



# 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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### 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

[Jaishankar discusses Ukraine crisis, Make-in-India with visiting Italian Foreign Minister](#)

May 6, 2022, The Print

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a meeting with the visiting Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio on Friday and discussed several issues including the participation of Italian companies in Make-in-India campaign and concern on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

[India's defence offset contracts are in shambles, need a revamp](#)

May 6, 2022, The Print

A number of the 57 offset contracts signed so far have resulted in penalties with the number expected to rise.

[Working to tackle drug traffickers: Coast Guard D-G Pathania](#)

May 7, 2022, The Hindu

After taking over as the Director-General of Indian Coast Guard, V.S. Pathania spoke on the maritime force's capabilities, goals and plans.

[Neighbourhood First: FMs of India and Bangladesh to discuss maritime security and FTA later this month](#)

May 4, 2022, Financial Express

Both these top ministers will also likely to participate in a dialogue which is being organised by a think tank 'Asian Confluence' in Guwahati at the same time.

[Talks on at LAC at battalion, brigade levels: Northern Army commander](#)

May 7, 2022, Hindustan Times

The Northern Army commander said that a slew of measures have been put in place to prevent the smaller incidents escalating into bigger confrontations.

### Pakistan

[Baloch blast an attack on China's soft power. Pakistan must satisfy Beijing, CPEC at stake](#)

May 4, 2022, The Print

Conventional security for CPEC projects is essential, but state institutions cannot ignore the strategic and political context.

[CPEC projects' security to be reviewed every month: Ahsan](#)

May 7, 2022, Dawn

The minister gave the direction while chairing a meeting to review the security progress on CPEC projects, said a press release issued here.

[US Hints At Resuming Cooperation On Counter-Terrorism With Pakistan](#)

May 5, 2022, India.com

US State Department spokesperson Ned Price first condemned the terror attack in the University of Karachi and then discussed resumption of security cooperation.

[Pakistan Army Looks West as Chinese Gear Disappoints – The Print](#)

May 7, 2022, Asia Financial

The move is prompted by defective, unreliable and poorly performing Chinese equipment sold to the armed forces, which include a main battle tank, artillery and air defence weapons.

## **Afghanistan**

[Uzbekistan Not Ready To Recognise Taliban Government In Afghanistan](#)

May 7, 2022, NDTV

Uzbek president's special representative for Afghanistan said in an interview that it would be difficult for Taliban government in Kabul to qualify for international recognition any time soon.

[Human rights violations in Afghanistan: India, France call for inclusive, representative government in the country](#)

May 5, 2022, Zee News

According to the joint statement, "India and France expressed serious concern on the humanitarian situation and violation of human rights and reiterated strong support for a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, emphasizing respect for its sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and non-interference in its internal affairs."

[Extreme hunger 'grips' Afghanistan, Taliban accountable: Reports](#)

May 6, 2022, The Print

Afghanistan has been grappling with an acute food crisis, with over 22 million people, or more than half of the country's population suffering from severe hunger and the majority unable to anticipate when their next meal will arrive, according to the United Nations.

## **Bangladesh**

### [India plans rail link for 2 states via Bangladesh](#)

My 5, 2022, Dhaka Tribune

Some Indian officials met a delegation of Bangladesh at Zero Point in Hilli on Wednesday to discuss the proposed railway project that would connect the northeastern state of Meghalaya with the rest of the country via Bangladesh,

### [Bangladesh Offers Chittagong Port To India; Can Sheikh Hasina Halt New Delhi's Shift Towards Myanmar?](#)

May 7, 2022, The Eurasian Review

India is all set to bag a coveted offer to access Bangladesh's strategic Chittagong Port, which accounts for 70% of the country's imports and exports. The development came after India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina met in Dhaka on April 29.

## **Nepal**

### [PM Modi to visit Nepal on May 16 for Buddha Purnima celebrations](#)

May 4, 2022, India Today

PM Modi will visit Nepal on May 16 to celebrate Buddha Purnima. This will be PM Modi's first visit to Nepal after his re-election in 2019.

### [Nepal, US sign USD 659 million development assistance agreement](#)

May 6, 2022, The Print

Just a few weeks after the Nepali parliament ratified the USD 500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) grant from the US, the two countries on Thursday signed another agreement bringing USD 659 million to the Himalayan nation in assistance, in a move that is expected to irk China

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Sri Lanka Under State Of Emergency Again Amid Its Worst Economic Crisis](#)

May 7, 2022, NDTV

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has declared a state of emergency from midnight amid protests against a massive economic crisis that has crippled the island nation with external debt.

[India to step up assistance as Sri Lanka stares at bankruptcy](#)

May 7, 2022, The Economic Times

India to step up assistance as Sri Lanka with the country being on the verge of bankruptcy and with its usable foreign reserves down to less than \$ 50 million.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [China unveils its vision of a global security order](#)

May 5, 2022, The Economist

As Chinese scholars tell it, America and the West may be trying to contain Russia now, but their main target is surely China, a far more important country. As a result, China has selfish reasons to root for Mr Putin to avoid paying a high price for aggression.

#### [U.S., Chinese regulators in talks for audit deal –sources](#)

May 6, 2022, Reuters

U.S. and Chinese regulatory officials are in talks to settle a long-running dispute over the auditing compliance of U.S.-listed Chinese firms.

#### [China's zero-Covid rules, Ukraine war creating 'severe challenges' for European businesses](#)

May 5, 2022, SCMP

Some 23 per cent of European companies are considering shifting current or planned investments out of China due to Covid-19 controls, a new survey shows.

#### [Taiwan authorities abandon US anti-sub helicopters sale due to 'high price,' sparking speculation over discord and divergence](#)

May 6, 2022, Global Times

About a week after US cancelled its first arms deal to Taiwan authorities under the Biden administration, the island announced to abandon the plan to buy anti-submarine warfare helicopter from the US as "the price is too high."

#### [China makes second largest incursion into Taiwan air defence zone](#)

May 6, 2022, Al Jazeera

Eighteen aircraft, including fighters and bombers, entered Taiwan's air defence zone, prompting the scrambling of jets.

### Japan

#### [Beijing's Response On Japan PM's "Ukraine-Like China Threat In Asia"](#)

May 6, 2022, NDTV

China said that if Japan really wanted peace and stability in East Asia, it should immediately stop provoking confrontation between big powers.



### [Japan's Okinawa urges government to reduce China tensions](#)

May 6, 2022, ABC News

The governor of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa is urging Japan to focus more on peaceful diplomacy with China instead of on military deterrence.

### [Japan and U.S. to deepen ties to deter use of force in Indo-Pacific](#)

May 5, 2022, The Japan Times

The defense chiefs of Japan and the United States on Wednesday agreed to align the two countries' security strategies and strengthen cooperation to deter any attempt to change the status quo by force in the Indo-Pacific amid China's growing assertiveness.

## **Korea**

### [China to send vice president to South Korea president's inauguration](#)

May 6, 2022, Reuters

China's Vice President Wang Qishan plans to attend the inauguration of South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol next week, Yoon's team announced on Friday, as Beijing tries to expand its influence in the region.

### [South Korea's Intelligence Agency Has Joined NATO's Cyber Defense Unit.](#)

May 5, 2022, Time

South Korea's spy agency became the first in Asia to join NATO's Cyber Defense Group in a move that risks inflaming tensions with regional superpower China.

### [U.S., South Korean Defense Leaders Condemn North Korean Missile Launch](#)

May 5, 2022, US Department of Defense

The launch is the 14th this year and is part of an effort by North Korean leader Kim Jong UN to speed up development of its own nuclear capability so it can hold at risk those it perceives as adversaries.

## **Southeast Asia**

### [Global NATO Takes Shape Ahead of US-ASEAN Meet](#)

May 5, 2022, The Diplomat

Democracies on the edge in Southeast Asia likely face difficult choices in the years to come.

### [Joe Biden To Attend ASEAN Summit On May 13: White House](#)

May 13, 2022, NDTV

US President Joe Biden will attend a summit for leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the US State Department on May 13.

[US-ASEAN Summit: Balancing regional with bilateral](#)

May 6, 2022, The New Indian Express

Reports of joint Russia-Vietnam exercises scheduled for the same time as the summit are likely to embarrass both the US and ASEAN, complicating matters.

[Vietnam Protests China's Imposition of Annual South China Sea Fishing Ban](#)

May 6, 2022, The Diplomat

Hanoi's Foreign Ministry described the May-August moratorium as "a violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction."

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Kazakh President Signs Bill Allowing Social Media To Be Shut Down](#)

May 3, 2022, RFE/RL

Kazakh President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev has signed into law a controversial bill that allows the authorities to shut down social media and messaging platforms to protect users from cyberbullying. He endorsed the legislation on May 3 amid warnings by critics that the new law could be used by the state to silence its critics.

#### [Turkmenistan Takes Policing Women's Bodies to the Next Level](#)

May 3, 2022, The Diplomat

The Turkmen government is about to further oppress its women by taking away their fundamental right to choose what to wear and how to groom themselves. In April, Turkmen authorities began cracking down on salons, enforcing a ban on a range of beauty services.

#### [Kazakhstan: Customs feel the heat as anti-corruption drive steps up a gear](#)

May 4, 2022, Eurasianet

Prosecutors and anti-corruption investigators in Kazakhstan have heeded a signal from the president and embarked on probes into the customs services that have now led to arrests. The Prosecutor General's Office said that a recent audit brought to light \$375 million worth of damages to the state caused by customs evasion and the fraudulent declaration of goods.

#### [International Rights Organisations Condemn Probes Against Noted Kyrgyz Journalist](#)

May 4, 2022, RFE/RL

Several international human rights organisations have condemned probes launched against a well-known Kyrgyz investigative journalist, Bolot Temirov, who was first accused of illegal drugs possession before being charged additionally with forgery and illegally crossing the border, all of which he denies.

#### [Tajikistan: Illegally deported Pamiri leader gets 18 years in prison](#)

May 4, 2022, Eurasianet

A leading figure in Tajikistan's Pamiri community who was unlawfully spirited out of Russia in January has been sentenced to 18 years in prison on charges

of hostage-taking. Witnesses have reported that Amriddin Alovatshoyev's trial on April 29 lasted only two hours.

### [Kazakh President Signs Decree For June 5 Referendum On Constitutional Changes](#)

May 5, 2022, RFE/RL

Kazakhstan will hold a referendum on a raft of constitutional changes as part of President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev's reforms aimed at decentralising decision-making in the oil-rich Central Asian state. Toqaev signed a decree on May 5 to set the referendum for June 5.

## **West Asia**

### [Israeli PM's Visit to India Depends on 'Domestic Political Situation'](#)

May 01, 2022, Business Standard

After the cancellation of his visit to India last month at the eleventh hour, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's next visit to the country will depend on the political and security situation back home in the Mediterranean country, Ambassador Naor Gilon said.

### [Abu Dhabi-Israel Group 'ISMC' to Set up USD 3 Billion Chip Making Plant in Karnataka](#)

May 01, 2022, Business Standard

International semiconductor consortium 'ISMC' will invest \$3 billion in India's southern state of Karnataka to set up a chip-making plant, the state government said.

### [Expansion of India-Saudi Arabia Cultural Partnership Offers Rewarding Prospects for the Future of Both Nations](#)

May 01, 2022, The Times of India

Running parallel to strategic investments has been Riyadh's increased focus on culture, which is an intrinsic component of Saudi Arabia's national identity in tune with Kingdom's Vision 2030.

### [Bain to Draw Saudi PIF's India Investment Plan](#)

April 26, 2022, Mint

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, Public Investment Fund (PIF), has tasked Bain and Company to firm up an India strategy as part of its plan to exploit various investment opportunities in the infrastructure sector.

## [India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\) Comes Into Force](#)

May 01, 2022, Times Now

The historic India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which was signed between the two nations on February 18, 2022, officially came into force on Sunday (May 01).

## [China and Iran Set To Step Up Defence Cooperation](#)

April 28, 2022, South China Morning Post (SCMP)

China and Iran have vowed to step up defence cooperation, including more military drills, as the two countries move closer together under growing pressure from the United States.

## [China's Defence Minister Visits Oman as Beijing Eyes Foothold in Arabian Sea](#)

April 29, 2022, Middle East Eye

China's Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe held talks with Omani officials in the sultanate's capital Muscat, with the two sides pledging to improve their strategic partnership, as Beijing pushes to strengthen its presence in the Arabian Sea.

## [Oil Propels Saudi GDP Growth to Near 10 Percent in First Quarter](#)

May 01, 2022, AL Jazeera

Saudi Arabia's economy has registered a nearly 10 percent rise in its first quarter compared to the same period last year thanks to high global crude prices.

## [Iran Ramps Up Oil Exports as China Pulls Back on Russian Crude](#)

April 28, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Iran is ramping up oil exports and benefiting from a rise in oil prices with China as its main buyer, as it pulls back on its purchases of Russian oil due to the war with Ukraine.

## [Readout of US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Meeting with National Security Advisor Dr. Eyal Hulata of Israel](#)

April 25, 2022, The White House

Mr. Sullivan emphasised that the United States is attuned to Israel's concerns about threats to its security, including first-and-foremost from Iran and Iranian-backed proxies. They also discussed Tel Aviv's relationship with countries in the Indo-Pacific, Russia-Ukraine conflict and the need to support Kyiv.

### [Israel attends US-led Summit on Sending More Arms to Ukraine](#)

April 26, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel is among 40 countries attending a meeting of Western countries to discuss supplying more weapons to Ukraine to help it fend off Russia's invasion of the country.

### [Turkey's President Erdogan Likely to Meet Russia's Putin This Week](#)

May 02, 2022, TRT World

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that he will "most probably" have a meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin this week.

### [Turkey, Saudi Arabia to Revive Great Economic Potential, President Erdogan Says](#)

April 30, 2022, Moneycontrol

Turkey and Saudi Arabia have a common will to "reactivate a great economic potential" between the two countries, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said, after his first trip to the kingdom since 2017.

## United States

### United States

#### [US' Assurances To Sweden, Finland Over NATO Membership Amid Ukraine War](#)

May 6, 2022, NDTV

Sweden and Finland are concerned they would be vulnerable to Russian threats during an application process to join NATO, which could take up to a year to be approved by all 30 NATO members.

#### [US Sees North Korea Nuclear Test "As Early As This Month"](#)

May 7, 2022, NDTV

North Korea carried out six nuclear tests before embarking on unusually high-profile diplomacy with the US, with former president Donald Trump meeting four times with leader Kim Jong Un.

#### [In first contact, Blinken invites Bilawal to US](#)

May 7, 2022, DAWN

Top-level contacts between Pakistan and the US recommenced on Friday as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and invited him to a food security meeting at the UN headquarters in New York on May 18.

#### [US intel helped Ukraine locate and sink Russian warship: Report](#)

May 6, 2022, Hindustan Times

The Biden administration has ramped up intelligence sharing with Ukraine alongside the shipment of arms and missiles to help it repel Russia's invasion.

#### [US: Biden admin announces policy push on quantum tech](#)

May 5, 2022, The Indian Express

Tech innovation and cybersecurity constitute two pillars of the strategy. An official said that the Biden administration has "integrated cybersecurity and emerging technology into our national security strategy in a truly unprecedented way".

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Won't Support EU Russia Sanctions, "Atomic Bomb" On Our Economy: Hungary](#)

May 6, 2022, NDTV

European Union imposed new sanctions against Russia, including an embargo on Russian crude oil imports.

#### [Modi's trip shows India & EU can grow closer despite differences on Russia's Ukraine invasion](#)

May 6, 2022, The Print

While the Ukraine war did dominate the agenda at Modi's meetings with European leaders, a wider acceptance of India's stance vis-à-vis Russia was also witnessed.

#### [Ukraine war: EU plans Russian oil ban and war crimes sanctions](#)

May 5, 2022, BBC

The EU has proposed some of its toughest measures yet against Russia, including a total ban on oil imports and sanctions on war crimes suspects.

#### [Analysis-French Left's New 'Disobedient' Stance Is Warning Shot For EU](#)

May 5, 2022, IBT

Winning next month's legislative election may be a long shot for France's new hard-left alliance, but the fact President Emmanuel Macron now faces two Eurosceptic opposition blocs should cause concern among France's European Union partners.

### Russia

#### [Russia Bombs Odesa Airport Runway As Offensive Continues In Ukraine's East](#)

April 30, 2022, RFE/RL

A Russian rocket attack destroyed an airport runway in Odesa, Ukraine's third-largest city and a key Black Sea port, on April 30 as the country's president said it was hard to discuss peace amid public anger over alleged atrocities carried out by Russian troops, and Russia's foreign minister claimed that Western sanctions and arms shipments were impeding the talks.



### [Russia has set space station exit timetable](#)

April 30, 2022, Russia Today

Russia has decided when it will pull out of the International Space Station (ISS), and will give a year's notice to its partners, Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 TV channel.

### [Over \\$300 bln paid for Russian gas stolen by West from Russia - Lavrov](#)

April 30, 2022, TASS News Agency

Western nations have stolen more than 300 billion US dollars from Russia when they seized the money meant to pay for Russian gas, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview.

### [Russia Says Could Seize Assets of 'Hostile' Countries](#)

May 1, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia suggested on May 1 that it could seize the Russian-based assets of countries it deems hostile in retaliation for a U.S. proposal to sell off Russian oligarchs' assets and pay the proceeds to Ukraine.

### [Russia tightens cybersecurity rules](#)

May 1, 2022, Russia Today

Starting in 2025, Russian state-owned entities will be prohibited from using information security tools produced in "unfriendly" countries, a presidential decree has declared.

### [Human Rights Watch Urges Russia To Investigate Civilian Killings](#)

May 2, 2022, RFE/RL

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has urged Russia to investigate three incidents during which Russian forces opened fire on civilian vehicles in Ukraine after the start of Moscow's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, killing six Ukrainians and wounding three.

### [EU to terminate Russian coal import in summer – Scholz](#)

May 2, 2022, TASS News Agency

The European Union will stop importing Russian coal in summer and will do away with Russian oil by the end of 2022, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said in an interview.

### [Putin signs decree on Russia's new tit-for-tat sanctions](#)

May 3, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on using new special retaliatory economic measures over unfriendly actions by some foreign states

and international organisations. The document prohibits fulfilling obligations and concluding deals with foreign individuals and legal entities under the retaliatory restrictive measures as well as exporting raw materials and products from Russia in the interests of these individuals.

### [Russia Simulates Nuclear Strikes Near EU](#)

May 5, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia said its forces had carried out simulated nuclear missile strikes in the western enclave of Kaliningrad on the border with the European Union. The announcement came on the 70th day of Moscow's military action in pro-Western Ukraine, with thousands killed and more than 13 million displaced.

## Africa & Latin America

### Africa

#### [Why Did Chinese Loans to Africa Fall So Much in 2020?](#)

May 5, 2022, The Diplomat

Of course the COVID-19 pandemic played a role, but there is another factor at play: pressure from international organizations to avoid debt.

#### [Al-Shabab Raids African Union Military Base](#)

May 3, 2022, VOA

Al-Shabab fighters stormed an African Union military base in the village of El-Baraf in Somalia's Middle Shabelle region early Tuesday, local officials and security sources say.

#### [At Least 30 Burundian AU Soldiers Killed in Al-Shabab Attack, Official Says](#)

May 4, 2022, VOA

At least 30 Burundian soldiers were killed and 20 others injured in Tuesday's attack by al-Shabab militants on an African Union base in southern Somalia, according to a Burundian official.

#### [Sudan's coup leaders hold secret consultations with political leaders](#)

May 4, 2022, Sudan Tribune

Yasir al-Atta, a member of the Sovereign Council, revealed that the coup leaders held a series of meetings with the political forces to create a suitable atmosphere and to ensure the needed basic agreement before starting the process of national dialogue.

#### ['They killed everything': Darfur survivor recounts deadly attack](#)

May 5, 2022, Al Jazeera

Despite a peace deal signed in 2020, a military coup in Sudan last year has brought back instability in the region.

### Latin America

#### [Colombia can lead the energy transition in Latin America](#)

May 6, 2022, Atlantic Council

As the gateway to South America, Colombia has the potential to be a world-class producer of renewable energy. Access to both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans—the only such place in South America—allows for the formation of mature, global maritime networks for renewable energy exports. Colombia's

northern coast, specifically, boasts high wind speeds and solar radiation primed for exploitation.

#### [Brazil's Lula launching presidential bid to unseat Bolsonaro](#)

May 6, 2022, Al Jazeera

Left-wing ex-president leads fight against far-right incumbent in polls, but experts see tough road ahead of October election.

#### [Venezuela's oil exports fall 8% in April amid quality-linked delays -data](#)

May 5, 2022, Reuters

Venezuela's oil exports fell 8% in April from the previous month amid continued delays linked to poor-quality crude grades and insufficient oil upgrading capacity available, according to documents and vessel monitoring data.

#### [Havana explosion: 22 killed and 74 treated in hospital after hotel blast](#)

May 7, 2022, The Guardian

Cuban president Miguel Díaz-Canel says explosion at Hotel Saratoga appears to have been caused by a gas leak.

#### [Could We Bomb Mexico's Drug Labs, Donald Trump Asked: Ex US Defense Head](#)

May 6, 2022, NDTV

In 2020, Trump reportedly asked twice if the military could "shoot missiles into Mexico to destroy the drug labs," former defense secretary Mark Esper writes in his book titled "A Sacred Oath."

#### [Lull in China's lending to Latin America reflects a rethink in Beijing](#)

May 4, 2022, Dialogochino

No new policy regarding bank loans to the region in 2021 marks a sign of domestic and commercial priorities, as policies for improving risk management along the BRI develop.



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