



Afghanistan-Iran Disquiet Over The Helmand River

Sudha Ramachandran | February 15, 2022

“Iran has strongly opposed Afghanistan’s damming of its transboundary rivers. It has accused Kabul of denying it of its water rights as a lower riparian country.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2022/02/afghanistan-iran-disquiet-over-the-helmand-river/>

A House Divided: The SCO’s Afghanistan Conundrum

Ayjaz Wani | February 01, 2022

“The trust deficit and divergences within the SCO has resulted in most member countries using bilateral channels to establish ties with the Taliban for geostrategic, geo economic and individual security guarantees.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/research/a-house-divided-the-scos-afghanistan-conundrum/>

The Taliban Takeover In Afghanistan And Militant Mergers

Bolster Baluch Insurgents In Pakistan

Zia Ur Rehman | February 10, 2022

“Pakistan’s volatile environment primarily relates to Afghan Taliban’s takeover in Afghanistan, which has emboldened Pakistani insurgencies, to increase their attacks in Pakistan.”

Read More: <https://jamestown.org/program/the-taliban-takeover-in-afghanistan-and-militant-mergers-bolster-baluch-insurgents-in-pakistan/>

Pak PM vs Army: The Political Games Behind A Motion

Against Imran Khan

Gul Bukhari | February 28, 2022

“The no-confidence motion is General Bajwa’s project. He wants Imran out, but he wants politicians to do his dirty job for him.”

Read More: <https://www.thequint.com/voices/opinion/pak-pm-vs-army-the-political-chess-behind-a-motion-against-imran-khan>

The Cultural Confusions Of Pakistan

Hasan Zaidi | February 20, 2022

“Problems of radicalisation in a country like Pakistan are intimately connected with the confusion at the heart of notions of the nature of the state.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1676091>

How A Russian-Led Alliance Keeps A Lid On Central Asia

Polina Beliakova | February 04, 2021

“With CSTO being paralyzed by internal tensions and Russia’s political preferences, what does its forces’ deployment in Kazakhstan communicate?”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2022/02/how-a-russian-led-alliance-keeps-a-lid-on-central-asia/>

2022 Trends And Drivers To Watch In The Middle East

C. Christine Fair | January 24, 2022

“A number of countries in the region will continue to operate more assertively and independently to pursue their own goals and interests in ways that could produce unpredictable outcomes.”

Read More: <https://www.mei.edu/publications/2022-trends-and-drivers-watch-middle-east>

Houthi Attack On The UAE | Iran Attempting To Dictate The Deterrence Equation

Avi Melamed | January 19, 2022

“In the current public discourse across the Middle East, the United States is increasingly viewed as a declining power that is withdrawing from the region.”

Read More: <https://www.avimelamed.com/2022/01/19/houthi-attack-on-the-uae-iran-attempting-to-dictate-the-deterrence-equation/#>

It's Time To Double Down On Diplomacy In Yemen

Daniel Kurtzer and Merlin Boone | February 02, 2022

“Iran supports Houthis to gain political influence and disrupt regional stability, while Saudi Arabia leads anti-Houthi coalition due to the high risk of conflict spill over from Yemen’s northern border into Saudi Arabia.”

Read More: <https://warontherocks.com/2022/02/try-diplomacy-not-escalation-in-yemen/>

Can Iran And Azerbaijan Avoid A Relapse In Tensions?

Adam Lammon | January 24, 2022

“Sources of tension between Iran and Azerbaijan run deep, and that, regardless of their recent rapprochement, more aggression could be in the offing.”

Read More: <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/can-iran-and-azerbaijan-avoid-relapse-tensions-199857>

Is Myanmar Ripe For A Proxy War?

Azwar Shakeel | February 07, 2022

“Signs of a proxy war are already beginning to emerge in Myanmar. China has openly backed the Tatmadaw as it gave them de facto recognition after the coup.”

Read More: <https://www.thefridaytimes.com/is-myanmar-ripe-for-a-proxy-war/>

China Rolls Dice With Myanmar’s Military, Sidelines Democratic NUG

Thompson Chau And John Liu | February 16, 2022

“Among the signs that Beijing has decided that backing rather than isolating a pariah regime on its doorstep is its best option, Myanmar became the first country in Southeast Asia to take delivery of a China-manufactured submarine.”

Read More: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Myanmar-Crisis/China-rolls-dice-with-Myanmar-s-military-sidelines-democratic-NUG>

Nepal Power: Caught Between Chinese Capital And Indian Market

Benedict B. George | February 15, 2022

“India has made it clear that it would not cede regional supremacy to China so readily; so Kathmandu will need to balance between the lure of Chinese capital and the Indian market.”

Read More: <https://www.southasiamonitor.org/index.php/spotlight/nepal-power-caught-between-chinese-capital-and-indian-market>

REGION IN PICTURES

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett made a landmark one-day visit on 15 Feb 22 to Bahrain.



Pic credits: Haim Zach/Government Press Office via Reuters

Representatives from Iran and all major nations including US are meeting in Vienna for negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.



Pic credits: EEAS/Handout via Reuters

Prime Minister Imran Khan went to Russia on a two day state visit and held a meeting with President Vladimir Putin.



Pic credits: Pakistan PMO office via Twitter

UN has launched a more than \$5 billion funding appeal for Afghanistan which is facing a severe humanitarian crisis since the Taliban took control.



Pic credits: Ali Khara/Reuters



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The views expressed in this brief are those of the author and not necessarily of the Centre or any other organisation.