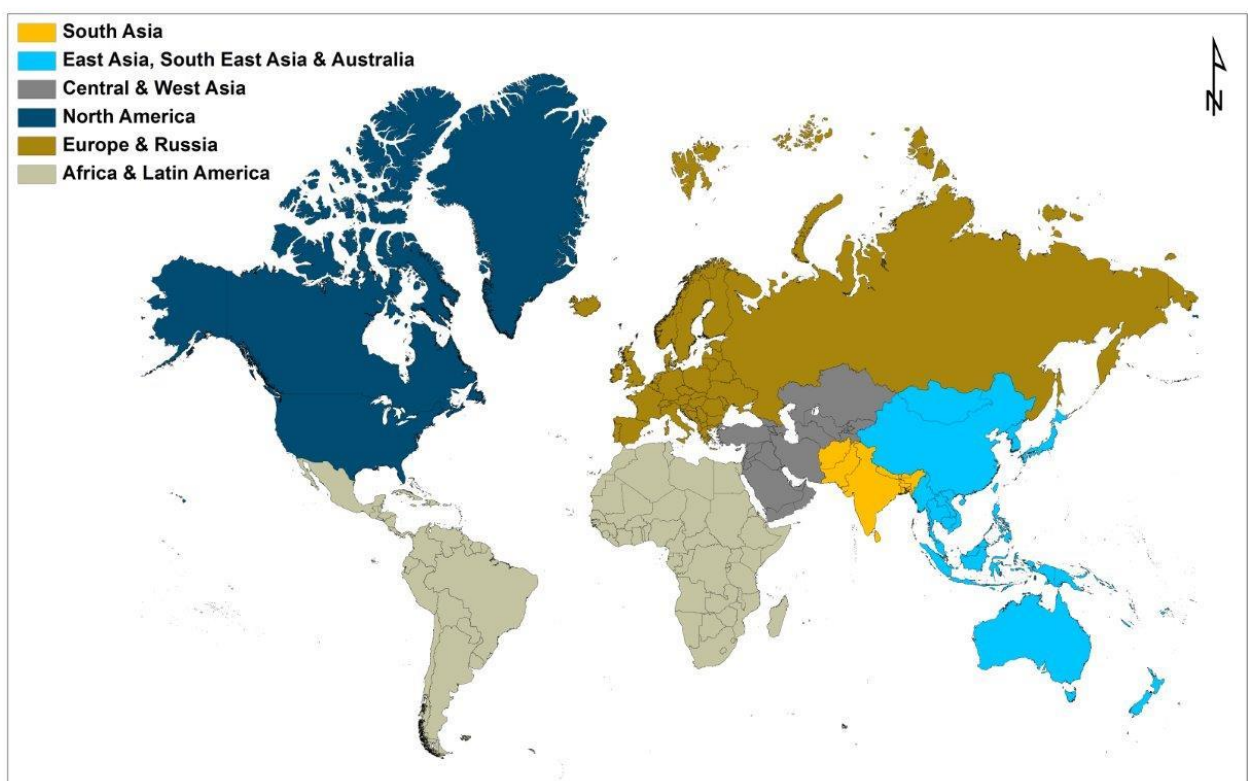




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 43

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India jumps to 63rd position in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 report](#)

October 24, 2019, Economic Times

India has moved 14 places to be 63rd among 190 nations in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking released on Thursday on the back of multiple economic reforms by the Narendra Modi government. However, it failed to achieve government's target of being at 50th place.

[India, Maldives to take forward defence ties](#)

October 21, 2019, The Hindu

With the recent improvement in relations, India and the Maldives will take forward several pending measures to promote defence cooperation in the next few months. These include lease of a Dornier aircraft, bringing the Maldives under India's coastal radar chain network and a broad-based humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise.

[India, US join hands to develop a range of warfighting tech and systems](#)

October 25, 2019, Business Standard

Seeking to galvanise the US-India defence partnership, the two countries on Thursday signed a joint statement of intent (SoI) that formalised their intention to co-develop a range of cutting-edge warfighting technologies and systems for their militaries.

[India increases troops, patrolling along India-China border](#)

October 24, 2019, Economic Times

The development was shared by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General S S Deswal on Wednesday. Deswal explained that since the last five years 25 Border Outposts (BOPs) have been created for the ITBP along the border with China. Seven out of 25 BOPs are in Ladakh and 10 more are planned to come up.

[Foreign Defence Attaches Conclave: India Defence Industry Transiting Rapidly to being Export Oriented](#)

October 20, 2019, Bharat Shakti

Setting the tone of the power-packed 4th Foreign Defence Attaches' Conclave, Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said, "We are manufacturing weapons not

just to arm our defence forces, but we are now precisely becoming a export-oriented defence industry.

[Defence Ministry to decide on Army's Rs 10,000 crore Akash missiles proposal for Pakistan, China border](#)

October 21, 2019, Economic Times

The new Akash missiles which will have an extended performance range than its predecessors are being prepared to be deployed in high altitude areas in Ladakh which shares boundaries with both Pakistan and China.

[Defence Ministry clears indigenous projects worth Rs 3300 crore](#)

October 21, 2019, India Today

The three projects, which got the go-ahead, include two third-generation anti-tank guided missiles and the auxiliary power units for the T-72 and T-90 tanks. The third-generation anti-tank guided missiles would provide 'fire and forget' and 'top attack' capabilities to the troops in an armoured battle, the auxiliary power units would enable incorporation of various upgrades to fire control system and night fighting capabilities of the tanks.

[German Chancellor Angela Merkel on three-day visit to India from October 31](#)

October 23, 2019, Economic Times

Official sources said Merkel and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in their wide-ranging talks, will particularly focus on giving a new momentum to the bilateral ties by significantly scaling up cooperation in several sectors.

[India, Pakistan sign historic agreement to open Kartarpur corridor](#)

October 24, 2019, Live Mint

India and Pakistan on Thursday signed a pact to open a land corridor between the two countries that will allow Indian pilgrims to visit Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in Kartarpur, in Narowal district of Pakistan, a move that is expected to boost people-to-people contact at a time of tense relations between the neighbours.

[India, Philippines sign pacts on maritime domain and security boosting partnership in Indo-Pacific](#)

October 21, 2019, Economic Times

India signed four agreements covering maritime domain, security, tourism, science and technology and culture. "We are committed to work closely together

to defeat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," said President Kovind.

[India calls for reforming NAM under current geo-political realities](#)

October 23, 2019, Economic Times

India on Wednesday called for reforming the Non-Aligned Movement or NAM as long-held assumption and alignments rooted in the legacies of colonialism and the ideology of the Cold War are making way for new configurations and partnerships.

[Kashmir: US Wants India To Balance Security Priorities With Respect For Human Rights](#)

"Since the August 5 revocation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution, we have urged the Indian government to balance its security priorities with respect for human rights," Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour Robert Destro told a Congressional Sub-Committee.

[India eyes stronger business ties with ASEAN, at par with political relations: Ram Nath Kovind](#)

October 19, 2019, Economic Times

President Ram Nath Kovind - during his ongoing state visit to Philippines - noted that ASEAN-India trade has jumped significantly in the past few years, but that it has quite a distance to go in matching the strength of diplomatic relations.

[IMF sees Indian economic growth rebounding to 7% next fiscal](#)

October 23, 2019, Times of India

"We see the Indian economy rebounding from our projected 6.1 per cent growth this fiscal year to something like 7 per cent in the next fiscal year (2020).

[India weighs trade curbs on Turkey, Malaysia over Kashmir comments](#)

October 22, 2019, Economic Times

India is considering placing curbs on some imports from Turkey and Malaysia, in response to their leaders' comments on the autonomy of Kashmir, people familiar with the matter said.

[Exercise utmost caution while visiting Turkey: Indian Embassy](#)

October 24, 2019, Economic Times

In a statement on Wednesday, the Indian embassy in Ankara said: "The Government of India has been receiving queries from Indian nationals on travelling to Turkey in view of the situation in the region.

Pakistan

[Pakistan, India sign agreement on Kartarpur Corridor](#)

October 24, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan and India signed the agreement on Kartarpur Corridor paving the way for its inauguration next month ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak Dev.

[KE awards \\$650m contract to Siemens, Harbin Electric](#)

October 24, 2019, Dawn

K-Electric on Wednesday awarded \$650 million contract to German firm Siemens AG and Chinese construction giant Harbin Electric for building a 900MW combined-cycle power plant and associated grids at Bin Qasim.

[Avoids blacklisting, remains in grey: Pakistan gets 123 days FATF breather](#)

October 19, 2019, The News

The Financial Action Task Force has kept Pakistan in the Grey List for an extended period up to February 2020 and warned that Islamabad would be put on the blacklist if it did not comply with the remaining 22 out of 27 points.

[Contractors stop work on CPEC western route](#)

October 19, 2019, The News

The Subcommittee of the Public Accounts Committee informed that the contractors of the packages 4 and 5 of Burhan-Hakla, DI Khan, of the Western Route under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) sent the notice of termination of contract due to non-release of funds for the ongoing projects.

[\\$6 billion bailout: Pakistan to seek IMF waiver after FATF decision](#)

October 19, 2019, The News

Pakistan will have to seek the IMF waiver on structural benchmark condition with regard to \$6 billion bailout after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained its

greylist status for an extended period up to February 2020 in its October 13 to 18 plenary meeting at Paris.

[China to help in turning Thar coal into diesel](#)

October 21, 2019, The News

China will help Pakistan turn Thar coal into diesel and to this effect, the Pakistan authorities managed to contact Chinese Shenhua Ningxia Coal Industry Group, which is known for turning coal into liquid.

[Pakistan, Indonesian navies conduct 'Sea Thunder-IV' exercise](#)

October 20, 2019, The News

A bilateral exercise SEA THUNDER-IV 2019 between the Pakistan Navy's Special Service Group and the Indonesian Navy's Special Operation Force (SOF) concluded on October 19.

[IMF, ADB support economic reforms](#)

October 20, 2019, The News

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday expressed their support to Pakistan's efforts towards bringing the ailing economy back on the trajectory of sustainable and inclusive growth.

Afghanistan

[USFOR-A commander reveals US has withdrawn 2,000 troops from Afghanistan over past year](#)

October 22, 2019, Jane's 360

The US military has been quietly reducing its troop numbers in Afghanistan over the past year, even without a peace agreement being reached between Washington and the Taliban, US Army General Austin Miller, the commander of the NATO-led 'Resolute Support' mission and US Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A).

[Pakistan to attend Moscow meeting on Afghan Peace](#)

October 22, 2019, Tolo News

Pakistan, China, Russia and the US to meet about the Afghan peace process in Moscow on October 25. The meeting will explore options for joint efforts to help resume the stalled talks between the US and the Taliban and start an intra-Afghan dialogue.

[Pelosi and congressional delegation make secret trip to Afghanistan](#)

October 21, 2019, CNN

The US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and a congressional delegation visited Afghanistan. The group, consisting of eight Democrats and one Republican, met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, as well as the country's chief executive, Abdullah Abdullah, and other senior Afghanistan government officials.

[Khalilzad on diplomatic trail again for Afghan Peace effort](#)

October 21, 2019, Tolo News

The US peace envoy for Afghanistan AmbZalmay Khalilzad has begun a trip to Brussels, Paris, and Moscow to discuss the Afghan peace process.

[62 Killed in two blasts in Nangarhar Mosque](#)

October 18, 2019, Tolo News

At least 62 people were killed and 60 others were wounded in two blasts inside a mosque in Nangarhar province during Friday prayers.

Bangladesh

[Angry BSF stops joint patrolling as India wants Bangladesh to answer why soldier was killed](#)

October 25, 2019, The Print

India is now having a "rethink" on holding the next round of Director General-level talks between the BSF and the Border Guards Bangladesh.

[Stop Killings of Trespassers at Borders, Bangladesh Urges India; Says No Discussion Yet With Amit Shah on BGB Firing](#)

October 25, 2019, News 18

Bangladesh reiterated on Thursday that it was 'misunderstanding' and 'argument' between the Border Guards Bangladesh and its Indian counterpart which led to the firing incident in the Murshidabad district on October 17.

[Bangladesh Urges India To Lift Ban On Onion Export](#)

October 22, 2019, NDTV

Speaking at the inaugural session of India-Bangladesh trade meet in Guwahati, Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said that Dhaka is finding it difficult

to meet its domestic onion requirement due to the sudden ban on exports from New Delhi.

[Bangladesh seeks visa on arrival for its tourists in India](#)

October 24, 2019, The Hindu

The first India-Bangladesh stakeholders' meet for trade connectivity concluded in Guwahati on Wednesday with a call for reopening trade routes through Bangladesh suspended since the Indo-Pak. war of 1965 and visa on arrival for Bangladeshi tourists in India, especially Assam.

[Bangladesh foreign minister: 'We're balancing our ties with China and India'](#)

October 21, 2019, Deutsche Welle

In an exclusive DW interview, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister A. K. Abdul Momen spoke about the Rohingya repatriation to Myanmar as well as his country's ties with China and India. He says his country wants to maintain good relations with everyone.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka spy chief, president blamed for Easter attack lapses](#)

October 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

A Sri Lankan parliamentary committee that investigated last April's Easter suicide bombings has concluded the country's spy chief was primarily responsible for the intelligence failure that led to the death of 259 people in the attacks.

[China, Sri Lanka to work together to facilitate Chinese investments in major projects](#)

October 22, 2019, Colombo Page

China's Ambassador Cheng Xueyuan has met with the Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade Malik Samarawickrema yesterday (October 22) at the Ministry to hold talks on the Chinese investments in major cooperation projects in Sri Lanka among other things.

[Sri Lanka presidential hopeful vows probe into Easter blasts](#)

October 23, 2019, Hartford Courant

A former Sri Lankan defense chief who is a front-runner in next month's presidential election said he'll order a fresh probe into the Easter Sunday blasts that killed 263 people by appointing a presidential commission if he wins.

Nepal

[Amid growing Chinese influence Nepal tightens restrictions on Tibetans: US](#)

October 22, 2019, The Statesman

United States' Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells in her recent statement has said Nepal's government has increased restrictions on the Tibetan Buddhist community amidst growing Chinese influence in the country. China, which regards the Dalai Lama as a separatist, has been increasing its influence in the Himalayan nation that is home to about 20,000 Tibetans.

[Nepal ranks 94th in doing business index](#)

October 25, 2019, Himalayan Times

The World Bank has said that the environment for doing business in Nepal has improved but the country has made starting a business more difficult and property registration more expensive.

[PM Oli leaves for Baku to attend 18th NAM Summit](#)

October 24, 2019, Himalayan Times

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has left for Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, leading the Nepali delegation to the 18th Summit of heads of state and government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

[China to give \\$21 million to Nepal army to help future disaster relief](#)

October 21, 2019, Yahoo News

Nepal said on Monday that China will give its army about \$21 million in unspecified "disaster relief materials" over the next three years, as Beijing strengthens its ties with Kathmandu.

Bhutan

[Why Bhutan, 'world's last Shangri-La', tops Lonely Planet's 2020 best places to visit list](#)

October 23, 2019, Business Insider

According to Lonely Planet Bhutan is going to be the most on-trend travel destination in 2020. The Lonely planet has put Nepal at the top of its Best in Travel 2020 book, an annual publication of its top 10 countries, cities, regions and best-value destinations for the year ahead.

[Bhutan's GDP Growth Projected by IMF To Be Above Global Average](#)

October 21, 2019

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated Bhutan's economic growth for 2019 at 5.5 percent, higher than the global growth forecast of three percent. However, this figure is still lower than the estimates for a few countries in the region such as Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Maldives and China.

East & South East Asia

China

[Pence speech delivers old gripes with room for optimism](#)

October 25, 2019, Global Times

US Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday delivered a major policy speech on China. Initial impressions were that his take on China relied on clichés he used in last year's speech.

[China's business environment rated fairly by World Bank](#)

October 25, 2019, Global Times

In the latest ease of doing business ranking announced by the World Bank, China ranked 31st, a rise of 15 places and surpassed France. China's rank has been rising in the last two years, and was 78th in 2017.

[A right balance between order and diplomacy](#)

October 25, 2019, Global Times

The US has begun to require Chinese diplomats to report meetings with state, local and municipal officials, official visits to educational institutions and official visits to research institution. The incident is brewing.

[China's problem-solving ability powers its optimism](#)

October 19, 2019, Global Times

Substantial progress has been made in various areas during the latest round of high-level trade consultations between China and the US that laid the foundation of an agreement between the two countries, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He said during his Saturday speech at the 2019 World Conference on VR Industry, in East China's Jiangxi Province.

[What 6% GDP growth means to China's economy](#)

October 19, 2019, Global Times

China's GDP grew by 6 percent year-on-year in the third quarter, slower than expected. It has triggered widespread discussions at home and abroad. The downward pressure on China's economy is persisting. The US-launched trade war against China and the sluggish global economy have also had a negative influence, which weighed down China's GDP growth.

[Bolsonaro's visit to chart new course in China-Brazil relations](#)

October 24, 2019, Global Times

As the China-Brazil relationship continues to grow, Brazilian President JairMessiasBolsonaro's visit to China will inject new vitality into bilateral cooperation and advance joint efforts in improving global governance.

[World Internet Conference offers glimpse into future of cyberspace](#)

October 22, 2019, Global Times

The sixth World Internet Conference concluded Tuesday in the river town of Wuzhen in eastern China's Zhejiang Province, offering a glimpse into the future development of cyberspace.

[Pompeo in his glass house should stop throwing stones: China Daily editorial](#)

October 24, 2019, Global Times

In traditional Chinese culture, a man of integrity is not supposed to speak ill of other people behind their backs. Only a mean person does that.

[Taiwan secessionists' bid to sabotage 'one country, two systems' ill-fated: China Daily editorial](#)

October 24, 2019, China Daily

That the Hong Kong government officially withdrew the extradition law amendment bill on Wednesday, depriving the anti-government protesters of their proclaimed raison d'être, should serve to defuse some of the tension in the embattled city.

[More haste, less speed will help get 'phase one' deal over the line: China Daily editorial](#)

October 22, 2019, China Daily

The prospect of a continuing trade war between China and the United States has driven the International Monetary Fund to lower its global growth forecast for 2019 to 3 percent, a level last seen only during the international financial crisis a decade back.

[Special envoy's visit another boost for ties: China Daily editorial](#)

October 22, 2019, China Daily

In a sign of the continuously improving Sino-Japanese relations, Vice-President Wang Qishan will attend the enthronement ceremony of Japanese Emperor Naruhito in Tokyo on Tuesday.

[Beijing security forum promotes dialogue to prevent dangerous misjudgments: China Daily editorial](#)

October 21, 2019, China Daily

Where there is a lack of mutual trust in international relations, there is always the risk of misunderstandings and miscalculation. Dialogue is the only way to build the necessary trust.

[HK must not be ruled by anarchy: China Daily editorial](#)

October 21, 2019, China Daily

Fire rages at an exit of the Hong Kong subway's Central Station after radical protesters went on an arson spree on Sept 8, 2019. [Photo/China Daily]

The violence in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region intensified over the weekend, with more extensive vandalism and arson and the discovery of another homemade bomb. The worsening situation may call for more stringent measures to restore law and order in the SAR.

[Shared future in cyberspace preferable to a virtual Cold War](#)

October 21, 2019, China Daily

For China, a latecomer to development, the information age represents a chance for it to catch up with developed countries. And the nation has wholeheartedly embraced the internet since it was first connected in 1994.

Japan

[Japanese views on China remain negative despite thaw in ties](#)

October 25, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese public impressions of China remain "unfavorable," an annual survey showed Thursday amid an lingering territorial dispute, a U.S.-China trade war and unrest in in Hong Kong.

[Diet begins deliberations on bilateral trade deal with U.S.](#)

October 25, 2019, Japan Today

Japan's parliament started deliberations on a recently signed bilateral trade deal with the United States, with opposition lawmakers casting doubts on the government's insistence that the United States will eventually scrap auto tariffs.

[Abe renews call on S Korea to keep promises in order to mend ties](#)

October 24, 2019, Japan Today

Abe renews call on S Korea tJapanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon agreed on Thursday on the importance of cooperating on North Korea and other issues, seeking to rebuild relations amid a bitter feud over history and trade.

[Abe presses China on professor held for 'spying'](#)

October 24, 2019, Japan Today

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday pressed China's visiting vice president over the case of a Japanese professor detained by Beijing reportedly on allegations of spying.

[Japan notifies U.S. of plan to send SDF to Middle East waterways](#)

October 23, 2019, Japan Today

Japan plans to send its military to help protect waterways in the Middle East but will not join a U.S.-led maritime coalition in the region, Kyodo news agency reported.

[S Korean President Moon sends personal letter to emperor](#)

October 23, 2019, Japan Today

South Korean President Moon Jae In has sent a personal letter to Japanese Emperor Naruhito, a South Korean government source said.

[Abe calls on Suu Kyi to ensure Rohingya can return to Myanmar](#)

October 22, 2019, Japan Today

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi to create an environment in her country that will allow Rohingya Muslim refugees to return from Bangladesh.

[Breakthrough elusive as Abe meets South Korean prime minister amid strained bilateral ties](#)

October 24, 2019, Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon, who was in Tokyo this week for the imperial enthronement ceremony, but the leaders failed to make progress in easing highly strained bilateral ties.

Korea

[Moon Jae-in syndrome](#)

October 25, 2019, The Korea Times

Three leaders are in trouble for by and large a common "sin" – assuming they know better than the people about what they want. Call it an attempt at direct democracy or elected dictatorship (or the beginning of it), but so far the outcome is the political equivalent to a third-degree burn.

[South Korea, Japan agree to mend frayed ties](#)

October 24, 2019, The Korea Times

Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon and Japanese Prime Minister concurred Thursday on the need for Seoul and Tokyo to improve their deteriorated relations.

[Bolton visits Korea to attract investments in Rhone](#)

October 24, 2019, The Korea Times

Former U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton came to Korea to meet institutional investors here and encourage their investments in Rhone Group, according to industry officials.

[S. Korea decides to give up developing country status at WTO](#)

October 25, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea said it has decided to give up its developing country status at the World Trade Organization in a concession to the United States over reform of the global trade body.

[N. Korea offers to discuss removal of facilities on Mt. Kumgang](#)

October 25, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea has offered to discuss in writing with South Korea its decision to remove the South-built facilities at its Mount Kumgang tourist resort, the unification ministry said.

Southeast Asia.

[ASEAN, South Korea 'important' for one another](#)

October 25, 2019, The Jakarta Post

Joo Nak-young, mayor of Gyeongju, delivers his welcoming remarks for the ASEAN-Korea Train participants at the Bulguksa Temple in Gyeongju, South Korea, on Oct. 16.

[Chinese, ASEAN youth share views on cooperation, development](#)

October 23, 2019, Xinhua Net

A total of 160 young people from China and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are exchanging views on cooperation and development at a week-long summit that opened Wednesday at Peking University.

[Asean opting out of Rakhine efforts](#)

October 25, 2019, Bangkok Post

When Asean foreign ministers last met in Bangkok on July 31 and discussed the Rakhine crisis, their conclusions reflected the lowest common denominator of the bloc's membership. Two years after the enforced mass exodus of more than 700,000 Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh, Asean is at risk of becoming irrelevant to the search for solutions.

[Rohingya crisis redraws fault lines in Myanmar politics](#)

October 24, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

The Rohingya crisis that has infuriated many abroad has defied Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi's efforts to resolve it, in part because of an unusual alignment of the public and the military that leaves her with few options.

[Malaysia works to resolve spat with India, hopes won't affect 16-nation trade deal](#)

October 24, 2019, Reuters

Malaysia is working to resolve a spat with India over Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's stance on Kashmir, and hoping that a 16-nation trade pact, which includes India, will be signed this year despite the strained ties, its trade minister said.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Uzbekistan to up export of oil, gas products](#)

October 24, 2019, Azer News

Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting to discuss ongoing work to develop the oil and gas industry, Trend reports citing presidential press service.

[Gujarat CM Rupani on a visit to Uzbekistan to boost ties](#)

October 19, 2019, The Hindu

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, accompanied by a high level delegation, is visiting Uzbekistan to attend the country's first investment summit modelled on the Vibrant Gujarat summit.

[Israel-Kazakhstan relations continue to expand under new president](#)

October 25, 2019, Israel Hayom

The Central Asian country, former Soviet republic and Muslim-majority country has a history of strong connections with Israel and supports its local Jewish population.

[Kazakhstan discusses oil export to Kyrgyzstan without customs duties](#)

October 22, 2019, New Europe

Negotiations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the possible export of Kazakh gasoline and oil are still ongoing, Kazakhstan's Energy Minister Kanat Bozumbayev said on 22 October.

[Ashgabat Hopes To Attract Foreign Cash At Oil & Gas Conference](#)

October 23, 2019, Caspian News

Energy-rich Turkmenistan is looking to lure foreign investment into its oil and gas industries at the Oil and Gas Turkmenistan international conference in Ashgabat.

[Kazakhstan: Nazarbayev takes back control](#)

October 21, 2019, Eurasia Net

Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's former president, has gained sweeping new powers over government appointments in a move that dilutes the powers of his

successor, Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev, and may confirm rumors of a power struggle being waged between the two men.

[Tajikistan: Another Chinese company gets tax exemptions](#)

October 24, 2019, Eurasia Net

A Chinese-owned engineering and mining company has been granted generous tax exemptions by Tajikistan's government, becoming the second such Chinese investor to receive those terms over recent months.

[Impact of the US-Iran confrontation on Central Asia](#)

October 12, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Both Iran and Central Asia countries are interested in increased economic and political cooperation, but governments in Central Asian states are cautious about too close ties with Tehran as they have to balance between their own interests and possible implications of the US pressure on the Islamic Republic.

West Asia

[Lebanese protesters reject president's appeal for talks](#)

October 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Protesters in Lebanon's capital, Beirut, have rejected President Michel Aoun's call for dialogue, demanding the government's resignation before any such talks take place.

[India PM Modi to visit Saudi Arabia on October 29](#)

October 25, 2019, Khaleej Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in Riyadh on October 29, External Affairs ministry announced here.

[Russia military police deploy in north Syria under truce deal](#)

October 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Russian, Syrian security forces aim to push Kurdish fighters back from the border as part of deal reached with Turkey.

[U.S. plans to send additional troops to northeastern Syria to protect oil fields from ISIS, Pentagon says](#)

October 24, 2019, CBS News

A Pentagon official said that the U.S. is planning to send additional troops into northeastern Syria to protect oil fields from ISIS.

['Maximum pressure' only way to get Iran to talk: Saudi minister](#)

October 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Policy of appeasement will not work with Iran, says Saudi minister of state, dismissing option of US lifting sanctions.[Turkey Syria offensive: Kurds accuse Turkish army of violating ceasefire](#)

October 24, 2019, BBC News

Kurdish-led forces in north-east Syria have accused Turkish troops and allied Syrian rebels of violating a ceasefire deal that ended a two-week offensive.

[US troops will leave Iraq in 4 weeks: Iraqi defence minister](#)

October 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

After meeting the US military leader, Iraq's defence minister said on Wednesday American forces withdrawing from Syria into Iraq will depart the country within four weeks.

[Iran-Israel Flare-up Inches Closer Just as U.S. Turns Back on Mideast](#)

October 25, 2019, Haaretz

Sooner or later, things will get messy. Iranian efforts to smuggle precision weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon, to deploy military bases in Syria and to place advanced weapons systems in Syria and Iraq did not stop even after a massive campaign of air strikes, attributed to Israel.

[Israel's Benny Gantz tasked with forming coalition government](#)

October 24, 2019, BBC News

Israeli ex-military chief Benny Gantz has been tasked with forming a coalition government after PM Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts ended in deadlock.

United States

[India, US Vow to Achieve Results Under Defence Tech Pact; to Collaborate on Aerial Systems, Small Arms](#)

October 24, 2019, News 18

In a bid to revitalise a defence technology sharing pact, India and the US on Thursday signed a 'statement of intent' on key deliverables, including collaboration on strategic projects in the areas of unmanned aerial systems, small arms technology and surveillance.

[Pence Says U.S. Companies Leave 'Conscience at the Door' Over China](#)

October 24, 2019, The New York Times

Vice President Mike Pence criticized American companies on Thursday for trying to silence speech that expresses support for democratic, liberal values in order to maintain access to the Chinese market, saying the corporations should adhere to American principles while doing business with China.

[Pence denounces China's response to Hong Kong protests, blasts NBA for 'embracing censorship'](#)

October 24, 2019, USA Today

Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday denounced China's response to pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, embracing that cause in the Trump administration's strongest statement to date and blasting American companies that he said have "embraced (Chinese) censorship" because of their greed.

[The US just moved ahead of China in quantum computing. But the race isn't over yet](#)

October 24, 2019, CNN International

Google raced past China this week in the quest for "quantum supremacy" with its claim that a machine developed by the company can solve a problem in 200 seconds that would take the world's fastest supercomputer 10,000 years.

[Chinese report counts 206 unicorns. That's more than America](#)

October 23, 2019, CNN International

China has surpassed the United States to become the world's biggest hub for unicorns, according to a new report from a Shanghai-based research institute. Wealth research firm Hurun says China is home to 206 unicorns, or privately owned companies worth at least \$1 billion.

[Trump praises US-China trade talks, despite ongoing WTO case](#)

October 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

President Donald Trump on Monday said efforts to end a US trade war with China were going well, as the world's two largest economies continued to battle over trade and politics across the globe despite reaching a long-awaited truce this month.

[Trump lifts US sanctions on Turkey, says ceasefire permanent](#)

October 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

President Donald Trump announced that Turkey said it is stopping combat operations and making a ceasefire in northern Syria permanent, prompting the United States to lift recent sanctions it imposed on Turkish imports in response to the campaign.

[US to deploy more troops to eastern Syria to secure oilfields](#)

October 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States will station additional forces in eastern Syria to protect oilfields in another policy shift that one former senior American official called a "shocking ignorance" of history and geography.

[Donald Trump vows to get out of 'blood-stained' Middle East](#)

October 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States will leave the "blood-stained sand" of the Middle East, President Donald Trump said, adding the US no longer needs to be the world's policeman.

[Trump impeachment: chaos erupts as Republicans barge into inquiry hearing](#)

October 24, 2019, The Guardian

Political tensions over an intensifying impeachment inquiry reached fever pitch on Wednesday as Republicans "stormed" a closed-door committee hearing on Capitol Hill disrupting a crucial deposition related to the Ukraine controversy – a day after devastating testimony from a key diplomat.

[US-India defence trade would reach \\$18 billion by year-end, says Pentagon official](#)

October 19, 2019, Scroll

The Pentagon said on Friday that the bilateral defence trade between India and the United States would reach \$18 billion by the end of the year. The statement came ahead of the ninth India-US Defence Technologies and Trade Initiative in New Delhi next week.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[UK's Boris Johnson seeks 12 December election to break Brexit impasse](#)

October 24, 2019, Live Mint

Boris Johnson said he would ask lawmakers to vote Monday on a motion calling for an early election.

[EU set to put Brexit delay on hold after Johnson's ultimatum](#)

October 24, 2019, The Guardian

The EU's plan to offer the UK an extension until 31 January on Friday is expected to be put on hold after Boris Johnson threatened to pull the Brexit deal if Jeremy Corbyn rejects a general election.

[Council of Europe and European Union further their support for freedom of expression and media in Albania](#)

October 22, 2019, Council of European Portal

Promotion of freedom of expression and freedom of the media will continue to be in the focus of the Council of Europe and European Union during the 2nd Phase of the jointly supported Horizontal Facility Action "Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Media in Albania (JUFREX II)".

[Denmark approves stripping IS fighters of citizenship](#)

October 24, 2019, Deutsche Welle

The bill was fast-tracked amid concerns imprisoned IS fighters may escape during a Turkish offensive against Syrian Kurdish forces.

[Essex lorry deaths: 39 found dead were Chinese nationals](#)

October 24, 2019, BBC News

The 39 people found dead in a refrigerated trailer in Essex were Chinese nationals.

[Ukraine Knew of Aid Freeze by Early August, Undermining Trump Defense](#)

October 24, 2019, MSN

To Democrats who say that President Trump's decision to freeze \$391 million in military aid was intended to bully Ukraine's leader into carrying out investigations for Mr. Trump's political benefit, the president and his allies have had a simple

response: There was no quid pro quo because the Ukrainians did not know assistance had been blocked.

[India, France explore 3rd country projects in Western Indian Ocean region](#)

October 24, 2019, The Economic Times

India, in partnership with France, is keen to focus on port development, blue economy, trade, connectivity, tourism, skill development, hospitality and healthcare in this resource-rich region.

Russia

[Putin welcomes heads of delegations of 54 countries participating in Russia-Africa Summit](#)

October 24, 2019, Tass

The first plenary meeting of the Russia-Africa Summit has begun in Sochi. It was preceded by a welcoming ceremony.

[Russia Sends Nuclear-Bombers to South Africa in 'Friendly' Visit](#)

October 23, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia will land two nuclear-capable strategic Tu-160 bombers in South Africa on Wednesday, Interfax news agency cited South Africa's military as saying. Observers say it would be the first such deployment on the African continent.

[Russia Vows to Forgive Ethiopia's Debts Amid Growing Push for Influence in Africa](#)

October 22, 2019, The Moscow Times

President Vladimir Putin announced Monday that Moscow will soon forgive Ethiopia its debts — the fourth African country to be forgiven in recent years as Russia moves to increase its influence on the continent.

[Russia sends 300 military police officers from Chechnya to Syria](#)

October 25, 2019, Tass

Military police will ensure security, maintain order and patrol assigned areas in the 30-kilometer zone on the Syrian-Turkish border.

[Kremlin's new Africa policy and Russian military police's key role in Syria](#)

October 24, 2019, Tass

The first ever Russia-Africa Summit and Economic Forum kicked off in the resort city of Sochi. Russian President Vladimir Putin said, addressing the Forum's plenary session, that Moscow planned to boost its presence on the continent and to double its overall trade with African countries in the next four to five years, Kommersant writes.

[Russian Helicopters Land in Abandoned U.S. Base in Syria](#)

October 22, 2019, The Moscow Times

Three Russian military helicopters have landed in the Tabqa military airfield in Syria that the United States abandoned earlier this month, Russian state media reported.

[Russian Nuclear Sub Misfires During Putin-Supervised Drills – Reports](#)

Oct 21, 2019, The Moscow Times

A Russian nuclear-powered submarine misfired one of its missiles at large-scale military exercises presided by President Vladimir Putin on the country's northern coast last week, the Vedomosti newspaper reported.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Bolivia: Count gives Morales win, but opposition rejects result](#)

October 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Bolivia's President Evo Morales declared victory on Thursday in elections whose disputed results have triggered riots, a general strike and opposition accusations that the leftist leader is trying to steal a fourth term in office.

[Is boom, then slump, behind fiery Latin American protests?](#)

October 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Economic concerns have seen thousands take to the streets of Chile, Bolivia, Haiti and Ecuador in the past month.

[Colombia's 'revolution': Government invests big in renewables](#)

October 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

Infrastructure constraints have hindered Colombia from fully developing renewable energy despite ideal conditions.

[Chile protests: UN to investigate claims of human rights abuses after 18 deaths](#)

October 24, 2019, The Guardian

Unrest has led to thousands of arrests and hundreds of injuries, prompting action by former president turned UN high commissioner.

[Brazil Congress passes landmark overhaul of pension system](#)

October 23, 2019, Buenos Aires Times

The Senate voted 60-19 to adopt changes for civil servants and private-sector workers, handing President Jair Bolsonaro his first major legislative victory.

[As Protests Again Sweep Haiti, How Can the Nation Move Forward?](#)

October 24, 2019, The New Yorker

The Republic of Haiti is suffering a meltdown. It has been for decades, but lately things have got much worse. Severe energy shortages, harsh levels of inflation, and sharp price increases have ignited public anger over suspected official corruption, and led to widespread demonstrations calling for the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse, a businessman who came to power in 2017.

[Maduro Clings To Power As Venezuela's Refugee Count Hits 5 Million](#)

October 24, 2019, Oil Price.com

The exodus of Venezuelans is set to surpass 5 million people, United Nations and European Union officials. The number of Venezuelans fleeing the country's economic turmoil is nearly 5,000 people per day, according to Eduardo Stein, joint special representative of the U.N. refugee and migration agencies.

Africa

[Mozambique's President and Ruling party Headed for Big Win](#)

October 24, 2019, VOA

Preliminary results show Mozambique's president and ruling Frelimo party heading for overwhelming victories, as the opposition and some observers charge the elections were marked by intimidation, ballot stuffing and flawed vote-counting.

[Putin's ambitions for the Russia-Africa Summit](#)

October 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

Russia hosts the first-ever Russia-Africa forum, hoping to increase its influence in the continent.

[Zimbabwe sanctions: Who is being targeted?](#)

October 25, 2019, BBC News

Southern African countries have joined calls from the Zimbabwe government for the sanctions to be lifted, saying they're damaging the region's economy.

[UN House in Nigeria Reopens Eight Years After Suicide Bomb Attack](#)

October 24, 2019, VOA

Nigerian authorities are commemorating United Nations Day with the official reopening of the U.N. building in Abuja. The building has been closed since a deadly Boko Haram suicide attack in 2011.

[Burundian army kills 14 gunmen from DR Congo](#)

October 2, 2019, Andolou Agency

The Burundian army killed 14 gunmen who had entered the country early Tuesday from neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, said a deputy spokesperson for Burundi's security ministry.



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