

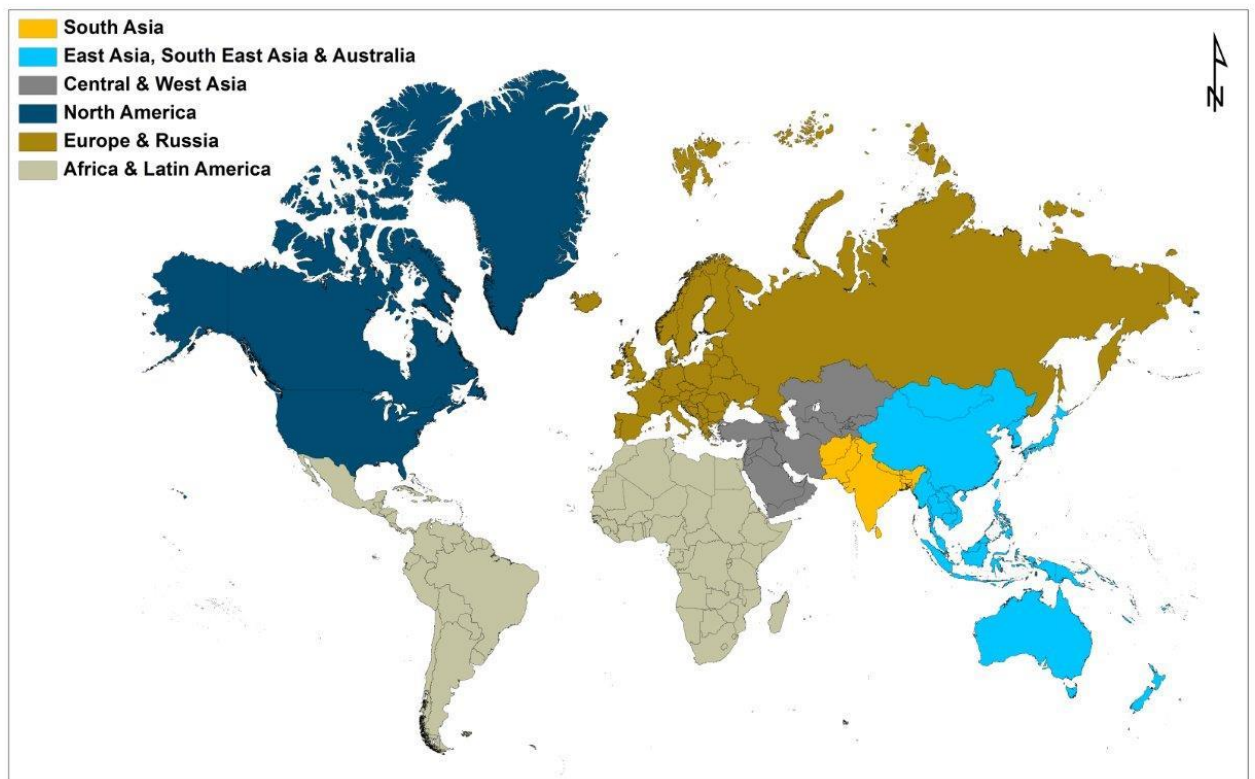


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 2 | January 8, 2021

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.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India, Israel successfully test cutting edge MRSAM air and missile defence system](#)

January 6, 2021, India Today

India and Israel successfully tested a Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) defence system last week, a press release by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) said. Jointly developed by the two countries, the defence system can shoot down enemy aircraft at a range of 50-70 km.

[Upgraded Israeli drones, Airbus aircraft, Tejas – deals on defence ministry agenda for 2021](#)

January 5, 2021, The Print

The Ministry of Defence has listed procurement of C-295 transport aircraft from Airbus through Make in India, along with the Tejas Mk 1-A, indigenous Light Combat Helicopter and upgraded Heron drones from Israel, as the major deals that are to be inked in 2021.

[Ladakh LAC standoff: India Army has created catch-22 situation for the Chinese, says an expert](#)

January 7, 2021, Financial Express

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) actions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Ladakh Subsector and along the entire length have successfully been contained by the Indian Army. Initially assessed as a collective training deployment, the occupation of the Fingers 4 to 8, the deployment in the Depsang plains and DBO was a cause of concern. The deployment is likely to continue as each side is unlikely to withdraw to a position which will not allow a Military Commander to fight a cohesive defensive battle.

[China tried to change status quo by force in Ladakh, says MoD review](#)

January 5, 2021, Hindustan Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) escalated the situation in the sensitive Ladakh theatre by using unorthodox weapons against Indian soldiers and amassing a large number of troops during the ongoing border standoff along the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC), the defence ministry said in a year-end review of major developments.

[Ladakh was the starting point. India-China ties are getting complicated](#)

January 5, 2021, Hindustan Times

Eight months to this date, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) launched aggression on Indian Army troopers at the finger four mountainous spur on the north banks of Pangong Tso and tried to unilaterally change the alignment of the 1,597-kilometre Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. It was premeditated. The soldiers had exchanged blows, threw stones at each other and attacked Indian soldiers with nail-studded clubs. But the PLA aggressors had been ready, wearing helmets and thickly-padded anti-riot uniforms.

[US agrees to equip Indian Navy warships with heavy guns urgently](#)

January 6, 2021, India Today

At a time when India and China are engaged in a border dispute, the American Navy has agreed to urgently equip Indian Navy warships with its own naval guns to help India be better prepared for a conflict in the earliest possible time frame.

[Jaishankar wraps up visit to Sri Lanka; Indian mission describes his trip as 'huge success'](#)

January 7, 2021, Deccan Herald

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar left for home after wrapping up his three-day visit to Sri Lanka during which he held "constructive discussions" with the country's top leadership, which was described as a "huge success".

Pakistan

[Govt agrees to pay \\$28.7m damages to US firm](#)

January 2, 2021, Dawn

The federal cabinet has approved payment of \$28.7 million in damages to the Washington-based asset recovery firm Broadsheet LLC and at the same time decided to challenge the British court's decision to attach the accounts of the Pakistan High Commission in London. The approval was granted after the office of the attorney general and the law ministry advised the government to let the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) clear the \$28.7m award.

[SC orders rebuilding of vandalised Hindu shrine in Karak](#)

January 6, 2021, Dawn

The Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) to rebuild the Samadhi (shrine) of a Hindu saint in Teri village, Karak district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was built before 1920. The court also

ordered the authorities to recover the expenses to be incurred on rehabilitation of Param Hans Ji Mahaaraj Samadhi/Mandir from a local Maulvi, Mohammad Sharif, who allegedly incited a mob to desecrate the shrine, and his followers.

[Gunmen slaughter 11 coal miners in Balochistan](#)

January 4, 2021, Dawn

Eleven coal miners belonging to the Shia Hazara community sleeping in their room were held at gunpoint, blindfolded and trussed up before being executed by unidentified attackers in the Mach coal field area in the early hours of January 3 morning. The gruesome attack that took place in the mountainous Bolan district, some 100km from Quetta, sparked street protests and drew nationwide condemnation.

[LeT leader Lakhvi arrested for terrorism financing](#)

January 3, 2021, Dawn

The Counter Terrorism Department, Punjab, has arrested a key leader of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) organisation, Zakiur Reh-man Lakhvi, for his alleged involvement in a terrorism financing case registered against him at the CTD's Lahore police station. The FIR was registered against Lakhvi on charges of terrorism financing on Dec 7. Lakhvi has been declared a terrorist by the United Nations.

[Protests continue in Karachi, spread to other cities over massacre of coal miners](#)

January 7, 2021, The Express Tribune

Protest demonstrations over the killing of 11 Hazara minority coal miners in Balochistan's Machh area have spread to various cities of the country including in Karachi and Lahore. Protesters have staged sit-ins at least 20 locations of the port city. Meanwhile, traffic jams were witnessed in various areas, as roads remained blocked during the demonstrations.

[Turkmenistan eyes MoU with Gwadar Port](#)

January 8, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan and Turkmenistan are engaged in efforts to deepen trade relations between the two countries. During a meeting between Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov and Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, both sides discussed the historical bilateral relations. In light of Pakistan's interaction with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, now Turkmenistan also wants to enhance trade relations with Pakistan. Hence, the Ministry of Commerce is developing a strategy to incorporate

Turkmenistan as part of efforts to integrate five Central Asian Republics with Afghanistan and Pakistan.

[Pakistan conducts successful test flight of Fatah-1: ISPR](#)

January 7, 2021, The Express Tribune

Pakistan successfully conducted a test flight of indigenously developed Fatah-1, Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Babar Iftikhar. The weapon system is capable of delivering a conventional warhead upto a range of 140 kilometres.

[Virgin Islands court puts off Reko Diq case hearing till 18th](#)

January 8, 2021, The Express Tribune

The High Court of Justice in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) has adjourned hearing relating to enforcement of half of the \$6 billion award in the Reko Diq case against Pakistan until January 18. Tethyan Copper Company (TCC) on November 20, last year had sought attachment of assets for enforcement of the \$6 billion award that the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) slapped on Pakistan on July 12, 2019, for revoking the TTC mining contract at Reko Diq in Balochistan.

Afghanistan

[Afghan journalist shot dead in car ambush](#)

January 2, 2021, Reuters

An Afghan journalist was shot dead in a car ambush in the central province of Ghor, the fifth media professional to be killed in the country in two months. Bismillah Adel Aimaq, 28, the editor-in-chief of Sada-e-Ghor (Voice of Ghor) radio station, was killed near Firoz Koh city, the capital of Ghor. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the killing.

[Armed Men Target MP's Vehicle, Three Guards Wounded](#)

January 2, 2021, Tolo News

Armed robbers driving a police vehicle attacked the convoy of Afghan lawmaker Amir Mohammad Khaksar in Pul-e-Surkh area in the west of Kabul in which three of his guards were wounded. The robbers managed to seize a vehicle and a weapon from the MP's convoy. Khaksar was not in the car when the shooting occurred.

[10 Chinese spies caught in Kabul get a quiet pardon, fly home in chartered aircraft](#)

January 4, 2021, The Hindustan Times

Afghanistan has let off the 10 Chinese nationals caught on 10 December for operating a terror cell in the capital city of Kabul and allowed them to leave the country. The 10 members of the module were flown out of the country in a plane arranged by the Chinese government.

[US Blames Taliban for Plotting Afghan Assassinations](#)

January 4, 2021, VOA

The United States has directly accused the Taliban of being behind a recent wave of high-profile assassinations in Afghanistan, urging the insurgent group to stop the violence "for peace to succeed."

[U.S. special envoy visits Pakistan ahead of Afghan negotiations](#)

January 5, 2021, Xinhua

U. S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad met with Pakistan's Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on January 4 and discussed the Afghan peace process. The meeting came ahead of the resumption of intra-Afghan negotiations in Qatar that will focus on reduction of violence and a ceasefire in conflict-stricken Afghanistan.

[New Security Forces Unit Becomes Active: Minister](#)

January 4, 2021, Tolo News

A new unit of the security forces comprised of Afghan police, Afghan army and the National Directorate of Security has started its operations, a unit that will act when it is informed about any movement by militants, the Interior Affairs Minister Gen. Massoud Andarabi said.

[No Ghani-Khalilzad Meeting Due to Interim Govt Rumors: Sources](#)

January 6, 2021, Tolo News

The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad said that he has "returned to Doha and the region with expectations that the parties involved in the Afghan conflict will make tangible progress in the second round of Afghanistan peace negotiations. Over the past few days Khalilzad has met mainstream Afghan politicians in Kabul including former president Hamid Karzai, the head of the High Council of National Reconciliation Abdullah Abdullah and other senior govt officials such as National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib, Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar and former Mujahideen leader Abdul Rab Rasoul Sayaf. However,

a meeting between President Ashraf Ghani and Khalilzad has not taken place yet.

Bangladesh

[India-Bangladesh Relations: Time to Move Beyond Connectivity](#)

January 4, 2021, The Diplomat

A new railway link highlights the warming ties between the two countries; New Delhi must not let them be derailed by domestic politics.

[India-Bangladesh border in Assam's Karimganj town to be sealed by smart fencing](#)

January 7, 2021, Northeast Now

The India-Bangladesh border in Assam's Karimganj town will be sealed by the means of smart fencing.

[Bangladesh approves procurement of 30 million doses of Covishield vaccine from India](#)

January 8, 2021, ANI

Bangladesh approves procurement of 30 million doses of Covishield vaccine from India.

Nepal

[Not Chinese, prefer Indian vaccine first, Nepal to India ahead of minister's visit](#)

January 6, 2021, Hindustan Times

Foreign minister Pradeep Gyawali will land in New Delhi on 14 January to attend the sixth Nepal-India Joint Commission meeting with external affairs minister S Jaishankar that will begin the next day, people familiar with the matter said.

['We have close friendship,' says Nepal envoy to India Nilamber Acharya ahead of Nepal FM's Delhi visit](#)

January 4, 2021, WION

In the first interview of 2021, Nepal's envoy to India Nilamber Acharya has said that India and Nepal have "enormous goodwill" and "close friendship at a high political level."

Bhutan

[India delivered 9 consignments of COVID-19 relief supplies to Bhutan since March](#)

January 7, 2021, ANI

India delivered 9 consignments of COVID-19 relief supplies to Bhutan since March.

Sri Lanka

[Addressing Tamil concerns, implementing 13th Amendment in Sri Lanka's interest: Jaishankar](#)

January 6, 2021, The Hindu

It is in "Sri Lanka's own interest" that the expectations of the Tamil people, for equality, justice, peace and dignity within a united Sri Lanka are fulfilled, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said.

[US yanks \\$480m aid to Sri Lanka with eye on China](#)

January 5, 2021, Outline.com

The U.S. abruptly withdrew \$480 million in infrastructure aid to Sri Lanka in an apparent rebuke against the island's growing economic ties with China, but the recent move will likely bring the two Asian countries even closer together.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese military releases CPC regulations for armed forces](#)

January 6, 2021, People's Daily

The Central Military Commission has issued a set of regulations regarding the work of the Communist Party of China (CPC) committees in the armed forces.

[China urges U.S. to commit to no-first-use nuclear weapons policy](#)

January 6, 2021, People's Daily

A foreign ministry spokesperson called on the United States to follow China in committing to a policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons, and to cut its nuclear weapons drastically on the basis of extending the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

[China opposes planned Taiwan visit by U.S. UN ambassador: Chinese mission](#)

January 8, 2021, Xinhua Net

"China strongly urges the United States to stop its crazy provocation, stop creating new difficulties for China-U.S. relations and the two countries' cooperation in the United Nations, and stop going further on the wrong path," said a spokesperson of China's Permanent Mission to the UN.

[China, DRC sign MoU on Belt and Road cooperation](#)

January 6, 2021, Xinhua

China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) signed here a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

[China, WHO still in consultation to ensure smooth progress of expert team's visit to China for virus origin-tracing: FM](#)

January 6, 2021, Global Times

China and the World Health Organization (WHO) are still in consultation to ensure the smooth progress of the visit by the WHO's international expert team to China, and the country is overcoming difficulties to speed up preparations and create conditions for the visit, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

[China's diplomacy in 2021 positive but challenging: experts](#)

January 3, 2021, Global Times

China's diplomatic relations with major foreign countries and regions in 2021 will be "positive but still challenging" with its rising international influence, diplomats and experts said. As 2020, an extraordinary year for China and the world, passed, and 2021 comes with new and long-lasting challenges, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi shared his views on China's bilateral and multilateral cooperation with countries and international organizations.

Japan

[Japan-UK post-Brexit trade deal takes effect](#)

January 1, 2021, Japan Today

A post-Brexit trade deal between Japan and the United Kingdom came into force, ensuring business continuity and strengthening the bilateral relationship as London seeks to join the larger Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement.

[South Korean court orders Japan to compensate 12 former sex slaves](#)

January 8, 2021, Japan Today

A South Korean court ordered the Japanese government to pay compensation to 12 World War II sex slaves or their families, in an unprecedented ruling likely to infuriate Tokyo.

[Japan, U.S. to boost defense ties with Europe in Indo-Pacific](#)

January 6, 2021, Japan Today

Japan and the United States have welcomed planned naval deployments this year by major European countries to Indo-Pacific waters, as China's rapid military modernization and maritime and territorial ambitions prompt moves to increase deterrence.

[China's dreams of self-reliance still depend on Japan Inc.](#)

January 6, 2021, The Japan Times

The shipment values of Japan's machinery sector are set to hit record highs, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. analysts. Orders placed by Chinese companies for Japanese machine tools have been rising since June and have picked up pace; same for the sector's general segment. Sales of factory automation equipment are expected to exceed previous peaks.

[Japan to halt business travel deal with China and South Korea](#)

January 5, 2021, Nikkei Asia

The Japanese government has begun considering suspending new entries of foreign nationals under business travel agreements with 11 countries and regions, including China and South Korea, in an effort to curb the spread of the new coronavirus.

[India set to send skilled staff to work in Japan](#)

January 6, 2021, Mint

Indian workers would be granted a new status of residence— ‘Specified Skilled Worker’—by Japan, the government said after a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Korea

[North Korea's leader vows to improve ties with outside world](#)

January 8, 2021, The Korea Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un underscored the need to drastically improve his nation's ties with the outside world as he addressed a major political conference for the third consecutive day.

[Kim Jong-un's admission of failure shows serious economic situation in North Korea](#)

January 6, 2021, The Korea Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's opening address at the eighth congress of the Workers' Party of Korea was marked by a rare public acknowledgement of mistakes in the leadership's five-year economic strategy from 2016 through 2021 amid three major disasters that hit the North — the COVID-19 pandemic, international sanctions, and storm-related flooding and infrastructure damage.

[Korean delegation departs for Iran to negotiate release of seized oil tanker](#)

January 7, 2021, The Korea Times

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) seized the MT Hankuk Chemi carrying 20 crewmembers, including five South Koreans, due to environmental pollution allegations. The ship is currently at a port in Bandar Abbas, a city on Iran's southern coast.

[Cheong Wa Dae denies report on pardons for Park, Lee](#)

January 7, 2021, The Korea Herald

Cheong Wa Dae flatly denied a report that the presidential office was considering ways to grant pardons to Park Geun-hye and Lee Myung-bak, the two former presidents jailed for abuses of power and corruption offenses.

Southeast Asia

[Re-opening and rethinking border trade](#)

January 7, 2021, The Sangai Express

After a gap of almost one year, Indo-Myanmar border trade through Moreh township is re-opening. It was the COVID-19 pandemic which forced the closure of the border trade and it gave a severe blow to traders, transporters, shopkeepers, hoteliers etc. With the COVID-19 graph flattening and several vaccines ready to be rolled out, the two countries have agreed to re-open the border trade.

[China must explain its role in Philippines coronavirus vaccine scandal](#)

January 8, 2021, SCMP

President Rodrigo Duterte's security detail received unapproved Chinese-made Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine doses in September last year. Manila is investigating, but Beijing must also clarify, which will help address concerns about its vaccines and commitment to a shared community of health.

[China notifies Thailand it is holding back waters](#)

January 6, 2021, Bangkok Post

China has notified downstream neighbours it is holding back the Mekong River flow at a hydropower dam on the waterway's upper reaches for 20 days, as part of a new data-sharing pact, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and Thailand said.

[Connectivity to Southeast Asia enhanced with addition of China-East India Service: DP World](#)

January 7, 2021, The Economic Times

Global logistics services provider DP World said its Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) has enhanced connectivity to the Southeast Asia with the addition of a new service, China-East India Service (CIS), from January 5. The service, the first-ever from Chennai, started with the maiden call of vessel 'MV Interasia Heritage', is operated by a consortium of five vessel operators,

providing direct connectivity to Pasir Gudang, Malaysia and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, the company said in a release.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakhstan bats for Chabahar port; envoy says process underway for use via Caspian sea](#)

January 5, 2021, WION

Kazakhstan has backed the use of Chabahar port, with its envoy saying by June of this year, a link will be established that will connect the country via the Caspian Sea. Kazakh envoy Yerlan Alimbayev said, "Kazakhstan will not only join, we are actually in a process. We initiated this process and we were expected the Chabahar connection will be done".

[Kazakhstan ready to procure Covid-19 vaccines from India after dialogues, says envoy](#)

January 5, 2021, Mint

With Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approving two vaccine candidates in India, the Kazakhstan Ambassador to India Yerlan Alimbayev said that Kazakhstan will discuss the matter with India and is ready to procure the vaccines.

[Russia, Kazakhstan To Increase Oil Output Following OPEC+ Meeting](#)

January 6, 2021, Caspian News

Under the deal reached during the 13th ministerial meeting, which was held via video conference, Russia and Kazakhstan agreed to boost oil production over the coming months by a combined 75,000 barrels a day, according to a chart of voluntary production levels published on the OPEC website. Russia will increase its output by 65,000 barrels per day (bpd) from the January level to 9,184,000 bpd in February and by another 65,000 bpd to 9,249,000 bpd in March. Kazakhstan will boost its production by 10,000 bpd to 1,427,000 bpd in February and by another 10,000 bpd to 1,437,000 bpd in March.

[US, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan launch Central Asia Investment Partnership](#)

January 8, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

The Governments of the United States of America, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan in a joint statement on January 7 announced the launch of the Central Asia Investment Partnership. The participants welcomed other countries to join this initiative to promote regional economic partnership and prosperity.

[New project to ensure climate resilience in Central Asia](#)

January 8, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

An online meeting of the local Appraisal Committee of a new joint project of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the UK Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) was held late in December. The new project will be implemented in partnership with the Center for Hydrometeorological Service (Uzhydromet) of Uzbekistan. The new regional initiative "Policy Action for Climate Security in Central Asia" will be implemented in three Central Asian countries – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – with the support of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and in collaboration with the British Embassy in Uzbekistan, UNDP Uzbekistan reported on January 7.

[Afghanistan: Kabul still dark amid Uzbekistan power cut](#)

January 7, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Afghanistan's capital city, Kabul, had only 20 minutes of electricity on January 6 following a technical problem that stopped the supply of Uzbekistan's electricity to Afghanistan.

[US-Uzbekistan partnership in review](#)

January 4, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

U. S. government assistance to Uzbekistan has increased 400% since 2016, reflecting the United States' unstinting support for the ambitious efforts of the government and people of Uzbekistan to transform their country into a modern, just, and prosperous society, the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan said.

[ADB and Tajikistan sign \\$237.5 million grants](#)

January 6, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

The Government of Tajikistan and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in December 2020 signed four grant agreements for a total of \$237.49 million to help Tajikistan improve the financial sustainability of the power sector, enhance the safety and reliability of the national road network, improve an irrigation system, and strengthen the financial sector and fiscal management in the country, ADB's Tajikistan Resident Mission said.

West Asia

[India Welcomes Restoration of Ties between Qatar and Four Other Arab States](#)

January 06, 2021, Hindustan Times

India welcomed the restoration of diplomatic ties between Qatar and four other Arab countries that had imposed an embargo on it in 2017, saying such a move would give a boost to peace and stability in the region.

[Indian Oil Corporation Buys its First Cargo of Iraqi Basra Medium Oil](#)

January 07, 2021, The Economic Times

Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country's top refiner, has loaded its first cargo of Iraq's newly introduced Basra Medium crude grade.

[Iraq Court Issues Warrant for Trump's Arrest over Muhandis Killing](#)

January 07, 2021, Middle East Eye

An Iraqi court has issued an arrest warrant for outgoing US President Donald Trump over the killing of Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a January 2020 air strike that also killed high-ranking Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani.

[US Flies Two Bombers to Middle East in Another Iran Deterrence Mission](#)

January 07, 2021, CNN

The US military flew two B-52 bombers to the Middle East from their base in the United States -- the fourth such deployment and show of force by the US Air Force aimed at sending a message to Iran in the past two months.

[Crude Oil Flow From Saudi Arabia to U.S. Falls to Zero](#)

January 06, 2021, Oilprice.com

For the first time in 35 years, no oil flowed from Saudi Arabia to the United States last week, according to EIA data, in a show that the United States—at least for now—isn't as reliant on oil from the Middle East like it used to be.

[Saudi Arabia Courts US and Russia with Surprise Cut in Oil Output](#)

January 06, 2021, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia has pledged additional, voluntary oil output cuts of one million barrels per day (bpd) in February and March as part of a deal under which most Opec+ producers will hold production steady in the face of new coronavirus lockdowns.

[UAE to Restore Qatar Trade and Travel Links 'Within a Week' After Row Ends](#)

January 07, 2021, BBC News

The United Arab Emirates could reopen trade and travel links with Qatar within a week under a deal that ended a bitter dispute between the Gulf states.

United States

United States

[Pro-Trump mob storms US Capitol in bid to overturn election](#)

January 7, 2021, Associated Press

A violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election.

[Calls grow in Congress for Trump to be removed by impeachment or the 25th Amendment](#)

January 7, 2021, CNN

A growing number of lawmakers are calling for President Donald Trump to be removed from office either through impeachment or the 25th Amendment to the Constitution after a violent mob of Trump supporters stormed the US Capitol.

[Pence announces Biden's victory after Congress completes electoral count](#)

January 7, 2021, CBS News

Vice President Mike Pence announced just after 3:40 a.m. that President-elect Joe Biden had won the presidency after Congress completed the counting of the Electoral College votes.

[World Leaders Condemn Pro-Trump Riot at US Capitol](#)

January 7, 2021, Voice of America

International leaders expressed shock and condemned the unprecedented scenes on Capitol Hill as a pro-Trump riot breached the U.S. Capitol.

[US expands ban on Chinese apps to include WeChat Pay and Alipay](#)

January 6, 2021, Nikkei Asia

The US President Donald Trump has issued an executive order banning transactions with eight Chinese apps, including Alipay, the payment app affiliated with Alibaba, and Tencent-owned WeChat Pay, describing the companies as national security threats.

[US ambassador to United Nations will visit Taiwan, Mike Pompeo says](#)

January 7, 2021, South China Morning Post

The US ambassador to the United Nations will visit Taiwan, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, in a move that is certain to rile Beijing.

[Pompeo Regrets 'Hard Issues' With China Not Resolved](#)

January 5, 2021, Bloomberg

Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said that he regrets the U.S. hadn't made more progress in resolving "hard issues" with China.

[Pompeo angers China with Hong Kong sanctions threat](#)

January 7, 2021, Reuters

Washington may sanction those involved in the arrest of over 50 people in Hong Kong, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, drawing anger and the threat of retaliation from Beijing.

[China rejects Mike Pompeo's challenge to its 'near-Arctic nation' claim](#)

January 6, 2021, South China Morning Post

Beijing has rejected US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's attack on its claim to be a "near-Arctic state", as the two countries continue to spar over China's role in the region.

[US, India have never been closer, says Mike Pompeo](#)

January 6, 2021, Hindustan Times

"The US-India relationship was made all the stronger with a great diplomat and leader as my friend," the US secretary of state tweeted, referring to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Turkey says talks with France to normalise ties going well](#)

January 8, 2021, Reuters

Turkey and France are working on a roadmap to normalise ties and talks are going well, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said, adding Ankara was ready to improve ties with its NATO ally if Paris showed the same willingness.

[Germany's Merkel 'open' to producing Russian Covid vaccine in the EU](#)

January 7, 2021, CNBC

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is "open" to the idea of producing Russia's coronavirus vaccine in the European Union, according to a spokesperson for her office.

[China blasts NATO with British aircraft carrier 'heading to South China Sea'](#)

January 1, 2021, South China Morning Post

China said it would take necessary measures to safeguard its sovereignty as it warned against the British navy dispatching warships to the disputed South China Sea.

[Hong Kong arrests threaten passage of EU-China investment deal, European Parliament members say](#)

January 7, 2021, South China Morning Post

The EU-China investment deal, tentatively reached just last week, faces a new hurdle as a growing number of European Parliament members expressed concern over the mass arrests of pro-democracy politicians in Hong Kong.

[EU-US tensions mount after EU signs trade deal with China](#)

January 4, 2021, WSWS

The trade agreement European Union (EU) officials reached with Chinese President Xi Jinping on December 30 has vastly intensified EU-US tensions.

[France invites India to join EU operations in Persian Gulf](#)

January 7, 2021, The Tribune

France has invited India to join forces with the European Union's naval monitoring mission in the Persian Gulf. French President's Diplomatic Adviser Emmanuel Bonne held the third round of strategic dialogue with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval here.

[India's basmati rice exports to EU soar 71%](#)

January 7, 2021, CNBC TV

India's exports of basmati rice to Belgium and Netherlands have surged in the first eight months of the current financial year, said reports.

[At WTO's India review, US, China and EU slam its 'increasing' trade barriers](#)

January 7, 2021, The Print

The US, China and the European Union (EU) have come down heavily on India for its "rising trade barriers and restrictive investment policies" at the Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO).

Russia

[India's defence deal with Russia may trigger US sanctions: Congressional report](#)

January 4, 2021, Hindustan Times

India's multi-billion-dollar deal to purchase the Russian-made S-400 air defence system may trigger US sanctions on New Delhi, a US Congressional report has warned.

[Indo-Russia Relations: Two nations share a unique partnership, says expert](#)

January 5, 2021, Financial Express

Two developments have fuelled speculations about the deterioration of ties between Moscow and New Delhi. One is the cancellation of the Annual Summit between India and Russia and the second is the statement of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov against the US designs in Indo-Pacific- especially the Quad. From the time 'India-Russia Strategic Partnership' was inked in 2000, the leaders of the two countries have never skipped the annual meeting.

[Iran's enrichment of uranium to 20% is departure from JCPOA - Russian Foreign Ministry](#)

January 6, 2021, TASS

Iran's resumption of uranium enrichment to 20% is a departure from the Comprehensive Joint Plan of Action for the Iranian nuclear program, Russian Foreign Ministry said.

[Russia's deputy ambassador to UN says OPCW is "unwell and needs treatment"](#)

January 6, 2021, Tass

All countries interested in the proper and effective operation of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons must work together

against the organization's politicization, Russia's first deputy ambassador to the UN, Dmitry Polyansky, said at a meeting of the UN Security Council.

[Russian peacekeepers defuse some 19,000 explosives in Nagorno-Karabakh](#)

January 4, 2021, Tass

Russian engineer units have conducted a mine clearing effort on more than 414 ha of land since the start of their work in Nagorno-Karabakh, defusing nearly 19,000 explosives, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Bolsonaro continues to back Trump and reiterates allegations of election fraud](#)

January 7, 2021, Merco Press

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro continued to back President Donald Trump by reiterating baseless allegations of November U.S. election fraud.

[Mexico president slams social media 'censorship' after chaos in U.S. Capitol](#)

January 7, 2021, Reuters

Mexico's president blasted social media companies for blocking the accounts of President Donald Trump for his part in chaotic scenes in Washington, again appearing to cleave to his U.S. counterpart in a contentious dispute.

[Brazil diplomatic push to guarantee shipment of India made AstraZeneca vaccine](#)

January 5, 2021, Merco Press

Brazil made a diplomatic push to guarantee an Indian-made shipment of British drug maker AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine, hoping to avoid export restrictions that could delay immunizations during the world's second-deadliest outbreak.

[UK/Brazil sign agreement to accelerate digital transformation in public services](#)

January 5, 2021, Merco Press

An agreement has been signed between Brazil and the UK to accelerate digital transformation and innovation in public services delivery in the Latin American country.

[Farmers are spooked by return to food protectionism in Argentina](#)

January 7, 2021, Hindustan Times

A ban on corn exports in Argentina is fanning fear among farmers and traders that one of the world's top food suppliers is returning to an era of brutal meddling in crop markets.

[Brazil posted a trade surplus of US\\$ 51 billion in 2021. Overall trade down 7.7%](#)

January 5, 2021, Merco Press

Brazil posted a US\$ 51 billion trade surplus last year, official figures showed, a 6% increase from the year before as the COVID-19 pandemic hit imports harder than exports.

[Lima Group does not recognize Venezuela's Maduro National Assembly](#)

January 6, 2021, Merco Press

The Lima Group, a regional bloc comprised mostly of Latin American nations, said that it does not "recognize the legitimacy or legality of the National Assembly installed on January 5" in Venezuela.

[Russia shows its determination to work with new Venezuelan parliament](#)

January 6, Prensa Latina

Russia showed its determination to work with the newly elected Venezuelan parliament, and rejected the failed attempts to destabilize the situation by radical elements of the opposition, the Foreign Ministry stands out.

Africa

[Can Zimbabwe take advantage of Africa's new free trade zone?](#)

January 4, The Africa Report

Zimbabwe has signed and ratified the AfCFTA. A report from the World bank shows that Zimbabwe and Côte d'Ivoire – where trade costs are among the continent's highest – would see the biggest gains of the AfCFTA, with each increasing income by 14%. But economists argue Zimbabwe needs to put its house in order first for it to benefit.

[Protests erupt in Senegal over new Covid-19 measures](#)

January 8, 2021, Africa News

Youths protesting a coronavirus curfew fought with security forces in the Senegalese capital Dakar overnight, burning tyres and erecting barricades as police fired tear gas.

[China waives Congo debt to ease stress on economy](#)

January 7, 2021, Africa News

China has waived some of the debt owed to it by the Democratic Republic of Congo, to help the central African country overcome the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, Congo's foreign affairs ministry said.

[United States signs \\$1.2bn loan deal with Sudan](#)

January 6, 2021, Africa News

Sudan signed a short-term loan with the United States of \$1.2bn and signed another pact to normalise relations with Israel.

[India calls for African representation among UNSC permanent members](#)

January 7, 2021, The Print

Welcoming the evolution and rise of Africa as a key factor in the contemporary world, India called for introspection within the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) over the lack of representation of African countries among its permanent members even though more than half of the issues on the agenda of the Council are related to the continent.

[Report of China Hacking African Union HQ Fits Larger Pattern](#)

January 5, 2021, VOA

A recent report that Chinese hackers secretly redirected surveillance footage from the African Union headquarters so it could be viewed abroad is part of a larger pattern by Chinese networks to electronically infiltrate key communication channels in Africa, experts say.

[China's Africa Diplomacy Starts 2021 on a High Note](#)

January 6, 2021, The Diplomat

Foreign Minister Wang Yi is making his traditional first trip to Africa, kicking off an important year for China-Africa cooperation.

[India to send 15 lakh Covid vaccines to South Africa](#)

January 7, 2021, The Print

Announcement comes amid increasing COVID-19 infections in South Africa, which is battling a second wave and a new variant of the virus with 22,000 infections and 844 deaths.



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