

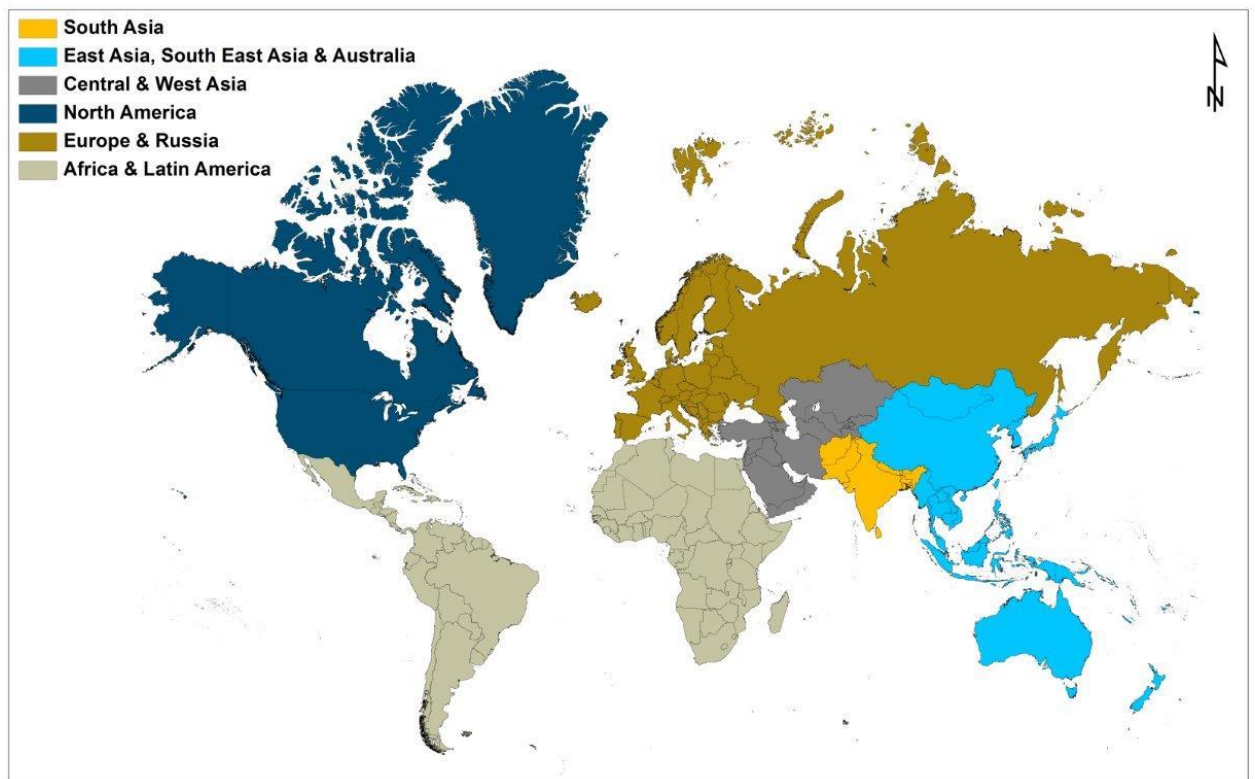


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 21 | May 30, 2022

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

[Northeast's neighbours India's most trusted global partners: Jaishankar](#)

May 28, 2022, The Hindu

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday indicated Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal were India's most trusted global partners along with Japan and members of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations).

[Army counter deploys after PLA Pangong Tso bridge challenge](#)

May 26, 2022, Hindustan Times

The Indian Army is fully deployed along the LAC with roads and bridges that can accommodate tanks or armoured personnel carriers all the way up to Daulet Beg Oldi and as many as seven bridges coming up on Galwan river to handle any military emergency.

[Infrastructure constraints, delay in approvals causing setback: officials](#)

As the Quad grouping consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. looks to roll out an Indo-Pacific maritime domain awareness (MDA) initiative for information sharing and maritime surveillance across the region, two issues limit India's ability to further expand its role, say government officials.

[INS Gomati, oldest warrior of Western Fleet, decommissioned after 34 years](#)

May 28, 2022, India Today

The Indian Navy has decommissioned INS Gomati after 34 years of service.

[What's Combined Military Forces-Bahrain? US-backed coalition India joined on Quad sidelines](#)

May 25, 2022, The Print

India is 35th member of the maritime counterterrorism partnership that also includes Pakistan, Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany and Greece, among others.

Pakistan

[ITI train finally reaches Turkey after two months](#)

May 22, 2022, Dawn

The fourth Istanbul-bound, Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul freight train, which departed during the third week of March from Pakistan, has finally reached

Turkey. The train – which may take another three to four days to reach its final destination, i.e. Istanbul – was stuck at Taftan after the freight forwarder in Turkey allegedly refused to send wagons for the transshipment of goods at Zahidan towards Istanbul. Pakistan Railways said that to avert a similar situation in future, all freight forwarders have been instructed to proceed with the operation by signing a formal agreement with freight forwarders in Turkey and Iran before booking goods.

[NA approves bill to deprive overseas Pakistanis from voting, stop use of EVMs in general election](#)

May 26, 2022, Dawn

The National Assembly of Pakistan passed the Elections (Amendment) Bill 2022, which seeks to remove the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in general elections as well as disallows overseas Pakistanis from voting. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi presented the bill that was passed with a majority vote, with only members of the Grand Democratic Alliance opposing it.

[Pakistan, IMF can't reach deal on economic bailout](#)

May 26, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) failed to reach an agreement on an economic bailout mainly because of the government's indecision on fuel and electricity subsidies and resultant next year's budget uncertainties. In the absence of a decision on fuel and electricity subsidies, it was unclear how the overall fiscal and external deficits would look like, not only at the end of the current fiscal year but also for the next fiscal year.

[Army called in as PTI marchers advance on Red Zone](#)

May 26, 2022, Dawn

The entrance to the capital's high-security zone resembled a war zone until late on May 25 night, as PTI supporters and law enforcers continued a game of hide and seek, the latter trying to drive the former away with teargas and the former regrouping and returning once the air had cleared. In an apparent move to counter the demonstrators who seemed set on advancing towards the high-security zone, the Interior Ministry called on the army to maintain law and order in the capital and protect key buildings such as the apex court, parliament, Presidency and PM House as well as PTV headquarters etc.

[Pakistan borrowed \\$15.5bn in first 10 months of FY22](#)

May 24, 2022, Dawn

Amid external account challenges, Pakistan borrowed more than \$15.5bn in foreign loans in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, about 70pc more than borrowing from foreign sources in the same period last year. In its monthly report on foreign economic assistance, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said it received about \$13.03bn foreign assistance in first 10 months of FY2022.

[Former Pakistani PM Calls Off Protest, Gives Government Six Days To Call Vote](#)

May 26, 2022, RFERL

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has called off a protest in the capital at the last moment, saying he would give the current government six days to set a date for elections. An estimated 10,000 people had already gathered in the centre of Islamabad by early morning on May 26, with thousands more expected to arrive for the open-ended sit-in, which many feared could devolve into major violence after sporadic clashes with police in front of parliament.

[Oil, gas production drops on fields' shutdown](#)

May 20, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan's oil and gas production dropped 5% and 3.5% respectively during the week ended as two fields were shut down for annual overhaul. The planned turnaround of the oil and gas fields occurred at a time when the country was suffering from energy crisis like prolonged power outages for residential, industrial and commercial consumers, mainly due to sharp increase in prices of coal and liquefied natural gas (LNG) in world markets.

[Bilawal's US visit may lead to Shehbaz-Biden contact](#)

May 22, 2022, The Express Tribune

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's recently concluded visit to the United States may restore bilateral contacts at the leadership level between the two countries, diplomatic sources familiar with the development said. Last week, Bilawal undertook a maiden visit to the US as foreign minister primarily to attend the food security conference in New York at the invitation of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

[China proposes RMB circulation system](#)

May 27, 2022, The Express Tribune

China has proposed to Pakistan to set up a renminbi (RMB) capital circulation system to promote trade and other transactions in the Chinese currency. In this

regard, it has been suggested that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) hold talks with the Bank of China. The government has asked the finance ministry and the central bank to review the proposal of the Chinese authorities and take practical steps.

Afghanistan

[Many Afghan soldiers fled to Pakistan after Kabul's fall, says US report](#)

May 23, 2022, Dawn

Many soldiers of the former Afghan government fled to Pakistan after the fall of Kabul, says an official US report while pointing out that the fall of border crossings into Pakistan and Iran also contributed to the collapse of the former Afghan government. The office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction reported this week that in July 2021, the Taliban "started seizing border crossings with Pakistan and Iran, depriving the Afghan government of critical customs revenues".

[UK MPs blast 'systemic failures' during Afghan withdrawal](#)

May 25, 2022, Dawn

The UK's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan last year showed "systemic failures of leadership, planning and preparation", according to a scathing inquiry by MPs.

[Iran Drone Deal Aims For Afghan Security, Complicates Tajik-Kyrgyz Arms Race](#)

May 24, 2022, RFEL

Drone warfare benefits from stealth, unpredictability, and the ability to send a targeted message without open military involvement. Similar, it appears, to Iran's intentions when it comes to its plans to manufacture drones in Tajikistan. General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, the head of Iran's armed forces, launched the first production line for the Ababil-2 strike and reconnaissance drone in Dushanbe on May 17.

[UN Security Council Calls On Taliban To Reverse Restrictions On Women, Girls](#)

May 24, 2022, RFEL

The UN Security Council has called on Afghanistan's Taliban-led government to reverse policies restricting the human rights of women and girls. The Security Council expressed "deep concern" over the Taliban's restrictions limiting girls' access to education and women's employment, freedom of movement, and "full, equal, and meaningful participation in public life."

[At Least 12 Killed In Four Bombings In Afghanistan](#)

May 26, 2022, RFEL

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan says four bomb blasts in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif have killed and injured more than a dozen people. A spokesman for the Taliban's Interior Ministry, Abdul Nafee Takoor, said that an explosion ripped through evening prayers at a mosque in Kabul, killing two worshipers. The bombers also were killed, and 10 people were injured.

[Taliban signs deal to hand control of Afghan airports to UAE company](#)

May 24, 2022, The Washington Post

The Taliban is handing over control of the country's airports to a company based in the United Arab Emirates, according to a statement from the prime minister's office. A memorandum of understanding was signed in Kabul "for the control and management of the airports in Afghanistan" by Taliban acting first deputy prime minister Abdul Ghani Baradar and Razack Aslam Mohammed Abdur Razack of GAAC Solutions. The agreement covers airports in Kabul, Kandahar and Herat.

[Taliban enforces order for Afghan women TV anchors to cover faces](#)

May 22, 2022, Al Jazeera

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have started to enforce a new order requiring all female TV news anchors in the country to cover their faces while on air. After the order was announced, only a handful of news outlets complied. But on May 23, most female anchors were seen with their faces covered after the Taliban's Vice and Virtue Ministry began enforcing the decree.

[US special representative for Afghanistan meets senior Indian officials, Abdullah Abdullah](#)

May 27, 2022, Hindustan Times

The US special representative for Afghanistan, Thomas West, has met senior Indian officials during an unannounced visit to the capital to discuss the situation in the war-torn country amid growing concerns about human rights and security issues.

Bangladesh

[India-Bangladesh Train Services Resume After 2 Years](#)

May 29, 2022, NDTV

India-Bangladesh train services: Maitree Express will travel to Dhaka on Monday in what will be the first journey from Kolkata since March 2020, an official said.

["It's A Shame, Teesta River Deal Stuck For 11 Years": Bangladesh Minister](#)

May 30, 2022, NDTV

The Teesta River originates in the Teesta Kangse glacier and flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh. It has been mired in conflict since 1947 when the catchment areas of the Teesta were allotted to India.

[India a rock-solid friend, China is development partner: Bangladesh FM](#)

May 28, 2022, India Blooms

Bangladesh has a "historical rock-solid" relationship with India while China is its "development partner", said its Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Saturday. Momen said Bangladesh wants to extend its strong ties with India to all its states.

Nepal

[China nudges Nepal on One-China policy](#)

May 26, 2022, The Kathmandu Post

Beijing seems to be wary amid a series of visits from the United States and a senior official's recent meetings with Tibetan refugees in Kathmandu.

[What happened to China's 'Belt and Road' projects?](#)

May 26, 2022, Deutsche Welle

Nepal's ruling party has become increasingly wary of China's expansive Belt and Road Initiative amid Sri Lanka's financial collapse, fresh loans from the US and a shift towards India.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka is counting on more help from India till the cheque from the IMF arrives](#)

May 29, 2022, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka, reeling under its worst economic crisis since independence and hit by political turmoil, has asked India for bridging finance until the economic adjustment programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can be negotiated and finalised.

[Indian aid distribution begins in Sri Lanka](#)

May 29, 2022, The Economic Times

The distribution of aid, including rice and milk powder, received under the Indian Line of Credit to low-income families in Sri Lanka has commenced, the Food Commissioner's Department said on Sunday. Food Commissioner JP Krishnamurthy said that distribution of the aid to low-income families in all 25 districts, including Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Mullaitivu, Ampara, and others, has already commenced.

East & South East Asia

China

[China's J-16 fighter jets deployed in latest joint strategic patrol with Russia](#)

May 29, 2022, Global Times

In the first such move, China's state broadcaster revealed on Sunday that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force deployed fighter jets as escorts for Chinese and Russian bombers during last week's regular joint aerial strategic patrol in the Asia-Pacific region by the two major powers, with experts saying more advanced fighter jets like China's J-20 and Russia's Su-57 could join the patrol next time.

[China welcomes more partners to join BRICS: Chinese Foreign Ministry](#)

May 27, 2022, Global Times

Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday that China will actively promote the expansion of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and welcome more global partners to join the family. The "BRICS Plus" consultation was held in the recent BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

[China-US relations not zero-sum game: Chinese FM](#)

May 28, 2022, China Daily

Visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Saturday that China-US relations are not a zero-sum game and the US should address the bilateral ties based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

[Sanctions won't help solve peninsula issue, China says](#)

May 27, 2022, China Daily

China's top envoy to the United Nations reiterated on Thursday that sanctions will not help solve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, but rather will lead to escalation of confrontation.

[Samoa, China agree on mutually beneficial, win-win cooperation](#)

May 28, 2022, Xinhua

Samoaan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fiame Naomi Mata'afa met with visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Saturday, with both sides reaffirming commitment to the mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation.

[Chinese businesses in Fiji see pragmatic opportunities in tackling climate change, other sectors](#)

May 29, 2022, Global Times

Wang's visit to the South Pacific countries, coming amid rising geopolitical tensions, will further demonstrate China's determination to carry out win-win cooperation with other countries, Simon Chen, president of the China Agriculture & Trade Development Association of Fiji.

Japan

[India, Japan to work together to help Sri Lanka during crisis](#)

May 26, 2022, The Hindu

India and Japan have agreed to work together on assisting crisis-hit Sri Lanka, the Japanese government said, following a recent meeting between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Fumio Kishida in Tokyo.

[U.S., Japan, Australia, and India to launch tracking system to monitor illegal fishing by China](#)

May 22, 2022, Reuters

U.S., Japan, Australia, and India will unveil a maritime initiative at the Quad summit in Tokyo to curb illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific, the Financial Times reported on Saturday, citing a U.S. official.

[China and Russia warplanes conduct "air patrols" over the Sea of Japan as Quad leaders met in Tokyo](#)

May 24, 2022, The Print

Chinese and Russian warplanes on Tuesday conducted joint air patrols over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the West Pacific Ocean as the leaders of Quad held their in-person summit in Tokyo, in an apparent attempt to send a message of unity between Beijing and Moscow.

[Japan, US fly fighters after China exercise](#)

May 26, 2022, Tribune

Japanese and US forces have conducted a joint fighter jet flight over the Sea of Japan, Japan's military said on Thursday, in an apparent response to a Russia-China joint bomber flight while US President Joe Biden was in Tokyo.

Korea

[US, Japan, South Korea condemn N Korea tests; US widens sanctions](#)

May 27, 2022, Al Jazeera

Moves come after China and Russia vetoed a US-led push to tighten UN sanctions on North Korea over its ballistic missile launches.

[At UN, China and Russia Block US Bid To Sanction North Korea Over Missile](#)

May 27, 2022, NDTV

The vote came a day after North Korea fired three missiles, including one thought to be its largest intercontinental ballistic missile, following U.S. President Joe Biden's trip to Asia.

[US, South Korea open to expanded military drills to deter North](#)

May 22, 2022, Military Times

U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said after meeting Saturday that they will consider expanded joint military exercises to deter the nuclear threat from North Korea at a time when there's little hope of real diplomacy on the matter.

[South Korea refers to North Korean military as 'our enemy' in troop education materials](#)

May 30, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea's defense ministry has distributed troop education materials that refer to North Korea's military and its regime as "our enemy," officials said Monday, in a reflection of the conservative Yoon Suk-yeol administration's tough security stance.

[Growing security threat](#)

May 30, 2022, The Korea Herald

China, Russia veto UN Security Council sanction against N. Korea

Southeast Asia

[China shouldn't emulate Russia in South China Sea: Malaysia PM](#)

May 26, 2022, Nikkei Asia

China should not take any cues from Russia's invasion of Ukraine to attempt further advances in the disputed South China Sea, Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob stressed in an exclusive interview.

[Eye on South China Sea, Beijing's drone carrier acts as mothership for drones](#)

May 29, 2022, Hindustan Times

China's drone carrier: one-of-a-kind artificial intelligence system, which includes drones, ships & submersibles. The vessel may be employed in military contexts as a hub for various unmanned weapons & surveillance systems. Drones can land back on the ship's deck, & it stands ready to retrieve the boats, subs once they've made their rounds. The ability to gather '3-dimensional dynamic observations' would help in case of a conflict in the Indo-Pacific.

[Marcos vows to talk with China based on 2016 tribunal ruling on South China Sea](#)

May 27, 2022, NHK

The Philippines' president-elect says his administration will hold talks with Beijing over their territorial disputes in the South China Sea based on a 2016 arbitration tribunal decision. The ruling dismissed China's claims to almost all of the waters.

[Vietnam's rare commemoration of a deadly South China Sea battle is a quiet but direct message to Beijing](#)

May 25, 2022, Business Insider

In March, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh paid homage to several dozen Vietnamese sailors and marines who were killed in a battle with Chinese naval forces at Johnson South Reef in 1988.

[Myanmar Foreign Minister may not get ASEAN meet call](#)

May 29, 2022, The Hindu

Caught between international pressure over how to engage with the Myanmar military junta regime and India's own ties with its neighbour, the government is likely to not include the Myanmar Foreign Minister at the India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting set to be hosted by the External Affairs Minister (EAM) in mid-June.

[ASEAN citizens view China as most important future partner, poll shows](#)

May 26, 2022, South China Morning Post

Nearly half of ASEAN citizens picked Beijing, ahead of Tokyo in the ranking for the first time since the Japanese survey was conducted in the current format.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Where Does Central Asia Fit in the Quad's Indo-Pacific Plans?](#)

May 25, 2022, The Diplomat

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, it's even more critical to advance "Indo-Pacific Plus" strategies to counter a growing Pax Eurasiana. This essentially maritime-based concept has eclipsed land-based Eurasian geographies that hold considerable strategic consequence, says the Diplomat.

[The Language of the China-Russia Soft Power Rivalry in Uzbekistan](#)

May 26, 2022, The Diplomat

The China-Russia soft power rivalry in Uzbekistan plays out most clearly via language and education programs.

[Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO: Effective partnership, long-term goals and objectives in tourism and culture](#)

May 25, 2022, EU Reporter

Recently Tashkent hosted international tourism forum "A new stage of cooperation between the SCO countries: tourism and cultural heritage". During the event, specific goals and objectives were developed, agreements were formed, which the parties will sign on the sidelines of the September Summit.

[Kazakhstan Cuts Iron Supplies To Russian Steelworks](#)

May 22, 2022, Oil Price.com

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. The Sokolov-Sarybai Mining Production Association in northern Kazakhstan was the main supplier of ore to the Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel works until Russia invaded Ukraine.

West Asia

[India Ships Wheat to Egypt Post Ban, Gets Diplomatic Requests From 12 Nations](#)

May 19, 2022, Hindustan Times

India has shipped 61,500 tonne wheat to Egypt, clearing its largest overseas consignment after the country imposed a ban on the staple export. At least a dozen countries have sent diplomatic requests for more shipments.

[Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar Speaks to Iranian Foreign Minister Abdollahian to Reinvigorate Oil, Trade Transit Ties](#)

May 20, 2022, The Tribune

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian to develop and promote cooperation and relations in various fields. The conversation comes in the wake of Iranian media reports that India is preparing its refineries for Iranian imports.

[UAE, Saudi Arabia Will Still Get Wheat from India Despite Export Ban - and Foodstuff Retailers Are Relieved](#)

May 20, 2022, Gulf News

The UAE – and Saudi Arabia – have been assured of sufficient wheat exports from India despite the ban the latter had placed on all shipments of the food staple, thus offering much relief to consumers and retailers here.

[China Calls for Expansion of Five-nation BRICS](#)

May 20, 2022, The Tribune

The five-country BRICS could have more members if a suggestion made by China finds favours with the other four members – India, Russia, South Africa and Brazil. BRICS began life as a four-country club and expanded to its current form in 2010 with the induction of South Africa.

[IRGC Colonel Sayyad Khodai Assassinated in Tehran, Iran Blames the US and Its Allies](#)

May 22, 2022, Times Now

An Iranian Revolutionary Guards colonel was shot dead outside his Tehran home, the Guards said, blaming his "assassination" on assailants linked to the United States and its allies.

[Slain Iranian Officer Said to Have Planned Attacks Against Israelis, Jews Worldwide](#)

May 22, 2022, The Times of Israel

A senior member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) who was killed in Tehran had planned kidnappings and other attempts to attack Israeli and Jewish targets worldwide.

[Iran Rejects 'Compromise' in Vienna Talks to Bring US To Compliance](#)

May 23, 2022, Press TV (Iran)

Iran's Foreign Ministry has unequivocally ruled out any prospect of "compromise" in Vienna talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal which is on life support since the US withdrawal in 2018.

[Israeli Defence Minister Gantz Says US Holding Firm Against Iran's Demand To Remove IRGC From Terror List](#)

May 23, 2022, The Times of Israel

Following meetings with top American defense officials, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that the US remains hopeful for a deal with Iran, but is standing firm against Iran's demand to delist the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a terror organization.

[Any Potential Recession Will Be 'Light,' Qatar Investment Authority CEO Says](#)

May 22, 2022, CNBC

The CEO of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund believes that if the world sees a recession, it will be "light." Rising fears of a looming recession has pushed U.S. stocks briefly into a bear market.

[US, Saudi Officials Reportedly Discussing President Biden Meeting with Crown Prince](#)

May 20, 2022, The Times of Israel

US and Saudi officials have reportedly been in talks about arranging a meeting between President Joe Biden and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman when the former is slated to travel to the Middle East next month.

[Saudi Arabia Set To Support Russia's Role in OPEC+ Despite Looming Sanctions](#)

May 22, 2022, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia plans to continue its OPEC+ partnership with Russia despite western pressure on Moscow and a potential EU ban on Russian oil imports.

[In first, Russian Military Said To Fire S-300 Missiles At Israeli Jets Over Syria](#)

May 17, 2022, The Times of Israel

Russian forces opened fire on Israeli jets with advanced S-300 anti-aircraft missiles at the end of an alleged IAF attack on targets in north-western Syria last week.

[Turkey Firm on Its Stance on Finland, Sweden NATO Membership Bid: President Erdoğan](#)

May 19, 2022, Daily Sabah

Turkey will continue with its stance toward the NATO membership of Finland and Sweden, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said after Ankara has several times voiced that it expects its sensitivities in regard to security threats and terrorism to be respected by NATO members.

United States

United States

[Is Biden Being Machiavellian or Misguided on Taiwan?](#)

May 27, 2022, Foreign Policy

The U.S. president's surprise statement could deter China—or increase the risk of war.

[Can Biden's Asia economic plan counter China's influence there?](#)

May 28, 2022, Al Jazeera

The US president has launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity with 12 countries.

[Fiji to join Biden's economic framework aimed at countering China](#)

May 27, 2022, Al Jazeera

Fiji will become the 14th country and first Pacific Island nation to join US President Joe Biden's signature economic framework, the White House announced on Friday, delivering a boost to Washington's efforts to counter growing Chinese influence in the Asia Pacific.

[Caution and clarity: On the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity](#)

May 25, 2022, The Hindu

The IPEF in its nascence relies more on promise than prospect of tangible outcomes, says the Hindu.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[India is fast-tracking FTAs with UK, EU: Anupriya Patel](#)

May 27, 2022, The Economic Times

India is fast-tracking negotiations for proposed free trade agreements with certain developed countries like the UK as well as with the European Union, and maybe by this year end, the government would be able to give a final shape to few of these pacts, minister of state for commerce and industry Anupriya Patel said on Friday. She also expressed hope that the trade pact with Australia would be operationalised "very soon".

[China has a limited window to salvage ties with Europe](#)

May 27, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Working to de-escalate the war in Ukraine would be a good start. As the Russian-Ukraine war appears to be headed to a costly stalemate, China and Europe may find common ground in de-escalating the conflict.

[China, France vow to improve bilateral ties, deepen China-EU cooperation](#)

May 26, 2022, Ecns.cn

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a phone conversation on Thursday with newly-appointed French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, with both sides vowing to improve bilateral ties and deepen China-EU cooperation.

[The China shock: Germany turns away from its biggest trading partner](#)

May 27, 2022, Deutsche Welle

China persecutes the Uyghurs and backs Russia's war in Ukraine. That's prompting Berlin to rethink its relations with Beijing. But this "systemic rival" is also Germany's biggest trading partner.

Russia

[India secures fertiliser supplies from Russia](#)

May 30, 2022, Hindustan Times

To hedge against geopolitical flux and globally high prices, India opened government-to-government talks in February with Russia for the long-term import of fertilisers.

[More Russian oil than ever before is heading for India, China](#)

May 28, 2022, The Times of India

A record volume of Russian oil is on board tankers, with unprecedented amounts heading to India and China as other nations restrict imports because of the war.

[Indian Oil Companies' Dividend worth \\$125.5 Million Stuck in Russia Due To Sanctions](#)

May 28, 2022, NDTV

Indian companies with stakes in two Russian assets are unable to repatriate 8 billion roubles (\$125.49 million) in dividends due to western sanctions.

[Russia's Lavrov Denies Putin Is Ill](#)

May 30, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Sunday denied speculation that President Vladimir Putin was ill, saying there were no signs pointing to any ailment.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Africa "Priority" For India: Foreign Ministry On Vice President's Visit](#)

May 27, 2022, NDTV

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu will visit three African nations (Gabon, Senegal and Qatar) from May 30 to June 7.

[African Union chief 'gravely concerned' by Rwanda-DR Congo tension](#)

May 29, 2022, Deutsche Welle

The Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda have traded accusations of links to rebel groups operating in a volatile region of eastern Congo. The chair of the African Union has called for a reduction of tensions.

[Can the African Union be a neutral arbiter of peace in Ukraine?](#)

May 28, 2022 Al Jazeera

The continental body is not demonstrating true neutrality with its actions.

[Sudan lifts state of emergency countrywide](#)

May 30, 2022, The Print

Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan on Sunday issued a decree lifting the state of emergency in all parts of the country.

[US will soon redeploy troops in Somalia: the mission and key goals](#)

May 29, 2022, The Conversation

Several factors probably prompted the Biden administration's decision, including logistics. US troops will continue to perform the same tasks as before. But they will once again be based in Somalia rather than outside the country, which required them to 'commute' to work. Commuting was far from ideal.

Latin America

[Latin American and Caribbean leaders discuss regional issues in Havana](#)

May 28, 2022, CGTN

Latin American and Caribbean leaders gathered in Havana this week to discuss regional politics and ways to boost their economies.

[Venezuela ready to resume talks with U.S. for easing sanction](#)

May 30, 2022, CGTN

Venezuela's government and opposition are about to resume talks after the U.S. proposed easing sanctions. But there are still challenges ahead to return to the negotiating table. Here's what that might mean for the nation's oil industry and future relations.

[Bolsonaro says Brazil's role acknowledged by world leaders](#)

May 28, 2022, Merco Press

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro highlighted his country's importance worldwide following the announcement of a one-on-one meeting with the US President Joseph Biden, at the upcoming Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, in addition to his encounter in February with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

[Biden negotiating Argentina's presence at Summit of the Americas](#)

May 27, 2022, Merco Press

US President Joseph Biden's envoy Christopher Dodd arrived in Buenos Aires to talk Alberto Fernández into attending next month's Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, a gathering many leaders intend to boycott following the host's decision not to invite the non-democratically ruled Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela.



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