

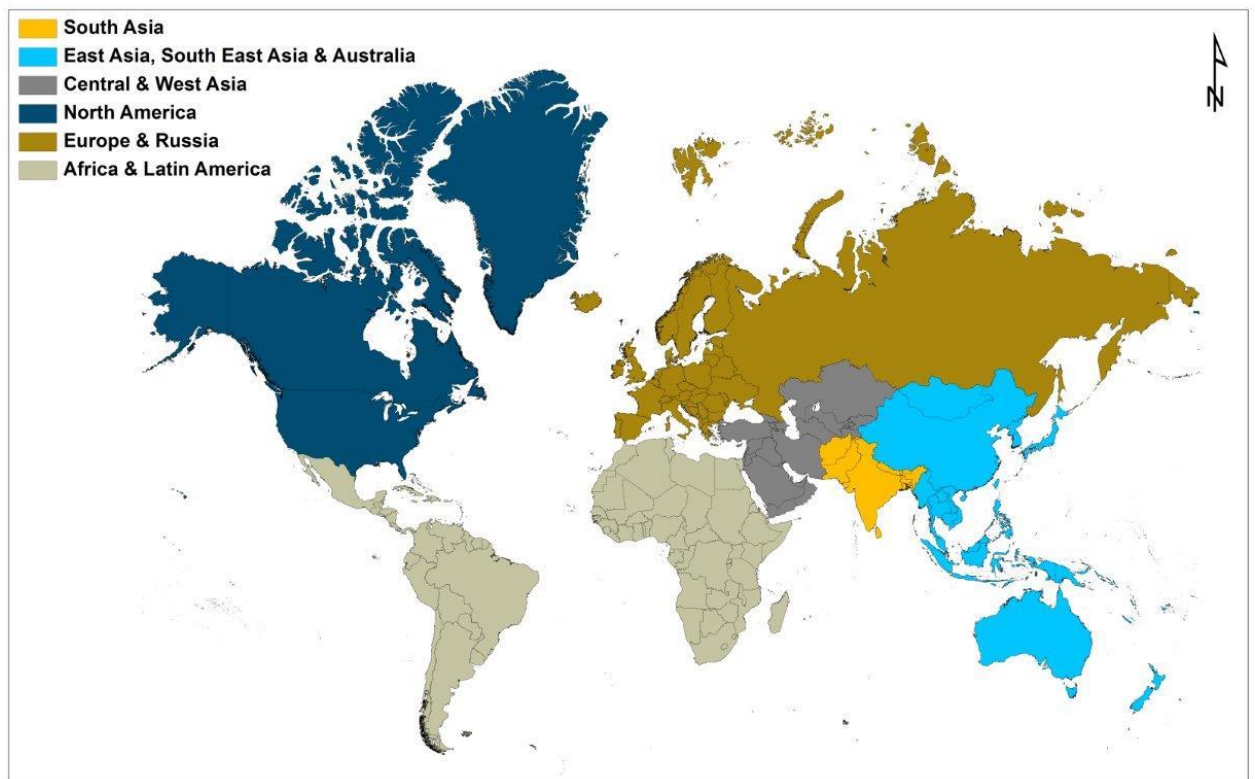


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 17 | May 2, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



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ABOUT US

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

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Need to put behind idea that others define India: Jaishankar](#)

April 27, 2022, India Today

Jaishankar said India is at a juncture where it should put behind the idea that it needs to get approval from other quarters on how it engages with the world.

[‘India has to be confident about who we are’: Jaishankar at Raisina Dialogue](#)

April 27, 2022, Hindustan Times

We have to be confident about who we are rather than try and please the world as a pale imitation of what they are, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said at the Raisina Dialogue.

[After Jaishankar’s push, China ‘falls in line’; Allows Indian students to return](#)

April 30, 2022, Hindustan Times

One month after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised the plight of Indian students who were studying in China, Beijing has said it was willing to facilitate the return of Indian students to its universities.

[India, Bhutan inaugurate 3 development projects during Jaishankar’s visit](#)

April 29, 2022, Hindustan Times

External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Bhutan counterpart Tandi Dorji on Friday inaugurated three India-backed projects, including two key roads that were completed amid the Covid-19.

[Boost for Make in India in Defence: Newly formed companies achieve a huge turnover](#)

April 29, 2022, Financial Express

The Ministry of Defence on Friday issued an official statement highlighting the provisional profits achieved by the new companies carved out of erstwhile OFB, in the first six months of their business.

[India remains first, won’t allow China to ‘grab’ land, says ex-Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed](#)

April 27, 2022, The Print

Nasheed, who is now Speaker of the Maldivian Parliament, warned against China’s ‘land grab and debt trap’ policy, adding that it put the island nation under massive debt burden.

[QUAD Summit: India, Japan, Australia & US Scheduled to Meet In Tokyo On May 24](#)

April 29, 2022, Republic

The leaders of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) strategic alliance are scheduled to meet in the capital city of Japan, likely on May 24. The upcoming in-person conclave comes to the fore after leaders of four major democracies as members of the QUAD met in Washington on September 24, 2021.

Pakistan

[IMF agrees to add \\$2bn to ongoing programme](#)

April 25, 2022, Dawn

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed to increase the size of its \$6 billion loan programme by \$2bn and extend it for another year to prop up Pakistan's balance of payments position and foreign exchange reserves.

[Three soldiers martyred by firing from 'across Afghan border'](#)

April 24, 2022, Dawn

Three Pakistani soldiers were martyred and four others injured in firing from across the Afghan border in North Waziristan tribal district amid reports that the Ghulam Khan border crossing has been closed for an indefinite period.

[Nawaz, Bilawal renew pledge to implement Charter of Democracy](#)

April 24, 2022, Dawn

Supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari in their meetings in London have agreed to implement the left-out clauses of the Charter of Democracy (CoD), signed by the two parties some 16 years ago and to finalise a roadmap for the future with the consensus of all democratic forces.

[US pledges to help Pakistan boost trade with CARs](#)

April 23, 2022, Dawn

The United States has pledged to help Pakistan in improving its trade volumes, particularly with the Central Asian republics (CARs) under the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA). Under the PREIA, the Pakistani and Central Asian countries' business communities are being provided assistance for the promotion of trade, exhibitions and other related activities focusing on enhancement in the bilateral trade among the countries.

[Deadly border attacks test Pakistani gov't relations with Taliban](#)

April 27, 2022, Al Jazeera

Tensions are high between Pakistan and Afghanistan over cross-border attacks, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of doing little to stop attacks that have increased since the Taliban came to power last August. Pakistan says its security forces are being targeted from across the border in Afghanistan. Pakistan Taliban, known by the acronym TTP (Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan), and ISIL (ISIS) affiliated fighters, who operate along the porous border between the two countries have carried out numerous attacks inside Pakistan since 2007.

[Pakistan reports first polio case after 15 months](#)

April 23, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan's celebratory mood on achieving the milestone of remaining polio free for over a year turned to disappointment after a new case of the crippling disease surfaced in North Waziristan.

[Ilhan Omar not Biden's emissary, says US](#)

April 23, 2022, Dawn

The US State Department said that Congresswoman Ilhan Omar's trip to Pakistan was not sponsored by the US government, quashing speculations that she came as the Biden administration's emissary.

[Bilawal becomes Pakistan's youngest foreign minister](#)

April 28, 2022, Dawn

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari took oath as the foreign minister, formally joining the federal cabinet of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

[Shops selling arms sealed in Khyber](#)

April 27, 2022, The News

The police and paramilitary troops sealed dozens of shops dealing in small and automatic weapons in Landikotal and Jamrud tehsils in Khyber tribal district.

[Three Chinese teachers killed in varsity bombing](#)

April 27, 2022, Dawn

In a brazen attack on campus, a female suicide bomber targeted a vehicle carrying faculty members of Karachi University's Confucius Institute, killing three Chinese nationals and their local driver. The attack, later claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army, took place near the varsity's commerce department around 2pm.

[China demands thorough probe into KU attack](#)

April 28, 2022, The News

China demanded that the Pakistani side should immediately make a thorough investigation in the Karachi University suicide attack.

[Rs36b approval for ML-I delayed](#)

April 29, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan again postponed approval of Rs36 billion project that had been designed to provide security to the Chinese nationals who would be engaged for the construction of multibillion-dollar Mainline-I (ML-I) project. The project has been lingering for the past almost two years and could not win the nod of the authorities after the previous government excluded the security component from the \$6.8 billion ML-I project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

[Shahbaz may seek \\$7.4b Saudi aid package](#)

April 28, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan may seek a \$7.4 billion financial assistance package from Saudi Arabia in the shape of cash deposits and oil on deferred payments, including rollover of the existing \$4.2 billion facilities that are expiring by the end of this year.

Afghanistan

[ISIS Claims Responsibility for Blasts On Minibuses In Afghanistan](#)

April 29, 2022, NDTV

The Islamic State group claimed two bomb blasts aboard minibuses that killed at least nine people in Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif, a week after a deadly explosion at a Shiite mosque in the northern city.

[NCB seizes 'high-quality heroin from Afghanistan' worth Rs 300 cr in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh](#)

April 28, 2022, The Print

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized high-quality heroin originating from Afghanistan in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, and busted an international heroin racket, calling it one of the "biggest hauls" in recent times.

[The US left \\$7 billion worth of military equipment in Afghanistan after its botched withdrawal, report says](#)

April 28, 2022, CNN

Approximately \$7 billion of military equipment the US transferred to the Afghan government over the course of 16 years was left behind in Afghanistan after the US completed its withdrawal from the country in August, according to a congressionally mandated report from the US Department of Defense.

[Iran Deploys Military to Border With Afghanistan](#)

April 26, 2022, Iran International

Videos circulating on social media show Iran is dispatching military units to the border area with Afghanistan following tensions with Taliban border guards. A video published by Khabar Online website shows the 88th Armoured Division of Zahedan – part of the ground forces of the Army – is being deployed to the border.

[102kg of heroin from Afghanistan busted at Attari](#)

April 25, 2022, Hindustan Times

Indian customs seized 102kg of heroin hidden in consignment of liquorice that was being imported from Afghanistan at the Attari check post, which monitors the country's trade with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

[Jaishankar conveys PM Modi's invitation to Sheikh Hasina to visit India](#)

April 29, 2022, Hindustan Times

PM Narendra Modi visited Dhaka in March last year to participate in celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

[S Jaishankar's Bangladesh visit: PM Sheikh Hasina offers Chittagong Port for use by India](#)

April 28, 2022, Zee News

Indian External affairs minister on Thursday conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to his Bangladesh counterpart to visit India and said the two countries were looking at the resumption of cross-border bus and railway services.

Nepal

[Nepal Second South Asian Country to Grapple with Economic Woes](#)

April 30, 2022, VOA

Nepal has banned imports of cars, alcohol and other luxury goods to conserve foreign exchange reserves as spiralling prices of fuel and food imports stemming from the war in Ukraine strain an economy already battered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[ApEx roundtable on Nepal-China relations](#)

April 29, 2022, The Annapurna Express

Nepal-China relations have been rather choppy of late, particularly after the Nepali parliament's ratification of the MCC compact. China believes the current (election-bound) Sher Bahadur Deuba government does not prioritize ties with the northern neighbor. Members of the government, meanwhile, seem wary of recent Chinese assertiveness in Kathmandu.

Sri Lanka

[India provides dry ration packs to widows, needy families in Sri Lanka ahead of Eid](#)

April 30, 2022, India Today

Ahead of Eid, the Indian High Commission distributed dry ration packs to widows and other needy families in Sri Lanka's Ampara district.

[Indian Navy delivers first consignment of critical medicine in Colombo](#)

April 29, 2022, Firstpost

India in the last six months has provided assistance on several fronts to its neighbouring country Sri Lanka.

East & South East Asia

China

[China allows return of selected Indian students to finish courses](#)

April 29, 2022, Hindustan Times

The announcement, first by China and then by the Indian embassy, is good news for the students, but it comes with a key rider – not everyone will be allowed back immediately, and no timeline has been given.

[Exclusive security mechanism needed to protect Chinese in Pakistan](#)

April 29, 2022, Global Times

Given terror surge against Chinese nationals, an exclusive security mechanism separate from all national anti-terror arrangements is highly necessitated to be formulated to protect Chinese in Pakistan.

[China reiterates call for peace between Russia, Ukraine through talks](#)

April 29, 2022, Global Times

China has always supported Russia and Ukraine to overcome difficulties and continue negotiations, and welcomes all efforts by the international community to promote peace, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

[Chinese Defense Minister's Iran trip to help lift military ties to 'unprecedented' level](#)

April 28, 2022, Global Times

Chinese State Councillor and Minister of National Defence Wei Fenghe met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday and both sides agreed to further deepen cooperation in military and other areas, during a rare visit by the Chinese Defense Minister to Iran that experts say could help elevate China-Iran military ties to an unprecedented level against the backdrop of an increasingly hostile US and a tumultuous global situation.

[Ukraine and the Solomon Islands: A clash of world paradigms](#)

April 28, 2022, Global Times

In the run-up to the current conflict in Ukraine, the US and its allies insisted on the "principle" that sovereign countries had the right to freely join any military alliances they chose, and their neighbours would not have veto power over that. As it very quickly turned out, that was not a principle at all, just something they made up to suit the circumstances at the moment. This was just demonstrated beyond all doubt by the US and its allies - Australia in this instance - in the case of the Solomon Islands, as stated by Global Times.

[Pact reflects growing interest in common security](#)

April 28, 2022, China Daily

It is hard to take seriously the reaction that has been whipped up following the signing of a security agreement between China and the Solomon Islands on April 19. While the pact exemplifies China's initiative for common security, much of related US and Australian hype is pure speculation at best and borders on the hysterical, says the paper.

Japan

[Japan fears China-Russia LNG alliance after Shell exits Sakhalin-2](#)

April 23, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Energy giant Shell's reported talks with Chinese companies over its stake in the Sakhalin-2 project raise energy security concerns for Japan as possible Moscow-Beijing dominance in the project could end up reducing Japan's liquefied natural gas access. Sakhalin-2, Russia's first LNG project, is operated by Russian gas giant Gazprom, which holds a roughly 50% stake. Shell, the No. 2 shareholder with a 27.5% stake, is reportedly holding joint talks with China National Offshore Oil Corp., China National Petroleum Corp. and China Petrochemical Corp. to sell its entire interest, according to U.S. and British media.

[Japan's foreign minister promises stronger military to help U.S.](#)

April 23, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's foreign minister promised his country would bolster its military to help the United States maintain regional security during a visit on Saturday to a U.S. aircraft carrier patrolling Asian waters. "Today I was able to experience first hand the frontline of national security," Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters in the hangar deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln sailing in waters south of Tokyo. Japan will "significantly strengthen" its defense capabilities and work closely with the United States, he added.

[Japan PM Kishida seeks to ease inflation pain with \\$48bn package](#)

April 26, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday announced a 6.2 trillion yen (\$48.2 billion) package to alleviate pain for consumers as prices rise for electricity, food and other goods and necessities. The package includes additional gasoline subsidies, financial support for small and medium-size businesses struggling to recover from the pandemic, and financial aid for low-income households.

[Kishida leaves for Indonesia in tour of Southeast Asia and Europe](#)

April 29, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida departed on an eight-day tour of five nations in Southeast Asia and Europe on Friday to boost relations amid China's growing assertiveness and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "I'd like to make a trip for peace," Kishida told reporters in Tokyo before his arrival in Indonesia, which will be followed by visits to Vietnam, Thailand, Italy and Britain.

Korea

[South Korea to purchase SM-6 interceptors amid North Korean missile threats](#)

26 April 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea on Tuesday approved a project worth 760 billion won (\$606 million) to purchase shipborne missile interceptors, the state arms procurement agency said, amid North Korea's evolving missile threats. The Defense Project Promotion Committee endorsed the plan to procure the Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) interceptors through a government-to-government foreign military sale program by 2031, according to the Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

[Yoon's delegation, Japanese PM agree to seek better ties](#)

April 26, 2022, The Korea Times

President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol's delegation and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agreed, Tuesday, that Korea and Japan should make diplomatic efforts to repair their soured bilateral ties, according to the head of the delegation. However, the delegation didn't invite Kishida in person to attend Yoon's May 10 inauguration ceremony, saying that the ball is in the prime minister's court to decide whether he will be present.

[Yoon, Biden likely to stress deterrence against North Korea during summit](#)

April 28, 2022, The Korea Times

The Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol and U.S. President Joe Biden will hold a summit in Seoul on May 21, according to officials, Thursday. The U.S. leader is scheduled to visit South Korea from May 20 to 22. The two leaders are expected to share their views on North Korea's escalating missile and nuclear threats, South Korea's new stance on joining U.S. efforts to contain China and other pending economic and geopolitical matters.

[Japanese prime minister unlikely to attend Yoon's inauguration ceremony](#)

April 29, 2022, The Korea Times

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is not likely to be present at President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol's May 10 inauguration ceremony, according to a Japanese media outlet. According to the Sankei Shimbun, the Japanese government concluded that it is premature for Kishida to travel to Korea as pending bilateral issues such as wartime forced labour and sex slavery still remain a sticking point to improving the soured ties between the two countries. The report cited multiple government officials.

[Japanese PM unlikely to attend Yoon's inauguration ceremony: reports](#)

April 29, 2022, The Korea Herald

South Korea's Foreign Minister nominee Park Jin said Friday that the incoming government will welcome a Japanese delegation if they come to the presidential inauguration of Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol. Park, however, said he did not hear whether Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida would travel to Seoul for the ceremony that is scheduled on May 10, and Japanese media outlets reported Kishida will not attend due to unresolved conflicts between the two countries.

Southeast Asia

[US-ASEAN summit: Will Biden pitch his new 'China challenge' strategy at Washington meet?](#)

April 28, 2022, SCMP

United States President Joe Biden will meet his counterparts from Southeast Asia for a special summit in Washington next month, but getting all the leaders of the regional bloc to attend still appears in doubt.

[US Credibility in ASEAN in the Shadow of the Ukraine Conflict](#)

April 29, 2022, The Diplomat

Washington's deepening engagement with NATO has unsettled efforts to consolidate alliances and partnerships in Southeast Asia.

[Time for the International Community to Abandon the ASEAN Consensus on Myanmar](#)

April 24, The Diplomat

ASEAN's approach to Myanmar hasn't made any progress. The world must stop pretending it will, says the op-ed.

[Philippines' Duterte to Skip Upcoming US-ASEAN Summit](#)

April 28, 2022, The Diplomat

The May 12-13 summit will take place just days after millions of Filipinos go to the polls to elect Duterte's successor.

[Philippines' Duterte to Skip Upcoming US-ASEAN Summit](#)

April 28, 2022, The Diplomat

The May 12-13 summit will take place just days after millions of Filipinos go to the polls to elect Duterte's successor.

[The importance of the US-ASEAN Special Summit](#)

May 1, 2022, Phil Star

At the conclusion of the 2020 US elections, we immediately reached out to Antony Blinken, who is now Secretary of State, and other advisers such as Deputy Assistant to the President and White House National Security Council Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Dr. Ely Ratner.

[West's division and its impact on ASEAN](#)

April 27, 2022, The Statesman

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the West has staged a campaign against Russia, accusing Moscow of going to an unprovocative and illegal war in Ukraine.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyzstan Set to Build Controversial 'Eco-City' Project On Iconic Mountain Lake](#)

April 23, 2022, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz officials say they have signed a contract with foreign investors to start building an "eco-city" near the picturesque shores of Lake Issyk-Kul in the country's north, despite concerns the multibillion-dollar project could harm the environment.

[Kazakhstan: CPC pipeline resumes working after a month of inactivity](#)

April 25, 2022, Eurasianet

A pipeline that Kazakhstan uses to export most of its oil began operating at full capacity over the weekend, one month after key offloading infrastructure was allegedly damaged in a storm.

[Kazakhstan: Political party reshuffle hints at the arrival of a new order](#)

April 27, 2022, Eurasianet

The merger of two political parties in Kazakhstan this week may have some real-world implications. On April 26, the ruling Amanat party, which is the post-rebranding name of the ruling Nur-Otan party, held its 23rd congress and had lots of important news to share. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will no longer lead the party.

[After Publicly Backing Ukraine's Sovereignty, Uzbek FM Steps down](#)

April 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Weeks after publicly supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity, Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov has left his post. Uzbek presidential spokesman Sherzod Asadov said on April 27 that Komilov left the post of foreign minister to move to another job -- deputy secretary of the presidential Security Council.

[Kyrgyzstan alarmed by Tajikistan's reported purchase of Bayraktar drones](#)

April 28, 2022, Eurasianet

Officials in Kyrgyzstan have voiced alarm over reports that neighbouring Tajikistan may have bought Bayraktar TB2 unmanned aerial vehicles from Turkey, an acquisition that would mark a major development in the arms race unfolding between the two nations.

[Kazakhstan pushes back at threats of prominent Russian propagandist](#)

April 28, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan has hit back at a prominent Russian television talk show anchor who published a tirade on his YouTube channel inveighing at the Kazakh authorities for cancelling annual World War II victory commemoration events and warning that the country might incur the same fate as Ukraine.

West Asia

[Indian Army, IAF Induct Advanced Israeli 'Tank Killers' Amid LAC Standoff with China](#)

April 25, 2022, The Times of India

The Army and IAF have now begun inducting advanced Israeli Spike Anti-tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) with longer ranges and penetration capabilities.

[IP Protection, Work Visa Key Concerns for Israeli Investors in India](#)

April 20, 2022, Mint

Fear of intellectual property (IP) theft and difficulty in securing work visas are among top concerns holding up Israeli investment in India, said Anat Bernstein-Reich, Chairperson of the Israel-India Chamber of Commerce.

[Oman Helps Release Seven Indians from Yemeni Captivity](#)

April 24, 2022, The New Indian Express

Following the intervention of the country's king, Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Omani government has helped secure the release of seven Indian nationals who were detained in Yemen.

[UAE Investments, Grassroot Democracy: Twin Messages in PM Narendra Modi's J&K Visit Today](#)

April 24, 2022, The Indian Express

The event is aimed at sending out a signal how the UT is "fast developing and transforming", highlighting the "vibrancy of democracy at the grassroots" following the scrapping of Article 370 that guaranteed special status to the erstwhile J&K state.

[Iranian FM to EU: White House Must Set Aside Excessive Demands, Hesitation](#)

April 23, 2022, Tehran Times

Referring to the tireless efforts of all parties in the Vienna talks, Iran's top diplomat said that the three European countries (France, Germany and Britain also called E3), Russia and China are now ready to finalise the agreement. The

current U.S. administration must have the “courage to correct the White House’s past wrong policies”, he added.

[Iran Not Supplying IAEA With Surveillance Data Until an Agreement is Achieved in Vienna](#)

April 18, 2022, Tehran Times

Spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi has said that Iran will not provide the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with the data recorded by its surveillance cameras in Iran until an agreement is achieved in Vienna.

[US President Biden Accepts PM Bennett’s Invitation to Visit Israel](#)

April 24, 2022, AL Jazeera

US President Joe Biden will visit Israel in the coming months following an invitation from Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett.

[U.S. and Israel Will Hold Iran Talks Amid Stalemate in Nuclear Negotiations](#)

April 25, 2022, Axios

The U.S. and Israel will hold a new round of strategic talks this week focusing on the Iranian nuclear program and countering Iran’s activity in the region, Israeli and U.S. officials said.

[Arab League Urges Israel to Stop Jewish Prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque](#)

April 21, 2022, AL Jazeera

The Arab League has called on Israel to end Jewish prayers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem and warned that such actions were a flagrant affront to Muslim feelings and could trigger wider conflict.

[Rare Flareup on Israel-Lebanon Border After Jerusalem Holy Site Clashes](#)

April 25, 2022, Reuters

A rocket launched from Lebanon struck harmlessly in Israel, which responded with artillery fire, in an apparent spillover of Palestinian-Israeli confrontations at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque.

[Future of Peace Talks in Turkey Depends on Putin: Ukrainian President Zelenskyy](#)

April 24, 2022, Daily Sabah

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the likelihood of further peace talks with Russia in Turkey depends on his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, but added that Kyiv wants substantive talks to happen.

[UAE, US, Other World Leaders Welcome Macron's French Election Win](#)

April 25, 2022, Gulf News

The UAE President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan sent a cable of congratulations to Emmanuel Macron, on his re-election win as President of France.

[UAE Golden Visa: New Changes Will Attract More Investment, Talent](#)

April 23, 2022, Moneycontrol

The Emirati government has tried to make the new visas more family-friendly, thereby making it easier for the applicants to better plan their long-term future in the UAE.

United States

United States

[Biden to visit South Korea, Japan in May in Indo-Pacific push](#)

April 28, 2022, Nikkei Asia

U.S. President Joe Biden will visit South Korea and Japan from May 20 to 24 to advance a "free and open Indo-Pacific" and strengthen ties with its two Asian allies, the White House said Wednesday, making it his first trip to the region since taking office last year. Through a series of meetings planned during the trip, including the Quad summit that involves the United States, Japan, Australia and India, Biden is likely to affirm with the Indo-Pacific nations their response to Russia's war in Ukraine, China's assertiveness in the region and North Korea's nuclear and missile ambitions.

[Disney Dispute Reflects Wider Rift Between Republicans, Big Companies](#)

April 29, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The fight between Walt Disney Co. and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is the latest sign of a widening rift between Republicans and big business. Once more closely aligned, the two find themselves at odds on economic issues like trade, immigration and energy. More recently, cultural and political flashpoints like abortion laws, race, LGBT rights and voting laws have at times divided the two camps.

[FBI Conducted Potentially Millions of Searches of Americans' Data Last Year, Report Says](#)

April 29, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Federal Bureau of Investigation performed potentially millions of searches of American electronic data last year without a warrant, U.S. intelligence officials said Friday, a revelation likely to stoke longstanding concerns in Congress about government surveillance and privacy. An annual report published Friday by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence disclosed that the FBI conducted as many as 3.4 million searches of U.S. data that had been previously collected by the National Security Agency.

[Facing Heat from All Sides, Mayorkas Defends Border Policies](#)

April 27, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas defended the administration's plans to lift Title 42, a controversial pandemic-era border policy, in two congressional hearings Wednesday, as Republicans bashed his handling of the border, going as far as to call for the secretary's resignation.

[U.S. GDP Falls 1.4% as Economy Shrinks for First Time Since Early in Pandemic](#)

April 28, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. economy shrank in the first quarter as supply disruptions weighed on output, but underlying strength in consumer and business spending suggested growth will soon resume. The decline in U.S. gross domestic product at a 1.4% annual rate marked a sharp reversal from a 6.9% annual growth rate in the fourth quarter, the Commerce Department said Thursday. The first quarter was the weakest since spring 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic and related shutdowns drove the U.S. economy into a deep—albeit short—recession.

[Russian Gas Cutoff Symbolizes New Era of Supply Shocks and Inflation](#)

April 27, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Inflation is the result of demand growing faster than supply. Central banks can deal with the demand part. The problem is that the world they confront in coming years might be one of recurrent supply shocks. The decades preceding the pandemic were characterized by chronically weak demand and a seemingly limitless supply of capital, labour and raw materials, resulting in persistently low inflation and interest rates. Those conditions have since flipped. Demand is robust, especially in the U.S., where fiscal and monetary support have been especially generous. Advanced economies report shortages of labour, and Covid-19 continues to snarl supply chains, most recently in China.

[World Bank Projects Elevated Energy, Food Prices, Keeping Upward Pressure on Inflation](#)

April 26, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Global prices of fuel and food are forecast to rise sharply this year due to shocks caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the World Bank said Tuesday, a sign higher commodity costs will continue to put upward pressure on inflation. The World Bank expects commodity prices to remain elevated for years to come, as the war in Ukraine alters how commodities are traded, produced and consumed around the world.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[In new roadmap for India-EU trade deal, 2024 is the deadline to conclude talks](#)

April 29, Hindustan Times

EU's investment bank, European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to double its annual investments in India from the current level of about €500 million within the next two years.

[India, EU to hold talks on FTA in June, set 2023-2024 target](#)

April 30, 2022, The Indian Express

India has been increasingly looking at international trade as a key engine of economic growth. Earlier this year, it concluded a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with the UAE and an interim trade deal with Australia.

[What European Union Envoy Said on Trade Deal with India](#)

April 29, 2022, NDTV

India-European Union Trade Deal: In May last year, India and the European Union (EU) announced to resume negotiations for a balanced and comprehensive trade agreement after a gap of over eight years.

[India, European Union agree to establish Trade and Technology Council](#)

April 26, 2022, Business Standard

Trade and Technology Council is being set up to provide political-level oversight into the India-EU relationship.

Russia

[Russia warns of nuclear war danger](#)

April 25, 2022, Russia Today

Russia's starting position is that atomic war should be unacceptable and Moscow successfully persuaded the US and other nuclear powers to agree on that back in January, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov outlined in an interview. However, he added that the situation has since deteriorated to the point where there is a real and serious threat.

[Russia begins batch production of S-500 Prometheus air defence system](#)

April 25, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia's newest missile air defence system S-500 Prometheus, developed by the Almaz-Antey concern, has begun to be batch-produced and will be

provided for the armed forces within the deadlines established under the state defence order, the company's CEO, Yan Novikov, has said.

[Russia names conditions for further direct talks with Ukraine](#)

April 25, 2022, Russia Today

Once the Ukrainian side offers meaningful steps that would make direct talks worth conducting, that possibility will be considered, the Russian Foreign Ministry said. Kiev has threatened to withdraw from the peace negotiations altogether, and vowed to "immediately" retake any territory under Russian control with the help of weapons from the West.

[Russia's GDP can drop by 12% if current conditions remain – expert](#)

April 25, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia's GDP can contract by 12% if current conditions remain, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Moscow Exchange Oleg Vyugin said at the Made in Kazan forum.

[Russia Swaps Former U.S. Marine Reed For Drug Smuggler Yaroshenko](#)

April 27, 2022, RFE/RL

Washington and Moscow have completed a prisoner swap involving Russian pilot Konstantin Yaroshenko, jailed on U.S. drug-smuggling charges, and former U.S. Marine Trevor Reed, jailed in Russia on charges of assaulting police, despite deteriorating diplomatic relations over the Kremlin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

[Russia Completes First Rail Bridge to China](#)

April 27, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia has officially completed its section of the first rail bridge linking it to China, ahead of the bridge's expected opening within the next month. The Tongjiang-Nizhneleninskoye bridge, named after the cities on opposite sides of the Amur River that it now connects, was eight years in the making.

[Russia Nearly Doubled Its Income From Energy Sales To The EU During Wartime, Study Shows](#)

April 28, 2022, RFE/RL

Moscow continues to benefit from Europe's energy dependence on Russian oil despite a reduction in sales due to sanctions imposed to pressure it to end its war against Ukraine, according to experts with a Finland-based research organisation.

[Russia Confirms Air Strike on Kyiv During UN Chief's Visit](#)

April 29, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia confirmed that it had carried out a "high-precision" missile strike on a rocket plant in Kyiv as the UN chief visited the Ukrainian capital. The missile attack during UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres' visit ended nearly two weeks of relative calm in Ukraine's capital. At least one person has been killed and at least three injured, Kyiv's mayor said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[How the African Union has failed the continent](#)

April 29, 2022, Arab News

The African Union celebrated its 20th anniversary this month at a gathering in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, where the heads of most of the 55 member states patted themselves on the back for the organization's "achievements."

[African Union endorses EAC force deployment to DR Congo](#)

April 26, 2022, The East African

The African Union has endorsed the decision by East African Community leaders to deploy a regional force to restore peace and stability in eastern DR Congo.

[How did Israel end up with AU observer status?](#)

April 27, 2022, African Arguments

For at least the next year, Israel will continue to have observer status at the Africa Union (AU). This situation contradicts the values enshrined in the continental body's Constitutive Act, which stands against apartheid and colonialism, and is in violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, says the Paper.

[Somalia Reopens Embassy in Rwanda](#)

April 29, 2022, All Africa

The Government of Somalia reopened its Embassy in Rwanda, in accordance with an agreement signed on 26 January by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, HE Abdisaid Muse Ali and his Rwandan counterpart, Dr. Vincent Biruta.

Latin America

[Ecuador declares emergency over gang crime](#)

April 30, 2022, BBC

Ecuador's president has declared a state of emergency in three western provinces because of rising crime.

[Latin America Doesn't Want a New Cold War](#)

April 28, 2022, Americas Quarterly

Numerous politicians and scholars in the United States seem obsessed by, and perhaps even joyful about, the possibility that the world is entering a new Cold War, this time between their country and China. Some of these voices may believe that such a conflict could pave the way for a fresh Pax Americana, a beneficent world order led once again from Washington. But from a Latin American viewpoint, such a new era of confrontation must be avoided.

[Brazil's Unemployment Unexpectedly Drops in Boost for Economy](#)

April 29, 2022, Bloomberg

Brazil's unemployment rate unexpectedly fell despite a complicated macroeconomic outlook including slow growth and high borrowing costs.

['Jute for wheat' – what is historical India-Argentina barter deal Jaishankar talked about](#)

April 28, 2022, The Print

While documentation about barter treaty is sparse, it was inked in 1949 when India, a leading commercial producer of jute, was experiencing a food crisis.



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