

South Asia Daily Briefing

Date 23 Jan, 2026

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South Asia's headlines reveal converging economic, diplomatic, and geopolitical pressures.

In Pakistan, business leaders warn that production costs exceed regional peers, sharpening the risk that export stagnation will deepen fiscal stress unless energy pricing, taxation, and currency volatility are addressed urgently.

Sports diplomacy is also turning strategic: a T20 World Cup dispute with Bangladesh is testing India's credibility as a global host, with implications for its Olympic ambitions. Beyond the region, India is hedging through deeper engagement with Germany, reflecting New Delhi's search for resilient partnerships amid systemic flux.

Economically, the World Bank cautions that US tariffs on Indian exports could slow South Asia's 2026 growth trajectory, complicating trade integration. Meanwhile, Europe's designation of Iran's IRGC as a terrorist organization escalates Tehran's isolation, intersecting with domestic unrest nationwide protests persist.

Here are top Five news articles describing South Asia Today:

1) Dawn (Pakistan)

Business costs 34pc higher than region, warns Pakistan Business Forum
Pakistan's operating costs are about 34% above regional peers, undermining exporters' competitiveness. Industry groups urge tax reform, cheaper energy and stabilized exchange rates to revive exports, protect jobs, and avert deeper economic decline.

🔗 Link: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1968550>

2) Arab News PK (AFP via Reuters)

Pakistan precedent looms as T20 World Cup row clouds India's Olympic ambitions
A diplomatic dispute with Bangladesh over ICC T20 World Cup venues threatens India's global sports hosting reputation. Bangladesh refuses to play matches in India, risking participation and prompting potential schedule changes.

🔗 Link: <https://arab.news/2tcnm>

3) The Diplomat

India-Germany Relations: Kite Flying at a Time of Geopolitical Flux

India and Germany are pursuing deeper strategic and economic ties as geopolitical shifts challenge global alignments, highlighting New Delhi's expanding diplomacy beyond its immediate neighborhood.

🔗 Link: <https://thediplomat.com/2026/01/india-germany-relations-kite-flying-at-a-time-of-geopolitical-flux/>

4) Asharq Al-Awsat / Aawsat.com (via Reuters)

World Bank Warns US Tariffs on Indian Exports to Slow South Asia Growth Next Year

The World Bank projects slower regional growth in 2026 as high US tariffs on Indian exports cut competitiveness, prompting tax and policy responses in New Delhi and wider implications for South Asian trade integration.

🔗 Link: <https://english.aawsat.com/business/5194552-world-bank-warns-us-tariffs-indian-exports-slow-south-asia-growth-next-year>

5) European Parliament Designates Iran's IRGC as Terrorist Organization

Description: In a major blow to Tehran's foreign policy, the European Parliament voted overwhelmingly to designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist entity. The move coincides with reports of intensified civil unrest and a two-week nationwide internet blackout across Iran.

Link: <https://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/iran-news-in-brief-january-23-2026/>

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