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Putin Visited North Korea and Vietnam

Russian President Vladimir Putin [signed](#) a mutual defence agreement on 19 June during his visit to Pyongyang. Korean leader Kim Jong-Un offered his "full support" on Ukraine. Putin said the two countries will not tolerate Western "blackmail" and called for a review of UN sanctions on North Korea.

Putin also [visited](#) Vietnam on 20 June where Moscow and Hanoi pledged to strengthen bilateral ties. Vietnamese President To Lam said "the two sides want to push up cooperation in defence and security." Several agreements pertaining to education, justice and civil nuclear projects were signed.

Russia Accused France of Risking War

Russian Foreign Ministry has [accused](#) France of "provoking another round of armed confrontation in the South Caucasus." Signing the deal to sell French-made CAESAR self-propelled howitzers to Armenia is another step. Russian comments echoed a statement from Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry which accused France of "pursuing a policy of militarization" and of "preventing the normalization of relations" between Yerevan and Baku.

Russian and American Defence Ministers Held Telephonic Discussion

Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov and his U.S. counterpart Lloyd Austin [spoke](#) by phone on 26 June. Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that Belousov and Austin "exchanged views on the situation around Ukraine" and that "Belousov pointed to the danger of further escalation of the situation in connection

with the ongoing supply of U.S. weapons to Ukraine." Meanwhile, Pentagon spokesman Major General Pat Ryder said that Austin had "emphasized the importance of maintaining lines of communication."

Russia's Oil and Gas Revenues Increased

Russia's [revenue](#) from oil and gas sales in June 2024 is expected to reach US\$ 9.4 billion (812 billion roubles). This would mark a 50 per cent plus year-on-year increase since June 2023. Russian authorities expect this year's revenues from oil and gas sales to increase by 21 per cent compared to 2023. Russia has since been able to reroute supplies from Europe to Asia amid ballooning wartime spending on defence and security that has led to two consecutive annual budget deficits.

President of Uzbekistan Visited Türkiye

On June 6, Uzbekistan – Türkiye Business Council [held](#) its first meeting in Ankara. The Presidents of Uzbekistan and Türkiye emphasized that this forum is a step up in their bilateral relations and signed documents regarding energy, textile, agriculture, infrastructure and healthcare.

Armenia Threatened to Leave CSTO

On 12 June, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated in his [address](#) to the National Assembly that Armenia would leave the CSTO. The Armenian Foreign Minister clarified that the country would decide on when to leave. This has drawn a response from Russia, which [stressed](#) that Yerevan is free to end its membership with the organisation. This is the latest instance between Armenia and CSTO since the Second Nagorno Karabakh War.

South Korean President Visited Uzbekistan

On 13 June, South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol [visited](#) Tashkent as part of his tour of Central Asia. He discussed the formation of a new high-tech agenda for further developing the strategic partnership with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. President Yoon Suk-Yeol also visited Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan.

Armenia-France Defence Agreement

On 17 June, Armenia and France signed an [agreement](#) to purchase the CAESAR self-propelled artillery systems in Paris. Armenia has previously acquired sniper rifles, anti-aircraft defence systems, and Bastion armoured vehicles from France. This new defence deal has drawn [reactions](#) from both Azerbaijan and Russia.

Uzbek Delegation Visited Mongolia

On June 18, Representatives from Uzbekistan [visited](#) the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mongolia (NCCI) to discuss issues of bilateral economic cooperation. Investments in solar and wind energy are likely to become integral in advancing relations between the two countries.

EU Parliamentary Elections Held

The EU parliamentary elections from 6-9 June witnessed a shift towards centre-right parties and away from those advocating for green and liberal policies. The European People's Party emerged as the 720-seat chamber's biggest bloc with 182 seats. The number of non-aligned parties in the [parliament](#) witnessed a jump from 62 in 2019 to 99 this year. Ongoing economic and climate crisis coupled with the wars in Ukraine and Gaza has made voters look for more security. Compared to the last EU

parliament, the new one is likely to be less environmentally friendly, more fragmented and unwelcoming towards migrants.

US-Ukraine Security Agreement

On 13 June President Biden and President Zelenskyy signed a 10 year US-Ukraine Bilateral [Security](#) Agreement. The US will work with its partners to strengthen Ukraine's defending capabilities and deter future aggression. It will bolster Ukraine's defence [industrial](#) base and support its economic recovery and energy security, thereby accelerating Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration. This security agreement follows the \$61 billion aid package to Ukraine.

G7 Annual Leaders' Summit in Italy

The G7 Annual Leaders' Summit was held from 13-15 June in Puglia, Italy. During the course of its presidency, [Rome](#) hosted 21 ministerial meetings on industry, digital tech, foreign affairs, defence, security and others. It collectively finalised the decision to provide Ukraine with [\\$50 billion](#) by utilising the profits of frozen Russian assets in EU. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also invited to participate at the G7 outreach session, making it his first foreign visit after getting re-elected for the third time.

Ukraine Peace Summit Held in Switzerland

Switzerland hosted the Ukraine Peace Summit in Bürgenstock on 15-16 June. It was attended by 92 countries and 8 international organisations including India. China did not attend it while Russia was not invited. India was represented by MEA's secretary (West) Pavan Kapoor. The summit concluded with the release of the 3-point [Joint Communiqué](#) that India and other middle order countries did not sign.