



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

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

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ABOUT US

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India's Ties With Russia Distinct, That's Okay: US Amid Ukraine Invasion](#)

February 26, 2022, NDTV

Russia has launched multiple attacks on several areas in central and eastern Ukraine, drawing widespread condemnation and sanctions from several countries, including the US. Washington has acknowledged that India's relationship with Russia is distinct from that the US. It has asked every country that has leverage with Moscow to use it to protect rules-based international order.

[India abstains from UN vote deploring Russia's aggression in Ukraine](#)

February 26, 2022, The Times of India

India on Saturday abstained on United Nations Security Council resolution that condemned Russia's "aggression" against Ukraine.

[How India's abstention from UNSC vote is different from China](#)

February 26, 2022, Hindustan Times

India and China both have supported Ukraine on sovereignty and territorial integrity, but Beijing has also virtually defended the Russian action by asking for Moscow's security concerns to be addressed.

["Made In India Defence Equipment Now Exported To Over 75 Countries": PM Modi](#)

February 25, 2022, NDTV

India is providing Made in India defence equipment and services to more than 75 countries, while about 70 per cent of this year's defence budget has been kept for domestic industry only, the PM said.

[Indigenous weapons must to surprise adversaries: PM Modi](#)

February 26, 2022, Hindustan Times

The PM said India would soon notify a new list of weapons and systems that cannot be imported to promote self-reliance in the defence sector. This will be the third positive indigenisation list --- the government has already notified two lists of 209 weapons and equipment that cannot be imported.

[Budget has blueprint for developing vibrant domestic defence ecosystem: PM](#)

February 25, 2022, The Hindu

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday stressed the importance of customisation and uniqueness of defence systems for having a surprise element over the adversaries. "Uniqueness and surprise elements could only happen when the defence equipment is developed in our country. This year's Budget has a blueprint for developing a vibrant ecosystem, from research, design and development to manufacturing, within the country," he stated.

[Explained: P-8I, the Indian Navy's frontline multi-mission aircraft](#)

February 25, 2022, The Indian Express

The P-8 is a multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft, excelling at anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and search and rescue.

Pakistan

[Fines imposed by US authorities for 'historical weaknesses', system improved since 2020: NBP](#)

February 25, 2022, Dawn

Following the imposition of fines of more than \$55 million by United States authorities on the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), its president Arif Usmani said the penalty was for "historical compliance programme weaknesses and delays in making compliance-related enhancements", adding that the bank's system has improved under a new management.

[Current account deficit hits all-time high in January](#)

February 25, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan's monthly current account deficit (CAD) hit an all-time high of \$2.55 billion in January against \$219m in the same month last year mainly driven by surging imports amid higher commodity prices. In December 2021, the CAD was \$1.9bn.

[Indus Waters Treaty: Pakistan, India to discuss hydropower projects](#)

February 21, 2022, The News

New Delhi and Islamabad are set to start talks at the Permanent Commission of Indus Waters (PCIW) level under Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) on 10-point agenda, including hydropower projects Pakal Dal (1,000MW), Kiru (624MW), Lower Kalnai (48MW) being erected on the Chenab river and other projects being constructed on the Indus at Ladakh. A 10-member delegation to this effect will

arrive in Pakistan on February 28 through the Wagha border to hold three-day talks in Islamabad from March 1-3 and return on March 4.

[Tribal jirgas visit Afghanistan for peace talks: sources](#)

February 23, 2022, The News

Two tribal jirgas from North and South Waziristan have travelled to Afghanistan in an effort to resume peace talks between the Government of Pakistan and the militant outfit Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

[Saudi crown prince likely to visit Pakistan in March](#)

February 20, 2022, The Express Tribune

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are in talks to finalise the dates for the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman to Islamabad likely to take place in March.

[Five-year jail term for criticising Army, judiciary](#)

February 20, 2022, The News

The federal cabinet of Pakistan approved a summary of a five-year sentence for criticising the state institutions including Pakistan army, judiciary and others on electronic media. The government has decided to make amendments in the Electronic Crimes Prevention Act.

[Trade with India need of the hour, says Razak Dawood](#)

February 21, 2022, Dawn

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood has said trade with India is the need of the hour and beneficial to both countries. "As far as the ministry of commerce is concerned, its position is to do trade with India. And my stance is that we should do trade with India and it should be opened now," Mr Dawood said in an interaction with media at an exhibition on engineering and healthcare organised by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.

[Army captain martyred in Kohlu operation](#)

February 22, 2022, Dawn

An army captain was martyred during a clearance operation in Balochistan's Kohlu district when fleeing terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at the raiding party.

[Pak-Hungary investment treaty underway](#)

February 24, 2022, Dawn

Pakistan is in the process of signing a bilateral investment treaty with Hungary and the first round of negotiations were held in Islamabad. Speaking at the foundation of AcquaHatch International Private Limited, a Pak-Hungarian joint venture (JV), the BoI chief said ties between the two countries would further strengthen as the fishery project has a foreign and local investment of \$14 million to develop a freshwater ecosystem in Pakistan.

[Right decision to go ahead with Russia trip, says FM Qureshi](#)

February 25, 2022, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi asserted that the government's decision to go ahead with the recently concluded Moscow visit was correct, explaining that there had been a shift in the country's foreign policy towards geoeconomics, which warranted progress on regional connectivity.

Afghanistan

[Eight polio vaccinators killed in series of Afghan attacks: UN](#)

February 25, 2022, Dawn

Eight members of polio vaccination teams working to eradicate the crippling virus in Afghanistan were killed in four separate attacks, the United Nations said. Polio teams were frequently targeted by insurgent groups in Afghanistan until the Taliban's takeover of the country last year, when the hardline group said it wanted to work with the UN to stamp out the disease.

[UNICEF to pay Afghan teachers for two months](#)

February 22, 2022, Dawn

As the country descends into economic crisis due to looming sanctions on the Taliban regime, the United Nation's children's agency has announced it will pay a monthly stipend to Afghanistan's teachers, who have remained unpaid as most schools across the country remained closed since August last year.

[Taliban to create Afghanistan 'grand army' with old regime troops](#)

February 22, 2022, Al Jazeera

The Taliban is creating a "grand army" for Afghanistan that will include officers and troops who served the old regime, says the official tasked with overseeing the military's transformation.

Latifullah Hakimi, head of the Taliban's Ranks Clearance Commission, also told a news conference that they had repaired half the 81 helicopters and planes

supposedly rendered unserviceable by the United States-led forces during last year's chaotic withdrawal.

[India sends first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistan](#)

February 22, 2022, India Today

India sent the first shipment of 2,500 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan via Pakistani land route, over four months after announcing the humanitarian aid for the Afghan people. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla along with Afghan Ambassador Farid Mamundzay and World Food Program Country Director Bishaw Parajuli flagged off the first convoy of 50 trucks carrying the consignment.

[2 Killed, 20 Wounded in Clashes Between Islamic Emirate, Pakistan](#)

February 24, 2022, Tolo News

At least two people were killed and more than 20 others were injured in clashes that erupted between Islamic Emirate forces and the Pakistani military along the Durand Line at the Spin Boldak crossing area.

['Weapons, night-vision devices' left by US in Afghanistan found at LoC, says senior Army officer](#)

February 19, 2022, The Print

A senior Army officer, in charge of a formation along the Line of Control (LoC), has said that high-tech weapons and night-vision gadgets left behind by the US troops in Afghanistan have made their way into the hands of terrorists in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (Pok), who are trying to infiltrate into India.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh stresses on boosting connectivity with India](#)

February 25, 2022, Nagaland Post

Bangladesh is focusing on strengthening connectivity with India, especially Assam, through all modes in order to boost trade between the two nations, the neighbouring country's Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud said.

[India, Bangladesh stress on improving bilateral ties](#)

February 20, 2022, Hindustan Times

India and Bangladesh have stressed strengthening the bilateral ties by amplifying the water transport and also lifting curbs on cross-border movement by road.

Nepal

[Nepal, India agree to build new projects by investing in energy sector](#)

February 25, 2022, Business Standard

Nepal and India have agreed to build new projects by injecting joint investment in the hydropower sector. As per the agreement reached at Nepal-India Energy Joint Meeting, a joint technical team will be formed to carry out the study as per the proposal made by India.

[Nepal protests against use of force against Ukraine, recognition of Donetsk, Luhansk regions against UN principles](#)

February 24, 2022, My Republica

Nepal has opposed Russia's use of force against Ukraine. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on Thursday protesting against Russia's move.

Sri Lanka

[India and Sri Lanka should find a lasting solution to the issues facing fisherfolk on both sides](#)

February 26, 2022, The Hindu

Fishermen from Tamil Nadu keep getting caught with alarming regularity in the territorial waters of Sri Lanka for "poaching". Yet, the stakeholders concerned have yet to demonstrate the alacrity required for well-known solutions. In the latest development, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested 22 fishermen who are from Nagapattinam and neighbouring Karaikal.

[Beijing's strategic interests outweigh Sri Lanka-China relations](#)

February 24, 2022, The Print

Beijing imposing sanctions against Sri Lanka after Colombo rejected the fertilizer consignment of a Chinese firm underscores the souring relations between the two countries.

East & South East Asia

China

[China calls on UN actions to be conducive to defusing Ukraine crisis amid public rejection of escalation, 'not to Ukraine'](#)

February 26, 2022, Global Times

China expressed deep concerns about the latest developments in Ukraine and stressed that faced with a very complex and sensitive situation, the UN Security Council should make a necessary response but the response should also be extremely cautious as any action should be truly conducive to defusing the crisis, rather than adding fuel to the fire, Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations said, explaining why China abstained from voting on a relevant draft resolution.

[US distorts China's neutral stance, 'uses Ukraine crisis to sow discord between China, Russia'](#)

February 25, 2022, Global Times

The US has tried very hard to distort China's neutral stance of calling for dialogue on the Ukraine crisis, with the US State Department asking China to "pressure Russia" to respect the principle of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and even accusing China of "using Russia to create a new world order."

[China will make effort to push for political settlement of the Ukraine issue: Chinese FM](#)

February 25, 2022, Global Times

China will make its own effort to push for political settlement of the Ukraine issue, and there is a sharp contrast between China's approach and some other countries' moves of creating and shifting the crisis, and trying to benefit from it, Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday after the White House claimed it's time for China to pick a side.

[Chinese FM elaborates China's basic position on Ukrainian issue](#)

February 25, 2022, Xinhua

Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday elaborated China's basic position on the Ukrainian issue.

[Xi stresses firm adherence to China's path of human rights development](#)

February 26, 2022, Xinhua

BEIJING, Feb. 26 (Xinhua) -- Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed unswerving adherence to China's path of human rights development.

[CPC leadership meets to discuss draft govt work report](#)

February 25, 2022, China Daily

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee met on Friday to discuss the draft government work report, which will be submitted by the State Council to the upcoming annual session of the national legislature for deliberation.

Japan

[China temporarily detains Japanese diplomat while on duty](#)

February 23, 2022, Nikkei Asia

A Japanese diplomat in Beijing was detained temporarily earlier this week while on duty, with China arguing Wednesday that its action was justified because the official was engaging in inappropriate activity. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters Tuesday night that the government had lodged a protest with China through diplomatic channels, saying, "We cannot overlook (the incident) and will never accept it."

[Japan to impose sanctions on Russia amid Ukraine crisis: Kishida](#)

February 23, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Japan will implement a set of economic sanctions against Russia and two pro-Russian separatist regions in eastern Ukraine after Moscow ordered troops to be deployed there, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Wednesday. The government will suspend visa issuance for officials from the two regions and freeze their assets. It will ban exports to and imports from the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as well as the issuance and trading of new Russian sovereign bonds in Japan, Kishida said.

[Japan emperor calls on people to keep 'fire of hope' amid pandemic](#)

February 23, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Emperor Naruhito, on the occasion of his 62nd birthday on Wednesday, called on people in Japan to keep "a fire of hope" burning in their hearts and support each other in the face of challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. The emperor also said he felt thankful to health care workers and the many people

who have battled against the prolonged pandemic, while offering condolences for the losses suffered in the past year.

[Cabinet approves bill to beef up Japan's economic security](#)

February 25, 2022, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's Cabinet on Friday approved a bill to boost Japan's economic security in a bid to abate risks associated with rapidly changing geopolitical and geoeconomic circumstances. Improving economic security is one of the primary policy agendas proposed by Kishida amid the growing rivalry between the United States and China, while the coronavirus pandemic has also prompted the government to rethink the country's supply chain strategy.

[In signal to China, Japan and U.S. say Ukraine impact 'will not stop in Europe'](#)

February 26, 2022, The Japan Times

Japan and the United States' top diplomats on Saturday discussed the need to bolster the alliance's deterrence and response capabilities after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi saying its impact would not be limited to Europe.

Korea

[S. Korea successfully tests L-SAM missile interceptor](#)

February 23, 2022, The Korea Times

South Korea's military on Wednesday conducted a successful test-firing of a long-range surface-to-air missile (L-SAM) under development, informed sources said, in an apparent move to counter North Korea's evolving missile threats. The state-run Agency for Defense Development oversaw the launch at a testing site in Taean, 150 kilometers southwest of Seoul, following a series of North Korean missile launches last month, including hypersonic and intermediate-range missiles.

[Moon calls for preemptive measures to minimize impact from Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)

February 25, 2022, The Korea Times

President Moon Jae-in instructed his aides Friday to take preemptive measures to ensure the safety of South Koreans and minimize the economic impacts in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Moon ordered his aides to check the situation in Ukraine and respond preemptively through a government task force to deal with the crisis, presidential spokesperson Park Kyung-mee said.

[Ukraine crisis pushes national security to fore of presidential campaign](#)

February 25, 2022, The Korea Times

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has propelled national security issues to the fore of South Korea's presidential campaign as the two front-runners have seized on the crisis to highlight their own visions for defending the country and peace. The competing claims from the leading presidential candidates came as the Ukraine crisis has underscored the security challenges South Korea faces against a provocative and nuclear-armed North Korea across its border.

[Lee, Yoon neck and neck at 38% vs. 37%: poll](#)

February 25, 2022, The Korea Herald

Ruling party presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung and main opposition rival Yoon Suk-yeol are running neck and neck at 38 percent and 37 percent support, respectively, a poll showed Friday. Lee of the liberal Democratic Party gained 4 percentage points from last week, while Yoon of the conservative People Power Party lost 4 percentage points, according to Gallup Korea, which polled 1,000 adults from Tuesday to Thursday.

[Ahn says time for candidacy merger is over](#)

February 24, 2022, The Korea Herald

Presidential candidate Ahn Cheol-soo of the minor opposition People's Party said Thursday that the time for a candidacy merger with Yoon Suk-yeol of the main opposition People Power Party (PPP) is over, reiterating his commitment to finish the presidential race on his own. "The time had already passed when I declared that the candidacy merger is off the table," Ahn told reporters at the National Assembly. "I have not received any calls (from Yoon)."

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN faces fallout from Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

February 25, 2022, Nikkei Asia

Russia's invasion of Ukraine may be far from Southeast Asia, but the region is not immune from fallout that may arise from the incursion.

[Myanmar Junta Rejects ASEAN Envoy's Request to Meet Opposition Figures](#)

February 21, 2022, The Diplomat

Myanmar's military administration has [rejected](#) the request of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) envoy to meet with representatives of the opposition shadow government, pointing to its own designation of the latter as a "terrorist" organization.

[Australia eyes emerging LNG markets like India, Vietnam](#)

February 24, 2022, Argus

Australia plans to target emerging LNG markets India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Bangladesh over the next 30 years and sees scope for more spot sales to European buyers seeking to diversify gas supply sources.

[Vietnam-India trade exceeds 13 billion USD](#)

February 23, 2022, Vietnam Plus

Two-way trade between Vietnam and India in 2021 surpassed 13 billion USD for the first time, up 36.5 percent compared to the previous year.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakh Authorities Arrest Ex-Defense Minister](#)

February 20, 2022, RFE/RL

Authorities in Kazakhstan have arrested a former defense minister who was dismissed last month amid a consolidation of power by President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev following deadly unrest that swept the country.

[Tajikistan: Security chief's absence keeps rumor mill spinning](#)

February 21, 2022, Eurasianet

In the absence of reliable information provided by a free and vibrant media, people in Tajikistan grasp at whatever extravagant rumour is doing the rounds. One that has been circulating since the start of the month has centered on purported plans by the ruling regime to sideline the powerful head of the State Committee for National Security, Saimumin Yatimov.

[Uzbekistan Requests Information About Its Citizens Held In Kazakhstan Over January Unrest](#)

February 23, 2022, RFE/RL

The Uzbek Embassy in Kazakhstan has officially requested detailed information from Kazakh authorities regarding more than a dozen Uzbek nationals held in custody over the deadly January unrest in the Central Asian nation.

[Registration Of Turkmen Presidential Candidates Ends As Incumbent's Son Looks Headed For Landslide Win](#)

February 23, 2022, RFE/RL

Election officials in Turkmenistan have announced that the registration of candidates for an early presidential election on March 12 has ended and that nine candidates, including the son of President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov, Serdar, were officially set to take part.

[Top Russian Officials Meet With Central Asian Leaders As West Imposes Sanctions](#)

February 25, 2022, RFE/RL

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, and Federation Council Chairwoman Valentina Matviyenko have held talks with leaders of three Central Asian states as the West imposes sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

[Uzbekistan: US to lend helping hand in shale gas exploration](#)

February 25, 2022, Eurasianet

Scientists from the United States will team up with experts from Uzbekistan to prospect for shale oil and gas deposits this year as Tashkent moves to ramp up production to tackle energy shortages and provide raw material for the gas-processing industry.

[Amid Anti-Corruption Drive, Tokayev Faces Questions About Offshore Wealth](#)

February 25, 2022, The Diplomat

An investigation into the leaked material from Swiss banking giant Credit Suisse outlined that Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and his family owned properties and offshore companies worth millions of dollars that were previously undisclosed.

[Weeks After Deadly Kazakh Unrest, Nazarbaev's Daughter Gives Up Parliamentary Seat](#)

February 25, 2022, RFE/RL

A once-powerful Kazakh politician Darigha Nazarbaeva, the eldest daughter of former President Nursultan Nazarbaev, has announced that she is giving up her parliamentary seat, weeks after Nazarbaev's family loosened its grip on the oil-rich Central Asian nation following deadly unrest in early January.

West Asia

[India and UAE Sign Major Investment Pact, over \\$100 Billion in Bilateral Trade](#)

February 18, 2022, CNBC

The United Arab Emirates and India have signed a wide-ranging trade and investment pact that is expected to boost bilateral trade to over \$100 billion within the next five years.

[India, Saudi Arabia Armies Explore New Areas of Cooperation Including Intelligence Sharing and Counterterrorism](#)

February 16, 2022, The Economic Times

The three-day visit is the first ever by a Saudi Land forces Chief to India and is a testament of the growing bilateral defence ties between New Delhi and Riyadh. New areas of cooperation are being mutually identified to include Intelligence Sharing, Counter-Terrorism, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security.

[India, Oman Navy Chiefs Hold Talks to Explore New Avenues of Defence Cooperation](#)

February 14, 2022, The Indian Express

Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi, who is on "a goodwill visit" to India, held discussions with his Indian counterpart Admiral R Hari Kumar "to explore avenues to further enhance cooperation between the Navies".

[Royal Air Force of Oman and the Indian Air Force to Hold Exercise](#)

February 19, 2022, Times of Oman

A group of combat aircrafts of the Royal Air Force of Oman left for the friendly Republic of India to participate with the Indian Air Force in the activities of the joint air military exercise "East Bridge" from February 21 to February 25, 2022.

[MHA to 'Scrupulously' Carry Out Background Check of Newly Appointed Air India CEO](#)

February 21, 2022, The Economic Times

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will "scrupulously" carry out a thorough background check of newly appointed CEO and MD of Air India, Ilker Ayci, a Turkish national, official sources said.

[Iran Nuclear Deal Draft Puts Prisoners, Enrichment and Cash First, Oil Comes Later - Diplomats](#)

February 17, 2022, Reuters

A U.S.-Iranian deal taking shape to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers lays out phases of mutual steps to bring both sides back into full compliance, and the first does not include waivers on oil sanctions.

[US Says Nuclear Deal Possible in Coming Days If Iran 'Shows Seriousness'](#)

February 18, 2022, France 24

The United States said that "substantial progress" during negotiations in Vienna to save the Iran nuclear deal had been made, deeming an agreement possible within days if Iran "shows seriousness" on the matter.

[US Navy Plans Launch of Middle East Drone Force with Allies](#)

February 21, 2022, AL Jazeera

The United States Navy announced the launch of a new joint fleet of unmanned drones in the Middle East with allied nations to patrol vast swaths of volatile waters as tensions simmer with Iran.

[US House Republicans Warn President Biden Against Another Nuclear Deal with Iran](#)

February 16, 2022, Fox News

"If you forge an agreement with the Supreme Leader of Iran without formal Congressional approval, it will be temporary and non-binding and will meet the same fate as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," reads a letter to President Biden signed by nearly 200 House Republicans.

[Israeli PM: New Iran Nuclear Deal Coming 'Shortly' Will Be 'Weak'](#)

February 20, 2022, AL Jazeera

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Iran may "shortly" agree on a new nuclear accord with major powers but warned it will be weaker than the original 2015 agreement.

[US Rejects PM Bennett's Criticism of Iran Nuke Talks: 'We Cannot Make The Same Mistake'](#)

February 21, 2022, The Times of Israel

A US State Department spokesperson said that when then-US president Donald Trump withdrew from the Iran deal in 2018, senior Israeli defence officials thought the move was a mistake. "We cannot make the same mistake another time and put off another opportunity for diplomatic progress," the spokesperson said.

United States

United States

[Statement by NATO Heads of State and Government on Russia's attack on Ukraine](#)

February 25, 2022, NATO

Russia bears full responsibility for this conflict. It has rejected the path of diplomacy and dialogue repeatedly offered to it by NATO and Allies. It has fundamentally violated international law, including the UN Charter.

[US will sanction Putin for invading Ukraine, White House says](#)

February 25, 2022, Al Jazeera

Biden administration has imposed sanctions on Russian president, foreign minister and members of national security team.

[Ukraine invasion raises doubts over continued US-Russia partnership on the ISS](#)

February 26, 2022, Times Now

As the world watches Russian military troops lay siege on Ukraine, the fate of the US-Russia partnership as it relates to the International Space Station (ISS) hangs in the balance.

[Biden Halts Russian Arms Control Talks Amid Ukraine Invasion](#)

February 25, 2022, Foreign Policy

The Biden administration has cut off arms control talks with Russia, sources familiar with the decision told Foreign Policy. The move came after Russian President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine's breakaway regions but before he launched the full-scale invasion of the country.

[Ketanji Brown Jackson Announced as Biden's Pick for Supreme Court Nominee](#)

February 25, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden on Friday selected Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman nominated to be a justice on the nation's highest court. "For too long our government and our courts haven't looked like America," Mr. Biden said at the White House, introducing the judge as a "proven consensus builder" and a "distinguished jurist."

[Justice Department Shifts Approach to Chinese National-Security Threats](#)

February 23, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Justice Department is ending a Trump-era initiative to counter national-security threats from China after it led to a series of failed prosecutions of academics that sowed broad distrust in the higher-education community. The agency will set a high bar for cases alleging that U.S. scientists lied to the federal agencies that fund their research about their ties to China, Assistant Attorney General for National Security Matthew Olsen said in a Wednesday briefing with reporters. He said the department would now pursue only instances where prosecutors perceive clear criminal misconduct with clear connections to U.S. national- or economic-security interests.

[U.S. Adds Sanctions on Moscow After Saying Russia Invaded Ukraine](#)

February 22, 2022, Wall Street Journal

President Biden imposed new sanctions on Russia, but held back on steeper economic penalties in a bid to maintain leverage over Moscow as the West tries to pressure President Vladimir Putin against launching the broad attack on Ukraine that the U.S. says is likely. Mr. Biden characterized Mr. Putin's decision to move troops into Ukraine's eastern Donbas region as "the beginning of a Russian invasion of Ukraine," establishing the U.S. position after the administration initially declined to describe the move using that term. He had previously said he would impose sanctions on Russia if it invaded Ukraine, and some in Congress had been pressuring him to take more severe action against Mr. Putin.

[Russian Invasion Scrambles Prospects for Global Economy](#)

February 24, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Russia's invasion of Ukraine heaped fresh risks on a global economy struggling with soaring inflation, supply-chain snarls and a rocky recovery from the pandemic. The economic impact will depend on the scale of the fighting and the new sanctions that the U.S. and its allies have promised. Those penalties would come on top of the more limited sanctions the U.S., the U.K. and the European Union have already rolled out against Russia in response to the Ukraine crisis.

[Clash Over Ukraine Drives a Dagger Into Globalization](#)

February 23, 2022, Wall Street Journal

It began as a trade dispute over chocolates. In 2013 Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich was on the verge of signing an association agreement with the European Union, a big step toward integrating with the global economy. Russian president Vladimir Putin wanted Ukraine in his own competing bloc,

the Eurasian Economic Union, and reacted by blocking Ukrainian imports, most notably chocolates, and threatening to charge more for natural gas.

[Fed's Preferred Inflation Measure Reaches Fastest Pace Since 1983](#)

February 25, 2022, Wall Street Journal

The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of inflation hit a new 38-year high in January, as strong consumer demand and pandemic-related supply constraints propelled price gains. The Commerce Department's personal-consumption-expenditures index measure of core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 5.2% in January from a year ago, up from 4.9% in December. That marks the sharpest 12-month increase since April 1983.

[Oil Prices Are Another Headache for Biden—Who Can't Do Much About It](#)

February 25, 2022, Wall Street Journal

Oil's surge past \$100 a barrel after Russia's attack on Ukraine intensifies the economic troubles confronting President Biden, whose administration has been struggling for months to reel in rising inflation. Benchmark U.S. oil futures ended higher Thursday, settling at \$92.81, up 0.8% on the day. With prices at their highest since 2014, Mr. Biden said he was prepared to release more oil from the government's Strategic Petroleum Reserve if necessary.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU solidarity with Ukraine](#)

February 24, 2022, Europa

The EU stands united in its solidarity with Ukraine and will continue to support Ukraine and its people together with its international partners, including through additional political, financial and humanitarian support.

[EU to freeze Putin, foreign minister assets over Ukraine attack](#)

February 25, 2022, Al Jazeera

EU foreign ministers approve sanctions described as the harshest ever imposed by the bloc.

[EU boosts Bosnia force after Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)

February 24, 2022, Al Jazeera

European Union to send 500 reserves of peacekeeping force to Bosnia as a precautionary measure to stave off any instability.

[The significance of EU-India partnership in the Indo-Pacific](#)

February 21, 2022, The Indian Express

Europe and its key Indo-Pacific partners are joining forces to deliver a positive agenda for the region at the ministerial Forum taking place tomorrow in Paris under France's ongoing presidency of the EU. This first-of-its-kind event brings together the foreign affairs ministers from EU member states and 30 Indo-Pacific countries, including India's Foreign Minister Jaishankar, with France and the EU as co-chairs.

Russia

[Russian parliament grants Putin right to deploy military abroad](#)

February 22, 2022, Russia Today

The upper house of Russia's parliament has granted permission for the country's military to be deployed abroad, following a request from President Vladimir Putin.

[Russian parliament ratifies Donbass agreements](#)

February 22, 2022, Russia Today

Russian lawmakers have voted in favour of ratifying agreements underpinning political cooperation and military support for the two breakaway Donbass

republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, after President Vladimir Putin signed a proclamation recognizing their independence.

[Kiev asks Ankara to close Turkish straits to Russian warships](#)

February 24, 2022, TASS News Agency

Ukraine has asked Ankara to restrict the passage of Russian warships through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits. "I call on the Turkish administration to help Ukraine. We demand that the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits be closed to Russian warships," a newspaper quoted Ukrainian Ambassador to Turkey Vadily Bodnar

[Russian troops seize Chernobyl nuclear power plant – Kiev](#)

February 24, 2022, Russia Today

Russian forces have seized the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Ukrainian president's office said. The claim comes hours after Kiev said fighting was raging at the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed earlier that Kiev's troops were trying to repel a Russian attack in Chernobyl.

[Russia will retaliate against Western sanctions – Kremlin](#)

February 25, 2022, TASS News Agency

Russia will retaliate against sanctions from the United States and the European Union and will make decisions solely based on its own interests, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

[Russia Says Captured Key Water Supply Route to Crimea](#)

February 25, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian forces invading Ukraine said they had taken control of a vital canal to supply water to Moscow-annexed Crimea, which has been suffering from shortages for the past eight years. Crimea received most of its water from Ukraine's Dnieper River via the North Crimean Canal until 2014, when Moscow annexed the peninsula and Kyiv authorities blocked the waterway.

['Dark Hour': Council Of Europe Suspends Russia](#)

February 25, 2022, RFE/RL

The Council of Europe has suspended all representatives of Russia from participation in the pan-European rights body's Committee of Ministers and its parliament over Moscow's attack on Ukraine.

[Putin Calls for Ukraine Army to Overthrow Zelensky](#)

February 25, 2022, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin called on the Ukrainian army to overthrow the government whose leaders he described as "terrorists" and "a gang of drug addicts and neo-Nazis." Putin also accused "Ukrainian nationalists" of deploying heavy weapons in residential areas of major cities to provoke the Russian military.

[Russia, As Expected, Vetoes UN Resolution On Invasion Of Ukraine](#)

February 26, 2022, RFE/RL

Russia on February 25 vetoed a draft UN Security Council resolution that would have deplored Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The veto, which had been expected, quashed the draft resolution in the Security Council, but it is expected to be taken up later by the 193-member UN General Assembly.

[Russian Forces Have Destroyed 821 Ukrainian Military Targets, MoD Says](#)

February 26, 2022, Sputnik News

Russia announced a special military operation in order to protect the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics from the Ukrainian forces. As part of the operation, the Russian military will also "demilitarise and denazify" Ukraine. The Russian army has destroyed 821 objects of the military infrastructure of Ukraine, the spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Ukraine crisis: What's at stake for Africa?](#)

February 25, 2022, Deutsche Welle

As Russian missiles hit Ukraine, experts are warning that the impact of the conflict is bound to reverberate across the African continent.

[The future of India-Africa relations: Opportunities abound](#)

February 25, 2022, Brookings

India and Africa's historical links have experienced a revival in recent years, and there are strong reasons for optimism that the partnership could be mutually beneficial. In fact, in recent years, and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has made moves that indicate its intention for India to become Africa's biggest partner.

[The situation in Somalia - Security Council, 8975th meeting](#)

February 24, 2022, UN

The spokesperson of the al-Shabaab armed group has been listed by the Security Council's Sanctions Committee on Somalia, and the related Panel of Experts has elaborated the areas on which it will focus under its mandate, renewed on 15 November 2021, the Chair of that body told members today.

[Somalia's president cans US oil deal hours after it was signed](#)

February 20, 2022, Deutsche Welle

Both the Somali president and the country's prime minister have rejected the oil exploration deal inked by one of the ministers. The leaders said they are protecting the country's national resources.

[Sudan delegation heads to Russia amid Ukraine crisis](#)

February 23, 2022, Al Jazeera

The delegation, including military council's deputy head, is visiting Moscow to advance bilateral relations.

Latin America

[Latin America divided on Russia-Ukraine conflict](#)

February 25, 2022, Buenos Aires Times

Region is divided on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with most condemning military action but a few asserting Moscow's "right to defend itself" against perceived NATO encroachment.

[Venezuela blames U.S., NATO for Ukraine conflict](#)

February 25, 2022, Reuters

Venezuela, a close ally of Russia, blamed NATO and the United States for the crisis in Ukraine, where Russian troops were advancing on the capital a little more than a day into their invasion of the neighbouring country.

[Venezuela re-opens border with Brazil after two years](#)

February 26, 2022, Reuters

Venezuela re-opened its land border with Brazil on Thursday, nearly two years after the government of President Nicolas Maduro shuttered crossings over COVID-19 concerns, local Venezuelan authorities said on Friday.



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