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Institute for
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Introducing another week of Future Trends — *tracking current global news stories that provide insight into the future.*

CONFLICT

Malaysia, Indonesia 'worried and concerned' AUKUS could lead to Asia regional arms race. Malaysia and Indonesia have said they [share strong reservations](#) over Australia's decision to acquire nuclear-powered submarines, even though nuclear weapons were not part of the plan.

Guinea-Bissau army thwarts coup d'état. The country's military chief says that they have identified a group of FARP (Revolutionary Armed Forces of the People) soldiers [preparing a coup](#) to subvert the constitutional order.

Central African Republic declares unilateral ceasefire in fight with rebels. The President [declared a unilateral cessation of fighting](#) against armed groups, saying he hoped it would lead to peaceful dialogue. The rebel alliance welcomed the declaration but past ceasefires have fallen apart.

India to move migrant workers in Kashmir to army camps after killings. Vulnerable Indian migrant workers in Kashmir [will be moved to army and police camps](#) for protection after several were killed by militants, the police chief on the Indian side of the disputed region.

Hezbollah says it won't be dragged into war after Beirut bloodshed. The Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah [said it would not be dragged into civil war](#) even as it stepped up accusations against the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) party it says killed seven Shi'ites in Beirut's bloodiest street violence in years.

DEVELOPMENT

Kenya and Somalia have a new border. The International Court of Justice [ruled in favour of Somalia on a new maritime boundary](#) after a legal battle started in 2014 in an area believed to be rich in natural resources.

Greece, Egypt sign deal for first subsea power link between Europe and Africa. Greece and Egypt [clinched an agreement](#) that sets the stage for an undersea cable that will transmit

power produced by renewables from North Africa to Europe, the first such infrastructure in the Mediterranean.

Insects' extreme farming methods offer us lessons. Agriculturists are defined as those who habitually plant a crop, tend it, harvest it and depend on its success. Six-legged farmers grew their own food for millions of years, but [what can be learned for human success?](#)

Humanitarian agencies are helping nearly 13 million people across Yemen. Aid [agencies are helping one third of the population](#) of a country where the economy is collapsing and conflict is worsening.

China needs to reduce its emission drastically. Experts claim that [without China's drastic cutback in carbon emission](#), the world would not be able to fight climate change.

SOCIAL

Russia's population undergoes largest ever peacetime decline. Analysis finds Russia's natural population [fell by 997,000](#) between October 2020 and September 2021 with COVID-19 cited as the principal cause.

Covid-19 has led to a [sharp increase in depression and anxiety](#). Women fared worse than men.

Playing brain training games regularly doesn't boost brainpower. Research has found that brain trainers on [average had no mental edge over other groups](#) in memory, verbal skills and reasoning.

Melbourne to ease world's longest COVID-19 lockdowns as vaccinations rise. The Australian city of 5 million people [will have been under six lockdowns totalling 262 days](#), or nearly nine months, since March 2020.

Christchurch: New Zealand city parts ways with its wizard. Ian Brackenbury Channell, 88, was paid \$11,280 USD a year for 23 years to provide "[acts of wizardry](#)" and promote the city. The city has now ended his contract, saying it is going in a more modern and diverse direction.

ECONOMICS

UK job vacancies reach 20-year high. [Vacancies hit 1.1 million](#) between July and September, the Office for National Statistics said, the highest level since records began in 2001. The largest increase in vacancies was in the retail sector and in motor vehicle repair.

G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe in Afghanistan. [A G20 virtual summit](#) came as the UN urged world leaders to put billions of dollars into the Afghan economy. US President Joe Biden stressed that aid should be provided via independent international organisations and not directly to the ruling Taliban.

IMF board supports Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva despite data-rigging claims.

The IMF expressed “[full confidence](#)” in its managing director in response to allegations that while she was a World Bank official, she and others pressured staffers to change business rankings in an effort to placate China.

China’s producer inflation at 26-year high. The producer price index [climbed 10.7% from a year earlier](#), reaching the highest since November 1995, as coal prices and other commodity costs soared, data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

US inflation records a 13-year high. Energy prices, labour shortage and the pandemic are some of the reasons for a [13-year high](#) on the Consumer Price Index on the US economy.

POLITICS

Chile opposition moves to impeach president over Pandora leaks. President Sebastian Pinera [rejects Pandora Papers report](#) linking him to the controversial 2010 sale of a mining company.

US rejoins UN Human Rights Council, years after walk-out. The United Nations General Assembly [has decided to allow the United State back to its seat](#), two years after the Trump administration decided to quit.

Syrian government, opposition agree to redraft constitution. The drafting committee, comprising 45 representatives of Syria’s government, opposition and civil society, has a [mandate to draw up a new basic law](#) leading to UN supervised elections.

ASEAN to exclude Myanmar junta chief from leaders' summit. ASEAN [decided to sideline Myanmar's military ruler](#) from a leaders' summit this month, sources said, a rare tough stand by a bloc known for its policy of engagement and non-interference.

China's President Xi will not attend COP26. Boris Johnson has been told that [President Xi of China will not attend next month’s critical climate change conference](#) in Glasgow amid international pessimism that the event will be successful.

PEACEBUILDING

[Tanenbaum Peacemakers Pastor James and Imam Ashafa](#) have developed a [Peace Trees initiative in Nigeria](#). The project aims to bring farmers and herders together to promote interfaith collaboration to plant trees, thereby preserving land, providing fodder for animals and compost for farming. They are working with the Kaduna state Ministry of Forestry to plant specific trees, while a grant from the [Bosch Foundation](#) enables them to host training sessions on how to plant and care for the trees.

The [GE Foundation](#) and [FHI360](#) have launched [Next Engineers](#), a 10-year global college-readiness initiative to increase the diversity of youth in engineering. The program will introduce students to engineering concepts and skills through demonstrations, summer camps and after-school activities. Scholarships will be available to students who complete the program and are accepted into an engineering program at an institution of higher education. The initiative is set to begin in Cincinnati, Ohio; Greenville, South Carolina; Staffordshire, UK; and Johannesburg, South Africa.

[Search for Common Ground](#) has launched a new initiative, [Common Ground USA](#), to address the roots of conflicts in the US. The program will produce tools for communities to use to prevent political violence, create media content that encourages mutual understanding and collaboration, and provide young people with skills to engage across divides, expanding their [First-year Connect](#) program.

Native Americans have been attempting to reclaim land confiscated by the US government before 1934. In December 2020, Congress passed legislation that restored ownership of the national bison range in Montana to the Salish and Kootenai tribes. Other tribes – including the Esselen and Yurok in northern California, the Nez Perce in the North West and the Passamaquoddi in Maine -- have bought back land that ended up in private hands, in some cases with the help of environmental groups, [according to PBS](#).