

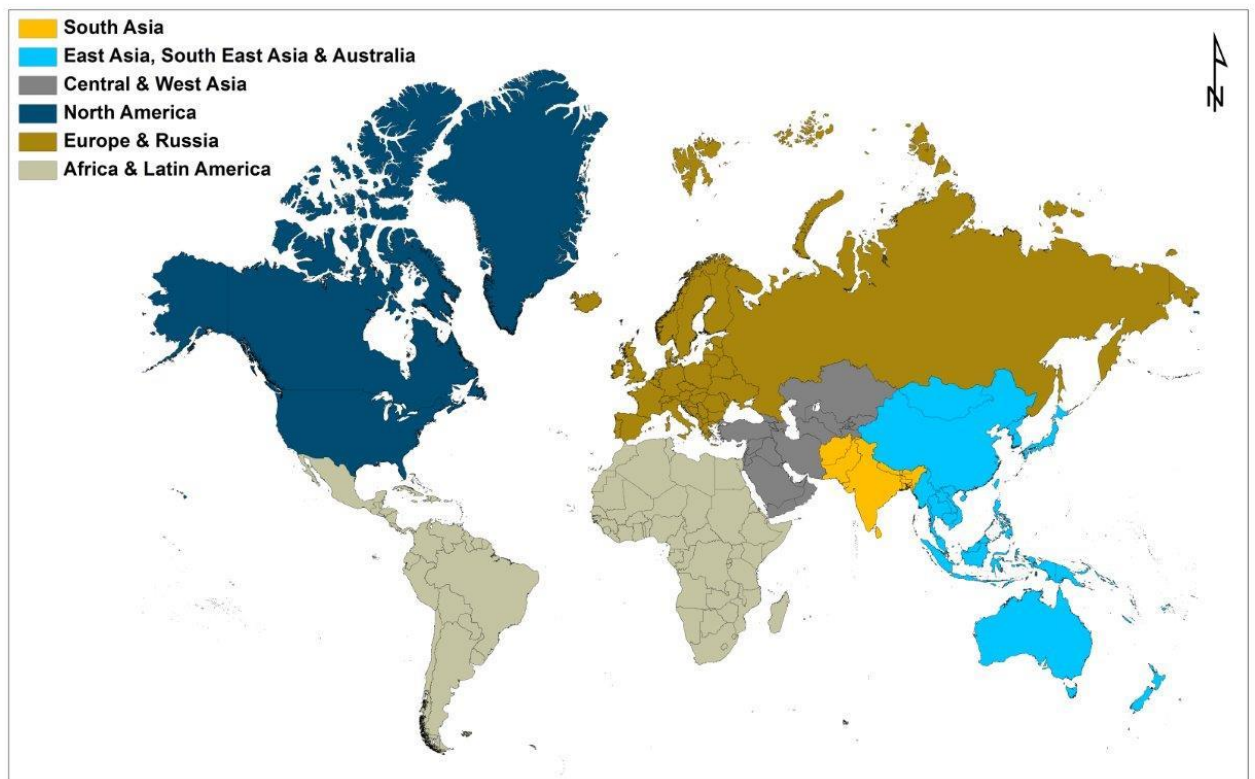


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume VI, Issue 6 | February 6, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India unveils new defence budget aimed at promoting a self-reliant industry](#)

February 4, 2022, Defence News

India announced its new defence budget Tuesday that will see \$13.84 billion go toward promoting self-reliance among local businesses and reducing the country's import dependency under its \$22.26 billion fund for acquisitions of new weapons and military platforms.

[Indian Navy's 5th Scorpène Submarine "Vagir" Begins Sea Trials](#)

February 2, 2022, Naval News

The fifth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11879, Indian Navy's Kalvari class commenced her sea trials on 01 February 2022. The submarine was launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The submarine would be named Vagir, after commissioning.

[France keen on India as maritime security partner](#)

February 3, 2022, The Times of India

France is keen to have India on board as a strategic ally in securing the Indo Pacific region through which 60-70% of the commercial freight is transported by sea.

[India-EU hold 2nd maritime security dialogue; both commit to inclusive, rules-based Indo-Pacific](#)

February 1, 2022, The New Indian Express

India and the EU discussed cooperation, including in the field of maritime domain awareness, capacity-building, and joint naval activities.

[EAM Jaishankar, British counterpart discuss India-UK 'Roadmap 2030', Ukraine](#)

February 4, 2022, India Today

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday spoke to his British counterpart Liz Truss, focusing on defence and security ties, the situation in Ukraine and implementation of the India-UK 'Roadmap 2030'.

[China's Bridge On Pangong Is "Illegal Occupation," Says Government](#)

February 5, 2022, NDTV

The bridge, which is 8 metres wide, lies just south of a Chinese army field base on the North Bank of Pangong where Chinese field hospitals and troop accommodations were seen during the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in 2020.

[Indian Army to deploy K-9 howitzers in central, eastern sectors of LAC with China](#)

February 4, 2022, India Today

The Indian Army is planning to deploy indigenous K-9 Vajra howitzers in Uttarakhand and the North eastern states of the country that share a border with China.

[Coal India plans to directly export bulk output to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan](#)

February 4, 2022, Business Today

Under the proposal "3% of Coal India's annual production will be earmarked separately for exports" with the main focus on encouraging bulk trade for the long-term.

Pakistan

[PM Imran lands in Beijing on four-day official visit](#)

February 4, 2022, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived in China on a four-day official visit during which he will join other world leaders attending the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics scheduled to be held on February 4. Accompanied by a high-level delegation, including federal cabinet members, the prime minister will also meet the Chinese leadership.

[Pakistan, China ink framework agreement on industrial cooperation under CPEC](#)

February 4, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan and China inked the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) following Prime Minister Imran Khan's arrival in Beijing.

[Backdoor diplomacy with India ongoing, may bear fruit: Mian Mansha](#)

February 3, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan's leading businessman Mian Muhammad Mansha claims that backchannels are working between Pakistan and India that will hopefully yield good results. "If things improve between the two neighbours, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could visit Pakistan in a month," the chairman of Nishat Group told a gathering of businessmen at the Lahore Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

[Without structural reforms, CPEC won't yield results, says ADB](#)

February 3, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan can harness its strategic geopolitical potential, improve regional and international economic connectivity and become an economic hub for Asia if the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is implemented successfully, but without structural reforms the country will not be able to achieve optimal benefits.

[Gwadar rights leader warns of long march](#)

February 1, 2022, Dawn

Maulana Hidayatur Rehman, who led the 'Gwadar Ko Haque Do' movement – an over month-long protest sit-in demanding rights for the port city – has warned the Balochistan government that if the accord the government signed with him and other leaders of the movement for ending the sit-in is not implemented, they would organise a long march against it in Quetta.

[US delaying approval of Masood Khan's appointment as Pakistan envoy](#)

February 1, 2022, Dawn

The State Department has been taking unusually long to process the agreement of Pakistan's ambassador-designate to the United States, Masood Khan. The delay has triggered an impression of a pause in the process.

[NSA meets senior Taliban officials during Kabul visit](#)

January 30, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf held talks with senior Taliban officials in Kabul on bilateral ties. Dr Yusuf, who was leading an inter-ministerial delegation, kicked off the trip with a meeting with Taliban regime's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. He is the second ministerial-level government functionary to have visited Kabul since the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August last year, as earlier Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had visited the country in October.

[Priest gunned down after mass](#)

January 31, 2022, Dawn

A Christian priest was shot dead and another wounded when unidentified attackers fired on their vehicle near Jamil Chowk on Peshawar's Ring Road. The victim, Kohati gate-resident William Siraj, was a retired schoolteacher and priest at a church in the Chamkani area.

[10 killed as violence revisits Balochistan](#)

January 29, 2022, The News

At least 10 people were slain and several others sustained injuries in multiple incidents across Balochistan as terrorism revisited the province. Four people, including Senator Sarfaraz Bugti's cousin, were martyred while 10 others were injured during a landmine blast in Dera Bugti.

[CPEC projects: 11,225 security personnel deployed in Punjab to protect Chinese nationals](#)

February 1, 2022, The News

Punjab home department has deployed 11,225 security personnel in the province for protecting Chinese nationals working on different projects. These security personnel from army, Rangers, Special Protection Unit (SPU), Special Branch representatives, police, departmental security, PS GS were deployed for the protection of 3355 Chinese nationals working on CPEC projects and non-CPEC projects.

Afghanistan

[Taliban close to international recognition, claims foreign minister](#)

February 4, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban are inching closer towards international recognition but any concessions Afghanistan's new rulers make will be on their terms, the regime's foreign minister said in an interview.

[Taliban killed 100 ex-Afghan govt officials, others: UN](#)

February 1, 2022, Dawn

The Taliban and their allies have killed more than 100 security and civilian personnel linked to the former US-backed Afghan government since seizing power in August, according to a new United Nations report.

[TAPI project to begin in near future: Islamic Emirate](#)

January 31, 2022, The News

The Islamic Emirate says that the practical work of the TAPI project will begin in the near future and all the preliminary work has been prepared for its implementation. Bilal Karimi, the deputy spokesman for the Islamic Emirate, said that work on the security and financial sectors of the project has been partially completed and that practical work on the project will begin as the weather warms up.

[Afghan universities reopen with trickle of women attending](#)

February 3, 2022, The News

Some public universities opened in Afghanistan for the first time since the Taliban seized power in August, with a trickle of women attending classes that officials said would be segregated by sex. Most secondary schools for girls and all public universities were shuttered when Taliban stormed back to power, sparking fears women would again be barred from education -- as happened during the Taliban's first rule, from 1996-2001.

[US gives global banks the OK to transfer aid funds to Afghanistan](#)

February 2, 2022, Al Jazeera

International banks can transfer money to Afghanistan for humanitarian purposes, and aid groups are allowed to pay teachers and healthcare workers at state-run institutions without fear of breaching sanctions on the Taliban, the United States said. The US Department of the Treasury offered guidance on sanctions exemptions issued in September and December for humanitarian work in Afghanistan, where the United Nations says more than half the country's 39 million people suffer extreme hunger and the economy, education and social services are facing collapse.

[Indian plan to send wheat to Afghanistan back on track, shipment begins next week](#)

February 2, 2022, Hindustan Times

The shipping of 50,000 tonnes of wheat offered by India as humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people via Pakistani land routes is expected to begin next week, Afghan ambassador Farid Mamundzay said.

Bangladesh

[Foundation stone laid for India-Bangladesh border haat in Tripura](#)

February 3, 2022, The Print

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb laid the foundation stone for the Kamalpur Border Haat in Dhalai district on Thursday in presence of Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi.

[India wants to improve trade, investment relations with Bangladesh: Indian HC](#)

February 3, 2022, The Business Standard

Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka Vikram K Doraiswami said his country wants to improve trade and investment relations with Bangladesh in the areas of logistics, food processing, automobiles and garments.

Nepal

[Connectivity in Neighbourhood: New Bridge to strengthen connectivity between India and Nepal](#)

February 2, 2022, Financial Express

Construction of a motorable Bridge over the Mahakali River connecting Dharchula (India) with Darchula (Nepal) is expected to start soon. This bridge once completed will enhance cross border connectivity with Nepal in that area.

[Bridge over Mahakali river to strengthen relation with India: Nepal Transport Minister](#)

February 1, 2022, The New Indian Express

Earlier today, India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the construction of a motorable Bridge over the Mahakali River, connecting Dharchula (India) with Darchula (Nepal).

Sri Lanka

[China's 'soft-power blitzkrieg' on Sri Lanka's Tamils rings alarm bells in India](#)

February 5, 2022, South China Morning Post

Beijing's overtures, conveyed recently by a bare-chested envoy, have stoked India's fears that part of its 'strategic backyard' could become a Chinese military outpost

[Sri Lanka gets urgent \\$500 million Indian Loan to pay for oil](#)

February 2, 2022, The Times of India

Sri Lanka was handed temporary relief from energy shortages and rolling blackouts with a \$ 500 million loan from India to finance urgent oil purchases for the cash strapped nation.

[Sri Lanka signs \\$500 million credit line for fuel with India](#)

February 2, 2022, Money Control

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) will provide the credit line for purchasing petroleum products, India's High Commission in Sri Lanka's main city Colombo said on Twitter.

[A total of 56 Indian fishermen released by Sri Lanka on January 25: Government](#)

February 3, 2022, The Hindu

Fifty-six Indian fishermen were released by Sri Lanka on January 25, the government said on February 3, insisting that both sides should ensure that there was no use of force against the fishing community under any circumstances.

East & South East Asia

China

[China's Unspoken Winter Olympics Theme: 'We're Here, Get Used to It'](#)

February 04, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

As host of the Winter Games, which open Friday, China is now a recognized superpower less interested in global validation and a lot less likely to get it. This time, nobody thinks the Olympics will change China. Beijing is at odds with major trading partners over human rights. Multinational corporations that proudly aligned themselves with China in the previous Games are keeping a low profile.

[China Fortifies Its Borders With a 'Southern Great Wall,' Citing Covid-19](#)

February 3, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

An extensive buildup of barriers along China's 3,000-mile southern border is under way, according to public documents, official statements and interviews with residents, ostensibly to battle Covid-19 but with likely long-lasting ramifications on trade and travel. The small Chinese city of Ruili, in the far south next to Myanmar, has seen a major construction project in the past two years. It is a border fence equipped with barbed wire, surveillance cameras and sensors.

[Caged tiger—the looming threats to China's economic growth](#)

February 02, 2022, The Economist

Against the mounting costs of a zero-tolerance approach to the pandemic and a sharp slowdown in the property sector, can Xi Jinping deliver on his promise of "common prosperity" for all?

[China's Economy Is Heading Toward Stagnation, Not Collapse](#)

February 2, 2022, Foreign Policy

Beijing will soon break another record, when the 2008 Summer Games host becomes the first city ever to hold the Winter Games as well. The lack of natural snow at this month's Winter Olympics will present no hurdle for China's Communist Party, which will literally move mountains to get the job done. But a much harder task than weather control confronts President Xi Jinping: delivering on his pledge for a fairer distribution of China's wealth while maintaining stable growth.

[Taiwan Can't Wait](#)

February 1, 2022, Foreign Affairs

In March 2021, Admiral Philip S. Davidson, then the commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, informed Congress that China could invade Taiwan within the next six years. In October, Taiwanese Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng gave an even shorter timeline, asserting that China would be capable of a "full-scale invasion" by 2025. And in Foreign Affairs last summer, Oriana Skylar Mastro, an expert on the People's Liberation Army (PLA), warned that "there have been disturbing signals that Beijing is reconsidering its peaceful approach and contemplating armed unification."

[China, Russia are 'stabilizers for challenging world', Xi-Putin meeting to address critical issues, may ink new deals: experts](#)

February 3, 2022, Global Times

A day ahead of the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Chinese media that the meeting of the heads of state plays a crucial role in the close cooperation between Moscow and Beijing on the basis of mutual political trust. President Putin noted the two nations will play a pivotal role to safeguard stability in today's challenging world.

[WHO chief arrives in Beijing for Winter Olympics – platform for advancing multilateral collaboration](#)

February 3, 2022, Global Times

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus arrived at Beijing on Thursday night for the opening ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, his second visit to China since the COVID-19 outbreak began in late 2019 and early 2020.

[Chinese nuclear giant signs agreement with Argentina to establish Hualong One station](#)

February 2, 2022, Global Times

Chinese nuclear giant China National Nuclear Corp (CNNC) signed an agreement with a company in Argentina to establish a nuclear station with CNNC's Hualong One technology, a third-generation pressurized water reactor, according to a public statement released by the CNNC.

[China's top legislature rejects Japan's so-called human rights resolution](#)

February 2, 2022, CGTN

A spokesperson for China's top legislative body voiced firm opposition on Tuesday to the adoption by Japan's House of Representatives of a so-called resolution on human rights in China.

[China says U.S. plans to pay athletes to 'sabotage' Beijing Games](#)

January 29, 2022, Reuters

China's foreign ministry and an official newspaper have accused the United States of planning to interfere with and "sabotage" the Beijing Winter Olympics by paying athletes from some countries to make half-hearted efforts in competition and to criticise China.

Japan

[Japan, South Korea spar over Sado gold mines' World Heritage bid](#)

February 4, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The Japanese and South Korean foreign ministers clashed Thursday over Tokyo's nomination of former gold mines for UNESCO World Heritage status despite Seoul's protests over their links to wartime labour. South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong expressed "deep disappointment and protested against" Japan's backing of the remains of centuries-old gold and silver mines on Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture, according to the South Korean Foreign Ministry's readout of the talks.

[Japan considers sending natural gas to Europe in contingency over Ukraine](#)

February 4, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan is weighing an option to divert part of its natural gas reserves to Europe in case Russia restricts gas supplies to the region in response to projected sanctions following a Russian invasion of Ukraine, government sources said Thursday. Japan is likely to seek coordination with other countries in supporting Europe, which heavily relies on natural gas supplies from Russia through pipelines.

[Japan adopts Xinjiang resolution but sidesteps criticism of China](#)

February 1, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The lower house of Japan's parliament on Tuesday adopted a resolution expressing concern over Uyghur and Hong Kong human rights, just days before China opens the Beijing Winter Olympics. The statement, however, stopped short of directly criticizing China and did not even mention the

country by name. The phrase "human rights violations" in an early draft was also changed to "human rights situation" -- striking a far more cautious tone than similar resolutions from the U.S. and Europe.

[Japan to draft guidelines for corporate workforce disclosure](#)

February 1, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The Japanese government plans to create guidelines for companies to disclose "human capital" metrics such as employee diversity and human resource training as soon as this summer, Nikkei has learned. Human capital, the abilities and knowledge of workers, is seen as an asset that can generate new ideas. The U.S. and Europe lead the way in this area, and the government hopes that the disclosure of such information will help attract new investment.

[Japan's Kishida suffers 6-point drop in approval rating: Nikkei poll](#)

January 31, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The approval rating of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet fell 6 percentage points from December to 59% in the latest Nikkei-TV Tokyo poll, the first drop since he took office this past October. Approval of the government's pandemic response also declined. The cabinet's disapproval rating rose 4 points to 30%.

Korea

[Lee, Yoon at odds over US-China rivalry](#)

February 3, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea's rival presidential candidates presented starkly contrasting diplomatic views during their first TV debate, Friday. Ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK) presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung underscored pragmatism, while main opposition People Power Party (PPP) candidate Yoon Suk-yeol vowed to restore the Korea-U.S. alliance, claiming it had weakened considerably after President Moon Jae-in stepped into office five years ago.

[Korea to export K9 howitzers to Egypt in 2 tril. won deal](#)

February 4, 2022, The Korea Times

Korea on Tuesday signed a contract to sell K9 self-propelled howitzers to Egypt in a deal worth over 2 trillion won (\$1.65 billion), Seoul's arms procurement agency said, marking the artillery system's first entry into the African market. Hanwha Defence, the Korean manufacturer, and Egypt's defence ministry inked the largest K9 export deal in the Artillery House, a military facility in Cairo, capping more than 10 years of on-again, off-again talks. The deal includes the

production of K9s in Egypt and a technology transfer, according to the Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA).

[US focused on joint defense readiness with S. Korea: Pentagon](#)

February 3, 2022, The Korea Herald

The United States continues to remain focused on its joint defence capabilities with South Korea and will make any related decisions through close consultation with Seoul, a Pentagon spokesperson said Wednesday. John Kirby made the remarks when asked if the US and South Korea were considering postponing joint military exercises despite a recent series of missile launches by North Korea.

[North Korea conducts seventh suspected missile launch](#)

January 30, 2022, Nikkei Asia

North Korea launched at least one suspected ballistic missile into the sea off its east coast on Sunday, governments in the region reported, in what would be the nuclear-armed country's seventh test this month. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff reported that a projectile believed to be a single ballistic missile was launched at around 7:52 a.m. (22:52 GMT) from North Korea's Jagang Province toward the ocean off its east coast.

Southeast Asia

[Myanmar military barred from ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting](#)

February 3, 2022, Al Jazeera

The Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has barred Myanmar's military-appointed foreign minister from attending an upcoming meeting, after the United Nations Security Council called for an end to "all forms of violence" in the country as well as the release of detained civilian leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

[India, ASEAN approve digital work plan to combat use of stolen mobile handsets](#)

January 29, 2022, The Hindu

India and ASEAN nations have jointly approved a work plan under which they will develop a system to combat use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, among other things, an official statement said.

[Cambodia as ASEAN Chair: What to Expect](#)

February 2, 2022, The Diplomat

Pou Sothirak, Elina Noor, and Aaron Connelly on the controversial start to Cambodia's year-long ASEAN chairmanship, and what might come next.

[The Politics of Steel in Southeast Asia](#)

February 1, 2022, The Diplomat

Companies in Thailand and Indonesia have remained in the steel game despite taking huge losses over the past decade.

[Thailand joins Singapore and Malaysia in rush for virtual banks](#)

February 2, 2022, Al Jazeera

The Bank of Thailand says it plans to issue guidelines for digital banks by June.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakh Leader Rejects Outside Probe Into Unrest, Says Country Can Conduct Its Own Investigation](#)

January 29, 2022, RFE/RL

Kazakh President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev has rejected calls for an international probe into protests earlier this month that left more than 220 people dead and prompted the country to call in troops from a Russian-led military organization.

[Taliban's Arrest Of Ethnic Uzbek Commander Sparks Clashes In Northern Afghanistan](#)

January 29, 2022, RFE/RL

The growing animosity between Uzbek, Turkmen, and Tajik ethnic groups and the Taliban ignited briefly in Faryab's provincial capital of Maimana in mid-January when protests over the arrest of a local leader led to fighting. Makhdum Alem is an ethnic Uzbek Taliban commander in Faryab Province, which borders Turkmenistan.

[Turkmenistan: The golden road to Chabahar](#)

February 1, 2022, Eurasianet

Turkmenistan should by rights be an ideal transit nation for the conveyance of goods between Asia and Europe. That is what President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov thinks at least. A Eurasian transportation corridor could, Berdymukhamedov said, see Central Asia linked to ports on the Indian Ocean.

[Experts Urge US to Update Its Central Asia Strategy](#)

February 2, 2022, Voice of America

U.S. experts agree on the need for Washington to rethink its strategy for Central Asia in light of its withdrawal from Afghanistan but are divided on what shape that new strategy should take. The region has played a key role in U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan hosting air bases and helping the coalition transport critical goods.

[Kyrgyz Opposition Politician Moldokmatov Transferred To House Arrest](#)

February 2, 2022, RFE/RL

Jailed Kyrgyz opposition politician Jenish Moldokmatov, who is charged with attempting to seize control of the Central Asian state, has been transferred from a detention center to house arrest.

[Kazakhstan: Lawmakers approve bill further curtailing former president's power](#)

February 2, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

Lawmakers in Kazakhstan have approved a bill stripping former President Nursultan Nazarbayev of more of his lifetime privileges after deadly protests swept across the Central Asian nation last month, in part fuelled by anger over the accumulation of vast wealth by his family.

[Kazakhstan promises to smash smuggling rings on Chinese border](#)

February 2, 2022, Eurasianet

Kazakhstan's government has always depicted its border with China as a geographical advantage that makes it a natural bridge for international trade. The country is the "buckle" in Beijing's global Belt and Road transport and infrastructure network. But the Sino-Kazakh border has instead turned into a cash cow serving vested interests where smuggling is rife.

[Crisis in neighboring Kazakhstan presents Uzbekistan with challenges on multiple fronts](#)

February 3, 2022, The Times of Central Asia

The recent political crisis in Kazakhstan and the way Nur-Sultan has resolved it with Moscow's assistance may slow down Uzbekistan President Mirziyoyev's cautious moves toward further integration into Russian-led regional organizations, such as the CSTO and EEU.

West Asia

[30-years of India-Israel Friendship: PM Modi Says 'Time To Set New Goals' To Take Forward Ties](#)

January 29, 2022, Hindustan Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the decades-old relationship between India and Israel as he asserted that the cooperation between the two countries has played a key role in the growth stories of the two nations. He issued a special video message, marking 30 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel.

[India-Central Asian Region To Form Joint Working Group on Chabahar Port](#)

January 29, 2022, The Economic Times

India and the Central Asian states have put Iran's Chabahar Port as the centrepiece of connectivity between South Asia's biggest market and the

landlocked and resource rich region while cautioning against connectivity initiatives which were not transparent in nature.

[To Bypass Pak, India, Iran Launch 3rd Shipping Route to Chabahar](#)

January 24, 2022, The Tribune

A direct container shipping route has been established between Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar and two Western Indian ports of Nhava Sheva and Kandla. The first container service from this route will enter Iran's Shahid Beheshti port on February 16, Deputy Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organisation (PMO) Jalil Eslami has said.

[India To Host Slew of Oman's Defence Teams and Joint Exercises To Bolster Military Ties Amid China Indian Ocean Forays](#)

January 30, 2022, The Economic Times

Eyeing to bolster its military presence amid China's rising ambitions in the Indian Ocean Region, New Delhi will be hosting a series of defence and military delegations from its oldest strategic partner in the Gulf -- Oman -- beginning with the visit of its Defence Secretary from Monday (Jan 31) followed by the Naval chief and other military delegates in February.

[Turkey Emerging As New Dubai In Anti-India Operations: Report](#)

January 30, 2022, The Tribune

Turkey is the new Dubai as far as influence operations against Kashmir are concerned, concur security officials here who are now detecting attempts to expand its ambit to cover the Indian mainland Muslims as well as raise doubts about India's foreign policy.

[New \\$150m UAE-India Fund Aims To Create 10 \\$1bn Start-Ups by 2025](#)

January 29, 2022, Arabian Business

India-UAE VC Fund will be funded by investors across UAE, India and wider GCC countries.

[Differences Splinter U.S. Team Negotiating With Iran on Nuclear Deal](#)

January 24, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

With talks to restore the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran reaching a critical phase, differences have emerged in the U.S. negotiating team over how tough to be with Tehran and when to walk away, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

[Time Running Out To Decide Whether Iran Can Make A Deal, Western Diplomats Say](#)

January 29, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

Negotiations for the US and Iran to return to the 2015 nuclear deal are nearing the point where a decision must be made or that agreement will no longer be salvageable, European diplomats said, as the negotiating teams returned to their capitals for consultations.

[Iran 'Will Consider' Direct Talks with US, Says Foreign Minister](#)

January 24, 2022, AL Jazeera

Tehran is willing to engage in direct talks with Washington if negotiations to revive the Iranian nuclear deal reach an advanced stage that requires such dialogue, Iran's foreign minister has said.

[Amid Attacks, UAE Quietly Asks Israel About Defence Systems Including Iron Dome and Barak ER: Sources](#)

January 25, 2022, Breaking Defence

The United Arab Emirates has quietly and unofficially asked Israel about acquiring missile defense systems to help protect it from Houthi missile attacks.

[China, Saudi Arabia Set For Closer Military Ties As Sun Sets For US In Middle East](#)

January 27, 2022, South China Morning Post

Chinese Defence Minister in virtual meeting with Saudi side urged joint opposition to 'hegemonic and bullying practices', in apparent reference to the US. Wei Fenghe also hailed Saudi Arabia's 'strong support' for policies on Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang – all major friction points in US-China ties.

[Qatar, Turkey, Taliban Agree on 'Key Issues' To Run Kabul Airport](#)

January 28, 2022, Daily Sabah

Qatar, Turkey and Afghanistan's Taliban-led interim government agreed on "several key issues" to operate the Kabul Hamid Karzai International Airport.

United States

United States

[America Is Stronger Than It Looks](#)

January 31, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

The world's attention may be fixed on Russia's challenge to Ukraine, but the Biden administration faces something much larger: an intensifying challenge by China, Russia and opportunists such as Iran and North Korea to the global order that the U.S. inherited from a faltering British Empire in the 1940s.

[Raskin Faces Senate Questions Over Views on Climate Change, Regulations](#)

February 3, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Sarah Bloom Raskin, President Biden's nominee to become the Federal Reserve's top bank regulator, said that she wouldn't use the position to restrict lending to the oil-and-gas industry, after she has previously called for more-aggressive regulatory moves away from high-emission investments. "It is inappropriate for the Fed to make credit decisions and allocations based on choosing winners and losers," Ms. Raskin said Thursday, at her confirmation hearing held by the Senate Banking Committee. "Banks choose their borrowers, not the Fed."

[U.S. National Debt Exceeds \\$30 Trillion for First Time](#)

February 1, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. national debt exceeded \$30 trillion for the first time, reflecting increased federal borrowing during the coronavirus pandemic. Total public debt outstanding was \$30.01 trillion as of Jan. 31, according to Treasury Department data released Tuesday. That was a nearly \$7 trillion increase from late January 2020, just before the pandemic hit the U.S. economy.

[Biden to Designate Qatar as 'Major Non-NATO Ally'](#)

January 31, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Biden administration is designating Qatar to be a special U.S. ally as it presses Doha for assurances the country could help provide energy supplies to Europe if Russia invades Ukraine. President Biden on Monday said he would seek "major non-NATO ally" status for Qatar, which he said reflects the strength and importance of the bilateral relationship before meeting with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the emir of Qatar, at the White House.

[Who will win Florida in 2024? A new poll has Biden losing to these two prominent Republicans](#)

February 1, 2022, USA Today

A new poll says President Joe Biden is struggling in the politically pivotal state of Florida, where more than half of potential voters disapprove of his handling of the economy and of his job overall. The Suffolk University/USA TODAY Network poll of likely Florida voters suggests only 39% of respondents approve of the job Biden is doing, while 53% disapprove. By a 30-point margin – 58%-28% – the poll says voters in Florida believe the nation as a whole is on the wrong track, and a full 57% disapprove of the president's handling of the economy.

[Meta plunges and sets off Wall Street's worst drop in nearly a year.](#)

February 3, 2022, The New York Times

Shares of Meta, the parent company of Facebook, fell more than 26 percent, a loss that wiped more than \$230 billion off its market value. Year-to-date change in stock price of major tech companies Stocks on Wall Street tumbled on Thursday, with Meta, the parent company of Facebook, leading the way with a drop of 26.4 percent, its worst one-day loss ever and one that erased more than \$230 billion off its market value.

[Pfizer Asks F.D.A. to Clear 2 Vaccine Doses for Young Children as a Start](#)

February 2, 2022, The New York Times

Pfizer and its partner, BioNTech, asked the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday to authorize two doses of their coronavirus vaccine for children younger than 5 while the companies continue to research whether three doses would be more effective for the age group. In a highly unusual move, federal regulators pressed the companies to submit the request even though two doses failed to produce the hoped-for immune response among children 2 to 4 years old in a clinical trial. Only children between 6 months and 2 years old demonstrated an immune response comparable to that of older teenagers and young adults, the standard for a successful trial.

[U.S. and Allies Close to Reviving Nuclear Deal With Iran, Officials Say](#)

January 31, 2022, The New York Times

The United States and its European allies appear on the cusp of restoring the deal that limited Iran's nuclear program, Biden administration officials said on Monday, but cautioned that it is now up to the new government in Tehran to decide whether, after months of negotiations, it is willing to dismantle much of its nuclear production equipment in return for sanctions relief.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU deploys new strategy in standards battle with China](#)

February 4, 2022, Nikkei Asia

The European Commission has unveiled a new standardization strategy that underscores the growing geopolitical significance of the rules that govern all sorts of products and technologies, particularly amid the West's tensions with China.

[EU drafts counteroffensive to China, US on technology rules](#)

February 2, 2022, Politico

The European Commission presented a plan to bolster its influence in creating global technology standards, as the bloc currently risks falling behind in global standardization organizations, where tech giants, government regulators and experts gather to set rules for how emerging technology works — everything from the internet to batteries, connected devices and beyond. Faced with the U.S.' market dominance and China's aggressive attempts to rewrite global rules, the EU wants to raise its game.

[India, EU discuss cooperation in joint naval activities in Indo-Pacific](#)

February 2, 2022, Hindustan Times

India currently has one of the largest facilities for maritime domain awareness in the form of the Gurugram-based Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region of the Indian Navy.

[EU nations agree border-free Schengen Area reform, France says](#)

February 3, 2022, Reuters

European Union countries agreed on Thursday to oversee the border-free Schengen area through regular ministerial meetings, France said, strengthening political management of the area in the same way euro zone gatherings steer economic policy.

[France tackles thorny issue of EU migration reform](#)

February 3, 2022, The Times of Malta

France began prodding EU partners back towards a long-stalled reform of the bloc's migration system, urging tighter control of external borders and better burden-sharing when it comes to asylum-seekers.

[Europe's energy security worries NATO amid standoff with Russia](#)

January 30, 2022, Al Jazeera

EU depends on Russia for a third of its gas supplies and any interruption would worsen an existing energy crisis.

Russia

[Britain Considering 'Major' Military Deployment To Eastern Europe Amid Russia Tensions](#)

January 29, 2022, RFE/RL

Prime Minister Boris Johnson says Britain is considering a "major" deployment of troops, warships, and fighter jets in Eastern Europe to counter Russian "hostility" toward Ukraine.

[As Warnings To Russia Mount, NATO Urges Greater Energy Diversification By Europe](#)

January 30, 2022, RFE/RL

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg expressed concern about Europe's gas dependence on Moscow as fears mount of a Russian military escalation in Ukraine. He said there was consensus among the military alliance's 30 members on the need to diversify energy supplies.

[NATO Says It Won't Send Troops To Ukraine If Russia Invades](#)

January 30, 2022, RFE/RL

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said that the Western military alliance will not send combat troops to Ukraine in the event that Russia invades the country. "We have no plans to deploy NATO combat troops to Ukraine...we are focusing on providing support," Stoltenberg told the BBC during an interview on January 30.

[Russian Pacific Fleet ships begin exercise in Sea of Japan, Sea of Okhotsk](#)

February 1, 2022, TASS News Agency

The Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet ships and supply vessels will practice air defense, joint maneuvering and practice firing during military exercise in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, the Fleet press service announced.

[Russia & China may be ready to challenge America's 'Monroe Doctrine'](#)

February 1, 2022, Russia Today

For 200 years, the Monroe Doctrine – asserting a US sphere of influence over Latin America – has been a cornerstone of American policy. But as Russia and

China assert their opposition to the US-led world order, American dominance in the region is beginning to look a little shaky.

[U.S., NATO Offer Security Dialogue in Leaked Response to Russia](#)

February 2, 2022, The Moscow Times

The United States and NATO have offered to discuss disarmament and confidence-building measures with Russia in confidential written responses to Moscow's security demands, Spain's El Pais newspaper reported, citing leaked copies of the documents it obtained.

[Putin, Xi to adopt statement on international relations – Russian Presidential Aide](#)

February 2, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping adopted a joint statement on international relations in the new era following talks in Beijing, Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov told journalists.

[Putin and Johnson discuss NATO expansion, Ukraine](#)

February 2, 2022, Russia Today

Amid the threat of conflict in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson that Moscow won't budge on its "well-founded" security demands. One day earlier, the embattled Johnson publicly condemned Putin during a visit to Ukraine.

[Russia Shuts Down Deutsche Welle Broadcast in Response to Germany's RT DE Ban](#)

February 3, 2022, Sputnik News

Russia is shutting down Deutsche Welle's broadcast in response to Germany banning RT DE and is launching a procedure to recognise it as a foreign agent, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

[Russia Has Plans to Hedge Risks in Event of New US Economic Sanctions, Kremlin Says](#)

February 3, 2022, Sputnik News

The US said it was preparing a package of sanctions that would be imposed against Russia in the event that it invades Ukraine and would target the country's banking sector and export controls. Russia has plans to hedge risks and mitigate consequences in the event of new US economic sanctions, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[China aspires for strategic influence in the Horn of Africa](#)

February 4, 2022, ANI News

China is now trying to gain strategic influence in the Horn of Africa, considered one of the most strategically important regions in the world.

[African Experts Argue Prospects for China's New \\$300 Billion Agreement](#)

February 2, 2022, VOA

A Chinese official in Nigeria says Beijing plans to invest over \$300 billion in Africa to increase African exports and help close the large trade gap with China. China's plans for more investment in Africa have been welcomed by some, but critics worry about Africa's growing debt with Beijing.

[Africa: China-Africa Engagement, Cooperation](#)

February 1, 2022, All Africa

According to McKinsey, there are already over 10,000 Chinese-owned enterprises operating in Africa, with 90 per cent of them being private. Since 2005, the value of Chinese business has exceeded US\$ 2 trillion. There are many sectors in which China invests in Africa, but this article mainly focuses on agriculture, manufacturing, industrial parks, and infrastructure, and briefly on COVID-19 China-Africa cooperation.

[South Africa Energy Minister Embraces China and India as Climate Models](#)

February 4, 2022, Bloomberg

South Africa's Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe held up the world's biggest coal users, China and India, as models of how to tackle climate change and railed against communities and environmental activists who are hindering oil exploration in the country.

[What China and Africa's Partnership Means For the World](#)

February 1, 2022, NPR

The world's eyes will once again fall on China at the end of the week. The country is hosting this year's Winter Olympics – all while battling allegations of human rights violations.

[African Union members set for rare clash as Israel ties split bloc](#)

February 1, 2022, The Times of Israel

Last year, organization's commission accredited Israel, sparking backlash from South Africa and others; leaders are set to discuss issue at a summit this weekend.

[AU suspends Burkina Faso after coup as envoys head for talks](#)

January 31, 2022, Al Jazeera

Continental body says suspension from participation in all activities to stay in place until restoration of constitutional order.

Latin America

[The Heat: Latin America geopolitics](#)

February 4, 2022, CGTN

The pendulum is swinging back to the left. Since 2018, many countries in Latin America have replaced right wing or centrist leaders with leftist governments.

[Putin hails Argentina as one of Russia's key partners in Latin America](#)

February 3, 2022, TASS

The Russian president also recalled that Argentina became the first country in the western hemisphere to approve Russia's Sputnik V vaccine.

[Argentina's IMF deal offers a warning on emerging market debt](#)

February 3, 2022, Financial Times

With China the largest lender, the old, western-centric approach to restructuring no longer works.

[Brazil's stock market buoyed by country's shifting political landscape](#)

February 5, 2022, Financial Times

Tightening monetary cycle and a resurgent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva offer investors cause for optimism.

[Argentina and China sign agreement to build fourth nuclear power plant](#)

February 4, 2022, Buenos Aires Times

New nuclear power plant, Atucha III, requires an investment of more than US\$8 billion and will create 7,000 new jobs, according to the government. Announcement made on eve of president's visit to China.

[Chile's economy seen growing faster than expected in 2022](#)

February 4, 2022, Financial Post

Chile's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow faster than previously expected in 2022, as strong global growth and favourable copper prices should help to lift the country's open market economy, Finance Minister Rodrigo Cerda said.

['Remain in Mexico' is back under Biden, with little resemblance to the Trump version](#)

February 4, 2022, The Washington Post

President Biden halted the returns when he took office, but in September a U.S. District Court ordered his administration to reinstate the program, formally known as the Migrant Protection Protocols. After months of negotiations with Mexico, the Biden administration relaunched MPP in early December, starting in El Paso. Immigration advocates were furious, blaming Biden for not pushing back harder. But two months after its restart, the new version of MPP bears little resemblance to President Donald Trump's. The Biden administration has re-implemented the program with a narrow scope and none of the zeal demonstrated by Trump officials.



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