Kurtha in Janakpur.

[India's Modi meets Nepal's Deuba in New Delhi 'friendship' summit](#)

April 3, 2022, SCMP

Narendra Modi met Sher Bahadur Deuba in Deuba's first trip to India as PM; comes days after China's FM Wang Yi visited both India and Nepal

Sri Lanka

[India's credit facility, fuel, food proved to be lifeline for Sri Lankans: Envoy](#)

April 3, 2022, Hindustan Times

India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay told news agency ANI that four consignments totalling over 150,000 tons of jet aviation fuel, diesel and petrol have arrived in the island nation since February.

['Blatantly false': India on reports about sending troops to crisis-hit Sri Lanka](#)

April 3, 2022, Hindustan Times

The clarification was said to be issued after reports about India planning to send its soldiers to Sri Lanka to help the Gotabaya Rajapaksa-led government quell the unrest surfaced.

[Sri Lanka economic crisis: What High Commission said on reports of India dispatching soldiers](#)

April 2, 2022, Mint

As the country is facing unprecedented economic crisis, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa-led government has issued an extraordinary gazette to declare a 36-hour public emergency in island nation. Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka has denied reports of the country dispatching its soldiers to the neighbouring country facing severe economic crisis, terming them 'completely baseless'.

[Sri Lanka slipped by pursuing Chinese prosperity dream. It's in India's interest to help it](#)

April 1, 2022, The Print

The Rajapaksa government should have shelved some of the China-funded infrastructure projects, which were high on debt servicing and low on revenue earnings.

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi asks EU to adopt independent China policy](#)

April 1, 2022, SCMP

President Xi Jinping called upon the European Union on Friday to adopt an independent China policy and work with Beijing for the steady and sustained growth of bilateral relations.

[US 'biggest disrupter' in South China Sea](#)

April 1, 2022, China Daily

The United States is the biggest culprit behind the militarization of the South China Sea, and the "biggest disrupter and troublemaker" in the region, the Ministry of National Defense said.

[China says Lithuania can resolve the issue by sticking to one-China principle](#)

April 2, 2022, China Daily

China urged Lithuania to honour its commitments made when establishing diplomatic relations with Beijing and get back to the framework of one-China principle.

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

March 26, 2022, Global Times

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed on Friday that Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India. Indian media reported that Wang met with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

[Intensive diplomatic maneuvers with India exposes US' limited leverage](#)

March 30, 2022, Global Times

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited India on Thursday for a two-day . Meanwhile, top officials from the US and its allies are also slated to visit India.

[Xi calls on EU to form independent China policy, encourages bloc to take primary role for Ukraine resolution](#)

April 2, 2022, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping, during a video meeting with EU leaders, offered four suggestions on how China and the EU can cooperate to help with the current Ukraine crisis, especially on supporting the EU play a primary role in

promoting communication among the EU, the US and NATO and finding solutions to build an effective and sustainable EU security framework.

[US biggest spoiler of Ukraine situation, European security](#)

March 31, 2022, Global Times

After the latest round of talks between Russia and Ukraine in Turkey on Tuesday, both sides said the negotiations released positive signals. Ukraine proposed adopting neutral status in exchange for security guarantees from the international community. Russia said the country would sharply cut military activity around Kiev and Chernihiv.

Japan

[67% approve of Kishida's handling of Ukraine war: Nikkei poll](#)

March 28, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet drew support from 67% of respondents for its handling of the Ukraine war in the latest Nikkei-TV Tokyo survey. The cabinet's overall approval rating reached 61%, up 6 percentage points from the February poll and marking the first gain since December.

[Kishida tells ministers to craft economic package as prices soar](#)

March 29, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday instructed ministers to begin work on developing a new stimulus package by late April to soften the blow from rising energy, commodity and grain prices to households following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The package is also aimed at helping Japan's economy recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and will focus on four areas -- higher crude oil prices, stable food supplies, funding support for small and mid-sized companies and assistance to people in need -- according to Kishida, who delivered his directive at a Cabinet meeting.

[Japan aims to hold '2-plus-2' talks with Philippines, India in April](#)

March 31, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan is laying the groundwork for its first joint meeting of top diplomats and defense officials with the Philippines here next month, as well as its latest round of these "two-plus-two" talks with India, Nikkei has learned. Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin and National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana would visit in early April for the meeting with Japanese counterparts Yoshimasa Hayashi and Nobuo Kishi.

[Japan will not abandon Sakhalin-2 LNG stake, Kishida says](#)

March 31, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan will not abandon its stake in the Sakhalin-2 liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Russia as it is essential to energy security, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Thursday, his clearest comments yet on Tokyo's plans for the development. The Ukraine crisis has put Japan's involvement in the Sakhalin-2 project and similar ones in Russia in sharp focus since Western oil majors have said they would pull out in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia calls its actions there a "special military operation."

[U.S. and Japan to ask ASEAN to help avert next chip crisis](#)

April 1, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The U.S. and Japan will ask ASEAN nations to participate in a new supply chain framework designed to prevent the shortage of semiconductors and other strategic goods as they seek to reduce economic reliance on China, Nikkei has learned. Washington is set to come out this year with a new Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which seeks to build a new economic sphere around trusted partners with shared values such as freedom and democracy. Details of the plan have yet to be released.

Korea

[S.Korea, US approve directive to rewrite war plan, begin process in earnest](#)

March 31, 2022, The Korea Herald

Seoul and Washington have agreed on a planning directive to develop a new operational war plan to address North Korea's mounting threats and a changing security environment, allowing their militaries to begin the process in earnest. Chairman of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Won In-choul and his US counterpart Gen. Mark Milley made the decision during their in-person bilateral meeting held on Wednesday afternoon (local time) at the US Indo-Pacific Command Headquarters, Camp H.M. Smith in Hawaii.

[S.Korea test-fires first indigenous solid-fuel rocket, pushes to launch spy satellites](#)

March 30, 2022, The Korea Herald

South Korea "successfully" test-launched a homegrown solid-fuel space rocket for the first time, taking one significant step to further develop and launch microsatellites for military surveillance and reconnaissance. The state-run Agency for Defense Development said it conducted the test-firing to "verify the performance" of the solid-propellant carrier rocket developed with indigenous

technologies on Wednesday at its own testing site in Taejeon, South Chungcheong Province. South Korean Defense Minister Suh Wook and other senior military officials were present.

[S. Korea, Bangladesh seek closer ties on ICT, infrastructure](#)

April 1, 2022, The Korea Herald

Senior diplomats of South Korea and Bangladesh held policy consultations on strengthening cooperation in technology, infrastructure and other fields said Seoul's foreign ministry. First Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-kun met with his Bangladesh counterpart, Masud Bin Momen, in the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka on Thursday (local time) to discuss ways to expand substantive economic cooperation between the two nations, according to the ministry.

[China's role complicates North Korean denuclearization process](#)

April 1, 2022, The Korea Times

Pyongyang's series of provocations this year signal that addressing the neighbour to the North will be one of the greatest challenges for President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol, who has pledged to take a hardline stance toward the reclusive state compared to his predecessor, Moon Jae-in. Yoon is scheduled to take office in May and has outlined the direction of his administration's foreign policy — which is to strengthen Seoul's alliance with Washington, while relying less on Beijing. This would be a shift from Moon's policy towards China, given that South Korea depends largely on the Asian neighbour, not only for trade but also in regards to progress in relations with North Korea.

[55% expect Yoon to do good job: survey](#)

April 1, 2022, The Korea Times

Fifty-five percent of South Koreans expect President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol to do a good job after taking office, a survey showed Friday. On the other hand, the Gallup Korea survey of 1,001 adults conducted between Tuesday and Thursday also showed that 41 percent do not expect Yoon to do well on state affairs. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

Southeast Asia

[Time to kick out Myanmar's junta from Asean: Jakarta Post](#)

April 1, 2022, Straits Times

The paper says ASEAN leaders should have the courage to suspend Myanmar's membership until it fulfils its promises to put pressure on the nation's junta.

[Indonesia backs Pakistan's ASEAN full dialogue partner status](#)

April 3, 2022, Tribune

Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio, on Saturday said that Indonesia fully supports Pakistan to obtain Full Dialogue Partner status with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which will provide huge economic opportunities for Pakistan with 623 million of potential trade market of the region.

[With invite to Myanmar FM, BIMSTEC steps out of shadows, out of line with ASEAN](#)

March 27, 2022, The Hindu

It is better to engage Myanmar rather than "isolate" the country, said Sri Lanka's Foreign Secretary Admiral Jayanath Colombage (retired), explaining Colombo's decision to invite Myanmar military administration's Foreign Minister to the fifth Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit this week.

[US, Japan to offer ASEAN countries new supply chain of semiconductors](#)

April 1, 2022, ANI

The US and Japan will ask the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to join a new supply chain framework for semiconductors and other strategic components to prevent their shortage and reduce reliance on China.

[Ukraine exposes ASEAN's credibility gap](#)

April 3, 2022, The Star

Many analysts have begun looking into the possible effects of Russia's actions on the stability of the Indo-Pacific region. Only two weeks before the Feb 24 invasion, news of a Russian anti-submarine destroyer chasing off a US submarine near the Kuril Islands, near Russia, certainly added to the region's foreboding sense of gloom.

[As citizens take pro-China, pro-West sides, what's next for its foreign policy balancing act?](#)

April 2, 2022, SCMP

Singapore's government rarely faces dissent over its embrace of all major powers. But its support of US-backed sanctions against Russia has drawn criticism.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakh Court Rejects Opposition Figure's Appeal Against Pretrial Detention](#)

March 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Noted opposition figure Zhanbolat Mamai has been remanded in custody by a court in Kazakhstan on charges of insulting law enforcement officers and distributing "false information," accusations he and his supporters call politically motivated.

[Kazakhstan braces for oil output drop amid CPC terminal trouble](#)

March 29, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan is poised to cut back oil production by around one-fifth in April while repairs are carried out on a loading terminal at a damaged Black Sea port in Russia. The Energy Ministry said on March 29 that daily oil output will be pegged back by 320,000 barrels, equivalent to around 50,000 tons.

[Kazakhstan cools on eGov project with Russia](#)

March 29, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan is walking back a controversial agreement that would have given the Russian government direct access to the personal records of all Kazakh citizens.

[Days After Publicly Supporting Ukraine's Sovereignty, Uzbek Foreign Minister Leaves Country With Illness](#)

March 30, 2022, RFE/RL

Two days after publicly supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov is reported to have fallen "ill" and is being treated abroad. The Foreign Ministry said that Komilov was being treated for an unspecified "chronic illness" in Tashkent, but was then taken to an unspecified foreign country for further treatment.

[Turkmen Authorities Make Moves To Ensure Berdymukhammedov Cult Continues](#)

March 31, 2022, RFE/RL

Authorities in Turkmenistan are forcing private taxi drivers to have a portrait of recently elected President Serdar Berdymukhammedov in the windshields of their vehicles. Traffic police in the southeastern region of Mary told taxi drivers that the portrait requirement was just as mandatory as having a driver's license and car registration documents.

[Tajiks rush to offload dollars](#)

March 31, 2022, Eurasianet

There is another currency panic happening in Tajikistan. This time, it is dollars that people are trying desperately to offload. Such is the volume of dollars flooding the market, that banks are declining to buy them, citing shortages of the national currency, the somoni.

[HRW Calls On Kyrgyz Authorities To Stop 'Harassing' Independent Media](#)

April 1, 2022, RFE/RL

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called on Kyrgyz authorities to stop "harassing" independent media after a spate of criminal cases against journalists.

West Asia

[Petrol Price Nears INR 100 in Delhi as Fuel Rates See Sixth Hike in Last Seven Days](#)

March 28, 2022, India Today

In the last one week, the rates of both petrol and diesel have increased by around INR 4 per litre.

[India's DRDO Test-Fires Surface-To-Air Missile Jointly Developed with Israel, Target Hit with 'Accuracy'](#)

March 27, 2022, Mint

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the MRSAM missile system jointly developed with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

[Lebanon Plans Tender For Indian Wheat, Minister Says](#)

March 22, 2022, Reuters

Lebanon is planning a tender to import 50,000 tonnes of wheat from India but the timing depends on the Lebanese central bank opening the necessary credit line, the country's economy minister said.

[EAM Jaishankar, Oman Foreign Minister Reaffirm Commitment To Close Strategic Partnership Between Countries](#)

March 24, 2022, The Print

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Albusaidi reiterated their commitment to the close strategic partnership between the two nations.

[A World Record At Qatar Yoga Event and PM Modi's Message](#)

March 27, 2022, Hindustan Times

Qatar saw a new world record this month when a yoga event - organised by the Indian Sports Centre - registered a participation of 114 nationalities.

[Oil Falls as Shanghai Lockdown Boosts Fears Over Weaker Demand](#)

March 28, 2022, Reuters

Oil prices fell more than \$3 on Monday (March 28) as fears over weaker fuel demand in China grew after its financial hub of Shanghai launched a planned two-stage lockdown to contain a surge in COVID-19 infections.

[Pakistan Again Rakes Up Kashmir Issue at OIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#)

March 22, 2022, The Economic Times

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan again raked up the Kashmir issue at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad, saying the 57-member body has not been able to make any impact at all as it's a "divided house".

[India-UAE Trade Deal: Likely in Force From May, Focus on Boosting SME Jobs](#)

March 28, 2022, The Indian Express

The pact, likely to come into force on May 1, is expected to boost bilateral trade between the two countries to \$100 billion over five years as against \$43.3 billion in FY21.

[U.S. Special Envoy Robert Malley Not Confident Iran Nuclear Deal is Imminent](#)

March 27, 2022, Reuters

U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley said on Sunday (March 27) that he was not confident that a nuclear deal between P5+1 and Iran was imminent, dampening expectations after 11 months of talks in Vienna that have stalled.

[Iran Says US Lifting Sanctions on IRGC a Top Priority in Nuclear Talks](#)

March 26, 2022, AL Arabiya

Lifting US sanctions against Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is one of Tehran's top priorities in nuclear talks with world powers, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said.

[Negev Summit: Israel, Arab States Discuss Regional Defence Alliance](#)

March 27, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

Israel and Abraham Accord states are discussing a defence alliance to counter Iranian aggression, sources close to Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said as the Negev Summit in Sde Boker began.

[US State Secretary Blinken Vows 'Ironclad Commitment' to Israel](#)

March 28, 2022, Business Standard

US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has said his country has an "ironclad commitment" to Israel. The remark was made at a joint press conference after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in Jerusalem.

[Japan, U.S., U.K. Lenders Loan Kuwait \\$1bn To Boost Oil Output](#)

March 26, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's three biggest banks are teaming up with major U.S. and European lenders to loan \$1 billion to help Kuwait increase oil output, seeking to calm energy markets roiled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[U.S. Refiners Turn To Middle East For Fuel Oil After Russia Import Ban](#)

March 24, 2022, Reuters

U.S. refiners have begun snapping up fuel oil cargoes from the Middle East this month after U.S. President Joe Biden banned Russian oil imports over the country's invasion of Ukraine.

[Saudi Arabia Says It's Not Responsible for High Oil Prices](#)

March 22, 2022, Mint

Saudi Arabia said that it "won't bear any responsibility" for a shortage in global oil supplies after a fierce barrage of attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels affected production in the Kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter.

United States

United States

[U.S. March Jobs Report Shows Strong Hiring Momentum](#)

April 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. labour market strengthened last month as the pandemic's grip receded and more workers jumped back into the labour force. Employers added 431,000 jobs in March, as restaurants, manufacturers and retailers snatched up workers, and hiring in January and February was stronger than previously reported, the Labour Department said Friday. The report marked the 11th straight month of job gains above 400,000, the longest such stretch of growth in records dating back to 1939.

[U.S. Trade Chief Outlines Policy Shift, Citing Ukraine War and Pandemic](#)

March 30, 2022, Wall Street Journal

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said Wednesday that the U.S. must shift the focus of its trade policy to rebuilding its domestic manufacturing industries, and lessening ties to unfriendly economies. Appearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Tai said that global events such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the supply-chain disruptions triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic point to the need for new priorities.

[Proposal to Sanction Russian Cybersecurity Firm Over Ukraine Invasion Splits Biden Administration](#)

March 30, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration is divided over whether to impose sanctions on Kaspersky Lab, a Russian cybersecurity giant that officials warn could be used by the Kremlin as a surveillance tool against its customers, according to people familiar with the matter. The White House's National Security Council has pressed the Treasury Department to ready the sanctions as part of the broad Western campaign to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, according to officials familiar with the matter.

[Pentagon Seeks Higher Military Spending to Keep Pace With China, Russia](#)

March 28, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The White House requested an initial \$773 billion budget for the Pentagon in fiscal 2023, up 4% from the prior year and the starting point for discussions with Congress, elevated by the continuing war in Ukraine. The request, released Monday, continues the Pentagon's focus on what the White House called the

"pacing" threat of China, which has rapidly expanded its military forces with more advanced weaponry.

[Sarah Palin to Run for Alaska House Seat in Bid to Re-Enter Politics](#)

April 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Sarah Palin, the former Alaska governor and Republican vice presidential candidate, said she plans to run for Congress, joining a crowded field to fill the seat of the late GOP Rep. Don Young, who died last month. "America is at a tipping point," Ms. Palin said in a statement posted to her Facebook page. "As I've watched the far left destroy the country, I knew I had to step up and join the fight." She cited inflation, immigration and energy security as central issues in her campaign.

[Senators Eye \\$10 Billion Covid-19 Deal Ahead of Possible Resurgence](#)

April 2, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Senators are looking to close a deal this coming week to reappropriate roughly \$10 billion to pay for Covid-19 treatments and vaccines, with lawmakers saying they need to act quickly ahead of a possible resurgence of the pandemic. A bipartisan group of senators has sought to give the Biden administration some of what it has requested to address future variants of Covid-19 and secure a domestic supply of tests, vaccines and treatments in coming months, as well as send vaccines abroad.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Russia-Ukraine war a \\$22.5 billion EU opportunity for India](#)

April 2, 2022, Fortune

The export opportunity arises on the back of supply chain disruptions in Russia-European Union trade due to the ongoing war.

[Will support, facilitate India-EU FTA, situation to be win-win for all: Netherlands Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra](#)

March 31, 2022, The Indian Express

'Our business relationship is of tremendous importance, but I think a broader EU-India FTA would also provide more opportunities for India towards the whole European continent.'

[China tells EU it will pursue Ukraine peace in its own way](#)

April 2, 2022, Reuters

China offered the European Union assurances on Friday that it would seek peace in Ukraine but said this would be on its own terms, deflecting pressure for a tougher stance towards Russia.

[No recession — but a growth slowdown due to Russia-Ukraine war, EU economics chief says](#)

April 2, 2022, CNBC

The European Union's economics chief says Russia's war with Ukraine will trigger a growth slowdown this year, warning the bloc's existing growth forecast of 4% is now no longer viable.

[EU urges China to stay neutral but without securing any guarantees](#)

April 1, 2022, Euro News

EU leaders warned China not to support Russia's invasion of Ukraine but failed to secure a pledge of non-interference in the war.

Russia

[Russia says West not welcome at peace talks](#)

March 28, 2022, Russia Today

Russia is eager for a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine, but it won't accept any Western mediation during its talks with Kiev, the Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said. The Turkish government, which has good ties with

both Russia and Ukraine, has put a great deal of effort into getting the two sides around the negotiating table.

[Russia's Novaya Gazeta Announces Suspension](#)

March 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Leading independent Russian newspaper Novaya gazeta, which is edited by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dmitry Muratov, says it is suspending operations after receiving official warnings. The newspaper reported being warned twice by Roskomnadzor, which would have allowed the state communications regulator to pursue closing it down through court action.

[Russian, Ukrainian Negotiators Begin Talks in Istanbul](#)

March 29, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators began face-to-face talks in Istanbul on March 29, the official Turkish news agency said, with host Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urging them to "put an end to this tragedy."

[Russian FM Hails China as Part of Emerging 'Just World Order'](#)

March 30, 2022, The Moscow Times

Beijing and Moscow advanced a vision of a new world order as Russia's foreign minister made his first visit to key ally China since the invasion of Ukraine. Sergei Lavrov landed in the eastern city of Huangshan early Wednesday for a series of meetings about the future of Afghanistan.

[Russia Will Gradually Transfer Gas Payments to Roubles: Kremlin](#)

March 30, 2022, The Moscow Times

The Kremlin said Wednesday Russia will not immediately require its natural gas buyers to pay in roubles after Moscow said it will now only accept payments in its national currency. "Payments and deliveries are a time-consuming process," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

[Russian Defense Minister Reappears After 2-Week Absence](#)

March 30, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reappeared on television images broadcast, after his two-week absence from view prompted questions from journalists. The Defense Ministry published a video showing Shoigu, an ally of President Vladimir Putin, chairing a meeting on Russia's weapons budget.

[Russian forces hand back Chernobyl to Ukraine – IAEA](#)

April 1, 2022, Russia Today

Russian forces have begun leaving the defunct Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, the site of the major 1986 disaster, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said. Russia seized the facilities, in February, at the start of its military campaign in Ukraine.

[Russian envoy says Moscow has data suggesting US studies possibility of using bio weapons](#)

April 1, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva Gennady Gatilov said Russia obtained data on US military biological activities in Ukraine suggesting that Washington is considering the possibility of using biological and toxin weapons.

[Poll Shows Putin Ratings Climb Among Russians Since Ukraine Invasion](#)

April 1, 2022, RFE/RL

A new Russian opinion poll shows that President Vladimir Putin has gotten a boost in ratings since the start of the war in Ukraine. The Levada Center said in a survey released on March 30 that more than 80 percent of Russian respondents support his actions.

[Blaze engulfs Russian oil depot near Ukrainian border](#)

April 1, 2022, Russia Today

A massive fire erupted at an oil storage facility in the Western Russian city of Belgorod on March 31, just two days after the same region, which borders Ukraine, was rocked by a series of blasts at an ammunition depot.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[India-UAE pact to act as gateway to Africa, GCC and EU: Goyal](#)

March 29, 2022, Livemint

The India-UAE pact will act as a gateway to Africa and other Middle- Eastern and European countries, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, addressing an industry event in Dubai, two days after the pact signed in February was put up in the public domain. He added that the bilateral pact, called the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) will come into force on May 1, 2022.

[Somalia welcomes new AU peace mission](#)

April 1, 2022, Xinhua

The Somali government on Friday welcomed the United Nations Security Council's move to reconfigure the peacekeeping mission in the country as the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) which replaces African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) began operations.

[AU, UN appeal for South Sudanese leaders to embrace dialogue to ease tensions](#)

April 1, 2022, ANI News

The African Union and United Nations missions in South Sudan as well as peace monitors appealed for calm and called on South Sudanese leaders to embrace dialogue to ease tensions in the country.

[African Union Blamed for Rights Abuses in Conflicts](#)

March 28, 2022, All Africa

In a news release accompanying its annual report, Amnesty strongly criticised the AU's Peace and Security Council.

[Sudan's Darfur clashes kill 45: officials](#)

April; 1, 2022, The East African

Heavy clashes between rival groups in Sudan's Darfur have left some 45 people killed, officials said on Thursday, as tribal leaders reported that fighting persisted in the latest ethnic violence.

Latin America

[China is outmanoeuvring US in Latin America and the Caribbean, senators are warned](#)

April 1, 2022, South China Morning Post

The United States is increasingly outmatched, outfinanced and outmanoeuvred by China for influence in the Western Hemisphere, lawmakers, government officials and regional experts said at a Senate hearing.

[Latin American Debt Emerges as a Haven 6,000 Miles Away From War](#)

April 1, 2022, Bloomberg

Latin America is emerging as an oasis of stability amid the global bond rout spurred by the Ukraine war, benefiting from a 6,600-mile distance from the conflict.

[Brazilian officials resign en masse to boost President Bolsonaro](#)

March 31, 2022, Al Jazeera

Ten members of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's cabinet have resigned from their positions, along with three other top officials, in a move designed to help boost the far-right leader's re-election prospects ahead of the general election.

[Brazil central bank quadruples exposure to Chinese yuan](#)

March 31, 2022, FX Empire

Brazil's central bank more than quadrupled its foreign reserves in Chinese yuan last year, policymakers reported on Thursday, as it trimmed holdings of U.S. dollars and euros and built Brazilian reserves of currency from its biggest trade partner.

[Camp Of Ukrainians At US-Mexico Border Swells As More Refugees Arrive](#)

April 2, 2022, NDTV

Hundreds of Ukrainians are camping in the border city of Tijuana, Mexico, hoping to seek U.S. asylum. Around 100 Ukrainians are being allowed to cross into the United States daily. Over 3.8 million Ukrainians have fled to nearby countries in Europe since invasion, which the Russian government calls a "special military operation."



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