

Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distinct future

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Flight of Alliances: Argentina's Defence Minister Strengthens Ties with India, Eyes Helicopter Procurement and Defence Cooperation

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of our newsletter, Far and Wide, where we bring a collection of interesting stories from around the world. Our lead story this week focuses on Argentine Defense Minister Jorge Enrique Taiana arrival in New Delhi for a four-day visit aimed at bolstering defense cooperation and strategic ties with India. He held crucial bilateral talks with Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, focusing on enhancing defense ties and exploring avenues for collaboration in the defense industry. Recently, a crucial step was taken with the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) between Argentina and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of approximately 20 Light and Medium Utility Helicopters. Adding to the strengthening of bilateral ties, Defence Minister Jorge Taiana's visit to India resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding and a training agreement. These agreements aim to facilitate joint activities for officers and cadets of the Armed Forces of both countries, fostering a closer bond between Argentina and India. In addition, Defence Minister Taiana engaged with authorities of the BrahMos missile company during his visit, further exploring opportunities for technological advancements in the aerospace sector. This deal not only strengthens bilateral ties between India and Argentina, showcasing their growing defence cooperation and strategic partnership, but also provides a significant economic boost for India's defence industry. The sale of helicopters to Argentina creates export opportunities and contributes to the country's economic growth, highlighting India's prowess in producing high-quality defence equipment. Additionally, this agreement demonstrates India's willingness to collaborate and share military expertise with countries beyond its immediate region, enhancing its diplomatic influence on the global defence stage. We hope you find this edition informative and thought-provoking.

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Argentina's Defence Minister Strengthens Ties with India, Eyes Helicopter Procurement and Defence Cooperation



Argentina's Defence Minister, Mr Jorge Enrique Taiana, visited India, and a significant step was taken with the signing of a Letter of Intent between Argentina and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of about 20 Light and Medium Utility Helicopters. A memorandum of understanding and a training agreement were also signed during the visit, enhancing bilateral cooperation in the defence sector. Argentina aims to bolster its military capabilities, considering helicopters and exploring alternatives like the JF-17 and F-16 aircraft. The visit revitalized the Argentina-India Defence Commission, signaling a renewed commitment to deepen defence ties and foster mutual regional growth and security.

Source: Financial Express

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-argentinas-military-modernisation-exploring-potential-helicopter-acquisitions-and-bilateral-collaborations-with-india-3184097/>



North America

OpenAI, Google, others pledge to watermark AI content for safety, White House says



Source: Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/technology/openai-google-others-pledge-watermark-ai-content-safety-white-house-2023-07-21/>

President Joe Biden revealed that major AI companies, including OpenAI, Alphabet, and Meta Platforms, have voluntarily pledged to implement safety measures for AI-generated content. The commitments include watermarking AI-generated content to enhance safety and testing systems thoroughly before release. The companies also agreed to share information on risk reduction and invest in cybersecurity. The move comes in response to growing concerns about the potential disruptive uses of AI technology, and it is seen as a positive step in the Biden administration's efforts to regulate the rapidly growing AI industry. The companies' commitment to making AI safer and more secure has been welcomed by the White House. The article also highlights that the U.S. is lagging behind the EU in AI regulation. In June, EU lawmakers agreed on draft rules that require AI systems to disclose their generated content, distinguish deep-fake images from real ones, and safeguard against illegal content. Biden hosted executives from the seven companies at the White House and is working on developing an executive order and bipartisan legislation on AI technology. As part of the commitment, the companies will develop a watermarking system to identify AI-generated content, addressing concerns about deep fakes and content manipulation. Additionally, the companies pledged to protect users' privacy as AI technology develops, eliminate biases, and avoid discrimination against vulnerable groups. They also expressed their dedication to using AI for beneficial purposes, such as scientific problem-solving and addressing issues like medical research and climate change.



Europe

India to ask EU to have alternative carbon tax determination formula

India is considering urging the EU to develop a different approach for imposing a separate duty on products from countries with historically high per capita carbon emissions. In response to the EU's proposed CBAM, India may seek binding commitments on technology transfer and financial support for mitigation efforts. Concerns have been raised about the potential impact of CBAM on Indian exports, particularly in the steel and aluminum sectors. The Indian government aims to negotiate exemptions from CBAM and highlight the importance of coherence in carbon pricing during discussions with the EU. The implementation of the European Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is expected to significantly impact India's steel exports to Europe, according to a report by the rating agency ICRA. India exports around 3-5 million tons of rolled steel to Europe annually, accounting for 15-40% of its annual steel exports. The CBAM compliance requirements, set to be implemented between 2026 and 2034, could potentially reduce the profitability of Indian steel exports to the EU by \$60-165 per ton.

Source: The Hindu

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-to-ask-eu-to-have-alternative-carbon-tax-determination-formula/article67109368.ece>



Asia

North Korea Launches Ballistic Missiles Amid Rising Tensions with South Korea and US

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the sea off its east coast, with Japan and South Korea's militaries confirming the launches. The incident occurred shortly after the arrival of a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine at a naval base in South Korea. The situation has escalated tensions on the Korean peninsula as both South Korea and the United States increase their military readiness against North Korea's weapons program. North Korea has expressed anger over the deployment of U.S. strategic military assets, and the U.S. is consulting closely with allies about the missile launches. Despite the provocative actions, the U.S. military states there is no immediate threat to U.S. personnel, territory, or allies. This comes after North Korea previously conducted ballistic missile tests in response to a nuclear-armed U.S. submarine's arrival in South Korea.



Source: Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/north-korea-fires-ballistic-missile-yonhap-2023-07-24/>



Africa



BRICS Bloc Attracts Over 40 Nations Seeking Expansion and Influence Boost

Over 40 nations have expressed their interest in joining the BRICS bloc of major developing economies, according to South Africa's ambassador to the group. BRICS, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, aims to counter Western economic domination and has previously indicated its openness to expansion. Countries like Iran, Argentina, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia, among others, have shown interest in becoming part of the bloc. While China and South Africa are supportive of expansion, Russia may follow China's lead, while Brazil and India are concerned that their influence could diminish with more members and may prefer to keep interested states as observers. South Africa, the most recent addition to BRICS, proposed further expansion in 2018, and discussions about new members have been ongoing since then. The country is set to host this year's BRICS summit in Johannesburg, where 69 global leaders, including all African states, have been invited to attend related events, reflecting the bloc's interest in enhancing its influence.

Source: Livemint

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/more-than-40-nations-lining-up-to-join-brics-bloc-south-africa-11689869467590.html>



Australia

Australian MP Backs India's Leverage in Dealing with Tech Giants

Australian MP Paul Fletcher recently expressed his support for India's proposed Digital India Act, stating that India would gain an advantage in negotiating with tech giants like Google and Facebook if they implement legislation governing revenue-sharing between social media platforms and news publishers. Speaking at a virtual event hosted by the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), Fletcher praised India's digital market scale and highlighted the leverage it could have compared to countries with smaller populations. Fletcher is known for piloting Australia's News Media Bargaining Code, which enabled news organizations to seek compensation from tech platforms for using their content. He suggested that if India adopts a similar code, it could have a quicker impact on global tech companies. The Australian MP recommended that India identify a trigger, similar to Australia's sharp drop in ad revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a basis for introducing a mandatory code rather than a voluntary one. He debunked criticisms of the Australian Code, stating that it resulted in multiple commercial deals between Google, Facebook, and Australian media businesses, leading to over AU\$200 million in payments to news publishers and expansion of newsrooms. Fletcher also proposed that India and Australia collaborate on antitrust regulations, economy, and security, suggesting a government-to-government study of the Australian Code as a possible avenue for cooperation.



Source: The Hindu

[India will have huge leverage in bargaining dynamics with big tech: Australian MP Paul Fletcher - The Hindu](#)