

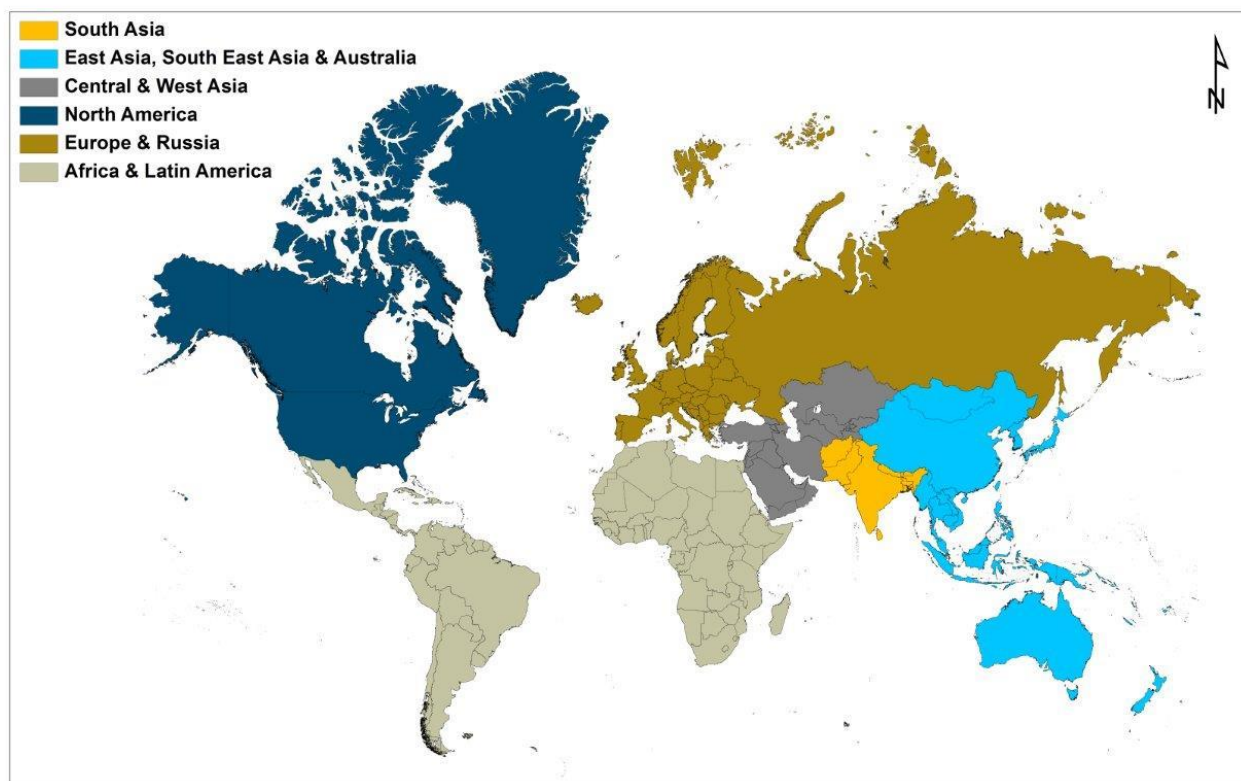


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India and ASEAN must build resilience to tackle challenges: Vivian Balakrishnan](#)

June 16, 2022, The Straits Times

ASEAN nations and India rallied to one another's aid during the past two and a half years and will emerge stronger from the Covid-19 pandemic as links between both regions are enhanced, said Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.

[State of Border Will Be Reflected on State of India-China Relationship, Says Jaishankar](#)

June 16, 2022, News 18

Asserting that the development of India-China ties has to be based on mutual respect, mutual sensitivity, and mutuality of interests, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made it clear on Thursday that the state of the border will be reflected in the state of the Sino-India relationship. Addressing the 12th Delhi Dialogue in the presence of many foreign ministers of ASEAN countries, Jaishankar noted that the ASEAN partners would have an interest in the relations between India and China.

[Pakistan continuously tries to disturb peace in our country, says Indian Defence Minister](#)

June 16, 2022, WION

The Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh is on a two-day visit to the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He visited the forward areas of Jammu and Kashmir and took stock of the security situation along the Line of Control. The defence minister said that Pakistan continues to disturb peace in our country.

[India And ASEAN Resolve To Expand Cooperation In Trade, Defence, Vaccines](#)

June 16, 2022, NDTV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India fully supports a "strong, unified and prosperous" ASEAN with a central role in the Indo-Pacific.

Pakistan

[PPP decides to take issue of talks with TTP to parliament](#)

June 12, 2022, Dawn

Days after the outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) announced an indefinite ceasefire, the PPP held a high-level meeting to discuss the issue of terrorism and talks with the TTP brokered by Afghanistan's Taliban administration.

[Disengagement from India not in our interest: Bilawal](#)

June 17, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari advocated the case for trade and engagement with other countries, especially India and the United States, and noted that Pakistan was isolated on the world stage due to past policies.

[Pakistan, China vow to enhance military ties](#)

June 13, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their strategic partnership in challenging times and agreed to continue the regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest. Both sides also vowed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at a tri-service level. The two sides reiterated these commitments when a senior tri-service military delegation of Pakistan, headed by Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, visited China from June 9 to June 12.

[\\$13.5bn foreign-funded projects bleeding exchequer](#)

June 14, 2022, The News

Out of a total portfolio of \$34.8 billion, about \$13.5 billion or 39 percent of foreign-funded projects are 'problematic', causing huge cost overruns and bleeding the national exchequer. It highlights the performance of all federal ministries, provincial governments, concerned departments and executing agencies as it always causes millions of dollars of losses to the national exchequer mainly because of delays, resulting in payment of commitment charges. This is happening because of capacity constraints and many other flaws in the developmental paradigm of the country.

[IMF bailout uncertainty: Stocks, rupee plunge; power gets dearer](#)

June 14, 2022, The News

Stocks on June 13 fell steeply, while the rupee hit a record low as markets panicked on reports that the budgetary measures are not enough to secure IMF

bailout, renewing concerns over how the government would dodge a default without the lender of the last resort.

[China rolling over \\$2bn at reduced rate](#)

June 13, 2022, The News

In order to help Pakistan meet its economic challenges, China has confirmed to roll over the two billion dollars loan. It is doing so at a reduced interest rate, which is lower than even to the loan that China has given to its other close friends. According to the diplomatic communication, the Chinese leadership is more comfortable working with Shehbaz Sharif because of their past experience when Shehbaz was the chief minister Punjab.

[Pakistan seeks US help to revive IMF deal](#)

June 17, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan has sought the United States support for the revival of the International Monetary Fund programme, as the global lender has yet to agree to a staff level pact despite the government having taken many difficult steps. The government's economic team met with US Ambassador Donald Blome and sought Washington's support and acknowledgement of the actions taken so far.

[Karachi by-poll: One dead, several injured in clashes between rival political parties](#)

June 16, 2022, The Express Tribune

At least one dead and over a dozen injured in armed clashes between political workers of rival parties — PSP, MQM-P and TLP — during the by-election in Karachi's NA-240 constituency.

[Pakistani Ulema to visit Kabul in a bid to 'soften' TTP](#)

June 16, 2022, The Express Tribune

The government will be sending a delegation of religious scholars to Afghanistan to soften the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after a tribal Jirga could not go beyond convincing the group to extend a ceasefire in negotiations brokered by the Taliban regime in Kabul. The 13-member delegation would comprise religious scholars from renowned seminaries of the country and it would be travelling to the Afghan capital within a few days, according to sources.

[Bilawal renews commitment to closer ties with Tehran](#)

June 15, 2022, Dawn

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari reiterated the country's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Iran in diverse areas, saying that building close relations with Tehran remained a high priority for Pakistan. Moreover, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, while speaking during a joint press conference with Mr Bhutto-Zardari, said Iran still believes that negotiations can succeed in reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, despite a recent rebuke from the UN nuclear watchdog.

Afghanistan

[Afghanistan facing 'the darkest moments' in a generation](#)

June 15, 2022, UN

"In the wake of years of conflict, and since the takeover by the Taliban in August last year, the country has been plunged into a deep economic, social, humanitarian and human rights crisis," said High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet.

[Iran-Afghanistan Railway Back On The Agenda](#)

June 15, 2022, Silk Road Briefing

The two heads of Iran Railways (RAI) and Afghanistan Railways have met to discuss ways to resume the launch of Khaf-Herat Railway. This planned route would extend into Afghanistan's Western border to the industrial city of Herat and assist with Afghani reconstruction and development. Iran has already built a Free Trade and Processing Zone on its side of the border at Khaf. The Head of Afghanistan Railways, Bakht-ur-Rahman Sharafat, has welcomed the development of ties with Iran, and called for cooperation with officials of the Iranian Ministry of Roads and Urban Development to resume the construction of the Khaf-Herat Railway.

[India Hosts Shanghai Grouping's Anti-Terror Meet; Focus On Afghanistan](#)

June 15, 2022, NDTV

A delegation from Pakistan and China arrived in New Delhi to participate in the eighth meeting of heads of Border Services of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states. The three-day meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of SCO was inaugurated in Delhi. The delegation, including senior officers from military and security agencies, arrived for a close-door meeting. The meeting culminated on June 17.

[Afghanistan's Warlords Prepare Their Comeback](#)

June 14, 2022, Foreign Policy

Exiled warlords, power brokers, and ethnic leaders who fled Afghanistan last year ahead of the Taliban's victory are threatening civil war unless the Islamists start negotiating to let them return home and reclaim their power and authority as an alternative to the nihilistic rule of the terrorists currently in charge.

[Russia hints it may recognise Taliban govt in Afghanistan](#)

June 15, 2022, TRT World

Russia's special envoy for Afghanistan has said Moscow may recognise the interim Taliban government and has reserved grain for the South Asian country to stave off the possible food crisis there. "There is such a possibility. Its conditions were determined by both the Russian president and foreign minister," Zamir Kabulov told the Russian state TV Channel One Russia.

[Minibus bomb attack kills four in Afghan capital: Police](#)

June 11, 2022, Al Jazeera

A bomb blast on a minibus killed at least four people and injured several others in the Afghan capital Kabul. The explosion occurred in the eastern Bagrami district of the city, is the latest in a series of deadly blasts that have rocked Afghanistan in recent months.

[Two airport workers killed in Afghan bus ambush](#)

June 13, 2022, The News

Unidentified gunmen fired at a bus ferrying airport employees in northern Afghanistan, killing at least two people and wounding six others. The bus was ambushed by two gunmen on its way to the Mazar-i-Sharif airport. Foreign airlines have still not resumed flights to Kabul and other Afghan cities since the Taliban seized power in August, citing security concerns for their crew and passengers.

Bangladesh

[7th Bangladesh-India foreign ministerial JCC meeting in Delhi](#)

June 18, 2022, The Daily Star

India and Bangladesh will hold the seventh meeting of the foreign minister-level Joint Consultative Commission in New Delhi on June 19, to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including cooperation in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, said an announcement of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

[Bangladesh Says Padma Bridge Not Part Of China's Belt and Road Initiative](#)

June 18, 2022, NDTV

The Foreign Ministry came up with a clarification in a press statement after noticing that some quarters were trying to portray that the Padma Multipurpose Bridge has been constructed under the Chinese BRI and foreign funds, The Daily Star Bangladesh reported.

Nepal

[Buddhism a point of power rivalry between India, China. The grand theatre is Nepal](#)

June 16, 2022, The Print

Though China is no longer a Buddhist majority country, it's economic gains, spiritual desires, and Asian characteristics will enable Buddhism to make a comeback.

[US embassy reacts as Deuba is silent while lawmakers question SPP](#)

June 16, 2022, The Kathmandu Post

The United States government's State Partnership Program became a topic of a hot debate on Wednesday, just as the American embassy in Kathmandu tried to clarify that Nepal never was and is not a security or military alliance.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka to import 50,000 metric tons of rice from India](#)

June 16, 2022, Newswire

The Government has decided to import 50,000 metric tons of rice under the Indian loan assistance program. It was decided at a discussion held at the Prime Minister's Office today to allocate the necessary funds for this purpose to the State Trading Corporation under the Indian Loan Assistance Program.

[Sri Lanka in talks to amend terms of \\$1.5-billion China deal: Report](#)

June 17, 2022, Business Standard

Meanwhile, the United States on Thursday announced that it will provide \$6 million in emergency assistance to Sri Lanka.

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi leads China's fight against desertification with historic change](#)

June 18, 2022, Xinhua

President Xi Jinping has led resolute combat against desertification, with "a historic change" made amid the country's passionate exploring for ways to curb the expansion of deserts.

[China's Newest Aircraft Carrier Shows Xi Jinping Catching Up With US](#)

June 17, 2022, Bloomberg

China launched its third and most modern aircraft carrier, a watershed moment for President Xi Jinping's efforts to modernize the armed forces and narrow his country's military gap with the US.

[President Xi Jinping to host 14th BRICS Summit](#)

June 17, 2022, CGTN

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing on June 23, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced.

[Western-style democracy behind wars, chaos and human misery, Chinese president tells top officials](#)

June 16, 2022, SCMP

Some Western nations use democracy and human rights as a pretext to meddle overseas, Xi Jinping told Politburo study session in February. Democracy and human rights are not for decoration, Xi said in highlighting Western social and political issues, recently published full text shows.

[Xi signs order to promulgate outlines on military operations other than war](#)

June 13, 2022, Xinhua

Xi Jinping, chairman of the Central Military Commission, has signed an order to promulgate a set of trial outlines on military operations other than war.

Japan

[Japan, China diplomats to hold talks on suspected gas developments](#)

June 18, 2022, Nippon

Senior diplomats from Japan and China are arranging to hold talks to discuss suspected gas field explorations by Beijing in a contested area of the East China Sea, diplomatic sources said.

[Japan's exploring of counter-strike option sends ripples in China](#)

June 13, 2022, Hindustan Times

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida's statement of building counterstrike capabilities at the Shangri La dialogue with his Defence Minister taking on nuclear neighbours shows that Tokyo is soon going to shed its pacifist doctrine.

[Japan deploys self-defense fleet to Indo-Pacific with eye on China](#)

June 18, 2022, Kyodo News

Japan has dispatched a Maritime Self-Defence Force flotilla on a deployment to 11 Indo-Pacific countries and one foreign territory as part of joint naval exercises with the United States and other countries undertaken to counter a more assertive China.

Korea

[China, S. Korea trade increases 10.2% in first five months, displaying great resilience: Ministry of Commerce](#)

June 16, 2022, Global Times

Fast growth in trade between China and South Korea demonstrated resilience and potential of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, Ministry of Commerce spokesperson Shu Jueting said at a press conference on Thursday, when commenting a 10.2-percent year-on-year growth recorded in the first five months of 2022.

[Ex-Generals See Nuclear Blackmail 'Trinity' in Russia, China, North Korea](#)

June 18, 2022, Newsweek

Former U.S. generals said that they see a nuclear blackmail "trinity" in Russia, China, and North Korea, adding that the United States must now "seriously" consider how it would counter one.

[Biden adviser raises concerns with Chinese diplomat over N Korea](#)

June 13, 2022, Al Jazeera

Jake Sullivan told Yang Jiechi that Washington and Beijing can cooperate on North Korea issue, senior US official says.

[Yoon's push for South Korea-Japan thaw meets hesitancy in Tokyo](#)

June 18, 2022, Nikkei Asia

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol has already made big waves barely a month into office, especially when it comes to national security.

[South Korea's Yoon calls for coordinated U.N. response to North Korea's provocations – media](#)

June 17, 2022, Reuters

South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol said the United Nations Security Council should respond in a coordinated manner against North Korea's missile provocations, South Korea's Newsis reported.

Southeast Asia

[India-ASEAN conclave: Foreign ministers agree on unified response to global issues](#)

June 17, 2022, The Indian Express

Jaishankar said that India fully supports a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN with a central role in the Indo-Pacific and both sides should identify a new set of priorities while navigating the “arduous path” arising from developments in Ukraine.

[India, ASEAN agree to work towards comprehensive strategic partnership](#)

June 16, 2022, The Economic Times

India and the ASEAN on Thursday agreed to work towards a comprehensive strategic partnership that is meaningful, substantive and mutually-beneficial by further enhancing their strategic ties. This was stated in a statement by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan at the India-ASEAN foreign ministerial meeting being hosted by New Delhi to mark the 30th anniversary of its relations with the 10-nation grouping.

[Vietnam spreads peace, cooperation message at SAIFMM: Ambassador](#)

June 18, 2022, Vietnam Plus

Vietnam delivered a message of peace, cooperation and dialogue to all countries in the region and the world through the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (SAIFMM), which was held in New Delhi on June 16, stated Ambassador Vu Ho, acting head of SOM ASEAN Vietnam in an interview granted to the Vietnam News Agency following the event.

[India inks key pacts with Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam as Jaishankar holds meets](#)

June 18, 2022, Hindustan Times

This was the first time that India hosted such a special meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(ASEAN). The foreign ministers agreed on several initiatives to drive ASEAN-India ties.

[What does ASEAN want from Washington?](#)

June 17, 2022, East Asia Forum

The recent high-level US–ASEAN Summit has shown that, despite challenges, there is room for productive engagement between Washington and Southeast Asia. In recognising the region’s strategic importance, the summit marked a divergence from former US president Donald Trump’s America First foreign policy. It also saw over \$US150 million in investment promised towards climate action, sustainable development, education, health and maritime cooperation.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Third Smuggling Tunnel Discovered Under Kyrgyz-Uzbek Border](#)

June 13, 2022, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz officials say they have found a third tunnel along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border purportedly used for illegal border crossings and smuggling. The State Committee for National Security said that a tunnel leading to the Uzbek side of the border was discovered in a private house in the town of Kara-Suu in the southern Osh region over the weekend.

[Tajik Islamic State network fundraises in Russia](#)

June 13, 2022, Eurasianet

Tajik-speaking Islamic State recruiters say they are fundraising on a Russian payment platform. A new Telegram group called "Devotion and Loyalty" is raising money for Islamic State Khorasan Province and the families of militants languishing in Iraqi and Syrian detention camps.

[Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan spar over trade on China gateway](#)

June 13, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are having another argument over cargo crossing their shared border, even though both, as members of a Russia-led free trade bloc, are supposed to enjoy the friction-free movement of goods.

[Kazakh President Vows Not To Violate Sanctions Against Russia](#)

June 15, 2022, RFE/RL

President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev has vowed that Kazakhstan won't break international sanctions imposed against Russia over its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. In an interview, Toqaev said his country continued to work with the Russian government in an "intensified manner," but quickly added that "sanctions are sanctions."

[OSCE Says 2021 Uzbek Presidential Poll Lacked Competition](#)

June 15, 2022, RFE/RL

A delegation from the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights says a presidential election held in Uzbekistan in October 2021 lacked competition, allowing incumbent Shavkat Mirziyoev to win without facing any serious challenger.

[Tajik Police Officer Arrested In Kyrgyzstan For Drug Trafficking](#)

June 15, 2022, RFE/RL

Kyrgyz officials say a Tajik traffic police officer has been arrested along with another Tajik national for allegedly trafficking illegal drugs amid tense relations between two Central Asian neighbours after a deadly shooting along a disputed segment of the Kyrgyz-Tajik border.

[Kazakh officials tackle border blackhole with China](#)

June 16, 2022, Eurasianet

It has long been an open secret that smuggling rings operating on the Sino-Kazakh border have cost Kazakhstan tens of billions of dollars in lost revenue over the years. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in January ordered officials to root out the contraband and corruption from the annual disparities between the customs statistics produced by Kazakhstan and China.

West Asia

[Iranian Foreign Minister Meets PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar on Maiden Tour](#)

June 09, 2022, The Indian Express

External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Iranian FM Amir-Abdollahian discussed multiple issues including the ongoing war in Ukraine, the situation in Afghanistan and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

[Iran Tests New Trade Corridor To Ship Russian Goods to India](#)

June 12, 2022, The Economic Times

From Russia, a cargo will cross the length of the Caspian to the northern Iranian port of Anzali and will be transferred by road to the southern port of Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf. From there it'll be loaded onto a ship and sent to the Indian port of Nhava Sheva, IRNA said.

[India Abstains from Vote on Iran at IAEA](#)

June 10, 2022, Tribune India

India was among the three countries that withstood Western pressure and abstained from voting against Iran at the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

[India, Turkey Commercial Ties Rising, Bilateral Trade Exceeds \\$10 Billion](#)

June 11, 2022, Times Now

The Eleventh Session of India-Turkey Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) was held in Ankara where both the countries agreed to hold the next round of the consultations in the former country on mutually convenient dates next year.

[PM Modi To Travel To UAE This Month](#)

June 11, 2022, WION

Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi will be travelling to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the last week of this month. The visit will be part of his visit to Germany, where he will be going to take part in the G7 summit.

[Secretary Blinken Warns Iran Shutting IAEA Cameras Will Deepen Nuclear Crisis](#)

June 09, 2022, The Times of Israel

Iran started removing 27 surveillance cameras from nuclear sites across the country, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said, a day after the UN atomic watchdog formally censured Iran over its lack of cooperation with nuclear inspectors.

[Iran, Venezuela Sign 20-Year Cooperation Plan During Maduro Visit](#)

June 11, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year "cooperation road map" during a state visit by President Nicolas Maduro to Tehran as the two oil-rich countries reeling under US sanctions pledged to boost bilateral ties.

[Israeli PM Bennett Advances Regional Security Architecture in Abu Dhabi](#)

June 10, 2022, AL-Monitor

The joint official statement issued by PM Bennett and President Mohamed bin Zayed included mentions of economic and other cooperation, noting the two leaders also discussed "advancing the regional architecture".

[U.S. Proposes Helping Israel, Arab States Harden Air Defences Against Iran](#)

June 09, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

The Pentagon would work with Israel and several Arab states to integrate air defences to thwart threats from Iran, under proposed bipartisan legislation introduced in the US Congress.

[US Seeks Full Reset with Saudi Arabia, Effectively Moving on From the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi](#)

June 10, 2022, CNN

Senior US officials have conveyed to Saudi Arabia that the US is prepared to move forward with a "reset" of the relationship, and effectively move on from the 2018 murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in order to repair ties with the key Middle East ally.

[Oil Prices Are Nowhere Near Their Peak as Chinese Demand Hasn't Fully Returned Yet, Says Top OPEC Member](#)

June 08, 2022, Market Insider

Oil prices still have more room to climb as China's economy hasn't yet fully reopened from lingering COVID policies, according to the OPEC member United Arab Emirates.

[Russia Lashes Israel as Satellite Images Show 'Disabled' Damascus Airport After Raid](#)

June 10, 2022, The Times of Israel

In an unusually bitter condemnation, Russia lashed out at Israel following a pre-dawn strike blamed on Israel at Damascus Airport.

[Turkey's Security Concerns Are Legitimate, NATO Chief Stoltenberg Says](#)

June 12, 2022, Reuters

Security concerns raised by Turkey in its opposition to Finland and Sweden's NATO membership applications are legitimate, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said during a visit to Finland.

United States

United States

[Biden says his relationship with India very good, visited twice](#)

June 18, 2022, Hindustan Times

A day after US state department spokesperson Ned Price said US is there for India, President Joe Biden said, "I have been to India twice and will be back. My relationship with (India is) very good."

[China Blocks US, India Move To List Pakistani Terrorist In United Nations](#)

June 18, 2022, NDTV

Abdul Rehman Makki is a US-designated terrorist and the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed.

[Relationship With India "Most Important" For US, Says White House Adviser](#)

June 17, 2022,

White House Indo-Pacific adviser Kurt Campbell also highlighted that the US along with its allies like UK, France and Israel too will help India with alternatives on the security issue.

[US Rejects China's Claims Over Taiwan Strait as Concerns Grow](#)

June 19, 2022, Bloomberg

Biden has been briefed, his team consulting with allies. US concern hinges on claims related to 'international waters'.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[India, European Union resume talks for free trade after over 8 years](#)

June 18, 2022, The Telegraph

India and the European Union (EU) finally restarted the negotiations for the long-pending trade and investment agreement on Friday after a gap of over eight years.

[EU Has Important Role In Fight Against Terrorism: India At UN Security Council Meet](#)

June 17, 2022, NDTV

India's Deputy Envoy R Ravindra said EU has an important role to play in fight against terrorism and other emerging challenges.

[EU-China traffic means Kazakhstan is 'landlinked, not landlocked', as Middle Corridor trade booms](#)

June 16, 2022, EU Reporter

The massive interest in the trade route between Europe and China, across Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Georgia, stems from the collapse in traffic along the Northern Corridor through Russia, following its invasion of Ukraine. Opening the conference, Bogusław Liberadzki MEP, from the European Parliament's Transport Committee, spoke of the need for solutions that will not block the trade of the European Union.

[China & 3 EU nations still helping finance Putin's Ukraine war. Finnish study explains how](#)

June 19, 2022, The Print

Data collected by Centre for Research on Energy & Clean Air shows while Russia has become India's '2nd biggest' oil source, China & Germany are its primary importers of fossil fuels.

Russia

[Russian Shelling Sets Ukrainian Chemical Plant Ablaze As Defenders Hold Out](#)

June 11, 2022, RFE/RL

Shelling by Russian forces has caused a massive fire at a chemical plant in the besieged eastern Ukrainian city of Syevyerodonetsk, the local governor said, as Ukrainian leaders continued to plea for additional weapons to fight off the onslaught by invading forces throughout the region.

[No stable peace without Russia – Moscow](#)

June 12, 2022, Russia Today

No peace agreement that excludes Russia can be successful in the long run, Sergey Naryshkin, the head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, said. Naryshkin reminded that any attempts to sideline Moscow in international politics are doomed to fail.

[Russian Northern, Pacific Fleets hold joint drills in Mediterranean](#)

June 14, 2022, TASS News Agency

Combat ships of Russia's Northern and Pacific Fleets practised launching a missile attack on an adversary naval group and hunting down a hypothetical enemy's submarine during joint drills in the Mediterranean Sea, the Northern Fleet's press office reported.

[New date named for refloating Russian aircraft carrier](#)

June 14, 2022, Russia Today

The Russian Navy will not welcome back into service its only aircraft carrier, the Admiral Kuznetsov, until at least 2024, the head of the state-owned United Shipbuilding Corporation revealed. The timeline for the warship's upgrade has been postponed again by several months.

[Russia to Revive Abandoned Arctic Military Airport](#)

June 15, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia is reconstructing a long-dormant military airport on its far northern Kola Peninsula as part of a major upgrade of Northern Fleet airstrips in the European Arctic. The Severomorsk-2 airfield which lies 11 kilometres northeast of Murmansk was shut down in 1998.

[HRW Calls On Russia To Halt Use Of Banned Landmines In Ukraine](#)

June 16, 2022, RFE/RL

Human Rights Watch (HRW) says Russia is causing casualties and suffering among civilians in its war against Ukraine by using antipersonnel landmines that have been banned internationally.

[Russian Spy Tried To Penetrate War Crimes Court, Say Dutch](#)

June 16, 2022, The Moscow Times

The Netherlands said it had stopped a Russian spy posing as a Brazilian intern from infiltrating the International Criminal Court, which is investigating war crimes in Ukraine. The Russian, identified as Sergey Vladimirovich Cherkasov, 36, flew to the Netherlands in April using an elaborate deep cover story that he had built up over the past 12 years.

[China, Russia moving towards reaching \\$200 bln trade target, says envoy](#)

June 16, 2022, TASS News Agency

Trade turnover between China and Russia increased by 28.9% in the first five months of this year to \$65.8 bn, Chinese Ambassador to Moscow Zhang Hanhui said at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, adding that the two countries are moving firmly towards reaching the targeted turnover level of \$200 bn.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[China Wins Battle of Perception Among Young Africans](#)

June 14, 2022, VOA

If it's a battle for hearts, minds – and wallets – then according to young Africans, China is outperforming the U.S. these days.

[Insights from Africa as China stumbles in the Pacific](#)

June 14, 2022, The Interpreter

What has worked well for China in Africa didn't translate neatly to the Pacific. Broadly put, China's approach in Africa has focused on trade and investment as vehicles to build influence.

[Clashes in Sudan's Darfur Kill More Than 100](#)

June 13, 2022, VOA

Clashes in Sudan's Darfur between Arab and non-Arab groups have killed more than 100 people, adding to a toll of hundreds in the region over recent months.

[S African minister suggests foreigners are to blame for no jobs](#)

Al Jazeera, June 16, 2022

The high unemployment rate in South Africa has led to locals often blaming foreigners for taking jobs 'meant' for them.

[South Africa Can't Refine Russian Oil, Opposition Politician Says](#)

June 17, 2022, VOA

It's easier and cheaper to purchase refined fuel from refineries overseas like Singapore, the Middle East, Nigeria, Europe than purchasing crude oil from Russia, says the opposition politician. Three times this year, South Africa has abstained from voting on United Nations resolutions condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Latin America

[China-US rivalry dampens belt and road investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, but strong demand remains](#)

June 18, 2022, SCMP

Chinese foreign direct investment in Latin America and the Caribbean accounted for 6.5 per cent of the region's total last year, falling from 10.44 per cent in 2020.

[Argentina chooses to buy US-made Chinook over Russian Mi-26](#)

June 16, 2022, Defense News

Argentina has kicked-started the process for procuring four Boeing-made CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters from the U.S., military sources in Buenos Aires.

[Israel 'concerned' by Iran airline activity in S. America, hails Argentina response](#)

June 17, 2022, The Times of Israel

The Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires said Thursday it was "concerned" over the activities in Latin America of two Iranian airlines and hailed Argentina's grounding last week of a plane with an Iranian crew.

[US Urges "Accountability" In Brazil Over Killing Of UK Journalist, Expert](#)

June 18, 2022, NDTV

"We call for accountability and justice -- we must collectively strengthen efforts to protect environmental defenders and journalists," State Department spokesman Ned Price wrote on Twitter.

