

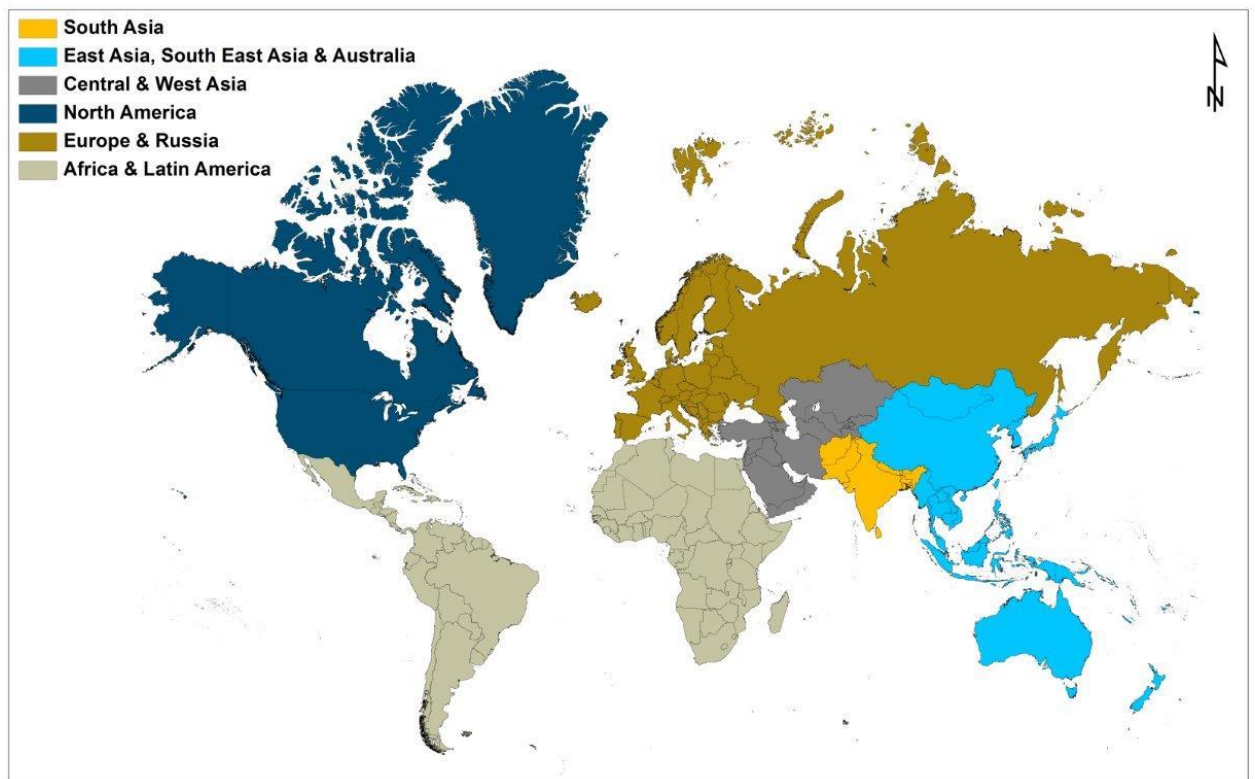


# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume VI, Issue 16

### 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

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## South Asia

### India

[UK's Johnson meets PM in Delhi, says India-UK ties 'have never been as strong'](#)

April 22, 2022, HindustanTimes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday morning received the United Kingdom's Boris Johnson at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi as the UK PM kicked off the second day of his India visit. Johnson thanked India for the warm welcome in a brief address. "Thank you for the fantastic welcome...I don't think things have ever been as strong or as good between us (India-UK) as they are now," he said.

[UK PM talks 'powerhouse partnership' with India, says New Delhi-Moscow relationship 'different'](#)

April 21, 2022, The Print

United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson Thursday announced joint investments by the UK and India to the tune of 1 billion pounds across IT, electric vehicles and health sectors on the first day of his two-day India trip.

[Jaishankar hosts US Congressional delegation, shares views on Ukraine, Afghanistan](#)

April 21, 2022, The Print

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar hosted the US Congressional delegation and shared their views on Ukraine, Afghanistan, South Asia and our bilateral cooperation.

[Defence Ministry "Over-Achieved This Target... To Achieve PM's Vision"](#)

April 20, 2022, NDTV

"The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had earmarked 64 per cent of capital acquisition budget for domestic industry in financial year 2021-22," it said in a statement.

[Rajnath Asks US Defence Firms to Focus on Manufacturing Military Hardware in India](#)

April 21, 2022, News 18

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday exhorted American firms to carry out joint research and co-development of military hardware in India, saying the engagement should move beyond the traditional buyer-seller relationship. In an address at the American Chamber of Commerce in India, he also said that India and the US have a growing convergence of strategic interests and both

sides seek a resilient and rules-based international order that safeguards the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

### [As Army Prepares for Summer at Simmering LAC, India Plans Long-term Infra Boost in Eastern Ladakh, N-E](#)

April 20, 2022, News 18

Keeping in mind the slow progress in resolving the ongoing military stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh, the Indian military is working on a long-term plan for infrastructure development that includes developing a route running "very close" to the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC), News18 has learnt.

## **Pakistan**

### [PTI govt borrowed \\$49.23bn in its 45-month stint](#)

April 22, 2022, Dawn

Struggling with current account challenges and foreign exchange reserves, the ousted PTI government borrowed about \$15.4 billion in foreign loans in the first nine months (July-March) of the current fiscal year, more than 70pc higher than the foreign loans it received in the comparable period last year.

### [Pakistan seeks 'stern' Afghan actions against terrorists](#)

April 18, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan asked the Afghan government to secure the Pak-Afghan border region and take stern actions against the individuals involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan.

### [Six given death sentence in Priyantha lynching case](#)

April 19, 2022, Dawn

An anti-terrorism court handed down death sentence to six men on two counts, life imprisonment to nine, five-year to one and two-year jail term each to as many as 72 persons for their involvement in the lynching of a Sri Lankan factory manager in Sialkot over blasphemy allegations.

### [Army chief meets PM; security issues discussed](#)

April 20, 2022, Dawn

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Bajwa called on the newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. It was the first meeting between the two since PM Shehbaz took over as the prime minister last week following the ouster of Imran Khan through a vote of no-confidence in the National Assembly. "Professional matters pertaining to national security were discussed during the meeting" held at the Prime Minister House, said the PM Office in a statement issued later.

### [PM to convene grand jirga over North Waziristan situation](#)

April 22, 2022, Dawn

Terming restoration of lasting peace in North Waziristan tribal district the top most priority of his government, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said he would soon convene a grand jirga of elders of the area in Islamabad in this regard to find a way out of the prevailing situation.

### [Refiners say policy limbo puts \\$5bn upgrade at stake](#)

April 19, 2022, The News

Refineries appealed to the government to approve the draft of refining policy, up in the air for over two years, fearing this delay might jeopardise industry's \$4-5 billion upgrade plans and \$8-10 billion investment in the greenfield projects.

### [Worst drought alert launched as water flows hit rock bottom](#)

April 19, 2022, The News

Water crisis has become increasingly visible in recent months as extremely low flows in near all major rivers and virtually zero storage at main reservoirs have triggered unprecedented drought alert in the country. The shortage of water could surge to 45 percent from Indus River System Authority's (IRSA) earlier prediction of 28 percent. "This is something that has never happened like that in the recorded hydrological history of the country," the official said. "Most worryingly, such a grave water availability crisis would be hard to manage."

### [Foreign loans swell to \\$15b in Jul-Mar](#)

April 22, 2022, The Express Tribune

The former government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) took \$15 billion gross foreign loans during its last nine months in power, bringing the total gross foreign borrowings to over \$57 billion during its rule. The Ministry of Economic Affairs released the foreign debt bulletin for July-March period of the current fiscal year.

### [IMF puts five demands before Shehbaz Sharif govt](#)

April 21, 2022, The News

According Pakistan Finance Minister, the IMF has put five major demands before the Shehbaz Sharif government for slashing down the primary deficit by Rs1,300 billion through withdrawal of fuel subsidy of Rs150 billion on monthly basis and taking additional taxation measures for reviving the stalled Fund programme.

## **Afghanistan**

### [IS claims responsibility for Afghanistan explosions that killed 31](#)

April 22, 2022, India Today

IS has claimed responsibility for the four explosions across Afghanistan, April 21, in which at least 31 people were killed and 87 wounded. One of the blasts was carried out at a mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif. At least 10 people were killed and dozens injured in the blast.

### [Fault lines within Taliban come to fore after Pak airstrikes in Afghanistan](#)

April 20, 2022, Business Standard

Fault lines within the Taliban came to the fore at a meeting convened to discuss the response to airstrikes conducted by Pakistan on Afghan soil that left more than 40 dead. Pakistan struck the Afghan provinces of Khost and Kunar, leaving more than 40 dead. Pakistani airstrikes prompted a series of protests across the country. Protestors and authorities in Afghanistan said these strikes violated the country's sovereignty.

### [Afghanistan: Blasts target school in Kabul](#)

April 19, 2022, DW

Several blasts targeted educational facilities in Afghan capital, Kabul, with an explosion at a boys' high school killing at least 6 people. The explosions targeted the Mumtaz Education Center and the Abdul Rahim Shahid high school in the western Dasht-e-Barchi area of Kabul.

### [Pakistan extends time for transportation of Indian humanitarian aid to Afghanistan](#)

April 17, 2022, Hindustan Times

Pakistan said it will extend by two months the time for India to transport 50,000 tonnes of wheat and life-saving medicines to Afghanistan via the Wagah-Attari land border crossing.

### [Pakistan warns neighbor Afghanistan not to shelter militants](#)

April 17, 2022, Washington Post

Pakistan fired off a sharp warning to Afghanistan's hard-line religious rulers to stop sheltering homegrown Pakistani Taliban militants who have staged increasingly deadly attacks against the country's military.

## Bangladesh

### [Bangladesh, India set to formalise electricity sharing system](#)

April 22, 2022, The Business Standard

The Bangladesh government is considering a plan to enter into a cross-border exchange of electricity with India through the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX).

### [India adds New Jalpaiguri as immigration check post for travel to Bangladesh via 'Mitali Express'](#)

April 22, 2022, The Business Standard

As passenger train services between Dhaka and Siliguri are likely to resume operations soon- the Indian Home Ministry has added New Jalpaiguri as an immigration check post for travel to Bangladesh via 'Mitali Express'.

## Nepal

### [Power shortage in India hits supply to Nepal. Firms in east face outages](#)

April 20, 2022, The Kathmandu Post

Nepal's reliance on India for electricity has continued even as the country has been exploring options to export power to the southern neighbour.

### [Nepal's economic woes, following Sri Lanka's crisis, turn up the heat on China's belt and road loans](#)

April 19, 2022, South China Morning Post

After Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Nepal is adding to the political turmoil in Asia. The country has been forced to restrict its imports of luxury items including gold, cars and cosmetics after foreign exchange reserves fell by more than 16 per cent over the seven months to the middle of February.

### [Policy changes in Nepal cause for concern for investors: Chinese ambassador](#)

April 21, 2022, The Kathmandu Post

Addressing a virtual press meet on Thursday, Chinese ambassador to Nepal Hou Yanqi said that policies change in Nepal with the change in governments creating problems for investors and entrepreneurs.



## Sri Lanka

### [As Sri Lanka pins hopes on IMF, China pledges more aid](#)

April 21, 2022, The Hindu

China has pledged “an urgent emergency humanitarian aid” of RMB 200 million [roughly \$ 31 million] to Sri Lanka, even as Colombo pursues upto \$4 billion support from the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC this week.

### [What the Sri Lankan crisis means for India’s exporters](#)

April 21, 2022, Livemint

Sri Lanka’s \$51 billion debt default and its ongoing economic crisis may present an opportunity for Indian exporters of tea and textiles. Yet, it won’t be easy for India to fill in the global supply gaps.

### [India will give another \\$500 million in fuel aid: Sri Lanka foreign minister](#)

April 20, 2022, Hindustan Times

Sri Lanka crisis: India has also extended two credit lines worth over \$2 billion to help buy food, medicines and other essentials.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China's Xi proposes 'global security initiative', without giving details](#)

April 22, 2022, Reuters

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday proposed a "global security initiative" that upholds the principle of "indivisible security", a concept also endorsed by Russia, although he gave no details of how it would be implemented.

#### [China-US relations: defence ministers' call highlights faultlines over Taiwan and Ukraine](#)

April 21, 2022, South China Morning Post

The first phone call between the Chinese and US defence ministers in more than a year shows both nations are eager to reduce tensions between their militaries, analysts said.

#### [Chinese companies attend investment and trade fair in India](#)

April 22, 2022, Global Times

A Chinese delegation of eight companies with operations in India, including the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, CRRC India Pvt and Dongfang Electric International Corporation, attended a major investment and trade show in West Bengal in a move that could signal a warming up of economic ties following the visit of Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, to India last month.

#### [Xiplomacy: Xi's thought boosts global ecological governance](#)

April 22, 2022, Xinhua

Under the guidance of Xi's Thought on Ecological Civilization, China has been advancing the green transition of its economy over the years, contributing to global environmental and climate governance.

### Japan

#### [Japan to streamline quarterly disclosures for listed companies](#)

April 19, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's Financial Services Agency intends to consolidate quarterly reporting requirements for companies, looking to ease the burden on businesses while maintaining transparency for shareholders. Publicly traded companies in Japan currently submit a quarterly securities report to the government in

addition to their quarterly financial statements to the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Japan looks to scrap the securities report to the government, given the overlap between the two documents.

### [Yen falls to 129 per dollar as BOJ warning remains powerless](#)

April 20, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The yen weakened past 129 against the U.S. dollar during early morning trading Wednesday as a warning from the Japanese central bank governor did little to sway the market, highlighting the challenge he faces in maintaining easy money policy. The yen fell past 128 against the dollar during afternoon trading in Tokyo on Tuesday, the lowest level since May 2002. The Japanese currency continued its slide in offshore trading to breach the 129 line, falling more than 2 yen in one day.

### [Japan defense minister eyes U.S. trip in early May amid Ukraine war](#)

April 21, 2022, The Japan Times

Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi plans to visit the United States in early May for talks with his U.S. counterpart, Lloyd Austin, on boosting cooperation amid ongoing tensions due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, sources familiar with the matter said Thursday. Kishi is expected to also discuss how to deal with North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches and affirm with Austin the importance of enhancing their bilateral alliance as a deterrent in the face of an increasingly assertive China, the sources said.

### [Japan to send protective suits, masks and drones to Ukraine](#)

April 19, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan's Defense Ministry has announced that it will send masks and clothing designed to protect against chemical weapons as well as drones to Ukraine in response to a request from Kyiv, in Tokyo's latest shipment of defense supplies to the war-torn country. The decision to provide the defense equipment to Ukraine comes after reports of a possible Russian chemical weapons attack on the besieged city of Mariupol last week. The U.S. and U.K. have said they are monitoring the unconfirmed reports, which, if true, would represent a major escalation of the conflict.

### [Japan, New Zealand in talks to share information and intelligence](#)

April 21, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern met late on Thursday and agreed to start negotiations on an information-sharing agreement, including the exchange of intelligence, as they strengthen security and defense cooperation. The two leaders also

reaffirmed the importance of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and said they would cooperate in researching renewables such as hydrogen and geothermal energy.

## **Korea**

### [Korea, Ghana discuss maritime security cooperation, bilateral ties](#)

April 21, 2022, The Korea Times

Defense Minister Suh Wook held talks with Ghana's top envoy in Seoul, Thursday, to discuss bilateral maritime security cooperation and other issues, his ministry said. During the talks with Ambassador Charis Obetsebi-Lampsey Zwennes, Suh recalled the two countries' security cooperation in waters off West Africa last year, saying that opened a "new chapter" in their collaboration.

### [Korea to enhance monitoring of supply chains over China's lockdown](#)

April 20, 2022, The Korea Times

The government vowed Tuesday to further beef up its early warning monitoring system on key industry items amid fears of supply chain disruptions due to China's lockdown of major cities over a resurgent COVID-19 pandemic. Shanghai has remained closed for nearly three weeks, along with several other cities, as the Chinese government enforced its rigorous zero-COVID policy to curb the fast spread of an Omicron sub-variant of the coronavirus.

### [Korea to set up task force on new US-led economic framework](#)

April 20, 2022, The Korea Times

Korea will set up a task force to deal with its potential participation in the U.S.-led economic framework, as the United States has accelerated preparations to launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), Seoul's trade ministry said Wednesday. The Joe Biden administration has sought to launch the IPEF for deeper cooperation with partner nations in the Asia-Pacific region on digital trade, supply chains and other major emerging trade issues amid an intensifying Sino-U.S. rivalry.

### [NK leader says inter-Korean ties can improve as much as one wants: Cheong Wa Dae](#)

April 22, 2022, The Korea Herald

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said in a recent letter to President Moon Jae-in that inter-Korean relations can improve as much as one wants if both sides make sincere efforts, Cheong Wa Dae said Friday. Kim sent the letter Thursday in response to a farewell letter that Moon sent the previous day as he prepared

to leave office after a five-year term that included three summit meetings with Kim and two summits between Kim and then US President Donald Trump.

### [Yoon asks biz sector to make efforts to host World Expo 2030 in Busan](#)

April 22, 2022, The Korea Herald

President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol on Friday asked South Korean business leaders to work together to ensure the country's port city of Busan can win the bid to host the 2030 World Expo. Yoon made the call in a meeting with senior executives of major South Korean conglomerates, including Samsung, Hyundai and SK, at the Busan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

## **Southeast Asia**

### [China's support for Myanmar shows its preference for abusive, autocratic govts](#)

April 22, 2022, The Print

China's support for Myanmar despite human rights abuses by the Junta and the supply of weapons to its military via Pakistan shows Beijing's continued preference for doing business with abusive and autocratic governments across the world.

### [Philippine Presidential Candidates Espouse Tougher China Sea Approach](#)

April 21, 2022, VOA

Candidates in next month's Philippine presidential elections have called for a tougher stance toward China in the country's territorial dispute in the South China Sea, saying they will enforce a 2016 tribunal ruling invalidating Beijing's sweeping claims in the resource-rich waters if elected president.

### [Philippines halts oil and gas exploration in disputed South China Sea](#)

April 21m 2022, The Economic Times

Manila has suspended oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman said, as it tries to strike a deal with Beijing on a joint energy project.

### [Japan's Kishida eyes ASEAN to drum up support for Russia sanctions, China concerns](#)

April 21, 2022, South China Morning Post

Analysts say Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is showing the rest of the world that Japan is a 'serious player' in flurry of meetings with other leaders.

[Biden nails down a date for ASEAN summit but not a full invite list](#)

April 20, 2022, Radio Free Asia

Myanmar's junta chief and the Philippines' outgoing president are not expected to attend the Washington meeting.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Kyrgyzstan poised to hide public procurement information](#)

April 18, 2022, Eurasianet

The president of Kyrgyzstan has approved legislation allowing state-controlled companies to purchase goods and services without having to organise a public tender, a measure officials say will save time and reduce bureaucracy. Opponents of the move, however, are furious and argue it will allow for a surge in corruption.

#### [Uzbekistan Rejects Claim By Islamic State Affiliate In Afghanistan Over Rocket Assault](#)

April 19, 2022, RFE/RL

Uzbekistan has rejected claims by a regional affiliate of Islamic State that it carried out a rocket attack on the Central Asian nation from neighbouring Afghanistan.

#### [Kazakh Lawmakers Approve Controversial Bill Allowing Them To Shut Down Social Media Platforms](#)

April 20, 2022, RFE/RL

The Kazakh parliament's lower chamber, the Mazhilis, has approved a controversial bill that would allow authorities to shut down social media and messaging platforms to protect users from cyberbullying. Critics of the legislation, however, have warned that it could be used by the state to silence its critics.

#### [Kyrgyz Interior Ministry Denies Politics Behind Probes Against Noted Journalist](#)

April 21, 2022, RFE/RL

Kyrgyzstan's Interior Ministry has denied that politics are behind the launching of probes against noted investigative journalist Bolot Temirov, who was first accused of illegal drug possession before being charged additionally with forgery and illegally crossing the border, which he denies.

## West Asia

### [Egypt Approves India as Wheat Supplier: Piyush Goyal](#)

April 16, 2022, The Economic Times

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said Egypt, which is one of the largest importers of wheat from Ukraine and Russia, has approved India as a wheat supplier. The African nation is looking to import 1 million tonnes of wheat from India and would need 2,40,000 tonnes in April.

### [Lebanon Finalising Importing 50,000 Tons of Wheat from India](#)

April 16, 2022, The New Indian Express

Lebanon, which was largely dependent on Ukraine for wheat imports, has been struggling to procure wheat since the outbreak of the conflict following the Russian invasion. It is facing a food security crisis at present.

### [India, Iran Likely To Begin Exploratory Talks To Resume Trade in Crude Oil, Fertilisers](#)

April 17, 2022, The Hindu Business Line

India and Iran may soon begin exploratory talks on resumption of bilateral trade in crude oil and fertilisers as the US is trying to expedite talks on reviving the Iranian nuclear deal of 2015.

### [LIC IPO: Indian Government Wooing Sovereign, Pension Funds](#)

April 16, 2022, The Economic Times

India has sounded out Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Singapore-based GIC, three Canadian pension funds and Qatar Investment Authority among other sovereign wealth funds and pension funds on being anchor investors in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's initial public offer (IPO).

### [Mubadala and BlackRock to Invest \\$525m in Tata Power's Renewable Energy Arm](#)

April 17, 2022, Arab News

Tata Power has agreed to sell some stakes in its renewable business to a consortium led by BlackRock Real Assets, which also includes Abu Dhabi based Mubadala Investment Company.

### [Israeli Forces Raid Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, over 150 Palestinians Injured](#)

April 16, 2022, AL Jazeera

Israeli forces raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem with medics reporting at least 158 Palestinians injured in the ensuing violence as hundreds were detained.



### [Saudi Arabia Condemns Israeli Attacks on Palestinians, Al-Aqsa Mosque](#)

April 15, 2022, AL Arabiya

Saudi Arabia issued a statement condemning the Israeli forces for raiding the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem and attacking Palestinians who were inside praying.

### [Al-Aqsa Mosque Clashes in Jerusalem: US Urges Israel, Palestinians to Exercise Restraint](#)

April 16, 2022, Business Standard

After clashes broke out between Palestinians and Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem on early Friday morning (April 15), the US called on all sides to exercise restraint and urged both sides to cooperate to lower tensions.

### [President Xi Jinping Says China Stands Ready To Develop Ties with Saudi Arabia](#)

April 15, 2022, CGTN

China gives priority to developing relations with Saudi Arabia and stands ready to work with the country to continuously deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership and to bring more benefits to the two countries and their people.

### [Saudi Crown Prince Discusses Ukraine Conflict, OPEC With Russia's Vladimir Putin](#)

April 16, 2022, Arab News

During their call, the two discussed the ongoing situations in Ukraine and Yemen, with the crown prince reaffirming the Kingdom's support in finding a political solution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

## United States

### United States

#### [Elon Musk Says He Has \\$46.5 Billion in Funding for Twitter Bid](#)

April 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Elon Musk said he has lined up \$46.5 billion to fund his bid for Twitter Inc. answering the biggest question that had loomed over his takeover offer for the social-media platform. In a regulatory filing, Mr. Musk also said he was considering taking his offer straight to Twitter shareholders, bypassing a board that appears dug in. Twitter said it was reviewing the newly detailed proposal.

#### [U.S.-Mexico Border Arrests Top One Million in Six Months](#)

April 18, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. has made more than a million arrests at the U.S.-Mexico border since October, the fastest pace of illegal border crossings in at least the last two decades, according to new data released Monday by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Border agents made 209,906 arrests along the border in March, making it the busiest month in two decades. Another 11,397 migrants were permitted to enter the country to seek humanitarian protection at land border crossings, according to the data. The numbers cover a period from the beginning of the fiscal year to the end of March.

#### [Biden Says U.S. to Send Ukraine \\$800 Million in Military Aid](#)

April 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden said Thursday the U.S. would send more military and economic assistance to Ukraine, ban Russian-affiliated ships from U.S. ports and launch a refugee program for Ukrainians. The latest roughly \$800 million military package will include heavy artillery weapons, such as 72 155-mm howitzers, 144,000 rounds of artillery and dozens of tactical drones, the Pentagon said. It comes days after Russian forces began a fresh offensive in eastern Ukraine.

#### [Economic Impacts, Global Politics Limit Potential Actions Against Russia, Yellen Says](#)

April 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. and its allies are constrained in their efforts to reduce Russian energy revenue because of the risks posed to the global economy, while a push to remove Russia from international organizations like the Group of 20 major economies lacks international consensus, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said. Ms. Yellen committed to providing an additional \$500 million to help Ukraine

pay general government expenses, adding to the roughly \$500 million the U.S. already provided in nonmilitary aid to Ukraine. Ms. Yellen said the Biden administration soon would request more funds from Congress for the aid. President Biden outlined additional military aid.

[Biden Earth Day action targets protecting old-growth forests from wildfires, climate change](#)

April 22, 2022, USA Today

President Joe Biden will mark Earth Day in Seattle on Friday by announcing new steps to make the nation's forests more resilient against the threat of wildfires and climate change. Biden will sign an executive order that seeks to protect some of the nation's largest and more mature.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [EU wants Russia to pay for Ukrainian reconstruction](#)

April 21, 2022, Reuters

The EU plans to create a reconstruction fund for Ukraine, with some politicians calling for using Russian assets frozen by the West. DW discusses that with Maria Demertzis, deputy director of the Bruegel think tank.

#### [Speech by Commissioner Gentiloni at the Peterson Institute for International Economics: Transatlantic economic policy in times of war](#)

April 21, 2022, Europa

The consequences of Putin's senseless war extend beyond the economy. It is also reshaping the energy landscape and triggering a shift in defence policies.

#### [European Commission president Ursula Von der Leyen to visit India on April 24](#)

April 20, 2022, The Indian Express

The President of the European Commission has been invited as the Chief Guest for this year's Raisina Dialogue.

#### [India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit three European countries in first week of May](#)

April 19, 2022, Wion

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to be on a visit to three European countries, including Germany, Denmark, and France in the first week of May.

### Russia

#### [Russia Restricts Access To HRW Website Over Statements On War In Ukraine](#)

April 19, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia's communications regulator says it has restricted access to the website of Human Rights Watch as a result of the group's statements over Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine. On April 8, Russia revoked the registration of HRW and 14 other foreign organisations, including Amnesty International and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, due to "violations of the current legislation of the Russian Federation."

### [Russia and China are working on supply chains, settlements in national currencies – MFA](#)

April 20, 2022, TASS News Agency

Moscow and Beijing are actively engaged in building supply chains in the new conditions, working on settlements in national currencies, Georgy Zinoviev, head of the First Asian Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, said at a meeting of the group for relations with China in the State Duma, lower house of the Russian parliament.

### [Russia successfully test fires 'unique' missile – Putin](#)

April 20, 2022, Russia Today

Russia's new RS-28 Sarmat Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile was launched successfully from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the north of the country, the military reported. The test launch was the first in a series of trials required for the adoption of the new weapon by Russia's strategic forces.

### [G7 to increase pressure on Russia due to situation in Ukraine, says statement](#)

April 21, 2022, TASS News Agency

G7 countries will sustain and increase their pressure on Russia due to the situation in Ukraine, according to a statement released following a meeting of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Washington.

### [Fire At Russian Defence Ministry's Research Institute In Tver Kills Six People](#)

April 21, 2022, RFE/RL

A fire at the Russian Defence Ministry's Research Institute in the city of Tver, 180 kilometres northwest of Moscow, has killed six people. The Tver regional government said on April 21 that 27 people sustained injuries, mostly after they jumped from windows of the three-story building to save their lives.

### [Mariupol captured – Russia](#)

April 21, 2022, Russia Today

Russian forces have fully captured the key Donbass Black Sea port-city of Mariupol, Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu told President Vladimir Putin. However, more than 2,000 militants, loyal to Kiev, still remain entrenched at the Azovstal steel plant in the city, he added.

## Africa & Latin America

### Africa

#### [South Africa Floods Could Hurt China Trade](#)

April 20, 2022, Voice of America

Some of the worst flooding in South Africa's history has left more than 400 people dead and some 40,000 displaced, dealing a devastating blow to the eastern city of Durban, which has a seaport that has also been badly affected.

#### [China's Growing Influence in Africa Seen in Arms Trade and Infrastructure Investment](#)

April 21, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Data compiled in a new report show Beijing gaining ground in areas like weapons sales

#### [Somalia's parliament hit by Al-Shabab mortar attack](#)

April 18, 2022, Africa News

Terrorist group al-Shabab has claimed responsibility for a mortar fire attack on Somalia's parliament Monday that injured at least six people during a joint session.

#### [France hands over Gossi military base to Malian army](#)

April 22, 2022, Africa News

In a major step towards the departure of France's Barkhane anti-jihadist force from Mali, the French army has officially handed over the keys of the Gossi military base to the Malian military. Some 4,600 French soldiers are currently deployed in the Sahel, including 2,500 in Mali, which should change little before the handover of the Ménaka and Gao bases.

#### [Kenya announces meeting to end violence in eastern DRC](#)

April 22, 2022, Africa News

Kenya has announced that it will host a meeting between rebels in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the government in Kinshasa.

#### [Under military's watch, Sudan's former ruling party making a comeback](#)

April 22, 2022, Reuters

Since Sudan's military staged a coup six months ago many former allies of toppled autocrat Omar al-Bashir have been allowed to re-join the civil service while others have been freed from jail in an apparent push to form a government and reassure donors.

## Latin America

### [China's discourse power operations in the Global South](#)

April 20, 2022, Atlantic Council

As China's military and economic power has grown, so too has its investment in propaganda and influence operations. Following Xi Jinping's rise to power and China's adoption of a more confrontational foreign policy, the country saw a need to sway global public opinion in its favor. Beijing refers to this as "discourse power," a strategy to increase China's standing on the world stage by promoting pro-China narratives while criticizing geopolitical rivals. The end goal is to shape a world that is more amenable to China's expressions, and expansion, of power.

### [United States seeks agreement on migration with Latin America](#)

April 21, 2022, The Tico Times

The United States is seeking to reach a firm agreement with Latin American countries on migration ahead of the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in June, as confirmed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

### [U.S. oil services firms join push for revamped Venezuela license](#)

April 21, 2022, Reuters

Some U.S. oilfield firms whose Venezuelan operations were frozen by sanctions are joining an appeal to Washington for authorizations to restart oil drilling in the South American country, according to eight sources with knowledge of the talks.

### [Mexico's electricity sector rankled by doubt and legal chaos](#)

April 21, 2022, The Economic Times

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador's efforts to reshape Mexico's electricity sector to favour the state owned power company have spurred hundreds of lawsuits and sown a level of uncertainty that businesspeople say is costing jobs and private investment.

### [India, Brazil to develop alliance for Bioenergy and virtual Centre of Excellence on Ethanol](#)

April 21, 2022, Money Control

The decision was taken during the three-day visit of Brazil's Minister of Mines and Energy, Bento Albuquerque, wherein he paid a visit to Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Gas.



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