



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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Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia	8
Central & West Asia	14
United States.....	18
Europe & Russia	20
Africa & Latin America	23

South Asia

India

[Budget 2022: Implications for India's defence policy](#)

January 28, 2022, CNBC

As India's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to announce India's budget for the fiscal year (FY) 2022-2023, she will be weighing several domestic priorities with the ongoing and pressing external challenges India continues to face.

[India's defence acquisitions guided by national security, says MEA](#)

January 29, 2022, Business Standard

MEA said that while India has a comprehensive global strategic partnership with the US, it shares a special and privileged strategic partnership with Russia.

[Navy holds high level meeting on creation of Maritime Theatre Command](#)

January 24, 2022, India Today

Indian Navy held a high level meeting with officers from the Army and the Air Force on creating a Maritime Theatre Command, to take care of threats to India and its island territories.

[India, China agreed to stay in close contact to work out mutually acceptable resolution: MEA](#)

January 28, 2022, The Economic Times

India and China agreed at the previous round of Corps Commander-level talks to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels to work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues related to the LAC in the western sector at the earliest, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Pakistan

[Pakistan's Transparency ranking worse off under PTI](#)

January 26, 2022, Dawn

The perception of corruption in Pakistan has seen a rise for the third straight year, with the country sliding 16 places to rank 140th out of 180 countries surveyed by watchdog Transparency International (TI). In 2020, Pakistan's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) was 31 and it was ranked 124th out of 180 countries, but this year that score has fallen to 28. CPI ranks 180 countries and

territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

[Dread the day when I'll be back on streets, warns PM Imran](#)

January 24, 2022, Dawn

Expressing confidence that people would never take to the streets against him, especially on the call of the 'tainted' opposition, Prime Minister Imran Khan warned his opponents that if he was forced out of office, he would become even more dangerous for them.

[TTP spoke to Kabul, not Pakistan: Rashid](#)

January 23, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed conceded that talks with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had broken down. The minister also revealed that Pakistan did not feature directly in the talks, which were held between the Taliban regime in Kabul and the TTP.

[ECC allows export of another 14 items to Afghanistan against rupee](#)

January 22, 2022, Dawn

The federal government allowed export of another 14 items to Afghanistan in rupees via land routes owing to the non-availability of tradable currency through banking channels.

[Justice Ayesha sworn in as SC's first woman judge](#)

January 25, 2022, Dawn

Justice Ayesha Malik was sworn in as first female judge of the Pakistan Supreme Court. Justice Malik's elevation to the apex court may clear the way for more women to enter the male-dominated judiciary of Pakistan.

[PM Imran given briefing on his Feb 3 visit to China](#)

January 27, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan was briefed about the status of discussions with China on future cooperation projects. The briefing was given at a preparatory session held for PM Khan's coming trip to China from Feb 3. Mr Khan will meet Chinese leaders for an overall review of the entire gamut of bilateral ties, besides attending the inaugural session of the Winter Olympics in Beijing. The session was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, Planning Minister Asad Umar, Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yousuf, Army Chief Gen

Qamar Javed Bajwa, Special Assistant on CPEC Khalid Mansoor and other senior officers.

[Siachin demilitarisation idea: Pakistan takes cautious approach](#)

January 22, 2022, The News

Pakistan did not outright reject India's recent proposal about possibility of the demilitarisation of the Siachen Glacier saying Pakistan was committed to improving relations with India and have a dialogue which is meaningful, constructive, result-oriented and sustained.

[C/A deficit swells to \\$9.1 billion in July-December](#)

January 23, 2022, The News

Current account deficit jumped to \$9.1 billion in the first six months of this fiscal year, compared to a surplus of \$1.2 billion in the same period last year, mostly because of a yawning trade gap. The current account deficit represented 5.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). On a calendar year basis, the deficit stood at \$12.2 billion in 2021, compared with a surplus of \$245 million a year ago.

[Pakistan launches \\$1 billion Sukuk Bond after four years](#)

January 25, 2022, The News

Pakistan entered the Islamic-denominated Sukuk Bond market after a pause of four years for raising \$1 billion at an offered yield of 7.95 percent against the initial price targeting range of 8.25 to 8.37 percent. It is probably the highest-ever yield offered for asset-backed Islamic Sukuk Bond for Pakistan. The ruling PTI had always opposed the Sukuk Bond when it was sitting on the opposition benches; it had argued that the country's assets were mortgaged to get loans.

[10 soldiers martyred in Kech gunbattle with terrorists](#)

January 28, 2022, The News

Ten soldiers of security forces were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists in Kech, Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. According to details, terrorists fired at security forces check-post in Kech, Balochistan on night of January 25 and 26. During intense exchange of firing, one terrorist was killed and several others injured. While repulsing terrorists fire raid, 10 soldiers embraced martyrdom.

[PM's China visit to focus on joint ventures: FM](#)

January 28, 2022, The Express Tribune

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China would encompass discussions on advancing joint ventures and pacing up progress on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Afghanistan

[Taliban hail Oslo meet as success 'in itself'](#)

January 25, 2022, Dawn

On their first visit to Europe since returning to power, the Taliban held landmark talks with Western diplomats in Oslo over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, a meeting the Islamist regime's delegation called an "achievement in itself". The international community has however insisted the Taliban must respect human rights before aid can be resumed to Afghanistan, where hunger threatens more than half population.

[Bomb on bus kills seven in western Afghan city](#)

January 23, 2022, Dawn

A bomb blast on a minibus killed at least seven people in the western Afghan city of Herat. The sticky bomb was attached to the fuel tank of the bus, and left nine other people wounded.

[EU re-establishes presence in Afghanistan](#)

January 22, 2022, Dawn

The European Union said it was re-establishing a physical presence in Afghanistan for humanitarian purposes, but stressed it was not formally recognising the Taliban-led administration. It was the first such announcement by a Western power since the 27-nation EU and many governments withdrew staff and diplomats from Afghanistan as Kabul fell to the hardline Taliban last August.

[India, Central Asia to form working group on Afghanistan, TAPI pipeline talks back on table](#)

January 27, 2022, The Print

In their first-ever summit meeting held on January 27, India and the five Central Asian countries of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz Republic have decided to form a joint working group on Afghanistan, while agreeing to a "common approach" when dealing with the Taliban regime there.

[Taliban Detain Dozens Trying To Leave Afghanistan 'Illegally' By Air](#)

January 25, 2022, NDTV

Dozens of people were stopped from "illegally" leaving Afghanistan by air and several women among them are being detained until they are collected by male relatives. Some nations and international NGOs have since operated irregular chartered flights extracting Afghans, but Taliban authorities have increasingly clamped down.

[Afghanistan: How the Taliban stand to benefit from Norway talks](#)

January 25, 2022, DW

Norwegian authorities have said the ongoing international talks with the Taliban are not tantamount to legitimizing the Islamist group. But human rights activists, particularly those from Afghanistan, do not agree with these claims. They have slammed Norway's decision to host the militant group, which seized power in Afghanistan last August.

[India to Start Sending Wheat Consignments to Afghanistan via Pakistan from Next Month: Sources](#)

January 22, 2022, News 18

India will soon start delivering 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as per its commitment made last October. The consignment will be sent via Pakistan.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh PM Hasina greets India on R-day, recalls Modi's visit to Dhaka last year](#)

January 26, 2022, Hindustan Times

Hasina took the opportunity to recall with gratitude the support rendered by the Indian government and the people of the country during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, adding this set the foundation of "our unique relationship".

[Bangladesh's democracy erodes amid tilt to China](#)

January 25, 2022, East Asia Forum

Bangladesh remained firmly under the grip of the incumbent Bangladesh Awami League in 2021. The ruling party faced no formidable opposition, the country celebrated its 50th year of independence and the COVID-19 pandemic was less devastating than was predicted.

[Bangladesh Keen To Work With India: PM Sheikh Hasina](#)

January 26, 2022, Outlook

In a letter written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina said the year 2021 was a 'historic one' for the Bangladesh-India relationship, marked by celebrations of 'epochal' events and engagements at the highest levels.

Nepal

[Nepal conducts 'census' in disputed territories with India: Report](#)

January 29, 2022, WION

The border tensions between India and Nepal seems to refuse to die down, as a new report has claimed that the statistics bureau from Kathmandu took an "informal survey" in the border towns of India's northern Pithoragarh district.

[Have Nepal-China ties soured under the Deuba government?](#)

January 29, 2022, The Annapurna Express

Following the formation of the five-party coalition government led by Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba last July, Nepal and India have held a series of meetings. In this period, high-level American officials visited Nepal to consult on bilateral issues including on the much-debated Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) compact.

Srilanka

[Sri Lanka seeks to integrate economy with India, focuses on 8 sectors](#)

January 28, 2022, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka has initiated a country strategy for India with an eye on integrating its 'fragile' economy with the Indian economy with focus on eight sectors to boost fortunes.

[India gains foothold in Sri Lanka with Trincomalee oil tank deal](#)

January 28, 2022, Nikkei Asia

India's diplomatic patience is bearing fruit in Sri Lanka after the South Asian power signed a deal with its weaker southern neighbor to rehabilitate a majority of 85 abandoned giant oil tanks on the slopes of Trincomalee Harbor, the world's second-deepest natural port and one that New Delhi has been coveting for over 30 years.

[Economic crisis tightens grip on Sri Lanka's hinterland](#)

January 29, 2022, The Hindu

As Sri Lanka's economic crisis makes global headlines, estate worker B. Sundararajan is watching it manifest in his teacup.

East & South East Asia

China

[IMF Says China's Economic Imbalances Have Worsened](#)

January 28, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Imbalances in the Chinese economy have worsened and delayed China's transition to consumption-led growth, the International Monetary Fund said in an annual review on Friday, slashing its outlook for the country this year. Reflecting continued weakness in consumption, the IMF now expects China's gross domestic product to expand 4.8% this year, down from its previous projection of 5.7%. "Growth momentum has slowed considerably, with consumption lagging every other part of the GDP," said Helge Berger, the IMF's mission chief for China.

[China's ambassador to US warns of conflict over Taiwan](#)

January 28, 2022, Al Jazeera

China and the United States could end up in a military conflict if the United States encourages Taiwan's independence, Beijing's ambassador to Washington Qin Gang has said. "Let me emphasise this. The Taiwan issue is the biggest tinderbox between China and the United States," Qin told US media outlet National Public Radio in an interview broadcast on Friday.

[U.N. May visit Chinese Region Shrouded by Rights Accusations](#)

January 28, 2022, Reuters

The United Nations' human rights chief is talking with China for a potentially imminent trip to Xinjiang region, her office said on Friday, in what could provide rare close-up foreign scrutiny of accusations of abuses against ethnic Uyghurs.

[Xi pledges China's greater contribution to world peace](#)

January 28, 2022, Global Times

President Xi Jinping urged Chinese peacekeepers to play a bigger role in defending world peace during an inspection to the Central Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

[India's long-term economic development needs made-in-China products](#)

January 24, 2022, Global Times

As bilateral trade between China and India hit a record high in 2021, Indian media reported that India has seen deepening dependency on many crucial imports from China, from finished to intermediate goods.

[What is next in the China-India border conflict?](#)

January 28, 2022, Deutsche Welle

India and China started the year with a round of inconclusive talks on an ongoing border dispute in the Himalayas. The disagreement is a potentially dangerous flashpoint between Asia's two biggest powers.

[India's exports to China jump 34 pc to USD 22.9 bn in 2021](#)

January 28, 2022, The Economic Times

India's exports to China have increased about 34 per cent to USD 22.9 billion in 2021 from USD 17.1 billion in 2019, according to data from the commerce ministry. Imports, on the other hand, rose 28 per cent to USD 87.5 billion in 2021 as against USD 68.4 billion in 2019.

[India, China Agree To Hold Next Round of Corps Commander-level Talks At The Earliest: MEA](#)

January 28, 2022, News 18

India and China agreed at the previous round of Corps Commander-level talks to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue via military and diplomatic channels to work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues related to the LAC in the western sector at the earliest, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

[Not for third party in LAC talks, China tells U.S.](#)

January 27, 2021, The Hindu

PLA Senior Colonel says 14th round of talks on the dispute with India was 'positive and constructive'

China's military said on Thursday it was "opposed to third-party involvement" in the India-China border dispute, as it hit out at comments from Washington about Beijing "intimidating" its neighbours.

Japan

[Boris Johnson works toward possible mid-February visit to Japan](#)

January 29, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan and the U.K. are working toward a visit by Prime Minister Boris Johnson to Japan for a summit with his counterpart, Fumio Kishida, in mid-February, Nikkei has learned. The leaders are expected to discuss expanding their cooperation in security, with an eye on China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific area. They are also likely to discuss the tensions surrounding Ukraine.

[IMF raises alarm over Japan's massive pandemic spending](#)

January 29, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan's policy response to the pandemic has been "exceptionally strong," the International Monetary Fund said on Friday, but warned against its repeated use of supplementary budgets that has led to a major spike in spending. "Sizable supplementary budgets have been frequently assembled, leading to upward revisions of expenditures from the initial budgets," the IMF said in a statement after its review, urging Japan to restore "predictability" in the size of spending.

[Japan to partner with U.S. on 6G standards for unmanned tech](#)

January 29, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan and the U.S. will work together to lead the creation of international standards in unmanned technology that uses 6G communications, aiming to keep Chinese companies from dominating a field expected to include self-driving cars and fully automated factories. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications may call on companies to form a consortium toward this end by September.

[Japan, U.S., South Korea eye meeting of top diplomats next month](#)

January 29, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan, the United States and South Korea are planning to hold a foreign ministers' meeting in the U.S. state of Hawaii in mid-February, a Japanese government source has said. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong are expected to participate in the meeting, the source said Friday.

[Former PM Naoto Kan under fire for comparing Nippon Ishin to Hitler](#)

January 26, 2022, The Japan Times

Former Prime Minister Naoto Kan has come under fire for saying on Twitter that Nippon Ishin no Kai reminds him of Germany's wartime dictator Adolf Hitler. Referring to former Nippon Ishin leader Toru Hashimoto and others, Kan, who belongs to the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, tweeted on Friday, "Their eloquence reminds me of Hitler when he rose to power in Germany at a time of confusion after World War I."

Korea

[Lee, Yoon in dead heat at 35% each: poll](#)

January 28, 2022, The Korea Herald

Ruling party presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung and his main opposition rival Yoon Suk-yeol are in a dead heat at 35 percent support each, a poll showed Friday. Lee of the liberal Democratic Party (DP) gained 1 percentage point from a Jan. 18-20 survey, while Yoon of the conservative People Power Party (PPP) gained 2 points, according to the Gallup Korea poll of 1,000 adults conducted from Tuesday to Thursday.

[S. Korea voices 'strong regret' over Japan's Sado mine heritage push](#)

January 28, 2022, The Korea Herald

South Korea on Friday expressed "strong regret" over Japan's push to recommend a former gold mine associated with wartime forced labour as a candidate for a UNESCO World Heritage site and called for its retraction. Seoul's Second Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong-moon called in Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Aiboshi Koichi to lodge a protest after Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced plans to nominate the controversial mine on Sado Island for the 2023 UNESCO heritage list.

[Seoul faces conundrum over option of North Korea preemptive strike](#)

January 26, 2022, The Korea Herald

If South Korea faces an imminent attack from nuclear-armed North Korea, what is the most viable military option to defend the country and prevent incalculable and irreparable damage? Seoul-based experts say South Korea would have no option but to consider launching a preemptive strike, although the anticipatory use of force would come with a certain price. That price could far outweigh potential gains, experts say. But the bigger problem is Pyongyang's mounting artillery, missile and nuclear threats that not only make a preemptive strike plan more indispensable, but also restrain Seoul's preemptive strike capabilities.

[North Korea confirms test-firing of long-range cruise, surface-to-surface missiles](#)

January 28, 2022, The Korea Times

North Korea confirmed Friday this week's two weapons tests involving long-range cruise, and surface-to-surface tactical guided missiles, and vowed to "keep developing powerful warheads." On Thursday, South Korea's military said the North fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea, marking its sixth such launch this month. This latest saber-rattling

came just two days after Pyongyang launched two apparent cruise missiles from an inland area.

[Minister to seek ways to get China's de facto ban on Korean content lifted at Beijing Olympics](#)

January 29, 2022, The Korea Times

Culture, Sports and Tourism Minister Hwang Hee said he will seek ways to persuade China to lift its de facto ban on South Korean content as he is set to lead the Korean government delegation at the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics. China imposed the ban to protest South Korea's decision to allow the deployment of a U.S. missile defense system, known as THAAD, in 2016. Since then, Korean TV series, shows and movies have been absent from China's TV networks, formal video streaming platforms and cinemas.

Southeast Asia

[US Southeast Asia Strategy: A Balance of Commitment Approach Under Biden and Beyond](#)

January 28, 2020, The Diplomat

Sustaining its commitment to the region requires the U.S. to maintain a series of elusive balances.

[Cambodia to host summit of ASEAN foreign ministers from Feb 16](#)

January 29, 2022, Fx Embire

Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will meet next month to discuss humanitarian aid for Myanmar, the current chair of the grouping, Cambodia, said.

[China: UN Security Council should try to avoid civil war on Myanmar](#)

January 29, 2022, Business Standard

China's UN ambassador said Friday the UN Security Council's primary goal in strife-torn Myanmar should be to avoid more violence and a civil war.

[U.S.-China rivalry makes ASEAN vital, says ex-secretary general](#)

January 28, 2022, Kyodo News

ASEAN is becoming increasingly important and adding to its strategic value as geopolitical tensions between the United States and China intensify, a seasoned Singaporean diplomat said.

[India to export BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines](#)

January 28, 2022, The Times of India

India on Friday inked the \$375 million (Rs 2,770 crore) contract to export Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, which will pave the way for more such deals with the country as well as other ASEAN countries like Indonesia and Vietnam.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kyrgyz Journalist Says Drugs Planted By Police After Report On President, Security Chief](#)

January 23, 2022, RFE/RL

Authorities in Bishkek have charged prominent investigative journalist Bolot Temirov with "possessing illegal narcotics," hours after conducting a search of his office during which he said security forces put illegal narcotics in his pocket.

[Blackouts Strike Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan](#)

January 25, 2022, The Diplomat

On January 25, widespread power outages were reported in Central Asia, affecting millions living in parts of southern Kazakhstan, much of northern Kyrgyzstan, and large swaths of Uzbekistan. The widespread blackout highlights a series of interconnected and concerning problems relating to reliable energy supplies in the region.

[China's Xi Pledges Aid, Vaccines To Central Asia In Bid To Improve Ties](#)

January 25, 2022, RFE/RL

Chinese President Xi Jinping has pledged \$500 million in aid over the next three years to the countries of Central Asia to bolster their economies and security, while also extending its vaccine diplomacy by offering supplies to the region.

[Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan: Troops engaged in sustained gun battle along contested border](#)

January 27, 2022, Eurasianet

Border troops from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan engaged in a prolonged gun battle on January 27 in a clash that is alleged to have been triggered by Tajik troops blocking a strategic Kyrgyz highway running along the frontier.

[Alleged Members Of Banned Islamic Group Detained In Tashkent](#)

January 27, 2022, RFE/RL

Police in Uzbekistan's capital, Tashkent, have detained a group of alleged members of a banned Islamic movement. The Tashkent city police department said in a statement that officers apprehended nearly 30 people suspected of being members of Katiba al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, a group that was labeled as terrorist and banned in the Central Asian state in 2016.

[Modi Hosts Summit With Central Asian Leaders As India, China Compete For Regional Influence](#)

January 27, 2022, RFE/RL

At an online summit, leaders of India and the five Central Asian republics discussed ways to further develop ties as New Delhi and Beijing seek to extend their clout in a region perceived by Moscow as being part of its traditional sphere of influence.

[Kazakh President Takes Aim at Wealthy Elite](#)

January 27, 2022, The Diplomat

Kazakhstan's president took aim at the country's business elites, those who stash their extraordinary wealth abroad. In asking Kazakhstan's rich to "pay their dues" Tokayev is addressing an aspect of public anger, but also might just be securing himself in power.

West Asia

[India, Israel Discuss Widening Scope of Bilateral Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund](#)

January 20, 2022, Outlook India

Experts from India and Israel deliberated on widening the scope of the bilateral Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F), approved three joint research and development projects worth USD 5.5 million, and suggested measures to create a broader collaborative ecosystem between the two countries, the science and technology ministry said.

[UAE Envoy Hails UN Security Council Censure of Houthis As Crucial Step Toward Justice](#)

January 21, 2022, Arab News

The UN Security Council's unanimous condemnation of the deadly terrorist attack on Abu Dhabi this week is "a really important step" in efforts to hold the Houthi militia in Yemen accountable for its crimes and prevent future atrocities, according to the UAE's permanent representative to the UN.

[UAE Terror Attack Blatant Violation of International Law, UNSC Should Stand United in Sending Clear Signal Against Such Acts: India](#)

January 20, 2022, The Economic Times

Strongly condemning the drone strikes in Abu Dhabi in which two Indians were killed, India has termed the attacks on innocent civilians and infrastructure as a "blatant violation of international law", stressing that the Security Council should stand united in sending a clear signal against such heinous acts of terror.

[US Congress Pressures President Biden to Re-Designate Houthis as 'Terrorist Group'](#)

January 22, 2022, Asharq AL-Awsat

US President Joe Biden's statements about the possibility of re-designating the Houthis a "terrorist" group were welcomed by several lawmakers, namely Republican Senator Ted Cruz, who has been striving since last November to push the administration towards taking such a step.

[External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar Speaks with Kuwaiti, Qatari Counterparts; Discusses Ties, Afghanistan](#)

January 22, 2022, The Economic Times

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar spoke with his counterparts from Kuwait and Qatar separately and discussed a host of issues, including Afghanistan.

[Saudi-led Coalition Air Strikes Target Yemen's Houthi Rebels After Abu Dhabi Attack](#)

January 17, 2022, France 24

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthi insurgents said it had launched airstrikes targeting the rebel-held capital Sanaa following a deadly attack against Abu Dhabi that killed three and was claimed by the rebels.

[Syria Prison Attack Kills More Than 100, Clashes Ongoing](#)

January 23, 2022, AL Jazeera

At least 120 people have been killed in ongoing battles between US-backed, Kurdish-led forces and ISIL (ISIS) fighters after an attack on a Syrian prison.

[Nuclear Deal Unlikely Unless Iran Releases US Prisoners: Report](#)

January 24, 2022, AL Jazeera

The United States is unlikely to strike a deal with Iran to save the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement unless Tehran releases four US citizens Washington says it is holding hostage, the lead US nuclear negotiator said.

[Russia Proposes Interim Nuke Deal To Iran, With US Aware of Talks on Matter – Report](#)

January 22, 2022, The Times of Israel

Russia has discussed with Iran the possibility of an interim deal that would see limited sanctions relief in return for reimposing some restrictions on Tehran's nuclear program. Tehran has thus far rejected the proposal.

[Iran, Russia and China Begin Joint Naval Drill in Indian Ocean](#)

January 21, 2022, The Times of Israel

Iran, Russia and China began a joint naval drill in the Indian Ocean aimed at boosting maritime security.

United States

United States

[History Forces Biden's Hand](#)

January. 24, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Vladimir Putin's Ukrainian gambit continues to dominate world news and reap extraordinary rewards at minimal cost to him. Mr. Putin has three linked goals: to restore as much of the old Soviet empire as possible, to break the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and to disrupt the European Union. The diplomatic demands, propaganda campaigns, cyberattacks and military maneuvers he has unleashed have brought him significantly closer to his principal goals. Instead of responding effectively, Mr. Putin's Western opponents have lurched deeper into division and incoherence.

[Democrats hope Biden's Supreme Court pick resonates in midterms as GOP eyes majority](#)

January 29, 2022, USA Today

The retirement of Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer delivered Democrats a glimmer of hope for their prospects in the 2022 midterm elections, when potential Republican victories could threaten Democratic majorities in Congress. With President Joe Biden's agenda stalled and his approval numbers plummeting even among Democrats amid rising inflation, political observers have predicted the possibility of a Republican wave in November.

[Universal pre-K? These roadblocks could keep Biden's preschool plan from truly going nationwide](#)

January 29, 2022, USA Today

As President Joe Biden looks to revive his stalled social-spending plan, he is doubling down on "universal pre-K" as a transformational initiative that he won't abandon. "We want to have the best-educated workforce," Biden said Wednesday at a White House event with business executives designed to boost his Build Back Better agenda. "And that's why universal pre-K is going to mean so much."

[After Pittsburgh Bridge Collapses, Biden Stresses Need to Invest in Infrastructure](#)

January 28, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden stressed the need to invest in the nation's infrastructure Friday after a planned visit to Pittsburgh coincided with the collapse of a 50-year-old bridge in the city, injuring 10 people and disrupting a major roadway. "We saw

today when a bridge is in disrepair it literally can threaten lives," Mr. Biden said from a former mill that has been turned into a research and development site. "We're going to rebuild that bridge, along with thousands of other bridges in Pennsylvania and across the country because it's in our interest."

[Biden's Sanctions Plan Targets Russian Banks, Companies and Imports if Ukraine Is Attacked](#)

January 28, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration is finalizing its targets for a barrage of economic sanctions against Russia if it attacks Ukraine—hitting major Russian banks, state companies and key imports, though the strategy faces obstacles that have hindered previous pressure campaigns. Administration officials said the planned actions are unparalleled in recent decades against Russia, putting teeth into President Biden's threat to apply punishing financial and other sanctions in the event of a Russian assault.

[Venture Capital Becomes a Tech Battleground Between China, U.S.](#)

January 26, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Last year, China's tech stocks cratered. This year, America is following suit. But their selloffs have very different drivers, and therein lies a potential inflection point in the emerging competition between the two countries. The Nasdaq correction is the natural consequence of speculative froth that allowed numerous unprofitable companies to go public and many established companies to achieve nosebleed valuations.

[Fed Interest-Rate Decision Tees Up March Increase](#)

January 26, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Federal Reserve signalled it would begin steadily raising interest rates in mid-March, its latest step toward removing stimulus to bring down inflation. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said Wednesday that the central bank was ready to raise rates at its March 15-16 meeting and could continue to lift them faster than it did during the past decade.

[Chip Shortage Leaves U.S. Companies Dangerously Low on Semiconductors, Report Says](#)

January 25, 2022, Wall Street Journal

U.S. manufacturers and other companies that use semiconductors are down to less than five days of inventory for key chips, the Commerce Department said Tuesday, citing the results of a new survey. In 2019, companies typically maintained 40 days of inventory for key chips, according to the Commerce Department report.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU files a WTO case against China for targeting Lithuania](#)

January 27, 2022, Al Jazeera

The European Union has angered China by launching a case against Beijing at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for targeting Lithuania over its stance on Taiwan.

[France snubs China with its Indo-Pacific forum](#)

January 27, 2022, Politico

The move comes as Beijing seeks to extend its influence in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

[German Navy Chief resigns over remarks in India on Ukraine, Russia](#)

January 23, 2022, The Hindu

Following an unprecedented controversy in Germany and a diplomatic incident with Ukraine, German Navy Chief Vice Admiral Kay-Achim Schönbach tendered his resignation late on Saturday over his comments in New Delhi that Ukraine can never get back Crimea and Russian President Vladimir Putin "probably" deserved respect.

[India's strategic partnership with France is a visible partnership: Jaishankar](#)

January 27, 2022, The Economic Times

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday noted that the strategic partnership with France is one such partnership that is visible and has steadily matured and it is now an opportune time to take it to the next level.

[India calls for 'greater urgency' in trade negotiations with EU](#)

January 27, 2022, Hindustan Times

Jaishankar made the remarks while participating in a virtual conversation with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian that focused on the EU-India partnership in the Indo-Pacific during the French presidency of the bloc.

[EU will act strongly if Russia attacks Ukraine, says French Foreign Minister](#)

January 28, 2022, The Hindu

Russia needs to know that the European Union will act strongly if it attacks Ukraine, said French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Thursday at an online event organised by the Observer Research Organisation.

Russia

[Russia & China stage joint military drills](#)

January 25, 2022, Russia Today

As relations between East and West continue to spiral, Russia and China have conducted a joint naval exercise in the Arabian Sea, featuring large warships and one of Beijing's missile destroyer vessels, Moscow's Ministry of Defense has revealed.

[Russia Adds Navalny, Top Aides To 'Terrorists and Extremists' Register](#)

January 25, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia added Alexei Navalny and several of his top aides to the country's "terrorists and extremists" register. The online database lists individuals Russian authorities believe are involved in activities that support "terrorist or extremist" organizations.

[India Gets First Batch of AK-203 Assault Rifles from Russia to Meet 'Urgent Operational Requirement'](#)

January 25, 2022, Sputnik News

Russia has delivered 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles to India to meet the "urgent operational requirement" of the Indian armed forces. In total, Delhi will eventually have 600,000 rifles at its disposal.

[Russia Warns Against 'Destructive' Sanctions on Putin](#)

January 26, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russia hit back at U.S. threats of direct sanctions against President Vladimir Putin, saying moves against the Russian leader would be ineffective and hurt efforts to lower tensions over Ukraine.

[Moscow Won't Sit Idly By, Will Take Necessary Measures if Security Proposals Rejected, Lavrov Says](#)

January 26, 2022, Sputnik News

The Russian Foreign Ministry laid out twin security proposals to the United States and NATO in December, recommending a series of measures aimed at dramatically easing tensions between Moscow and the Western bloc. Russia expects to receive a formal written response to its security guarantee proposals from Washington soon, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said.

[Russia proposes US returns American nuclear weapons from NATO countries](#)

January 27, 2022, TASS News Agency

Moscow proposed to Washington to return all American nuclear weapons from NATO countries to US territory in the context of reviewing security guarantees, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control Vladimir Yermakov said.

[Russia set to continue dialogue on Ukraine, defending its national interests – diplomat](#)

January 28, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia openly declares its 'red lines' and readiness to discuss Ukraine-related matters, defending its national interests at the same time, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Sudanese protest against UN talks to resolve post-coup crisis](#)

January 26, 2022, Al Jazeera

Protesters in Khartoum demand the expulsion of the UN, which has begun talks to try to solve Sudan's political crisis.

[Somalia Hopes to Reconstitute its Air Force with Renewed US Partnership](#)

January 27, 2022, Airforce mag

U.S. Africa Command declined to comment on questions about intelligence operations and potential future plans with the Somali Air Force, but underscored the U.S. commitment to security in the region.

[Africa-China Initiative Secures Grant To Promote Discussion of Trans-Regional Relations](#)

January 27, 2022, Africa News

Burkina Faso was on Friday suspended from a bloc of West African neighbour states in the aftermath of this week's coup, making it the third nation in the regional alliance to be punished for a military takeover in only 18 months.

[Rwanda to re-open border with Uganda](#)

January 28, 2022, Africa News

Rwanda has disclosed that the country's main border with Uganda, closed in 2019, will reopen on Monday. The decision was made after the country had received assurance that issues that led to its closure are being addressed.

[Zambia President says progress made on economic recovery](#)

January 28, 2022, Africa News

Five months after taking over a heavily indebted country, the new government of Zambia is making significant progress in the recovery of its economy, its credibility and its solvency, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema said.

[Over 5,000 deaths under Ethiopia's Tigray blockade](#)

January 27, 2022, Africa News

Nearly 1,500 people died of malnutrition in part of Ethiopia's blockaded Tigray region over a four-month period last year, a new report by the region's health bureau says.

Latin America

[Brazil, Chile expand trade agreement to include govt procurement](#)

January 28, 2022, Bnamericas

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro signed a decree in the week to expand the existing free trade agreement with Chile.

[Offer to loosen U.S. sanctions on Venezuela 'not indefinite,' Guaido says](#)

January 24, 2022, Reuters

A U.S. offer to loosen sanctions against Venezuela's government "is not indefinite" and could be reversed if the ruling party does not return to talks with the opposition, opposition leader Juan Guaido said.

[Italy rejects extradition of Venezuela's ex-oil minister, says lawyer](#)

January 29, 2022, Reuters

Italy has rejected a request by Venezuela for the extradition of Rafael Ramirez, a once powerful oil minister and former head of state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA.UL), his lawyer said

[Argentina reaches agreement with IMF to refinance \\$40 bn debt](#)

January 28, 2022, Business Standard

Argentina has reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund to refinance more than USD 40 billion in debt, President Alberto Fernandez said.

[Talk about Russian bases in Latin America causing global tensions – Medvedev](#)

January 27, 2022, TASS

Dmitry Medvedev stressed that it was wrong to claim that Russia wanted to set up military bases in Latin America as these countries were Russia's partners but they pursued an independent foreign policy



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