



# 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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## DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume VI, Issue 25

### ABOUT US

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

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

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

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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## South Asia

### India

#### [China's 2020 assault on Indian forces at LAC a warning for all: Australian dy PM](#)

June 23, 2022, Hindustan Times

Australian deputy PM Richard Marles said it was vital that China commits to resolving the LAC dispute with India through a process of dialogue consistent with international law.

#### [Indian Navy inks pact with DG Shipping](#)

June 22, 2022, The Economic Times

A "landmark" MoU has been signed between Indian Navy and the Directorate General of Shipping to facilitate transition of Indian Navy personnel into the merchant navy, the defence ministry said.

#### [India successfully test-fires VL-SRSAM from Indian Naval Ship off Odisha coast: DRDO](#)

June 24, 2022, Times Now

Vertically Launched Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), a ship-borne weapon system is meant for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets. The test launch was monitored by senior officials from DRDO and the Indian Navy.

#### [Maritime bonding: Indian Navy conducts coordinated patrol with Indonesia, pays port visit to Vietnam](#)

June 25, 2022, The New Indian Express

In a bid to strengthen its maritime relations with the South East Asian nations, while on the one side India conducted Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with the Indonesian Navy on Friday, its other warships reached Vietnam.

#### [EAM Jaishankar meets counterparts from Tanzania, Solomon Islands, discusses bilateral cooperation](#)

June 25, 2022, The Times of India

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has met his counterparts from Tanzania and the Solomon Islands here and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors.

## **Pakistan**

### ['Lifeline' IMF deal secured](#)

June 22, 2022, Dawn

In a breakthrough, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached an understanding on the federal budget for 2022-23, leading to revival of the extended fund facility (EFF) after authorities committed to generate Rs436 billion more taxes and increase petroleum levy gradually up to Rs50 per litre.

### [No choice other than IMF-dictated budget, NA told](#)

June 23, 2022, Dawn

Accusing the previous Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) regime of bringing the country on the verge of bankruptcy, Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman said the present coalition government had no choice but to present the budget on the dictation and terms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

### [TTP deal subject to parliament's approval](#)

June 23, 2022, Dawn

The military has reassured the political leadership that no extra-constitutional concessions would be given to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the ongoing dialogue and any deal made with the terrorist group would be subject to parliamentary approval.

### [\\$2.3bn Chinese loan expected 'within couple of days', says Miftah](#)

June 23, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said that Chinese banks had signed an agreement for about a \$2.3 billion loan that would flow into Pakistan's account within a couple of days. Since February, Pakistan has been seeking a rollover of loans expiring very shortly to support the fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan that stood at \$8.99bn as of June 10.

### [PM Shehbaz announces 10pc 'super tax' on large-scale industries](#)

June 24, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that the government will be imposing a 10 per cent "super tax" on large-scale industries in a bid to shore up revenues for supporting the country's poor amid rising inflation.

### [Pakistan to stay in 'grey area' until FATF visit](#)

June 18, 2022, Dawn

Global dirty money watchdog FATF kept Pakistan on its "grey list" of countries under increased monitoring but acknowledged that the country had substantially completed its two action plans, covering 34 items. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) will now make an on-site visit to verify Pakistan's progress in tackling terrorism financing before deciding whether to delist the country.

### [Three labourers killed in Balochistan's Harnai attack](#)

June 18, 2022, Dawn

Three labourers were killed and as many wounded in an armed attack on a camp of labourers in Harnai area of Balochistan. Official sources said that a group of armed men opened indiscriminate firing on the camp in Chaper left area of Harnai district.

### [Four social activists among six killed in North Waziristan](#)

June 20, 2022, Dawn

Six people, including four volunteers of a social organisation, were killed in two incidents in North Waziristan tribal district. Police and residents said that unidentified men on two motorcycles opened fire on a moving car in the Haiderkhel area of Mirali tehsil. Four activists of the Youth of Waziristan, a social organisation, were killed in the attack.

### [Pakistan inks pact with Iran for additional 100MW](#)

June 22, 2022, The News

Pakistan and Iran inked an agreement for additional supply of 100MW electricity to Balochistan at Tehran. The agreement was signed by officials of the National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC-Pakistan) and Tavanir (Iran) on behalf of their respective organisations.

### [Hekmatyar wants Pakistan, Afghanistan to remove trust deficit](#)

June 24, 2022, The News

Former prime minister of Afghanistan and chief of Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has urged the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan to take sincere and effective steps for overcoming the widening gap as their combined enemy would take benefit of the situation and the people of the two countries would suffer.

### [EU team arrives in Pakistan for crucial talks regarding GSP+ fate](#)

June 22, 2022, The Express Tribune

A European Union (EU) monitoring mission arrived in Pakistan to assess the effective implementation of the 27 international conventions to which Pakistan is a signatory. The officials are from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission's Directorate-Generals for Trade and for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

## **Afghanistan**

### [US hands over Afghan Guantanamo detainee to Taliban](#)

June 24, 2022, The Express Tribune

The United States has released an Afghan national, Assadullah Haroon, detained in the Guantanamo prison and handed him over to the Taliban government in Kabul, said a statement by Zabihullah Mujahid. The Taliban spokesperson thanked Qatar for "paving the ground" in the release of the prisoner.

### [Tajikistan may hold on to Afghan aircraft](#)

June 21, 2022, Dawn

The United States may let Tajikistan hold on to Afghan military aircraft donated by the US that sought shelter in the Central Asian country following the US withdrawal from Kabul last August, a US military commander said.

### [UN bans two Taliban officials from travelling abroad](#)

June 22, 2022, Dawn

The United Nations banned two Taliban officials from travelling abroad in response to the harsh restrictions the hardline regime has imposed on Afghan women. Travel exemptions permitting 15 Taliban officials to go abroad for talks and negotiations were set to expire on June 27.

### [At Least 1,000 Killed In Devastating Afghanistan Earthquake](#)

June 23, 2022, NDTV

Desperate rescuers battled against the clock under pouring rain to pull survivors from the rubble after a powerful quake struck a mountainous border region of Afghanistan, killing at least 1,000 people. The 5.9-magnitude quake struck hardest in the rugged east, where people already lead hardscrabble lives amid a humanitarian crisis made worse since the Taliban takeover in August.

### [Taliban say Afghanistan earthquake rescue efforts almost complete](#)

June 23, 2022, Al Jazeera

Aid has started to arrive in a remote part of Afghanistan where an earthquake killed at least 1,000 people, as Taliban officials said the rescue operation was almost complete.

### [Afghanistan, Iran reach agreement over Helmand Water Treaty: Taliban](#)

June 21, 2022, The Print

Afghanistan and Iran have reached an agreement over the Helmand River Water Treaty, local media reported quoting a Taliban member. Water of the Helmand River will be shared with Iran based on the Helmand Water treaty signed in 1973 between the two countries.

### [Afghan Taliban Free 5 British Nationals From Custody](#)

June 20, 2022, VOA

Afghanistan's Taliban confirmed that they had freed several British men after holding them for about six months. The confirmation came shortly after British officials announced that five of their citizens had been released from detention in Afghanistan.

### [Islamic State terror group claims attack on Sikh gurdwara in Kabul](#)

June 19, 2022, Business Standard

The Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the deadly terror attack on a gurdwara in Afghanistan's capital Kabul that killed two persons, including one Sikh community member, calling it "an act of support" for the Prophet.

### [Pakistan faces inflows of asylum seekers from Afghanistan](#)

June 19, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan is facing new inflows of asylum seekers from neighboring Afghanistan, following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul, according to the UN refugee agency.

## **Bangladesh**

### [Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina expected to visit India in early September](#)

June 24, 2022, New Indian Express

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit India in early September for a bilateral visit at the invitation of her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, her spokesman said on Friday, a day after the Indian envoy



here called on her and delivered the official invitation letter for a "substantive summit.

#### [India exported 1.5 LMT wheat to Bangladesh since ban](#)

June 22, 2022, The Indian Express

Responding to questions, Das, who heads the committee that considers other countries' requests for wheat import from India, said requests have been received from quite a few countries and those are "under consideration".

#### [Bangladesh dismisses reports linking construction of Padma bridge with Chinese project](#)

June 20, 2022, India Today

Bangladesh dismissed the reports over links between the newly-built Padma Bridge and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It stated that the bridge was entirely financed by the government.

## **Nepal**

#### [Nepal Backs Away From US State Partnership Program](#)

June 22, 2022, The Diplomat

Suspicious about the military content and wary of antagonizing China, Nepal rejects a U.S. disaster mitigation program.

#### [China 'commends' Nepal's decision to reject US partnership programme](#)

June 23, 2022, SCMP

China said it commended Nepal's decision to reject a security partnership with the United States and would continue to support Kathmandu's "independent foreign policy".

#### [What West Seti power project can mean for India-Nepal ties](#)

June 20, 2022, The Indian Express

India's National Hydro Power Corporation has already begun preliminary engagement of the site in far-western Nepal following Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lumbini on May 16.

## Sri Lanka

### [India provides Rs 65.3 cr assistance to Sri Lanka](#)

June 25, 2022, The Tribune

India handed over to Sri Lanka a large humanitarian assistance consignment worth more than SLR 3 billion (over Rs 65,35,00,000) as the island nation grappled with the worst economic crisis and shortage of essential items. Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, Sri Lanka's Minister of Health, Keheliya Rambukwella, Minister of Trade Nalin Fernando and several Members of Parliament received the consignment.

### [Is China anyone's 'all-weather' friend? Sri Lanka's experience suggests otherwise](#)

June 24, 2022, SCMP

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka faces its worst economic crisis in living memory, yet China has offered comparatively little to help its 'all-weather' friend.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [BRICS countries urge enhanced cooperation](#)

June 23, 2022, China Daily

The enhanced cooperation among BRICS countries will consolidate supply chain resilience and diversification, creating favourable growth conditions for trade, investment as well as green and digital industries at a time of global instability, said government officials and business leaders.

#### [China reiterates opposition to US tariffs](#)

June 23, 2022, China Daily

China has always said the US removing additional tariffs will benefit the two countries and the world, Shu Jueting, spokeswoman of the Ministry of Commerce, said at a media conference.

#### [Western sanctions are 'weaponizing' world economy, China's Xi Jinping says ahead of BRICS summit](#)

June 23, 2022, CNN

Chinese leader Xi Jinping set the tone for a virtual summit with leaders from major emerging economies in a pointed speech Wednesday evening, in which he decried sanctions as "weaponizing" the global economy and urged unity in the face of financial challenges.

#### [PLA monitors US spy aircraft flyover in Taiwan Straits, vows to safeguard national sovereignty](#)

June 25, 2022, Global Times

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) monitored the flyover of a US spy aircraft over the Taiwan Straits on Friday, vowing to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity amid large-scale military drills in the region in response to repeated provocations by the "Taiwan independence" secessionists and US, Japanese interference forces.

#### [FM meets Indian Ambassador, says China, India 'should speak for developing countries together'](#)

June 23, 2022, Global Times

China and India's common interests far outweigh differences and the two countries should jointly address various global challenges, and safeguard their common interests as well as interests of developing countries, said Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi against the backdrop of Western

efforts to sow discord in China-India relations and weaken the joint force of new economies at the ongoing BRICS summit.

## Japan

### [Japan tracks eight Russian and Chinese warships near its territory](#)

June 22, 2022, CNN

At least eight Russian and Chinese warships have been spotted in the seas near Japan this week, another sign of the apparent pressure the two partners have been putting on Tokyo as relations deteriorate over Ukraine and Taiwan respectively.

### [Japan PM Kishida says no numerical targets for defence spending](#)

June 21, 2022, CAN

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who has vowed to substantially increase his nation's defence spending, said on Tuesday (Jun 21) there are no numerical targets for the outlay.

### [Ties with Japan key to regional security: U. S. Pacific admiral](#)

June 24, 2022, The Hindu

Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi told U. S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Samuel J. Paparo that the American naval presence in the region is indispensable to maintain and strengthen a "free and open" Indo-Pacific, a vision of a rules-based framework that the two allies have promoted as a counter to China's rise.

## Korea

### [North Korea's Kim urges stronger war deterrent amid international concern about potential nuclear test](#)

June 24, 2022, Reuters

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered a strengthening of the country's defence capabilities as he wrapped up a key meeting with top military officials, state media said, raising concerns about its possible addition of tactical nuclear weapons.

### [Janet Yellen to visit South Korea, discuss sanctions on North](#)

June 25, 2022, Deccan Herald

Yellen will meet with senior South Korean officials as part of a trip to Asia to attend a meeting of finance officials from the G20

## Southeast Asia

### [India-ASEAN: Moving towards comprehensive strategic partnership](#)

June 21, 2022, The Economic Times

The year 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of dialogue relations between ASEAN and India. A relationship that started in early 1990s, with the inception of new global realities, now has turned into a robust, strategic partnership. In the side-line of the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting in Delhi on 15 June, the Minister of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised the 12th Delhi Dialogue.

### [16th ADMM adopts Joint statement, declaration](#)

June 23, 2022, Borneo Bulletin

The 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) adopted a joint statement titled 'Phnom Penh Vision on the Role of Defence Establishments in Support of COVID-19 Recovery' as well as the 'Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Defence Cooperation to Strengthen Solidarity for Harmonised Security'.

### [RAAF sent second jet into South China Sea hours after Chinese air force's 'dangerous' interception](#)

June 23, 2022, ABC News

A second Australian military aircraft was dispatched over contested waters in the South China Sea last month, just hours after the Chinese air force conducted a "dangerous interception" of another RAAF plane.

### [Philippines Nixes Joint Maritime Resource Exploration Talks With China](#)

June 24, 2022, The Diplomat

In 2018, Manila and Beijing began talks on the joint exploration of offshore oil and gas resources in disputed areas of the South China Sea.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Uzbekistan: President appoints former foreign minister as advisor](#)

June 17, 2022, Eurasianet

The president of Uzbekistan has appointed a veteran official recently removed as head of the diplomatic service as his special representative on foreign policy matters.

#### [Kyrgyz Journalist Temirov's Trial Starts In Bishkek](#)

June 21, 2022, RFE/RL

The trial of noted Kyrgyz investigative journalist Bolot Temirov, who is charged with several offences he and his supporters call politically motivated, has started in Bishkek.

#### [Uzbekistan: Constitutional reforms open way for Mirziyoyev to retain power](#)

June 21, 2022, Eurasianet

The president of Uzbekistan has outlined changes to the constitution that he insists are intended to deepen democratic institutions, but whose most notable effect may, as his own allies have admitted, be to consolidate his hold on power.

#### [Turkmenistan Issuing Passports To Dual Nationals After Berdymukhammedov Visit To Moscow](#)

June 21, 2022, RFE/RL

Turkmen officials have resumed issuing travel passports to residents with dual Turkmen-Russian citizenship following President Serdar Berdymukhammedov's visit to Russia earlier this month.

#### [Turkmenistan: The Beijing conundrum](#)

June 21, 2022, Eurasianet

Turkmenistan talks a big game about diversifying export markets for its natural gas, but China will be the only major customer for the foreseeable future.

#### [Fear And Outrage In Pamir: Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Reeling From Brutal State Crackdown](#)

June 22, 2022, RFE/RL

With reports of dozens killed as well as hundreds injured and detained in recent weeks, the Tajik government tried to settle a long-standing conflict in its Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast with forceful and repressive measures in a crackdown that has shocked the remote region.

## [Former Chief Of Kazakhstan's Border Guard Service Detained On Corruption Charges](#)

June 23, 2022, RFE/RL

The former chief of Kazakhstan's Border Guard Service, Lieutenant General Darkhan Dilmanov, and several of his former subordinates have been detained on corruption charges. The Committee of National Security said that the moves were made as part of an investigation into possible abuse of office while supervising the flow of goods at outposts along the Kazakh-Chinese border.

## **West Asia**

### [I2U2 Grouping of India, Israel, UAE and US to Re-energise American Alliances Globally: The White House](#)

June 15, 2022, The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli PM Bennett, and UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed would attend the first-of-its-kind virtual summit of the I2U2 grouping next month for discussions on food security and other areas of cooperation.

### [Israel Deepens Strategic Partnership with India in Agriculture and Water](#)

June 17, 2022, The Economic Times

Ambassador Eynat Shlein, Head of MASHAV- Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, visited India with an aim to further strengthen Israel-India strategic partnership and development cooperation in the fields of agriculture and water.

### [Russia Overtakes Saudi Arabia to Become India's 2nd Biggest Oil Supplier](#)

June 14, 2022, BW Businessworld

Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's second-biggest supplier of oil behind Iraq as refiners snap up Russian crude available at a deep discount following the war in Ukraine, industry data showed.

### [OPEC Oil Output Fell in May, Adding to Pressure on Cartel](#)

June 14, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Oil production among the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) slumped in May, adding pressure on the cartel after it pledged to stabilise an undersupplied market by pumping more crude.

### [Blackstone Pips Saudi PIF To Top Slot in Private Equity Investments in India in 2021](#)

June 16, 2022, Business Standard

US private equity giant Blackstone overtook Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund to claim the top slot among private equity and sovereign funds in terms of investment in India in 2021.

### [President Biden to Travel to Middle East in July, White House Says](#)

June 14, 2022, Politico

President Joe Biden will travel to the Middle East next month (July 13-16), making stops in Israel, the West Bank and then Saudi Arabia, where he'll seek to rebuild relations after vowing to make the kingdom a "pariah."

### [Israel Calls For US-Led Regional Force Buildup Against Iran](#)

June 14, 2022, AL Arabiya

Israel and Arab countries that share its worries about Iran should build up a joint force under a US aegis, the Israeli defence minister said ahead of a visit to the region by US President Joe Biden.

### [EU Signs Gas Deal With Egypt and Israel To Curb Dependence on Russia](#)

June 15, 2022, Deutsche Welle

The European Union, Egypt and Israel signed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding for the export of natural gas to European countries. The deal which was signed in Cairo will help reduce the bloc's energy dependence on Russia amid the Ukraine invasion.

### [Oil Prices Fall as Investors Worry Rate Hikes From Major Central Banks Could Slow Growth](#)

June 20, 2022, CNBC

Oil prices wobbled to around USD 110 a barrel as investors refocused on tight supplies, however, sentiment was still fragile following a 6 percent drop the previous day amid concerns about slowing global economic growth and fuel demand.

### [US Targets Chinese, UAE Companies in New Iran Sanctions](#)

June 16, 2022, AL Jazeera

The United States has imposed sanctions on Chinese and Emirati companies, as well as a network of Iranian petrochemical producers, accusing them of helping to "evade sanctions" by supporting the sale of Iran's petrochemical products abroad.



[Iran's President Slams US for Imposing New Sanctions, Says They Undermine Talks](#)

June 17, 2022, The Times of Israel

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi criticised the United States for imposing new sanctions on petrochemical producers in the Islamic Republic, amid a deadlock in talks aimed at reviving a nuclear deal.

[UN Chief Calls on Lebanon To Respect Hague Court's Verdict On Rafik Hariri Killing](#)

June 18, 2022, Arab News

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on authorities in Beirut to respect the decision of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which imposed life sentences on two members of Hezbollah for involvement in the 2005 bombing that claimed the life of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

## United States

### United States

#### [US recession set to impact India, may lead to growth slowdown in medium-term](#)

June 23, 2022, The Economic Times

The impending growth slowdown in the United States is set to hamper the growth trajectory of India in the medium term, analysts say.

#### [India invited to G7 because their agenda is 'deep and diverse': US](#)

June 24, 2022, Business Standard

US National Security Council coordinator John Kirby said that India had been invited to G7 because the agenda is "deep and diverse" and "it is not about trying to splinter them off" from Russia

#### [US becomes India's largest trade partner, is India-China trade decoupling?](#)

June 21, 2022, The Economic Times

India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry latest data shows that the US has become India's largest trading partner, exceeding China with bilateral trade reaching USD 119.42 billion.

#### [US conducts Taiwan Strait flyover amid tensions with China](#)

A US Navy P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance plane flew over the Taiwan Strait on Friday in a demonstration of the United States' "commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," just days after dozens of Chinese warplanes entered Taiwan's self-declared air defence identification zone, US Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement.

#### [China floats BRICS free-trade deal, while Russia's Vladimir Putin calls for an alternative to US dollar](#)

June 23, 2022, SCMP

China has proposed a free-trade bloc among the five BRICS countries in a bid to enhance economic ties within the decade-old grouping, as its geopolitical rivalry heats up with the United States.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [EU releases 2 million euros to support flood victims in India, Bangladesh](#)

June 24, 2022, Deccan Herald

The European Commission has released 2 million euros in funding for emergency relief assistance to those affected by the current floods in India and Bangladesh.

#### [EU, China Aim for Talks in Next Few Weeks, Ambassador Says](#)

June 21, 2022, Bloomberg

The European Union and China are planning two high-level meetings in coming weeks, but the talks must tackle real bilateral issues and provide tangible benefits, according to the bloc's ambassador in Beijing.

#### [Chinese President Xi Jinping lashes out at US, EU sanctions against Russia for 3rd day](#)

June 24, 2022, The Economic Times

For the third day on Friday, Chinese President Xi Jinping sharply criticised the US, EU sanctions against Russia in the ongoing Ukraine war as well as the formation of new alliances to contain China.

#### [EU will 'stand by its promises' on Western Balkans enlargement](#)

June 23, 2022, Deutsche Welle

Ahead of a leaders' summit in Brussels, German government envoy Manuel Sarrazin tells DW of the geostrategic importance of EU enlargement for the Western Balkans, and how Russia's war has influenced the process.

### Russia

#### [West moving towards war in space – Roscosmos chief](#)

June 18, 2022, Russia Today

Western astronautics is "heading for war," Russian Space Agency (Roscosmos) Director Dmitry Rogozin said, claiming that the alleged collection of data for Ukraine by private Western companies proves this.

### [Russian Gas Supplies To Europe Via Ukraine Drop To 41.4 Million Cubic Metres](#)

June 18, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom said its supply of gas to Europe through Ukraine via the Sudzha entry point dropped to 41.4 million cubic metres (mcm) on June 18 from 41.9 mcm the previous day.

### [China's Russian Oil Imports Spike, Surpassing Saudi Supplies](#)

June 20, 2022, RFE/RL

Chinese imports of oil from Russia in May increased by more than half from a year earlier, an indicator of a growing trade since many Western countries imposed fuel and other sanctions to punish President Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

### [Injuries reported after attack on Russian offshore rigs](#)

June 20, 2022, Russia Today

Suspected Ukrainian attacks targeted drilling rigs off the coast of Crimea in the Black Sea, the head of the Russian region, Sergey Aksyonov, said in a statement. He added that the rigs were manned by 12 workers, five of whom have been rescued so far, including three with injuries.

### [Putin announces deployment of S-500 air defence systems](#)

June 21, 2022, Russia Today

The Russian military is in the process of deploying the S-500, the new and most potent version of the powerful air-defence system, President Vladimir Putin said. He made the announcement during an address to the graduates of military colleges in Moscow as he described Russia's plans for fielding advanced weapon systems.

### [Defence chief highlights army's determination to ensure Russia's military security](#)

June 21, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian army officers will do everything to ensure the country's military security, Defense Minister Army General Sergey Shoigu said. He pointed out that Russian troops are participating in the special military operation to liberate the Donbass republics and fighting against international terrorists in Syria.

### [Moscow Accuses Berlin of 'Russophobic Hysteria' on Nazi WWII Invasion's Anniversary](#)

June 22, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia has accused Germany of "Russophobic hysteria" as tensions between the two countries run high over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. In a statement

marking the anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the Russian Foreign Ministry accused Berlin of jeopardizing the two countries' ties that were rebuilt in the decades following World War II.

[Russia aims to boost cooperation with BRICS partners](#)

June 23, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia's policy is efficient in an environment where the West neglects the basic principles of a market economy and free trade, Russian President Vladimir Putin said addressing the participants of the BRICS Business Forum.

[Putin's Global Ratings Drop to 20-Year Low – Pew](#)

June 23, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin's global ratings have sunk to 20-year lows as the Russia invasion of Ukraine enters its fourth month, according to a Pew Research Centre poll. A median of 9% of respondents in 18 countries said they have confidence in Putin "to do the right thing regarding world affairs," Pew said.

## Africa & Latin America

### Africa

#### [Suspected jihadists kill more than 130 civilians in Mali](#)

June 21, 2022, Africa News

Suspected jihadists have massacred more than 130 civilians over the weekend in central Mali.

#### [How Russia has outflanked Ukraine in Africa](#)

June 22, 2022, BBC

Addresses to summits and national parliaments around the world by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky have become a staple of the diplomatic calendar over the last few months.

#### [East Africa leaders agree regional force to quell DR Congo crisis](#)

June 21, 2022, Al Jazeera

The decision comes as fighting restarts in DRC's northeast, with Kinshasa blaming Rwanda for backing the M23 rebels.

#### [CIAN Africa forum: Africa between challenges and opportunities](#)

June 24, 2022, Africa News

Africa between challenges and opportunities, this was the main theme of the second edition of the CIAN Africa Forum, held in Paris.

#### [Kenya: solar energy gains momentum](#)

June 23, 2022, Africa News

At a time when climate change is a reality for all of us, the rapid deployment of solar energy is now becoming a major challenge for the future in Africa, especially as the continent has over 40 % of the world's solar potential.

### Latin America

#### [US removes relative of Venezuela's Maduro from sanctions list](#)

June 17, 2022, Al Jazeera

Carlos Erik Malpica Flores, an ex-national treasurer, was put on blacklist in 2017 on charges of undermining democracy.

[U.S. to Offer 300,000 Work Visas for Mexicans, Central Americans - Mexican Official](#)

June 22, 2022, US News

The United States will announce an offer of 300,000 work visas to Mexicans and Central Americans when the Mexican president visits Washington next month, Mexico's interior minister said.

[Argentina reiterates at the UN its sovereign right over the Malvinas](#)

June 23, 2022, Prensa Latina

Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero reiterated today the sovereign right of his country over the Malvinas, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands and the corresponding maritime spaces.

[China to strengthen exchanges, mutual learning with Latin America: Chinese FM](#)

June 25, 2022, CGTN

China is ready to strengthen exchanges and mutual learning with Latin America and contribute more wisdom and strength to the sustainable development of both sides, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.



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