



Taliban Incapacity and the growing threat of Islamic State-Khorasan Province

Shanthie Mariet Dsouza & Bibhu Prasad Routray | 10 Mar 2023

“Taliban is under pressure to neutralise the growing threat of the IS-KP for two reasons. First, the group’s growth constitutes a direct challenge to the Islamic Emirate and its claim of control over Afghanistan. Secondly, Taliban want to demonstrate its commitment to not allow Afghan soil to be used by any global terror group.”

Read More: <http://mantraya.org/analysis-taliban-incapacity-and-the-threat-of-islamic-state-khorasan-province-to-south-asian-security/>

Iran’s Taliban Outreach Poses a Significant Challenge to India’s Afghan Policy

Shanthie Mariet Dsouza | 15 Mar 2023

“Tehran’s policies appear to have been shaped not just by its bitter rivalry with the US, but also by its strong ties with Beijing.”

Read More: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/irans-taliban-outreach-poses-a-significant-challenge-to-indias-afghan-policy-12294842.html>

Pakistan's Alarming Rise in Terrorism is Fueled by Afghanistan

Muhammad Nawaz Khan | 10 Mar 2023

“Data on the number and location of terrorist attacks in Pakistan show a concentration near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/pakistans-alarming-rise-in-terrorism-is-fueled-by-afghanistan/>

Pakistan's Terrorism Problem: The Schism between Antiterrorism and Counterterrorism

Muhammad Shareh Qazi | 17 Mar 2023

“As Pakistan addresses the current influx of terrorism, policymakers must complement counterterrorism mechanisms with a broad-spectrum antiterrorism framework to address root causes.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/pakistans-terrorism-problem-the-schism-between-antiterrorism-and-counterterrorism/>

A United States-Pakistan Rapprochement?

S. Paul Kapur | 03 Mar 2022

“American leaders must abandon their decades-long dream of achieving strategic convergence between the US and Pakistan.”

Read More: <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/a-united-states-pakistan-rapprochement/>

The Biden Administration's Two-Track Pakistan Policy Misses the Mark

Madiha Afzal | 02 Mar 2023

“For the time being, its spiraling economic situation and domestic problems limit its attractiveness as a U.S. partner.”

Read More: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2023/03/02/the-biden-administrations-two-track-pakistan-policy-misses-the-mark/>

A Year of Lost Opportunity

Maleeha Lodhi | 13 Mar 2023

“Notwithstanding Khan’s inflexibility, it was the government’s responsibility to try to evolve such an agreement to calm down the situation and end the uncertainty. In the absence of this, the country’s political and economic future appears more troubled than ever.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1741920>

The Story Behind China’s Role in the Iran-Saudi Deal

Saeed Azimi | 13 Mar 2023

“Prolonged negotiations over security assurances preceded Beijing’s breakthrough in restoring diplomatic relations. In return for its mediation, China seeks both prestige and economic benefits.”

Read More: <https://www.stimson.org/2023/the-story-behind-chinas-role-in-the-iran-saudi-deal/>

After the Iran Deal

Suzanne Maloney | 28 Feb 2023

“Changing course is never easy, and Biden’s political and diplomatic investment in the JCPOA makes it especially difficult to abandon the deal.”

Read More: https://www.foreignaffairs.com/middle-east/iran-nuclear-deal-plan-b-contain-islamic-republic?utm_medium=newsletters&utm_source=fatoday&utm_campaign=After%20the%20Iran%20Deal&utm_content=20230308&utm_term=FA%20Today%20-%20112017

Saudi Arabia has Become the Next Tech Battleground

Divyanshu Jindal | 12 Mar 2023

“Having laid its Vision 2030 plan, which seeks to diversify its economy through increased focus on innovation, Riyadh has made digital transformation a critical goal.”

Read More: <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/lebanon-watch/saudi-arabia-has-become-next-tech-battleground-206286>

Iran and Russia: An Unsteady Axis

John Raine | 23 Feb 2023

“While Russia has received material contributions to its military operations and gained leverage in the Middle East, the benefits of this partnership for Iran have been less clear.”

Read More: <https://www.iiss.org/blogs/analysis/2023/02/iran-and-russia-an-unsteady-axis>

Unpacking Geopolitical Competition and Energy Security in Central Asia

Catherine Putz | 10 Mar 2023

“A U.S. Senate subcommittee recently explored U.S. policy toward Central Asia amid war in Ukraine and intense concern about global energy security.”

Read More: <https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/unpacking-geopolitical-competition-and-energy-security-in-central-asia/>

Central Asia Needs a New Approach to Security

Shamsiya Rakhimshoeva | 09 Mar 2023

“Governments’ responses to recent unrest tend to follow a familiar script that deflects from the real problems people face, fueling cycles of violence.”

Read More: <https://www.usip.org/publications/2023/03/central-asia-needs-new-approach-security>

How Bhutan Graduated from the ‘Least Developed Country’ Status

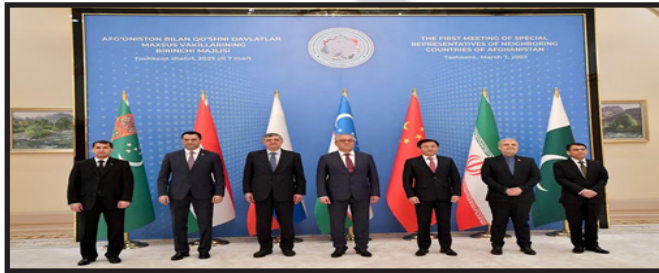
Mira Patel | 13 Mar 2023

“Bhutan was included in the first group of ‘Least Developed Countries’ in 1971. However, over the last few decades, it has made remarkable progress on a variety of socio-economic metrics.”

Read More: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/bhutan-graduated-least-developed-country-status-explained-8492253/>

REGION IN PICTURES

Meeting of special representatives of Russia and six nations bordering Afghanistan was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on March 7, 2023.



Pic Credits: - Foreign Ministry of Uzbekistan/Handout via REUTERS

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made a visit to Central Asia and met his counterparts from all five former Soviet republics in the region



Pic Credits: Al Jazeera

Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress was elected as the new President of Nepal . He was the common candidate of eight-party alliance that included the CPN (Maoist Centre).



Pic Credits: The Economic Times

Amidst the political turmoil in his country, Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif made a two day visit to Qatar for attending the 5th United Nations conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).



Pic Credits: Javed Mehmood /Twitter



Centre for Air Power Studies

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NOTE: **Regional Opinion and Trends** aims to capture prevailing opinions in South Asia and West Asia.

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