

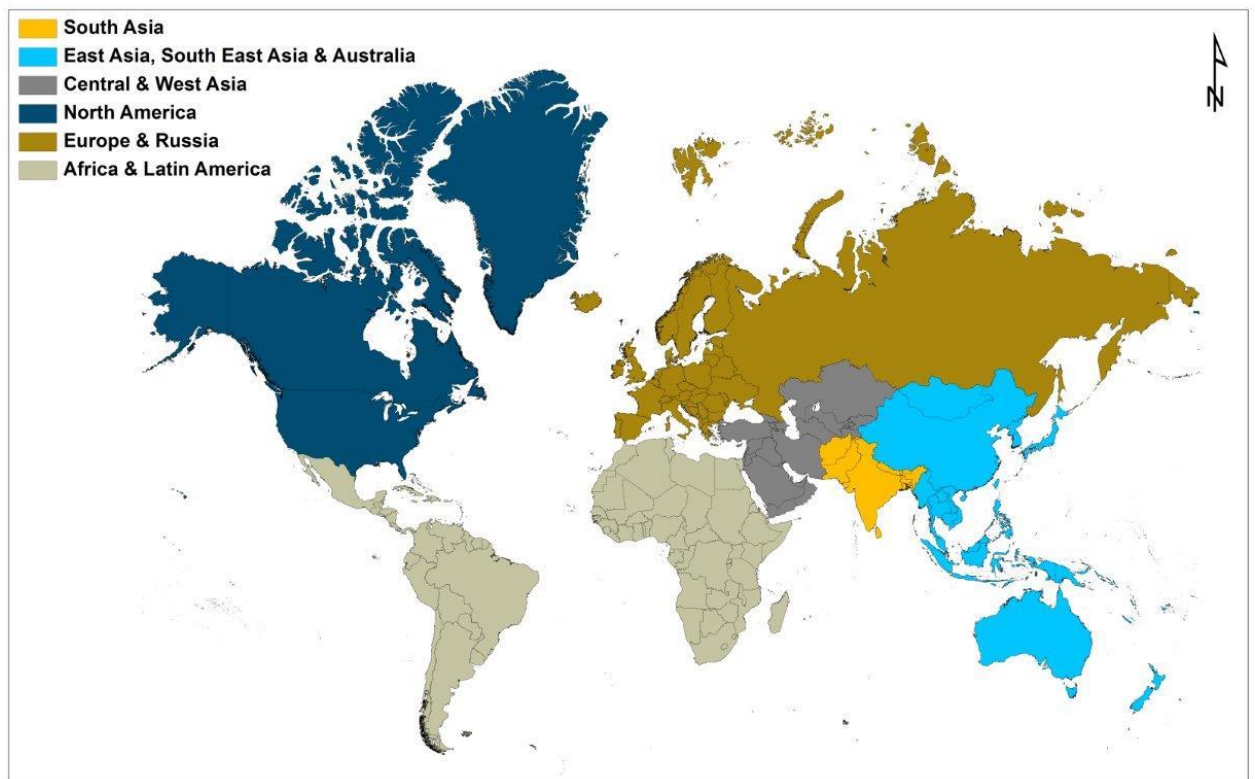


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 20 | May 22, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume VI, Issue 20

ABOUT US

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

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

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

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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

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

© 2022 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia	8
Central & West Asia	12
United States.....	16
Europe & Russia	17
Africa & Latin America	20

South Asia

India

[India, UK set to finalise defence tech exchange arrangement](#)

May 19, 2022, The Economic Times

India and the UK are in the process of finalising an arrangement for the joint production of advanced defence technology and systems, the British Parliament has been informed.

[India successfully test-fires naval anti-ship missile](#)

May 18, 2022, The Hindu

The Indian Navy carried out the test in association with the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

[Must respect territorial integrity, India stresses at BRICS meet](#)

May 20, 2022, The New Indian Express

This statement comes at a time when reports based on satellite images suggests that China has begun to construct a second bridge across Pangong Lake.

[Needs Of Food Security In India Paramount For Us: Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra](#)

May 22, 2022, Outlook

Foreign Secretary Kwatra indicated that the decision to extend assistance to countries which are vulnerable to the risk of food security was driven by the need for food security within India.

[India, France carry out second joint patrol in Southern Indian Ocean](#)

May 16, 2022, The Hindu

Maritime domain awareness and anti-submarine cooperation have emerged as priority areas in the region.

[China constantly building LAC infra: Army commander](#)

May 17, 2022, The Times of India

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has set up a 5G telecom unit, among other facilities, on the eastern frontier as it goes about constantly augmenting infrastructure along the notional Line of Actual Control symbolising the international border with Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, GoC-in-C Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita of the Army's Eastern Command said.

[India reacts to China's new bridge across Pangong Lake, says it is 'occupied area'](#)

May 9, 2022, Hindustan Times

The new bridge is being constructed parallel to the first bridge, which is narrower and was completed in April, according to experts who have analysed the latest high-resolution satellite imagery of the site.

Pakistan

[Plan okayed to slap ban on import of 50 'luxury items'](#)

May 19, 2022, The News

In order to slash the burgeoning import bill, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved a plan to slap a ban on the import of 50 'luxury items', including cars, mobile phones, cheese, jams, frozen food items, fish, dried fruit, cosmetics and tyres. On the other hand, the rupee continued to nosedive against the dollar in both the currency markets on worry about politics and Fund bailout talks for clues to bolster dwindling foreign currency reserves and stabilise the currency.

[Pakistan Hopes For 'Temporary Relief' As Senior General Leads Talks With Taliban](#)

May 17, 2022, RFERL

A senior Pakistani Army general is overseeing negotiations between Islamabad and the banned hard-line Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Pakistani official confirmed that Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed, the officer in charge of all Pakistani troops in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is leading a Pakistani delegation in talks with the leaders of the TTP in the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul.

[Bilawal, Blinken vow to boost Pak-US ties](#)

May 19, 2022, The News

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres separately in New York and discussed issues of mutual interest. The US secretary of state and Pakistan's foreign minister focused on strengthening bilateral trade and commercial ties as well as regional security during their first face-to-face meeting.

[Unfair to punish Pakistan for Imran Khan's Russia visit: Bilawal Bhutto](#)

May 20, 2022, The News

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari defended the former prime minister Imran Khan's Russia visit, saying it's unfair to punish Pakistan for this "innocent action". The foreign minister made these remarks during a press conference at the UN Headquarters after the conclusion of a two-day visit. Bilawal was invited by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to attend an international food security meeting.

[Suicide Attack In Pakistan Kills At Least Six People, Including Children](#)

May 15, 2022, RFERL

Pakistani authorities say at least six people have been killed in a suicide attack on a military vehicle in the country's restive northwestern region bordering Afghanistan. "Three soldiers and three children were killed in a suicide attack," the Inter-Services Public Relations, the military's media wing, said in a statement on May 15.

[Two Sikh traders killed in Peshawar attack](#)

May 16, 2022, The News

Two traders belonging to the Sikh community were killed in yet another brazen incident of target killing in the Batatal area of the provincial capital, along the boundary with the Khyber district. A police official said Kanwaljeet Singh, 42, and Ranjeet Singh, 38, were present at their shops selling spices in Batatal Bazaar when armed assailants opened fire at them, killing both.

[UN lists Pakistan among drought-hit countries](#)

May 16, 2022, The News

The United Nations has listed Pakistan among 23 countries which are facing drought emergencies. According to the report released by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) stated that 23 countries including Pakistan have experienced drought emergencies in the last two years.

Afghanistan

[U.S. Takes Control Of Afghan Embassy, Consulates](#)

May 17, 2022, RFERL

The United States has taken control of the Afghan Embassy in Washington and Afghan consulates in two U.S. states, the State Department has said. The State Department has assumed "sole responsibility" for the security and maintenance

of the diplomatic missions and their "furnishings, archives, and financial assets" and will bar anyone from entering them without its permission until further notice, the department said in a notice published on May 18 in the Federal Register.

[Taliban Reportedly Issues Order Requiring Female TV Presenters To Cover Faces](#)

May 19, 2022, RFERL

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have reportedly issued an order saying that female television presenters must cover their faces when appearing on programs. The privately owned media giant Moby Group, which runs Tolo News, said in a tweet on May 19 that it was informed of the requirement by the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

[Hostilities Grow Between Taliban And Tajikistan Amid Border Closure, Truck Seizures](#)

May 19, 2022, RFERL

Tajik truck drivers who transported coal to Afghanistan, have been stranded for over a week at Shir Khan Bandar, a river port along Afghanistan's northeastern border with Tajikistan. Taliban prevented the drivers from crossing back into Tajikistan after closing the border on May 10. The border closure and seizure of Tajik trucks is the latest sign of growing hostilities between the Central Asian nation and Afghanistan's hard-line rulers.

[Afghans want friendly ties with US: Sirajuddin Haqqani](#)

May 17, 2022, The News

Afghanistan's acting Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani has said that they want friendly relations with the United States as per the diplomatic norms and values being practised by the international community. He said this during an interview with CNN.

[Civilians flee fighting in Panjshir Valley](#)

May 15, 2022, The News

Scores of civilians have fled fighting in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley after an insurgent group launched an offensive against Taliban forces. The Panjshir Valley is famed for being a site of resistance by Afghans against Soviet forces in the 1980s and as a base for rebels opposed to Taliban rule during the Islamists' first stint in power in the late 1990s.

[Islamic State in Afghanistan building capability to strike on US soil, Pentagon IG says](#)

May 18, 2022, Stars and Stripes

The Islamic State group's branch in Afghanistan likely will develop the ability to target the U.S. homeland within the next 12 to 18 months, a Pentagon report said. The group, known as ISIS-K, has grown stronger and recruited more fighters since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, U.S. Central Command said in report by the Defense Department Inspector General.

[The U.S. deal with the Taliban destroyed Afghans' military morale, a new report says](#)

May 18, 2022, NPR

Morale across Afghanistan's military ranks was "destroyed" when then-President Trump reached a deal with the Taliban in 2020 and President Biden affirmed the U.S. withdrawal in 2021, according to a new report on the calamitous fall of the Afghan government.

[India sends 2,000 MT wheat to Afghanistan via Attari-Wagah border](#)

May 17, 2022, The Print

Another consignment of 2,000 metric tons of wheat as humanitarian assistance from the government of India was dispatched for Afghanistan via the Attari-Wagah border. The Commissioner of Customs, Rahul Nangare flagged off the consignment as the wheat-loaded trucks with a message on them reading 'Gift from the people of India to the people of Afghanistan' moved to cross the borders.

[How NATO weapons from Afghanistan are impacting Kashmir's militancy](#)

May 18, 2022, DW

India's top anti-terror body, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), is probing whether Kashmiri militants used a "sticky bomb" on May 13 to target a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims. The attack killed four people and injured 24. The Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Fighters, a lesser-known militant outfit, claimed responsibility for the assault, saying the bus was targeted with a sticky bomb, a type of Improvised Explosive Device (IED). These bombs can be attached to a vehicle and detonated remotely. The use of a sticky bomb by Kashmiri militants is a relatively new phenomenon. In February 2021, Indian security forces seized dozens of such bombs during raids in India-administered Kashmir. These bombs were regularly used by militants in Afghanistan against NATO forces.

[India Hosts SCO-RATS Meet; Focus On Situation In Afghanistan](#)

May 17, 2022, Business World

Counter-terrorism experts from India, Pakistan and other member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) deliberated on boosting cooperation in combating various regional security challenges at a meeting hosted by New Delhi. A major focus of the discussions was to be on the situation in Afghanistan, especially in dealing with the threat from terrorist groups active in the Taliban-ruled country, people familiar with the meeting said. Pakistan has sent a three-member team for the meeting. India assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) on October 28 for a period of one year.

Bangladesh

[Passenger train services between India and Bangladesh to resume from May 29](#)

May 19, 2022, India Today

Two years after it was suspended due to Covid-19 pandemic, passenger train services between India and Bangladesh will resume from May 29.

[Tunisian navy rescues 32 Bangladeshi migrants headed for Europe](#)

May 15, 2022, News on Air

The Tunisian navy on Saturday rescued 81 migrants including 32 Bangladeshis who had set out for Europe from Libya.

[US getting closer to Bangladesh Looking for a strategic partnership?](#)

May 20, 2022, The Himalayan

The US is seeking more engagement with Bangladesh now than ever before. Although the two countries' diplomatic ties began on April 4, 1972, the current focus of US on Bangladesh reminds us that it desires a strategic partnership with Bangladesh.

Nepal

[Nepal, China Belt And Road Projects Show "No Progress" In 5 Years: Report](#)

May 20, 2022, NDTV

Certain political and ideological reasons have hindered the progress of BRI in Nepal, reported The Kathmandu Post.

[India, Nepal sign MoUs on hydro project, Buddhist studies chair.](#)

May 16, 2022, Hindustan Times

During his day-long visit to Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba. Several agreements were also signed between India and Nepal in the presence of both the leaders.

Sri Lanka

[India seeks to win public trust in crisis-hit Sri Lanka](#)

May 19, 2022, BBC

For the past 15 years, India and China have vied for favourable diplomatic and trade relations with Sri Lanka thanks to its strategic location in the Indian ocean.

[India sends another consignment of food, medicines to crisis-hit Sri Lanka](#)

May 20, 2022, Hindustan Times

Till now, New Delhi has extended economic support to Colombo to the tune of \$3.5 billion to help the island nation in tackling the economic challenges. As part of its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, India has provided assistance to overcome the shortage of food and medicines.

East & South East Asia

China

[China cuts key interest rate to boost Covid-hit economy, Asian stocks rise](#)

May 20, 2022, Mint

China's central bank today announced it would cut a key interest rate as the country fights to boost its virus-hit economy and Covid-19 restrictions rip across major cities. Prolonged virus lockdowns have constricted supply chains, quelled demand and stalled manufacturing in the last major economy welded to a 'zero-Covid' approach to the pandemic.

[Canada to ban China's Huawei and ZTE from its 5G networks](#)

May 19, 2022, BBC News

Canada says it will ban two of China's biggest telecoms equipment makers from working on its 5G phone networks. The restrictions against Huawei and ZTE were announced by the country's industry minister.

[China in talks with Russia to buy oil for reserves amid EU plan to ban imports](#)

May 20, 2022, The Times of India

China is seeking to replenish its strategic crude stockpiles with cheap Russian oil, a sign Beijing is strengthening its energy ties with Moscow just as Europe works toward banning imports due to the war in Ukraine.

[BRICS urged to strengthen world stability](#)

May 20, 2022, China Daily

President Xi Jinping has called on the BRICS countries to inject stability and positivity into international relations in a period of turbulence and transformation.

[Takeaways from Xi's speech marking 70th anniversary of CCPIT](#)

May 19, 2022, China Daily

President Xi Jinping on Wednesday delivered a speech via video link at a conference marking the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade's 70th anniversary and the Global Trade and Investment Promotion Summit.

[Chinese FM meets ROK's new FM via video link](#)

May 16, 2022, Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Monday met with Park Jin, the new foreign minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK) via video link.

[China stresses BRICS solidarity in time of turbulence, transformation](#)

May 20, 2022, Global Times

China stresses strengthening solidarity and cooperation among BRICS nations and injecting stability and positive energy into international relations in a period of turbulence and transformation at BRICS foreign ministers' meeting.

[China's PV sector eyes opportunities under EU's new energy plan](#)

May 19, 2022, Global Times

China and the EU have bright cooperation prospects in the photovoltaic (PV) sector despite certain differences, industry sources and experts said, after the EU unveiled a 210 billion-euro (\$220.4 billion) energy plan.

Japan

[China warns Japan against joining forces with US](#)

May 18, 2022, SCMP

Foreign minister Wang Yi tells his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi that the view that the US and Japan are 'joining hands' has put 'people on alert'.

[Japan urges China to play 'responsible role' for peace in Ukraine](#)

May 18, 2022, The Japan Times

Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi on Wednesday told his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi that he hopes Beijing will play a "responsible role" in ensuring peace and security as Russia's war in Ukraine continues.

[After 70 years of ties and a rising China, it is time for India and Japan to strike a defence deal](#)

May 15, 2022, Scroll.in

Both nations should work on fixing the gap in perception and action regarding Beijing, and advance their security relationship.

[Joe Biden to travel to Japan for Quad Summit, have bilateral meetings with PM Modi](#)

May 19, 2022, The Indian Express

Before arriving in Japan for the Quad summit, US President Joe Biden is scheduled to travel to South Korea for a summit meeting with its leaders.

Korea

[South Korea looks to break China import dependence and establish 'supply chain alliances'](#)

May 20, 2022, SCMP

South Korea under president Yoon Suk-yeol is seeking to diversify trade away from China and boost ties with other economies in the Indo-Pacific.

[US warns over risk of hiring North Korea IT workers](#)

May 17, 2022, BBC

The US has warned that IT workers from North Korea are trying to get remote working jobs by hiding their true identities for the purpose of stealing money for Pyongyang.

[Biden, South Korea's Yoon to meet amid concerns over North Korea](#)

May 20, 2022, Business Standard

North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un abandoned a freeze on intercontinental ballistic missile testing and appears poised to resume testing of nuclear bombs, perhaps while Biden is in the region

Southeast Asia

[Cambodia to Invite Myanmar Junta Defense Minister to Upcoming ASEAN Meeting](#)

May 19, 2022, The Irrawady

Cambodia is planning to invite the Myanmar junta's defense minister to next month's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) defense ministers meeting in Phnom Penh, according to Cambodian media.

[Malaysia shows Asean new options in tackling Myanmar crisis](#)

May 18, 2022, The Straits Times

The South-east Asian response to Myanmar's political crisis broke new ground last week on the side-lines of the United States-ASEAN Special Summit in Washington DC.

[The US challenge to ASEAN's centrality](#)

May 17, 2022, Asia Times

The US clearly perceives Southeast Asia as a strategic spot in which to compete for influence instead of cooperating with China.

[Is the Biden Administration Serious About 'ASEAN Centrality'?](#)

May 14, 2022, The Diplomat

The term is used constantly, but there still seems to be little substance to U.S. interactions with the regional body.

[ASEAN looking to hold maritime naval exercise with India](#)

ASEAN plans to hold a maritime naval exercise with India to enhance security between the bloc's member states and the South Asian country while promoting solidarity with each others.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[UN Working Group Concludes Turkmenistan Violated Human Rights Laws In Arresting Lawyer](#)

May 16, 2022, RFE/RL

A UN working group has concluded that Turkmenistan violated international human rights laws when it detained a lawyer who was organising a pro-democracy rally. Police in the tightly controlled Central Asian state arrested Pygamberdy Allaberdyev, a lawyer at a state oil company, in September 2020.

[Tajikistan: Crisis-gripped government opts to pick deadly fight in the Pamirs](#)

May 18, 2022, Eurasianet

The security crackdown that the Pamiris of east Tajikistan have nervously been expecting for months finally arrived this week, claiming at least 10 lives already. Many expect the toll to grow by the time the shooting has died down.

[Nine Dead In 'Anti-Terrorist Operation' As Protests Roil Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan](#)

May 18, 2022, RFERL

Tajik authorities say nine people, including a police officer, have been killed in "an anti-terrorist operation" in the volatile Gorno-Badakhshan region as the government tries to quell protests sparked by anger over the lack of an investigation into the 2021 death of an activist while in police custody. The Interior Ministry said on May 18 that a security officer was killed, and eight soldiers were injured during the latest clashes in the restive region, which borders Afghanistan and China.

[Amid sanctions, Kazakh firm stops supplying Russian steelworks](#)

May 18, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan's largest iron ore-enricher has cut supplies to a major steelwork in Siberia as the repercussions of international sanctions against Russia disrupt economic ties between these two members of the Eurasian Economic Union, a free-trade zone.

[Hostilities Grow Between Taliban And Tajikistan Amid Border Closure, Truck Seizures](#)

May 19, 2022, RFE/RL

The border closure and seizure of Tajik trucks is the latest sign of growing hostilities between the Central Asian nation and Afghanistan's hard-line rulers.

There have also been reports that Dushanbe is hosting or in contact with some of the leaders of the National Resistance Front, an anti-Taliban resistance group that is largely made up of ethnic Tajiks from Afghanistan.

[Uzbekistan liberalises its energy sector by reforming tariff policy](#)

May 20, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

Uzbekistan's Ministry of Energy, on May 19 announced a reform of tariff policy in the country's energy sector. The policy is intended to stimulate foreign and domestic investment in Uzbekistan's energy sector.

West Asia

[Egypt in Talks with India on Wheat Export Ban Exemption](#)

May 14, 2022, The Times of India

Egypt is in talks with Indian officials about getting an exemption from India's decision to ban wheat exports.

[Wheat Consignments Being Sent to Oman, Says Indian Envoy to Muscat Amit Narang](#)

May 13, 2022, WION

Indian Ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang, has confirmed that India is sending wheat consignments to the country and "more shipments of wheat will be on their way to Oman soon". Indian supplies to Oman come as the Russia-Ukraine conflict has impacted the global supply chain and wheat supply.

[India May Mull Preferential Trade Pact with Oman: Piyush Goyal](#)

May 13, 2022, The Financial Express

Commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal said India will likely consider a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Oman to further boost economic co-operation.

[UAE Mourns Sheikh Khalifa: Indian Vice President Naidu in Abu Dhabi To Offer Condolences](#)

May 15, 2022, Khaleej Times

Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu arrived in Abu Dhabi to offer condolences over the demise of late UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

[PM Modi Condolences Demise of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

May 13, 2022, Republic World

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reminisced that the late UAE president was a "great statesman and visionary leader under whom India-UAE relations prospered."

[World Leaders, Including from China and India, Congratulate UAE President Sheikh Mohamed](#)

May 15, 2022, The National News

China's president and India's prime minister are among leaders from around the world who have sent messages of congratulations to the UAE's newly elected President, Sheikh Mohamed.

[U.S. Senate Passes NOPEC Antitrust Bill](#)

May 05, 2022, oilprice.com

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has approved the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act (NOPEC) bill, paving the way—if signed into law by the President—for a lawsuit against OPEC for antitrust behaviour and market manipulation.

[UAE, Saudi Energy Ministers Hit Back At 'NOPEC' Bill, Say It Could Send Oil Prices Surging](#)

May 10, 2022, CNBC

Top OPEC ministers have hit back at new U.S. legislation intended to regulate its output, saying such efforts would bring greater chaos to energy markets. The proposals could see oil prices shoot up by as much as 300 percent, UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei warned.

[Oil Giant Saudi Aramco's First-Quarter Profits Surge 80 Percent](#)

May 15, 2022, Market Watch

Saudi Aramco said its profits soared more than 80 percent in the first three months of the year, as the state-backed company cashed in on the volatility in global energy markets and surging oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

[Stalled Iran Nuclear Talks Have Been 'Reopened': EU's Borrell](#)

May 13, 2022, AL Arabiya

Stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear program have been unblocked after fresh talks in Tehran, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said, adding that he believed a final deal was within reach.

[Qatar's Sheikh Tamim Meets Top Iranian Officials in Tehran](#)

May 12, 2022, AL Jazeera

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has met the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran for talks that focused on bilateral and regional issues in addition to efforts to restore Iran's 2015 nuclear deal.

[Iran's Supreme Leader Warns Qatari Emir About Israel](#)

May 12, 2022, AL Monitor

In what appeared as a word of caution to Sheikh Tamim, the Iranian leader suggested that relations with Israel do not promise any "power and privilege" and that Israel "is in no position that one should be scared by."

[Turkey's Leader Opposes Letting Finland, Sweden Join NATO](#)

May 14, 2022, Associated Press

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that his country is "not favourable" toward Finland and Sweden joining NATO, indicating Turkey could use its membership in the Western military alliance to veto moves to admit the two countries.

United States

United States

[India to join US-led Indo-Pacific 'economic arrangement' next week, bloc aimed at taking on China](#)

May 20, 2022, The Print

US President Joe Biden expected to extend to Prime Minister Narendra Modi an invitation to join Indo-Pacific Economic Forum when they meet in Tokyo next week for Quad Summit.

[US seeks to woo India as key defence partner with \\$500 million military aid, reduce Russian weapon dependence](#)

May 18, 2022, India Today

In order to reduce dependence on Russian weapons, the US is trying to woo India with a proposed \$500 million military aid package.

[China fumes as senior US official calls on Dalai Lama in India](#)

May 20, 2022, Deccan Herald

Beijing was not amused as New Delhi tacitly sent out a message by allowing the senior US diplomat to meet the Dalai Lama in India.

[China-US relations: Xi Jinping and Joe Biden expected to talk again soon](#)

May 20, 2022, SCMP

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan hinted at a call when he said 'he wouldn't be surprised' if the two presidents spoke within the next few weeks.

[US president Biden invokes Defense Production Act over shortage of baby food](#)

May 19, 2022, Hindustan Times

Supplies of baby formula across the country have been severely curtailed in recent weeks after a February recall by Abbott Nutrition exacerbated ongoing supply chain disruptions among formula makers.

['Possibility' of North Korea nuclear test during Joe Biden's Asia trip: US](#)

May 19, 2022, Hindustan Times

"Our intelligence does reflect the genuine possibility" of nuclear-capable missile tests or a nuclear weapon test around the time of Biden's trip, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[China sends special envoy to Brussels in bid to salvage souring ties with EU](#)

May 19, 2022, SCMP

Wu Hongbo's visit follows last month's virtual summit where Beijing's stance on Ukraine and alleged coercion of Lithuania emerged as major sources of tension.

[EU to upgrade trade ties with Taiwan as China warns Brussels 'not to gamble on this issue'](#)

May 18, 2022, SCMP

EU revisits plans to upgrade relations with Taipei that were abandoned last November amid fear of damaging relations with Beijing.

[Working through the unworkable: Reviving the India-EU FTA](#)

May 20, 2022, Financial Express

While last year's EU-India Leaders' Meeting hinted at resumption of FTA talks between New Delhi and Brussels, a concrete decision of resuming the talks have only recently emerged. Evidently, there is a shift in the international geopolitical landscape.

[EU offers 9 bln euro loan to Ukraine, prepares reconstruction –Commission](#)

May 18, 2022, Reuters

The European Commission proposed on Wednesday a 9-billion-euro (\$9.5 billion) loan to Ukraine to keep the country going as it struggles to fend off the Russian invasion and wants to set up a reconstruction facility after the war.

[EU to step up Indo-Pacific defence presence over China fears and Ukraine example](#)

May 18, 2022. The Guardian

The European Union has resolved to step up its defence strategy in the Indo-Pacific region in light of fears about China's growing presence and concerns for the international order sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia

[Russians won't 'risk lives' on US spacecraft – Roscosmos](#)

May 14, 2022, Russia Today

Russian Cosmonauts will not fly on American spacecraft over safety concerns. That's according to Dmitry Rogozin, the head of the national space agency Roscosmos. He added that an agreement with NASA to share seats on each other's vessels hasn't been reached yet.

[3 Russian Military Recruitment Offices Attacked](#)

May 16, 2022, The Moscow Times

Three Russian military recruitment offices were attacked over the weekend amid an uptick of violence against the facilities following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. More than a dozen military recruitment offices have been attacked across Russia since the invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

[Russia promises response to new NATO expansion](#)

May 16, 2022, Russia Today

Russia will not simply watch as Finland and Sweden join NATO, the country's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov warned. He implied that such a move will compromise their security, rather than bolster it.

[Russia Leaves Baltic Council Amid Standoff With West Over Ukraine War](#)

May 17, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia says it is quitting the Council of the Baltic Sea States, accusing the organisation of becoming "an instrument of anti-Russian policy" and "increasingly bogged down in Russophobia and lies."

[Russian Defence Spending Surges to \\$300M Per Day Amid Ukraine War](#)

May 18, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia spent more than \$300 million per day on defence last month as its invasion of Ukraine continued to drag on, according to Finance Ministry data, more than doubling its pre-war defence spending.

[Russia completes upgrade of Tu-160M strategic bomber with new engine](#)

May 18, 2022, TASS News Agency

The heavy upgrade of the Tupolev Tu-160M strategic missile-carrying bomber that will use a new NK-32 engine has been completed, Head of the state tech corporation Rostec Sergey Chemezov said at a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

[Russian Soldier Accused Of War Crime Pleads Guilty At Trial In Kyiv](#)

May 18, 2022, RFE/RL

The first Russian soldier to stand trial on accusations of committing a war crime in Ukraine has pleaded guilty at a hearing in a Kyiv court. Shishimarin, who comes from the Siberian region of Irkutsk, faces life in prison if convicted.

[UN Urges Russia, Ukraine to Resume Peace Talks](#)

May 19, 2022, The Moscow Times

The United Nations urged Russia and Ukraine to "build on" contacts and coordination that enabled the evacuation operations from Mariupol in order to resume stalled peace talks. The successful operations to evacuate civilians and later fighters from the sprawling Azovstal steelworks in the devastated Ukrainian port points the way back towards broader negotiations to end the brutal conflict, UN aid chief Martin Griffiths said.

[Two nuclear-powered subs to join Russia's Pacific Fleet in 2022 – commander](#)

May 20, 2022, TASS News Agency

The Russian Pacific Fleet's submarine forces will receive the nuclear-powered strategic submarine Knyaz Oleg, the multi-purpose nuclear underwater cruiser Novosibirsk and the diesel-electric submarine Magadan this year, Fleet Commander Admiral Sergey Avakyants said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Africa and the new Cold War: Africa's development depends on regional ownership of its security](#)

May 19, 2022, Brookings

Unable to stem the increasing rate of high-intensity conflicts and conflict-related deaths in Africa, the continent's leaders extended the deadline for peace by another decade, shifting the goal posts toward "Silencing the Guns by 2030."

[Sudanese communist leader arrested as protests rage in Khartoum](#)

May 19, 2022, Reuters

A leading Sudanese politician was arrested as protests raged in the capital Khartoum for the seventh month against military rule, with tear gas and heavy security force deployment.

[Disputed borders: Ethiopia and Sudan](#)

May 19, 2022, The Economist

Sudan and Ethiopia are embroiled in a confrontation over al-Fashaga, a fertile area of farmland that both countries claim as their own. Although the dispute dates back to 1902, it has been rekindled due to Ethiopia's civil war and tensions over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam, which threatens to give Ethiopia control over the region's water supply. Could these disagreements spill over into an international conflict?

[Monkeypox spreads in Europe, US, baffling African scientists](#)

May 20, 2022, India Today

African scientists are baffled by the spread of monkeypox in Europe and US.

Latin America

[How Latin America's Transportation Mega-Projects Could Revolutionize Trade](#)

May 19, 2022, Oilprice.com

As Latin America continues its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, several countries are undertaking large-scale transport infrastructure projects to improve regional and international connectivity and trade.

[Chinese FM elaborates on China-Latin America relations](#)

May 21, 2022, CGTN

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday elaborated on China's position and views on developing relations with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in phone conversations with Uruguayan Foreign Minister Francisco Bustillo, Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Juan Carlos Holguin and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada.

[US now turns to Cuba and Venezuela, possibly to salvage LA Summit](#)

May 19, 2022, Merco Press

US President Joseph Biden picked up the message several leaders sent him and is said to be considering a possible U-turn on his decision not to invite Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua to the June 6-10 Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, California.

[US faces embarrassment at Latin American summit](#)

May 20, 2022, SCMP

In an attempt to isolate Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela – and China – Washington risks isolating itself.

[US authorities find major cross-border 'narco-tunnel' to Mexico](#)

May 17, 2022, Al Jazeera

Tunnel from Tijuana to San Diego had rail and ventilation systems, electricity and reinforced walls, authorities say.

[Venezuela government and opposition to renew talks amid humanitarian crisis](#)

May 19, 2022, BBC

Venezuela's government and opposition say they are ready to restart talks in Mexico aimed at resolving the country's political crisis.



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