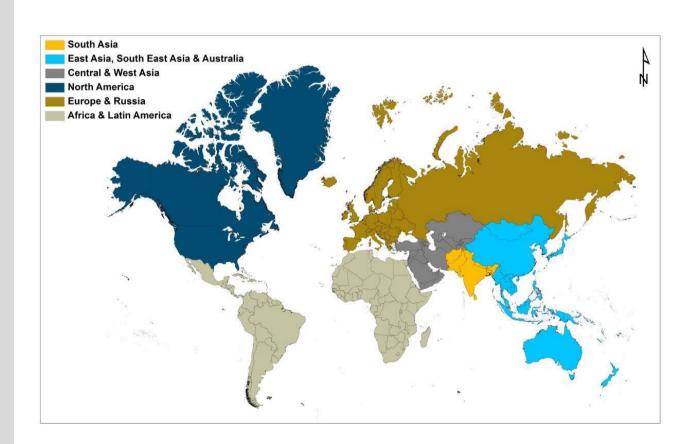


DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 31 | August 22, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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ABOUT US

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South Asia

India

'Extremely difficult phase': Jaishankar's status check on India-China relations

August 18, 2022, Hindustan Times

India-China relations are going through an "extremely difficult phase" because of Beijing's actions on the border and it will be difficult to have an Asian century if the two countries don't come together, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said.

S Jaishankar embarks on a 3-nation visit to South America

August 20, 2022, Financial Express

Experts say augmenting South-South cooperation on the agenda. Focus will be on food and energy security, defence, space, IT and aerospace during Jaishankar's visit to the three countries in South America.

Modi, Xi may meet on sidelines of SCO summit next month

August 21, 2022, The Times of India

With reports in International media saying Chinese President Xi could meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the side-lines of the SCO summit in Uzbekistan there is expectation that the event may also create an opening for a bilateral between Xi and Narendra Modi on the margins.

Modi Hails Indian 'Golden Era' in Speeches When Times Get Tough

August 18, 2022, Bloomberg

In the face of high inflation and unemployment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been repeatedly telling voters that India is just beginning a "golden era" that will run for the next quarter century.

<u>Indian Defence forces to get emergency powers enabling them to acquire</u> weapons via fast-track route

August 20, 2022

These emergency powers give the forces the freedom to acquire any new or in-service equipment on a fast-track basis as per requirement.

China tests air defence missile system near India border

August 18, 2022, The Hindu

The footage of the tests, in the high altitude Karakoram plateau region, was broadcast on August 15.

<u>India-China relation will be impacted if peace in border areas is disturbed: EAM</u>
Jaishankar

August 13, 2022, India Today

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the relationship between India and China will be impacted if China disturbs the peace in the border areas.

'UNSC credibility': Jaishankar claims permanent seat for India 'difficult dream'

August 13, 2022, Hindustan Times

Hours after India broke silence on the China-Taiwan conflict, with the Ministry of External Affairs issuing its first official statement post U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit, S Jaishankar spoke about the 'One China Policy'. The external affairs minister questioned the credibility of United Nations Security Council without India among its permanent member nations.

<u>India beyond 75: Revamping our security needs</u>

AUGUST 11, 2022, The New Indian Express

Considering the nature of collusive external threat from China and Pakistan, it would be prudent to accord the highest status to force enhancement where warranted, induction of warfighting platforms and cutting-edge technologies. Indian Armed Forces require not just restructuring to theatre concept and greater integration but a common understanding on the need for cutting-edge technology.

Pakistan

As Fighters Return, Pakistanis Fear A Repeat Of Taliban Carnage

August 17, 2022, RFERL

The return of the dreaded Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to Pakistan's north-western province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is causing great anxiety among civilians. The Islamist militant group once controlled large swathes of the mountainous region that borders Afghanistan and is populated by Pashtuns. Tens of thousands of people were killed and millions more displaced in years of TTP attacks and the army's large-scale military operations against it. The group finally fled to Afghanistan in 2014.

Govt commits more taxes as IMF board meets on 29th

August 18, 2022, Dawn

The government has given an undertaking to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to raise the petroleum development levy (PDL) to a maximum of Rs50 per litre each on petrol and diesel by January and April, respectively, in 2023.

UK inks deal to return 'criminals' to Pakistan

August 18, 2022, Dawn

The UK signed a major deal with Pakistan, under which foreign criminals and immigration offenders from the UK can be returned to Pakistan. UK Home Secretary Priti Patel hailed the development on Twitter, saying that "I'm proud to have signed a new landmark agreement with our Pakistani friends to return foreign criminals and immigration offenders from the UK to Pakistan.

Pakistan, Turkiye sign agreement to boost trade

August 13, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and Turkiye have signed a preferential trade agreement (PTA) to boost trade in certain products between the two countries. Since the signing of a framework agreement on March 22, 2016, both sides have held 14 rounds of bilateral negotiations to identify those products for trade which are not affecting each other's interests.

Pakistan's debt burden up Rs11.8tr in FY22

August 16, 2022, Dawn

The country's total debt and liabilities increased by Rs11.85 trillion in FY22, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The data, related to the domestic and external debts and liabilities, shows that Pakistan's total debt and liabilities reached Rs59.696tr by June 30, compared to Rs47.844tr in FY21.

PTI hires firm for lobbying in US

August 13, 2022, The News

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) that keeps blaming the US for leading a regime change conspiracy in Pakistan and ousting its government in the Centre has hired an American lobbying and PR firm at a cost of \$25,000 per month to manage its public and media relations in the United States.

Taliban start leaving Swat after talks

August 14, 2022, The News

After days of talks with the Pakistani Taliban, the militants agreed to quit the hilltops in the picturesque Swat Valley. The Taliban militants had arrived in Swat a few months ago and had reportedly occupied hilltops of the Matta subdivision in the district.

US Centcom chief calls on COAS: Pak-US military ties discussed

August 19, 2022, The News

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) General Michael E Kurilla discussed Pakistan-US military training exchange programme. Both discussed military-to-military ties between Pakistan and the United States at a meeting at GHQ. Commander US CENTCOM along with a delegation visited General Headquarters (GHQ) and had a one-on-one meeting with COAS, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said.

Rs198b discrepancy surfaces in federal accounts

August 20, 2022, The Express Tribune

The government has revised upward the last fiscal year's federal budget deficit to over Rs5.6 trillion – an alarming 51% rise over the preceding year – after nearly Rs200 billion statistical discrepancy surfaced in the accounts. The discrepancy surprised the finance ministry which, just a week ago, had estimated Rs5.5 trillion budget deficit.

Two cops guarding polio team gunned down in Tank

August 17, 2022, Dawn

Two policemen guarding a polio vaccination team were shot dead by unknown assailants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district on the second day of the campaign.

Pakistan again urges US to unfreeze Afghan assets

August 20, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan urged the United States again to unfreeze Afghan assets and conditionally allow the Taliban regime to use those funds for dealing with the economic and humanitarian crisis in the war-ravaged country.

Another cabinet takes oath in Punjab

August 7, 2022, Dawn

Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman administrated oath to the 21-member cabinet of the PTI-PML-Q coalition government. He had earlier resisted administering oath to Chief Minister Parvez Elahi, but did not resist for the oath of the provincial ministers saying that he would be performing his constitutional and democratic responsibility. Punjab Implementation and Coordination (I&C) secretary Zaid bin Maqsood read out the notification regarding the appointment of ministers, since Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal did not attend the oath-taking ceremony and instead requested for his transfer from Punjab. Additional Chief Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza had followed suit.

4 killed in gun attack on PTI MPA in Lower Dir

August 6, 2022, Dawn

A gun attack targeting the vehicle of a Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) MPA Malik Liaqat Khan in Lower Dir claimed at least four lives, including a police constable and Levies sepoy, and left the PTI lawmaker wounded.

China blocks India-US bid to sanction JeM leader at UNSC

August 12, 2022, Hindustan Times

China has blocked a move by India and the US to list Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) leader Abdul Rauf Azhar as a global terrorist at the UN Security Council, the second time Beijing has resorted to such a step in less than two months. Azhar is the younger brother of JeM founder Masood Azhar and the deputy leader of the terrorist group that has its main base at Bahawalpur in Pakistan's Punjab province. Azhar was designated as a terrorist by the US treasury department in December 2010.

Commanders of Peshawar, Bahawalpur reshuffled

August 9, 2022, Dawn

Three lieutenant generals were transferred and posted; the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) announced. Corps Commander Peshawar Lt Gen Faiz Hameed was appointed Bahawalpur corps commander, replacing Lt Gen Khalid Zia, who has been appointed the military secretary GHQ. Military Secretary Lt Gen Sardar Hassan Azhar Hayat has been appointed as the Peshawar corps commander.

Trade deficit with neighbours widens in FY22

August 9, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan's exports to nine regional countries rose 16.97 per cent while imports grew by nearly 28.84pc in FY22 from a year ago. The country's exports to Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$4.590 billion — just 14.43pc of Pakistan's total global exports of \$31.79bn in FY22.

Four soldiers embrace martyrdom in N Waziristan

August 11, 2022, The News

Four soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom in a suicide blast that occurred on a military convoy in general area Mir Ali of North Waziristan District. The intelligence agencies have commenced investigations to find out the details regarding the suicide bomber and his handlers and facilitators.

Rs100bn cost overrun likely to hit Dasu hydropower project

August 9, 2022, The News

The country's most important project — Dasu hydropower project's stage -1 with the capacity to generate 2160 MW hydel electricity — has got delayed by three years, and the overrun cost is feared to have gone up by Rs100 billion. The project earlier scheduled to come on stream in 2023-24 is now to be completed and commissioned in 2026-27.

IMF programme: COAS reaches out to UAE, Saudi authorities

August 6, 2022, The News

Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa has spoken with the authorities of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The International Monetary Fund loan programme reportedly came under discussion and a positive development is expected soon for Pakistan. It comes days after Nikkei Asia reported that Gen Bajwa appealed to the United States to help Islamabad secure an early dispersal of \$1.2 billion in funds under the IMF programme to avert the risk of debt default.

PTI steps up efforts to establish 'good relations' with US, hires lobbying firm

August 12, 2022, The News

PTI has engaged a Washington-based lobbying firm to support the party's goal of developing good ties with the United States and the Pakistani diaspora in the country. The development comes after reports claimed that the party is making attempts to mend ties with the Joe Biden administration.

Afghanistan

At Least 21 Killed, Many Wounded As Huge Blast Rips Through Mosque in Kabul

August 18, 2022, News 18

A massive explosion ripped through a mosque in Afghanistan's Kabul, leaving at least 21 dead. The blast took place during the evening prayers at the mosque located in a northern Kabul neighbourhood.

Taliban dispensation assures security to Indian mission in Afghanistan

August 13, 2022, Business Standard

The foreign ministry of the Taliban dispensation in Afghanistan said it welcomed India's diplomatic presence in Kabul and promised to ensure security to the Indian mission in the Afghan capital.

800 Americans evacuated from Afghanistan since Taliban takeover

August 14, 2022, Politico

The U.S. government has evacuated more than 800 American citizens from Afghanistan since the Taliban swept to power and U.S. troops officially left the country last August, according to data provided by House GOP investigators and the State Department.

Large weapon and ammunition cache discovered in Afghanistan's Kunar

August 15, 2022, Business Standard

A large cache of arms and ammunition has been discovered in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar, the defence ministry said in a statement. Contents of the cache include 31 light and heavy arms, 18,206 different kinds of bullets, 142 hand-grenades, four walkie-talkie radios and two rocket launchers, Xinhua news agency reported, citing the statement by the ministry.

Female protesters beaten by Taliban fighters during rare Kabul rally

August 13, 2022, The Guardian

Taliban fighters beat female protesters and fired into the air as they violently dispersed a rare rally in the Afghan capital, days before the first anniversary of the hard-line Islamists' return to power. Since seizing control on 15 August last year, the Taliban have rolled back the marginal gains made by women during two decades of US intervention in Afghanistan.

Brain Drained: Exodus Of Professionals Since Taliban Takeover Leaves Afghanistan Starting From Scratch Again

August 12, 2022, RFERL

Ahmad Ghani Khosrawi dedicated two decades of his life to restoring Afghanistan's education system, only to find himself rebuilding his career abroad following the country's return to Taliban rule. In leaving for Germany, Khosrawi, who headed the Faculty of Literature and Humanities at Herat University, joined the exodus of professionals that has left Afghanistan depleted of some of its best and brightest minds as the country once again adjusts to new rulers in Kabul.

Taliban kill estranged Hazara commander 'trying to flee to Iran'

August 18, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban's lone Hazara Shia commander, who reportedly parted ways with the Islamic emirate a couple of months ago, was killed as he attempted to flee the country, the defence ministry said in a statement. Mawlawi Mahdi Mujahid was shot dead by Taliban forces near the border with Iran, officials confirmed to Reuters. After the Taliban formed a government last year, Mahdi was given the post of intelligence chief in Bamiyan province. But months later, he was sacked following a dispute local media attributed to control of the lucrative coal trade. Mujahid went on the run in June after the Taliban sent thousands of troops to crush his loyalists.

NSA Ajit Doval in Russia; Afghanistan, counter-terrorism, energy security on agenda

August 17, 2022, WION

Indian National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval paid an unannounced visit to Moscow to assess progress and recent developments in bilateral relations as India continues to deepen its engagement with Russia on regional and international concerns. During his two-day visit to Moscow, Doval met with Russian officials, notably his counterpart Nikolai Patrushev, to discuss a number of regional and international concerns, including Afghanistan, counterterrorism, defence, and food and energy security in the wake of the Ukraine war

Foreign engagement will be in line with Sharia: Taliban

August 20, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban will deal with the international community in line with Sharia, the supreme leader of the group said, according to a copy of his speech shared by the information ministry. Yet to be formally recognised as a government by any foreign capital, the group is struggling with a severe economic crisis due to strict enforcement of international sanctions and the cutting off development aid.

Taliban cleric Sheikh Rahimullah Haggani killed in suicide blast in Kabul

August 11, 2022, BBC

Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani, one of the prominent Taliban clerics, was killed in an explosion at a school in a district of the Afghan capital. According to local reports, the attack took place at an Islamic seminary in the Afghan capital. Sheikh Haqqani was a supporter of Afghanistan's Taliban government and a prominent critic of the jihadist militant group Islamic State Kohrasan Province (IS-K).

Top Pakistan Taliban leader killed in Afghanistan roadside attack

August 8, 2022, Al Jazeera

A late night roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan has struck a vehicle carrying members of the Pakistan Taliban, killing a senior leader and three other members of the group. Abdul Wali, also known as Omar Khalid Khorasani,

was a top commander of the Pakistan Taliban and was allegedly behind some of the deadliest attacks in recent years.

8 killed in Afghanistan capital during Shia community mourning gathering

August 6, 2022, Business Standard

At least eight people were killed and 18 others injured in Kabul during a Shia community mourning gathering following the holy month of Muharram. Khalid Zadran, a Taliban police spokesperson said that the explosion took place in the Sarkariz area of the capital city.

China's envoy on Afghanistan visits India, holds talks with senior official

August 6, 2022, Business Standard

China's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Yue Xiaoyong paid a quiet visit to India this week during which he held talks with a senior Indian official on ways to ensure peace and stability in the war-torn country. It was Yue's first trip to India which came over four months after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Delhi.

Bangladesh

Security, stability & trade — PM Hasina's India visit agenda before polls in Bangladesh

August 20, 2022, The Print

Bangladesh prime minister expected to travel to India in September to strengthen security and trade. Garnering India's support as she gears up for next year's elections is likely to be another focal point of her visit.

India, Bangladesh to ink Defence pact, focus on maritime security and joint production

August 19, 2022, Financial Express

Bilateral defence cooperation agreement is expected to be announced between India and Bangladesh during the forthcoming visit of Bangladeshi PM, Sheikh Hasina.

Sri Lanka

Why a Chinese ship's arrival in Sri Lanka has caused alarm in India and the West

August 19, 2022, NPR

The Hambantota port, with its strategic location near busy Indian Ocean shipping routes, was touted as good for Sri Lankan commerce. But it wasn't profitable, and the government defaulted on those Chinese loans.

<u>Visit by Chinese 'spy ship': Sri Lankan minister says India understands its situation, hopes it would not be diplomatic issue</u>

August 20, 2022, The Economic Times

Amid concerns over a visit by Chinese ship 'Yuan Wang 5' to his country, Sri Lanka's tourism minister Harin Fernado said here on Saturday that he hoped it would not cause a major diplomatic row as India understands its situation.

India & Sri Lanka: China Ship Row Is Just Another Sign of 'Mutual Suspicions'

August 11, 2022, The Quint

Half-baked and motivated understanding of Sri Lanka's history and politics has long caused 'perception blues'.

Nepal

Nepal gives India two power projects quit by China

August 21, 2022, The Economic Times

India has expanded power sector partnership with Nepal with Kathmandu awarding the much-delayed West Seti Hydropower Project and Seti River Hydropower Project in the western part of the Himalayan nation to a leading Indian firm nearly four years after China withdrew from these projects.

China's arbitrary border closure causes crippling losses to Nepal's businesses

August 22, 2022, ANI

Ahead of the festive season in Nepal, businesses have been badly hit by China's arbitrary closure of borders and imposition of lockdowns in several cities following a surge in Covid -19 cases.

India, Bangldesh review defence cooperation at annual dialogue

August 11, 2022, The Hindu

The fourth India-Bangladesh annual defence dialogue was held on August 11 during which the two sides reviewed ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries and expressed satisfaction that collaboration is growing

despite difficulties imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Defence Ministry said. Defence industrial cooperation was also discussed.

<u>India's interest in Nepal's energy sector increasing but it's wary of Chinese element</u>

August 13, 2022, The Kathmandu Post

The southern neighbour has been holding back from agreeing to buy electricity generated by the Upper Tamakoshi plant, contracted to China.

With grants and promises, Nepal minister Khadka returns from China

August 12, 2022, The Indian Express

Khadka led an 11-member delegation to China earlier this week on the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister and state councillor Wang Yi.

East & South East Asia

China

Berlin warned against joining anti-China alliance at its own expense

August 21, 2022, Global Times

Some major German media outlets have voiced concern over the German Air Force participating in Exercise Pitch Black for the first time. They warned that Berlin is joining an anti-China alliance in the Indo-Pacific, which in the long term will affect its trade relations with Beijing.

Japan considers deploying long-range missiles to counter China, Yomiuri reports

August 21, 2022, Reuters

Japan is considering the deployment of 1,000 long-range cruise missiles to boost its counterattack capability against China, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Sunday.

5 Chinese Aircraft Crossed Median Line: Taiwan

August 21, 2022, NDTV

China has been carrying out drills near Taiwan, which it claims as Chinese territory despite strong objections from the government in Taipei.

Taiwan beefs up semiconductor defences as China war games continue

August 22, 2022, Money Control

As a furious China continues military drills off the island, Taiwan, which leads the world in making semiconductors, is making moves to insulate its chip industry from Chinese influence

Potential Logistical and Operational Costs of a China-Taiwan Conflict

August 17, 2022, The Diplomat

Half of the global container fleet passed through the Taiwan Strait this year, making it a critical waterway for global supply chains.

Senior Chinese military official meets Cambodian defense minister

August 15, 2022, Xinhua

Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission met with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense Tea Banh in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province.

Chinese automakers set sights on German market

August 15, 2022, China Daily

Chinese carmakers are expected to make forays into Germany, where the car was invented, later this year, leveraging their competitive edge in new energy vehicle models.

Evolving property sector needs more proactive policy support

August 15, 2022, China Daily

After having shown signs of stabilization, the real estate sector was impacted by COVID-19 once again in the first half. In the meantime, the sector is being challenged by a debt crisis. In my view, the Chinese property market is currently at a turning point in which market operation fundamentals have changed, and economic growth is unlikely to be driven substantially by real estate. Instead, we should work on avoiding the spread of risk from the sector.

China resolutely responds to US' continuous provocations on Taiwan question

August 15, 2022, Global Times

As the US continued its provocation to China by sending a delegation of five lawmakers to China's Taiwan region, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command organized multi-unit joint combat readiness patrols and real-combat drills in the sea areas and airspace around the Taiwan island on Monday, serving as a firm response and solemn deterrent to the provocation and collusion between the US and the Taiwan island.

Taiwan an internal question for Beijing, different from LAC issue: China envoy

August 14, 2022, The Indian Express

The Chinese envoy has differentiated between the Taiwan issue and the India-China border issue. His remarks make it clear that Beijing views the two issues differently, but New Delhi has been firm. Calling the current border situation "stable", he said the two sides are working towards switching over from "emergency response" to "normal management" of the situation.

Japan

<u>Japan weighs deploying over 1,000 longer-range missiles amid China tensions, report says</u>

August 21, 2022, The Japan Times

The Defense Ministry is looking to deploy its ground-launched Type-12 standoff missiles — and extend their range from around 200 kilometers (124 miles) to more than 1,000 km — mainly to its far-flung southwestern islands

and the Kyushu region, the Yomiuri daily reported, citing unidentified government sources.

The face of China: A globetrotting diplomat armed with U.S. admonitions

August 22, 2022, The Japan Times

China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, a dapper man in well-pressed suits, keeps up a relentless travel schedule, more than 30 countries so far this year, to places big and small: island nations in the Pacific, Central Asia on China's western periphery and, often, Africa.

Japan grounds Ospreys after U.S. Air Force safety concerns

August 20, 2022, Japan Today

The Ground Self-Defense Force has temporarily grounded its V-22 Osprey fleet based at a camp east of Tokyo after the U.S. Air Force halted flights of its fleet over safety concerns, the Defense Ministry said.

U.S. seeks resolution for naval officer jailed in Japan -State Dept

August 16, 2022, Reuters

U.S. officials have been in touch with their Japanese counterparts to seek a resolution in the case of U.S. naval officer Ridge Alkonis, who is serving a three-year prison term in Japan over a deadly car crash, State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

U.K. seeks 'new Anglo-Japanese Alliance' on trade, security

August 22, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The two countries, both of which qualify as "middle powers," are in talks to jointly develop a new fighter jet, which Japan plans to deploy for its Self-Defense Forces in 2035. The U.K. is also expected to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTTP), a Japan-led trade bloc, next year.

Japan marks 77th anniversary of end of World War II

August 15, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan marked the 77th anniversary of its surrender in World War II, amid halting momentum to achieve a peaceful world due to Russia's nearly sixmonth invasion of Ukraine and mounting tensions between the U.S. and China over Taiwan.

Japan's pro-constitutional reform parties struggle to get on the same page

August 14, 2022, The Japan Times

With the four major political parties in the pro-constitutional reform camp holding a supermajority in both chambers of parliament and with no general election scheduled for three years, debate on amendments to the top law will be in full swing this fall.

U.S. and Japan step up joint drills by 50% as Taiwan tensions rise

August 13, 2022, NIKKEI

Japan's Self-Defense Forces have participated in 50% more joint exercises with the U.S. military so far this year than in the same period of 2021 as the partners strengthen deterrence on the front lines of a potential conflict around Taiwan. A total of 10 fighter jets from Japan's Air Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Air Force held joint drills around Okinawa on Tuesday. This came hot on the heels of joint aerial drills held on Aug. 4, when China kicked off drills around Taiwan.

Korea

South Korea will be good partner in India's journey towards a developed economy, says envoy

August 17, 2022, The Print

South Korea's envoy Chang Jae-bok has hoped that Seoul will be a good partner in India's journey to becoming a developed country and in the growth of its economy.

N. Korea denounces Yoon's initiative to mend S. Korea-Japan ties

August 21, 2022, The Korea Herald

North Korea's propaganda outlets denounced South Korea's diplomatic initiative to mend ties with Japan in articles issued this weekend, claiming the Yoon Suk-yeol government is seeking to capitalize on the death of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

South Korea, US begin military drills amid N.Korea backlash

August 22, 2022, Financial Express

The summertime exercises, renamed Ulchi Freedom Shield this year and scheduled to end on Sept. 1, came after South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol, who took office in May, vowed to "normalise" the combined exercises and boost deterrence against the North.

Southeast Asia

Myanmar junta hits back at ASEAN after being barred from meetings

August 17, 2022, CNA

Myanmar's military leadership on Wednesday (Aug 17) lashed out at the ASEAN grouping of Southeast Asian countries for excluding its generals from regional gatherings, accusing it of caving to "external pressure".

Central to spend \$1.4bn on expanding further in Thailand, Vietnam

Thai retail conglomerate Central Group is planning to expand aggressively at home and in neighbouring Vietnam, hoping to tap an expected jump in demand when the COVID pandemic ends.

India, Vietnam conclude Bilateral Army Exercise Vinbax 2022 at Chandimandir

August 18, 2022, India Today

Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise VINBAX 2022 concluded at Chandimandir on Thursday. It was the first time ever that the Vietnam People's Army was undertaking a Field Training Exercise with any foreign Army.

Conflict in South China Sea would threaten 90% of Australia's fuel imports

August 22, 2022, The Guardian

China's sabre-rattling about Taiwan underlines the need for Australia to be prepared for conflict in the South China Sea.

Beijing's actions not limited to South China Sea, says Taiwan foreign minister

August 20, 2022, India Today

Speaking exclusively to India Today in Taipei, Taiwan's foreign minister Joseph Wu called on democracies of the world to unite to counter China's hegemonic activities.

South Korea offers North economic benefits for denuclearization

August 15, 2022, The New Indian Express

North Korea has ramped up its testing activity in 2022, launching more than 30 ballistic missiles so far, including its first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017.

Putin says Russia and North Korea will expand bilateral relations: KCNA

August 15, 2022, The Indian Express

In a letter to Kim for Korea's liberation day, Putin said closer ties would be in both countries' interests.

Ex-USFK commander rejects China's claims over THAAD

August 14, 2022, The Korea Times

The former commander of U.S. Forces Korea, Robert Abrams, refuted China's claims that the previous South Korean administration promised to restrict the operations of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system on the Korean Peninsula and that the U.S. missile defense battery undermines Beijing's security interests.

What is behind South Korea's growth in soft power?

August 14, 2022, The Korea Herald

Soft power, a term coined by American political scientist Joseph Nye in the late 1980s, refers to "the ability to obtain preferred outcomes by attraction rather than coercion or payment." With the global popularity of Korean culture, Korea is ranked at the top in multiple measures of soft power. While its soft power growth is undeniable, sustainability remains in question

Southeast Asia

US, Indonesia, Australia hold drills amid China concerns

August 12, 2022, AP News

Soldiers from the U.S., Indonesia and Australia joined a live-fire drill on Friday, part of annual joint combat exercises on Sumatra Island amid growing Chinese maritime activity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Review of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods

August 13, 2022, EPW

The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (also known as AITIGA), implemented in January 2010, is entering into its 11th year and the time is ripe to review and recast it in light of the new world order pulled open by the pandemic. This article provides the broad contours around which the review of ASEAN-India free trade agreement may focus.

<u>Chinese customs seize thousands of maps over missing South China Sea 'ninedash line'</u>

August 14, 2022, SCMP

A total of 23,500 'problematic' maps seized by customs officials in the eastern city of Ningbo.

PLA carries out South China Sea minesweeping drill

August 13, 2022, South China Morning Post

Southern Theatre Command announces fourth monthly exercise to hone its countermining operations.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

Inaugural India-Central Asia NSA meeting to be held in December

August 20, 2022, WION

As a key outcome of the first India-Central Asia summit that took place in January this year, the inaugural National Security Advisors meet will take place in December this year in India.

Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan agree energy and labor cooperation

August 18, 2022, Saudi Gazette

Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan have agreed to cooperate in the sectors of energy and employment. The energy and employment cooperation agreements were among a series of agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU) that were signed during an official visit of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Kingdom.

At a crossroads with Kazakhstan

August 17, 2022, The Hill

In 1991, Secretary of State James A. Baker III journeyed to the newly independent Republic of Kazakhstan to meet with its president, Nursultan Nazarbayev. The policy objectives in the 31 years since of U.S.-Kazakh relations have centered on three areas: diversifying global sources of energy by capitalizing on Kazakhstan's world-class energy reserves; supporting a government more responsive to the people through the promotion of democracy and protection of human rights; and advancement of free market enterprise. Following 9/11, U.S. policymakers took greater interest in the region to support the war in Afghanistan and prevent the spread of violent extremism.

A brand new corridor on the table for China and Central Asia

August 12, 2022, Railfreight

A new, Central Asian corridor is on the table, linking China, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. The possibility of establishing this corridor became the topic of discussion at a recently held meeting between railway companies of the Central Asian countries involved.

Economic gains of Kazakhstan in wake of shifting supply chains

August 6, 2022, Daily Times

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has triggered some major shifts in the supply chains of West Europe, Eurasia, Central Asia, Caucasus and South Asia. This

shuffle of supply chain has considerable impact on the global trade and commerce. Kazakhstan has its gifted landscape with an extensive network of rail, road, air and marine corridors and can transcend its limitation of landlockedness. Therefore, Kazakhstan contributing 60% GDP and 70% FDI of Central Asia, is destined to achieve massive economic gains by availing the opportunity of supply chain shift.

Military Exercises in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Illustrate Regional Cooperation and Concerns

August 10, 2022, The Diplomat

A Tajik-Uzbek joint military exercise concluded in Uzbekistan just as a U.S.-organized regional military exercise kicked off in Tajikistan.

Tehrik-e Taliban Tajikistan and terrorist threat in Tajikistan and Central Asia

July 25, 2022, Special Eurasia

The establishment of Tehrik-e Taliban Tajikistan (TTT) alarmed Dushanbe Government and highlighted how the security situation in Central Asia linked with Afghanistan has deteriorated since the Taliban took power in Kabul in August 2021.

West Asia

India Eases Russian Oil Buying in July, Boosts Saudi Imports

August 17, 2022, Reuters

India's crude oil imports from Russia in July fell for the first time since March along with its overall purchase while supplies from Saudi Arabia rebounded for the first time in five months, data obtained from trade and industry sources showed.

Iran Renews Demands for U.S. Guarantees in Nuclear Deal Talks

August 17, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Iranian demands for guarantees from the U.S. have once again stalled efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear pact, leaving Washington and European capitals unsure if a deal is possible.

World Must 'walk away' from Iran Nuclear Talks, Israeli PM Lapid Tells Western Leaders

August 18, 2022, The Times of Israel

The time has come for Western powers to walk away from JCPOA talks with Iran on returning to the nuclear deal, top Israeli officials are telling their counterparts in Washington and in European capitals.

Israel and Turkey to Restore Ambassadors in Full Renewal of Diplomatic Ties

August 17, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel and Turkey announced a full renewal of diplomatic ties, following a recent phone conversation between Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

India, Oman's 13-day Joint Military Exercise 'Al Najah' Concludes in Rajasthan

August 13, 2022, Ministry of Defence Government of India

The aim of the exercise was to achieve inter-operability and to acquaint each other with operational procedures and combat drills in a Counter Terrorism environment under the United Nations mandate. Both armies were able to achieve the stated objectives.

50 Indian Companies Invest Total \$3.15bn in Egypt: Ambassador Gupte

August 15, 2022, Daily News Egypt

Around 50 Indian companies have invested in various sectors in Egypt with a combined investment exceeding \$3.15bn, according to the Indian ambassador in Cairo, Ajit Gupte.

Saudi Oil Giant Aramco Tops Own Record with \$48-billion Profit in Q2

August 14, 2022, Business Standard

Saudi energy company Aramco said its profits jumped 90 per cent in the second quarter compared to the same time last year, helping its half-year earnings reach nearly \$88 billion.

Chinese President Xi Jinping Expected to Visit Saudi Arabia Next Week

August 11, 2022, The Guardian

The Chinese president Xi Jinping is expected to visit Saudi Arabia next week, where plans are underway for a gala reception to match that given to Donald Trump on his first trip abroad as president.

<u>India Voices Support for Diplomatic Efforts Towards Gaza Ceasefire, Urges All</u>
Parties to De-escalate Situation

August 9, 2022, News 18

India has voiced support for diplomatic efforts of the UN as well as Egypt that led to a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza and urged all parties to de-escalate the situation to ensure it does not spiral out of control.

Israel Will 'pay a heavy price' After Gaza Attack, Iran Warns

August 6, 2022, AL Jazeera

Amidst Israeli air strikes, the Head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) told the Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza "we are with you on this path until the end".

US Accuses Iranian Operative of Plotting to Kill John Bolton

August 10, 2022, AL Jazeera

United States authorities have accused an alleged member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of plotting to assassinate former US National Security Advisor John Bolton, probably in retaliation for the killing Iran's General Qassem Soleimani in 2020.

<u>Citing Russian Officials Being Trained in Iran on Drones, US Warns of Sanctions</u>

August 11, 2022, AL Arabiya

The State Department said it would "vigorously" enforce all US sanctions on the Russian and Iranian arms trade, doubling down on previous comments by US officials that Tehran was training Russian officials on drones.

Iran Urges 'realistic' U.S. Response to Revive Nuclear Deal

August 6, 2022, AL Monitor

Iran's foreign minister called for a "realistic response" from the United States to Iranian proposals at indirect talks in Vienna aimed at reviving Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal.

Putin and Erdogan in Sochi: What the Two Leaders Discussed and Agreed Upon

August 5, 2022, Russia Today (RT)

Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed the Turkish leader, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to Russia's southern city of Sochi. The two leaders spent over four hours discussing a broad range of issues, ranging from grain exports to bilateral trade and counter-terrorism efforts.

United States

United States

India in advanced stage of talks with US for procuring MQ-9B drones

August 21, 2022, Hindustan Times

The MQ-9B drone is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" which was used to launch a modified version of the Hellfire missile that eliminated al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the heart of Kabul last month.

Russia terms CAATSA waiver for India a sign of US 'weakness'

August 20, 2022, The Economic Times

Stung by severe western sanctions that have impacted payments for its weapons exports, Russia has slammed the US for 'unfair competition' and has said that the measures seek to put pressure on Indian sovereignty. A top government official also said that the recent exemption from sanctions granted to India for the acquisition of Russian S 400 anti-aircraft systems is a sign of American 'weakness'.

How Pelosi's Taiwan Visit Has Set a New Status Quo for U.S-China Tensions

August 17, 2022, CEIP

This month, tensions in the Taiwan Strait reached levels not seen in nearly thirty years. In response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, Beijing launched joint military exercises around the island and suspended or cancelled eight official military dialogues and cooperation channels with the United States. Taiwan faced unprecedented provocations, including ballistic missile launches over the island, air and naval operations across the centreline and on the edge of Taiwan's territorial waters, and a volume of cyber attacks "23 times higher than the previous daily record."

US President Joe Biden Signs Major Climate Change, Health Care Law

August 17, 2022, NDTV

Under the plan, the government will spend about \$370 billion on green energy initiatives while also allowing the state-run Medicare system to negotiate prices for prescription drugs.

US Navy takes delivery of tactical Lockheed Martin laser weapon

August 20, 2022, New Atlas

The age of the ray gun is almost upon us after the US Navy took delivery of a near-operational high-energy tactical laser weapon called the High Energy

Laser with Integrated Optical-dazzler and Surveillance (HELIOS) system from Lockheed Martin that can be installed in existing warships

U.S. worried over routing of Russian oil through India, says RBI Deputy Governor

August 14, 2022, The Hindu

The United States has expressed concern to India that it was being used to export fuel made from Russian crude, through high-seas transfers to hide its origin, to New York in violation of U.S. sanctions, a top Indian central banker said on Saturday.

<u>Uneasy peace in Indo-Pacific, partnership with India important: US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi</u>

August 14, 2022, The New Indian Express

The partnership is not intended for ganging up on the People's Republic of China but collaborating on confronting challenges of mutual interests such as fighting global climate change, he added.

In a first, U.S. Navy Ship arrives in India for repairs

August 7, 2022, The Hindu

In a first, a U.S. Navy Ship, Charles Drew, arrived in India for carrying out repairs and allied services at Larsen & Toubro's (L&T) Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai, on Sunday adding a new dimension to the fast expanding Indo-U.S. strategic partnership.

Trump-era policy 'Remain in Mexico' is over: Biden administration

August 9, 2022, Business Standard

The Department of Homeland Security ended a Trump-era policy requiring asylum-seekers to wait in Mexico for hearings in US immigration court, hours after a judge lifted an order.

After Nancy Pelosi, more US lawmakers visit Taiwan amid tensions with China

August 14, 2022, India Today

US lawmakers Ed Markey, John Garamendi, Alan Lowenthal, Don Beyer and Aumua Amata have arrived in Taiwan, 12 days after Nancy Pelosi's visit drew sharp reactions from China.

Europe & Russia

Europe

A road map for India-EU ties

August 16, 2022, The Hindu

India and EU should not let divergence of views on some issues overwhelm the convergence of views on other areas.

EU to flag India's unfair 'buy national' practice in FTA talk

August 18, 2022, Financial Express

The text is based on the European Parliament resolution of July 5 on the EU-India future trade and investment cooperation. It is expected to be used as a guide for the EU officials as they negotiate with their Indian counterparts for the FTA, sources told FE.

India-EU trade partnership: Going beyond dependence on China

August 17,2 022, Deccan Herald

With the conclusion of first round of FTAs and ever-intensifying India-EU strategic relations, it's the right time to take the next steps

As EU-China relations cool, Europe increasingly looks to Taiwan

August 18, 2022, Euractiv

Amid Western criticism of China over the escalating pressure on democratically-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, and the strengthening of ties with Russia during the invasion of Ukraine, Beijing's diplomacy suffers in Europe.

Not just Russian oil and gas, China is dividing Europe—from money to metals

August 12, 2022, The Print

While the EU realises that China will continue to be a major trade and investment partner, it needs to devise impactful economic strategies to counter Beijing's economic coercion.

EU embargo on Russian coal comes into force

August 11, 2022, Euro News

The import ban on all forms of Russian coal was agreed in April as part of the fifth package of sanctions against Russia with 10 August marked as the end of the wind-down period for imports.

European Union Ukraine's largest trade partner in 2021 – Parliament

August 13, 2022, Ukriform

More than 40% of Ukraine's total trade in 2021 was with the European Union

EU should not be a 'supermarket' for rich Russians, says Ukraine's Zelenskiy

August 13, 2022Lvemint

On August 12 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy issued a fresh call to European Union countries, seeking visas ban for rich Russian nationals to keep the bloc from becoming a "supermarket. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said his call did not apply to Russians who needed help for risking their freedom or their lives by resisting Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies.

Ukraine to implement 107 regulations under Association Agreement with EU

August 12, 2022, Business Standard

Ukraine has to implement 107 regulations under the Association Agreement with the European Union, the country's Deputy PM for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Olha Stefanishyna said.

Russia

Six months into Russia-Ukraine war, US announces new \$775 mn military package for Kyiv

August 20, 2022, The Print

Announced by US' Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Saturday, the military aid package to Ukraine includes ammunition for HIMARS, 105mm Howitzers, TOW missiles, armoured vehicles and more.

Explained: How is Russia's war in Ukraine going?

August 20, 2022, The Indian Express

The most recent phase of the war has gone better for Ukraine than many observers expected after Russia's progress earlier this year.

The real role of pro-Russian Chechens in Ukraine

August 18, 2022, Al Jazeera

Known as Kadyrovtsy after their leader Ramzan Kadyrov, the fighters are said to be brutal but delusional about their abilities.

Who's Winning the Sanctions War?

August 18, 2022, Foreign Policy

The West has inflicted damage on the Russian economy, but Putin has so far contained those costs.

<u>Putin, Kim Vow Stronger Russia-North Korea Ties — State Agency</u>

August 15, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un exchanged letters indicating stronger bilateral relations amid Moscow's international isolation over its war in Ukraine, North Korean state media reported.

Russia Starts Delivering Extra Gas to Hungary - Budapest

August 14, 2022, The Moscow Times

Hungary said that Russia has started delivering additional gas to the EU member following a July visit to Moscow by its foreign minister.

Russia Launches Iranian Satellite Amid Ukraine War Concerns

August 10, 2022, The Moscow Times

An Iranian satellite launched by Russia blasted off from Kazakhstan Tuesday and reached orbit amid controversy that Moscow might use it to boost its surveillance of military targets in Ukraine.

Russia looking to invest in Indian shipyard as part of 'Make in India' initiative

August 15, 2022, The Hindu

Moscow offers Russian engines for two stealth frigates under construction in Goa.

Chinese drone maker DJI asserts its products' civilian use after Russian official calls them 'symbol of modern warfare'

August 15, 2022, South China Morning Post

Russia's embassy in China has deleted a post in Weibo that praised DJI's drones for bringing 'a real revolution' to traditional artillery weapons. That post quoted Russian Army General Yuri Baluyevsky, who described the 'pinpoint accuracy and efficiency' of DJI's Mavic quadcopter drones.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

African Leaders Quick to Address US-China Tensions Over Taiwan

August 18, 2022, VOA

A spike in tensions between China and the United States over Taiwan has not gone unnoticed in Africa and has prompted responses that underscore the continent's tilt toward Beijing.

The broadening and deepening China-Africa partnership

August 19, 2022, CGTN

The Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held via video link on August 18. Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended the meeting and made a proposal on building a China-Africa community with a shared future in the new era.

Africa's part in the global energy transition

August 17, 2022, Africa Times

In a bid to adapt to climate change and provide cheaper electricity to the general population, Zimbabwe is boosting solar power, and to a lesser extent hydropower, as part of a government programme to cut energy-related emissions by about a third before the end of the decade.

Navigating India-Africa relations in a post-pandemic world

August 8, 2022, Hindustan Times

India has traditionally prioritised Africa in its foreign policy. However, the current administration of Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has shown an extraordinary determination to strengthen India's longstanding ties to the African continent. More than 35 trips by the President, vice president, and PM to various African nations attest to the country's rejuvenated engagement with the continent of Africa.

India woos Africa with trade, tech and investment

August 10, 2022, Deutsche Welle

India is trying to strengthen its long-standing ties to countries on the continent as New Delhi attempts to catch up with China, which has emerged as Africa's largest trading partner.

Jaishankar wishes people of Central African Republic on their Independence

Day

August 13, 2022, The Print

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday extended greetings to the Government and people of the Central African Republic on their Independence Day.

How the US lost Africa to China over new disease control centre in Addis Ababa

August 13, 2022, South China Morning Post

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters in Addis Ababa was once a US-China collaboration project. Loss of US CDC-inspired facility to Chinese influence is a tragic error and harms its own goal, says analyst in Washington.

China benefiting its private companies in Africa via developmental projects:
Reports

August 13, 2022, The Print

China has been undertaking large-scale infrastructure projects in Africa to benefit Chinese Private-Sector Companies consequently exploiting the continent and its inhabitants thus pushing the local entrepreneurs to the margins.

Latin America

US arms companies under pressure from Mexico lawsuit

August 18, 2022, Al Jazeera

As mass shootings continue in the US, does Mexico's lawsuit against gun corporations have a chance?

Food insecurity in Latin America

August 20, 2022, CGTN

Food insecurity is taking a toll across Latin America. A recent report by the UN's World Food Program warned that the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of the Ukraine conflict and climate change are all making life harder.

Jaishankar meets envoys of Latin America, Caribbean countries

August 19, 2022, The Print

New Delhi, Aug 19 (PTI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met envoys of Latin America and the Caribbean countries, with a focus on boosting overall bilateral ties.

EU working to stop Russian, Chinese expansion in Latin America

August 18, 2022, Merco Press

The European Union has noticed of Russia's and China's advancements in Latin America and is devising a series of measures to counter those effects and avoid losing its traditional partners

Latin America's Parliamentarism Problem

August 17, 2022, America Quarterly

Since populist Jair Bolsonaro won office, one of Brazil's institutions has come to dominate the rest. No, it's not the presidency—it's Congress. In June, lawmakers obtained \$910 million in discretionary funds from the "secret budget," an opaque pool of government funds Bolsonaro exploits to buy legislative support and stave off the threat of impeachment. And that was just the latest move Brazil's Congress made to grow its power.

Chile to 'sanction' those responsible for sinkhole near copper mine

August 9, 2022, Reuters

Chile will seek to apply harsh sanctions on those responsible for a huge sinkhole near a copper mine in the country's north, the mining minister said.

What's at Stake as Chile Writes a New Constitution

August 12, 2022, The Washington Post

On Sept. 4, Chileans will vote on a new constitution, almost three years after the outbreak of civil unrest that led to the drafting of the potential replacement to a charter imposed by the military dictatorship that ruled from 1973 to 1990. Almost 80% of voters in a 2020 referendum favoured the writing of a new constitution, but the latest polls show that ratification may be doubtful. Scrutiny of the document, which was composed by a left-leaning body, increased as some argue it will weigh on economic growth, deter investments and undercut political checks and balances.

Argentina hikes interest rates to 69.5% as inflation hits 20-year high

August 12, 2022, CNN

Argentina's central bank raised its benchmark interest rate by 950 basis points on Thursday as the country struggles to keep a lid on spiralling inflation that rose to a 20-year high of 71%, according to new data.

Mexico Plans to Become an Export Hub With US-Drilled Natural Gas

August 12, 2022, Bloomberg

With its northern border situated right near a booming US shale patch, the country aims to be one of the world's top shippers of sought-after LNG.



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