

EURASIA DIGEST

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President of India Visits Turkmenistan

Indian [President](#) Ram Nath Kovind paid a state visit to Turkmenistan on 1 April 2022. It marked the historic celebration of 30 years of India-Turkmen diplomatic relations. The meeting confirmed the readiness of the parties to deepen established political dialogue and strengthen economic, cultural and humanitarian ties.

Uzbek President Signs Cybersecurity Bill

Uzbekistan [President](#) Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed the Cybersecurity Bill into law on 4 April 2022. It establishes that the State Security Service shall bear the responsibility for the field of cybersecurity. It will conduct operational-search activities, pre-investigation checks and investigations into the incidents involving cybersecurity breaches. This law will take effect on 15 July 2022.

Kazakh Foreign Minister Calls for Peace

On 7 April 2022, Kazakh [Foreign Minister](#) Mukhtar Tileuberdi called upon Russia and Ukraine to pursue the negotiation process and seek a peaceful solution. He stated “Our country consistently advocates the earliest possible settlement of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict through negotiations and diplomacy.” The minister has high hopes for the settlement of the conflict through mediation efforts. He also commended Turkey for providing a space for the same.

UK Prime Minister Visits India

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met PM Modi on his visit to India on 25 April. The two leaders agreed on a '[Roadmap 2030](#)' for re-energised India-UK relations across trade, investment and climate action. The visit, previously postponed from Republic Day 2022, is the first major bilateral visit for Johnson outside Europe. It is also the first India-UK Heads of Governments meet since the conclusion of Brexit period in December 2020. [UK-India joint statements](#) read that an FTA will be announced by the end of 2022. Johnson announced new deals with India worth [£1 billion](#). India and UK also decided to enhance cooperation in the defence sector.

President of EU Commission Visited India

President of the EU commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen visited India on 24th April. The objective of her visit was to strengthen India-EU [strategic partnership](#). India and the EU are commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year. She was also the [Chief Guest](#) at the Raisina Dialogue. Key areas discussed were climate change and biodiversity loss, energy and digital transition, connectivity, security, defence and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Setting up of EU- India [Trade and Technology Council](#) was a big achievement of this visit. The agreement will provide the strategic coordination mechanism to tackle challenges in trade. It is the first such agreement for India.

Kyrgyz President Discussed Border Issues with Tajikistan

In an interview to Kabar News Agency on 25 April 2022, Kyrgyz [President](#) Sadr Zaparov talked about the border conflict with Tajikistan. He referred to the resolution of issues, post fresh firing at the borders on 12 April 2022. He was dissatisfied at the slow pace of the matters but stated that 600 kms of border issues have been resolved, with 300 kms still due. This dispute is about three decades old and is bound to take a while before being resolved.

Kazakhstan-China Mark Thirty Years of Relations

On 25 April 2022, Kazakh [President](#) Qasym Jomart Tokayev met with the Chinese Defence Minister, Wei Fenghe in Nur-Sultan. During the meeting they discussed bilateral and multilateral cooperation in peacekeeping and military sectors. Tokayev emphasized Kazakhstan's readiness to expand the geography of participation, of Kazakh officers in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

He also made a statement mentioning, “Thirty years ago we started literally from nothing, and now we are strategic partners. We have achieved excellent results in economic cooperation. Kazakhstan and China are close partners on the world stage, primarily within the United Nations and other international organizations”.

Macron is Re-elected As the French President

Emmanuel Macron won the Presidential [re-election](#) for a second term, with 58.8 percent of votes on 24 April 2022. Incumbent President defeated his far-right rival, Marine Le Pen by a comfortable margin. He became the [first](#) French President in 20 years to win the re-election. His victory has prompted a wave of relief in Europe. Parliamentary elections in June 2022 will be the first challenge for Macron, where keeping a majority will be critical. Macron's win will support the deepening of relations between India and France. The two have traditionally enjoyed friendly and close relations with each other and now share a strategic partnership, with particular emphasis on the [Indo Pacific](#).

Gazprom Halts Gas Supplies to Poland and Bulgaria

[Gazprom](#) has stopped gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria after not receiving payment in roubles from the two EU members. It has also warned against Bulgaria or Poland making an "unauthorized withdrawal" of Russian gas transiting to third countries. Russia has decided to reduce gas supplies accordingly. These measures took place against the backdrop of President Vladimir Putin's declaration that Russia will only accept payment for deliveries in roubles.

Russia Completes First Rail Bridge to China

[Russia has officially](#) completed its section of the first rail bridge to China. The Tongjiang-Nizhneleninskoye Bridge, named after the cities on opposite sides of the Amur River that it now connects, has been eight years in the making. Meanwhile, [trade between Russia and China](#) has surged by 28 per cent to reach US \$38.17 billion in 2022. Russian imports from China rose 25.9 per cent to US \$16.44 billion, while its exports to China jumped 31 per cent to US\$ 21.73 billion in the first quarter of this year.

Russia Says Western Aid Will Not Prevent Russian Victory

[Russia](#) believes that Western aid to Kyiv has slowed its offensive but cannot thwart its victory. Meanwhile, Central bank Governor [Elvira](#)

[Nabiullina](#) has said that Russia is "in a zone of colossal uncertainty". Finance Minister [Anton Siluanov](#) has also stated that Russia's oil production is likely to drop to an 18-year low this year. The reason being reduced demand, Western sanctions and departing foreign oil companies complicating the extraction. Russia is set to produce 9.13 million barrel per day this year, down 17 per cent from 11 million barrels per day in 2021.

Russia To Develop "Objective" Wikipedia Alternative

[President Vladimir Putin](#) has said that Russia should consider developing a domestic alternative to Wikipedia. He stated that "objective, useful, thought-through, but also beautifully and masterfully presented information is in high demand because it is impossible to use Wikipedia alone". Meanwhile, Russia's state communications regulator- Roskmdnadzor has issued a warning to Wikipedia. They have asked the platform to delete "unreliable information" about the "special operation in Ukraine."

Russia Simulates Nuclear Strikes Near EU

[Russian forces](#) have simulated nuclear missile strikes in the western enclave of Kaliningrad, near EU borders. The Russian Defence Ministry stated that during the war games, Russia practiced "electronic launches" of nuclear-capable Iskander mobile ballistic missile systems. Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council and Former Russian President, [Dmitry Medvedev](#) has said that Russia would deploy nuclear weapons close to the Baltic States and Scandinavia if Finland or Sweden join NATO.

Russia to Allow Imports Without IPR Mandate

[Russia has allowed](#) for hundreds of categories of goods to be imported without the agreement of the intellectual property owner in order to bypass restrictions imposed over the Ukrainian conflict. Among the list published by the Industry and Commerce Ministry are Apple and Samsung smartphones, major car brands, game consoles, and spare parts used in various industries. The list also includes everyday consumer products, such as cutlery and cosmetics.