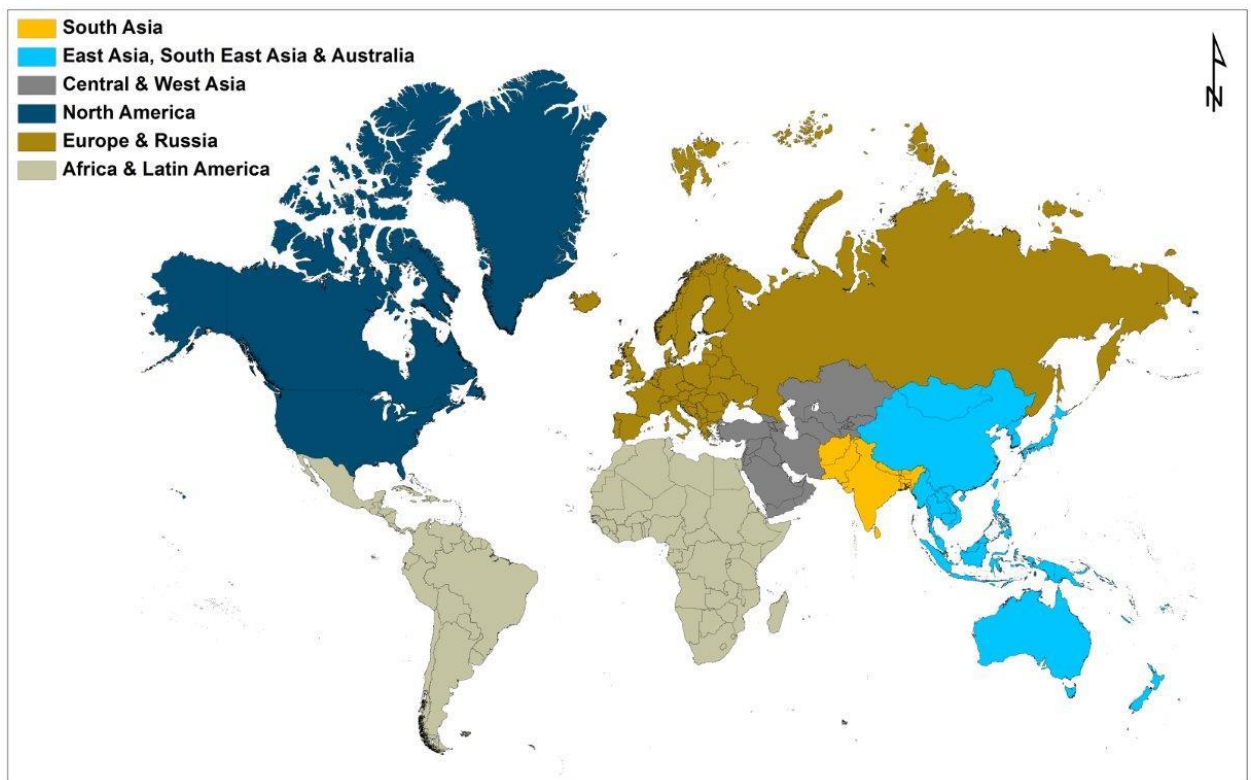




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 3

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.

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South Asia

India

[Trump attaches great importance to US-India ties New Indian envoy](#)

Jan 12, 2019, The Week

Washington, Jan 12 (PTI) President Donald Trump attaches great importance to the US-India ties, India's new Ambassador to America Harsh Vardhan Shringla said.

[India, US hold talks to expand ties on defence,foreign policy issues](#)

Jan 12, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India and the US on Friday discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation on defence and foreign policy issues and exchanged views on regional developments as stakeholders for a free, open, inclusive and peaceful Indo-Pacific.

[India to buy \\$5 billion oil, gas from US; spend \\$18 billion in defence sector: Envoy](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Times of India

India has committed to purchase \$5 billion worth of oil and gas from the US per annum and \$ 18 billion worth of defence equipment that are under implementation.

[Raja Mandala: Alliances and strategic autonomy](#)

Jan 15, 2019, The Indian Express

Is “non-alignment” a special attribute of Indian foreign policy? Given Delhi’s continuing preoccupation with the idea of non-alignment, most visible recently at last week’s Raisina Dialogue in Delhi, you would think it is.

[Government to construct 44 ‘strategically important’ roads along India-China border](#)

Jan 13, 2019, The Indian Express

The government will construct 44 strategic roads along the border with China and over 2100 km of axial and lateral roads in Punjab and Rajasthan, abutting Pakistan, a CPWD document shows.

[Cabinet Go-Ahead For Facilitation Of Visa Arrangements With Maldives](#)

Jan 16, 2019, NDTV

The decision would make it easier for Maldivian and India nationals to travel to each other's countries for tourism, medical treatment, education as well as business and employment.

[Government working on bilateral trade pacts to push exports, says Suresh Prabhu](#)

Jan 13, 2019, Financial Express

Suresh Prabhu, who is also the Civil Aviation Minister, said the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have decided to use India as a base for their food security.

[New Indian IT rules take social media giants to task](#)

Jan 13, 2019, The Economic Times

As India gears up for general elections, owners of global social media platforms are in a huddle over how to curb the spread of misinformation and fake news in a country where deep mobile penetration has made Facebook, its messaging service WhatsApp and Twitter available at the fingertips of millions.

[First Home-Grown UAV To Stud Indian Arsenal](#)

Jan 13, 2019, Indian Defence News

In a huge boost to indigenous armament programs, a team of two soldiers recently developed an armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for the Indian Army. The unmanned quadcopter, which was a long-pending requirement of the armed forces, had been previously deployed during live operations along the Line of Control between India and Pakistan and counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

[French government denies ordering Rafale at 50% of India's rate](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Times of India

Yet another controversy over the 7.8 billion euro (Rs 59,000 crore) deal for Rafale fighters erupted with some reports claiming France had ordered 28 of the jets at half the cost compared to what India had paid.

Pakistan

[Pakistan rules out India's role in Afghan peace process](#)

Jan 18, 2019, DAWN

"India has no role in Afghanistan," Foreign Office spokesman Dr Mohammad Faisal said at the weekly media briefing while responding to a query about Pakistan's position on India's part in the reconciliation process.

[Imran, Ghani discuss bilateral relations](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Daily Times

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani spoke on the telephone and discussed relations between the two countries.

[Pakistan, US agree on 'intra-Afghan dialogue'](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan and the United States agreed to push for the 'intra-Afghan dialogue' to seek a political solution to the lingering war in Afghanistan, even as both sides struggled to convince the insurgents for direct talks with the Kabul administration.

[SC powers extended to Gilgit-Baltistan](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Daily Times

In a written order regarding the constitutional status of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and the grant of fundamental rights to its citizens, the Supreme Court ruled that the powers of the top court also extend to the region, adding that no part of the 1973 constitution can be abolished or amended without proper legislation, media reports said.

[Pakistan's 26th Chief Justice – Asif Saeed Khosa](#)

Jan 18, 2019, DAWN

Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa, who was sworn in as the 26th chief justice of Pakistan on Friday (January 18, 2019), was born on December 21, 1954 in Dera Ghazi Khan. He is married with two daughters and four grandchildren.

[Indian SC judge arrives to attend new CJP's oath-taking ceremony](#)

Jan 18, 2019, DAWN

Two senior judges – one from the Supreme Court of India and the other from Canada – arrived here through the Wagah border crossing to attend the oath-taking ceremony of incoming Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Asif Saeed Khosa in Islamabad.

[Civil-military relations](#)

Jan 18, 2019, DAWN

THE PTI-led government faces many challenges. One it does not acknowledge is that of civil-military relations. Yet, in a constitutional democracy, if civil-military relations are not clearly conducted within the framework of civilian supremacy they will, sooner or later, become problematic.

Afghanistan

[Ghani, Imran Khan talk Afghan peace on phone](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Pajhwok Afghan News

President Ashraf Ghani and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan talked over the telephone and invited each other to visit their countries besides discussing the Afghanistan peace process.

[Second Bonn Conference offered to resolve Afghan crisis](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Afghanistan Times

A politician close to the governments of the United States and Pakistan has offered the second Bonn Conference to what he says "resolve the crisis" of Afghanistan, with suggestions like a commission for joint government with Taliban, amendments in the constitution and then elections.

[Top Afghan security and defense officials met with U.S. envoy for Afghan peace](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Khaama Press

The Office of the National Security Council in a statement said National Security Adviser Dr. Hamdullah Mohib hailed the United States constructive role in facilitating peace talks with Taliban and Ambassador Khalilzad's efforts in this regard.

[Trump Will Withdraw From Afghanistan, Syria: US Senator](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Tolo News

Paul, a Kentucky Republican and one of Trump's staunch supporters in the Senate, told reporters Wednesday that the president would deliver on his pledge to bring American troops home, Politico reported.

[Editorial: Trade with loss, deficit](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Afghanistan Times

At once bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan was on rise and even it was registered above five billion US dollars in 2005-2006.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh-India bilateral talks next month in Delhi](#)

Jan 15, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and India will hold the next round of foreign minister-level bilateral talks in the first week of February, aiming to take the relations between the two countries to newer heights.

[Over 1,000 Rohingya flee India for Bangladesh fearing crackdown](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Al Jazeera

Activists ask India to honour principle of "non-refoulement" as Hindu far right calls for mass deportation of Rohingya.

[Now, Rohingyas from India](#)

Jan 18, 2019, The Daily Star

Since the beginning of the year, no less than 1,300 Rohingya Muslims crossed the border into Bangladesh from India, where many of them had been living for years. The exodus was triggered due to fears that India would forcibly turn them over to Myanmar, as it did other members of the persecuted minority, having succumbed to the demands of Hindu extremists. We find the development very troubling and disappointing.

[The opposition party is making the government!](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Prothom Alo

With the announcement of the BNP- led alliance not to take oath, the whole parliament has become one-sided. Because all the parties in the eleventh parliament have been elected by the Awami League led coalition.

[China to bolster ties with Bangladesh on all fronts: Envoy](#)

Jan 17, 2019, United News of Bangladesh

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo said his country wants to enhance its bilateral ties with Bangladesh on all fronts in the coming days.

[Bangladesh biggest textile machinery market for China](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh will continue to grow as a major textile machinery market as local textile millers are expanding business riding on higher demand for garment items from international consumers, industry people said.

Nepal

[SC issues show cause notice to government](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The Supreme Court issued a show cause notice to the government for bringing civil servants adjustment ordinance.

[Country will strive on the path to rapid development: PM Oli](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said that the development works will gain rapid momentum from now onwards as the government remained occupied with formulating necessary laws and other necessary preparations in the past year.

["Nepal can create a business-friendly environment"](#)

Jan 14, 2019, Nepali Times

Korean Ambassador to Nepal Park Young-sik, spoke to Sangmin Kim of Nepali Times about tourism, Nepali workers, development assistance, investment, trade and tourism.

[Nepal trims projects under BRI from 35 to 9 at Chinese call](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Ekantipur

After Nepal signed up to China's Belt and Road Initiative in May 2017, the government had formed two committees—led by foreign and finance secretaries—to identify projects for negotiations with the Chinese side.

[Nepal-Japan to devise labour mechanism for migration of Nepali workers](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Ekantipur

Japan and Nepal have agreed to begin sending Nepali workers to Japan as soon as the two countries finish devising new labour mechanisms.

Bhutan

[Bhutan ratifies Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Kuensel Online

Joining the global movement to mitigate climate change, the National Assembly adopted the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

[EU Commits To Support Bhutan Beyond 2023, After Its Graduation From Least Developed Countries Status](#)

Jan 15, 2019, Daily Bhutan

The European Union (EU) has committed to continue its support to Bhutan and will diversify its assistance to the country beyond 2023.

Sri Lanka

[Bank of China offers Sri Lanka US\\$300m loan](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lanka is considering an offer from Bank of China for a loan of US\$300 million, which could be raised to US\$1 billion, to help it meet repayments during coming months

[Cost of fishing dispute between Sri Lanka and India](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Daily News

Sri Lanka's Northern Provincial economy has been rising from the ashes of the civil war since 2010, and has, as per the latest data available, recorded the highest provincial economic growth rate annually from 2011 till 2015, amongst the nine provinces in the country.

[Opposition Leader assumes duties](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Daily News

Opposition Leader Mahinda Rajapaksa will assume duties at his office in Colombo.

[Sirisena signs three loan agreements worth USD 455 million with the ADB](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Times Online

President Maithripala Sirisena signed three loan agreements worth USD 455 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) during the course of his visit to the Philippines.

[Political divisions increase storm clouds of climate change](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Daily Mirror

Among the world's global powers, growing tensions are the most urgent global risk and make it harder to mobilise collective action to tackle climate change, according to a report prepared for next week's World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland, the Guardian newspaper reported

Maldives

['JP will protect President Solih's presidency'](#)

Jan 18, 2019, SunOnline International

Leader of joint parliamentary group of the government coalition, the MP for Kimbidhoo constituency, Abdulla Riyaz, has said that Jumhoory Party (JP) will be the party to protect the presidency of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.

[Maldives won't be used as a plaything for powers in Indian Ocean: Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

Jan 12, 2019, The Economic Times

After Ibrahim Mohamed Solih defeated pro-China Abdullah Yameen in the presidential elections in the Maldives last September, he chose India for his maiden state visit last month. In his first interview as President, Solih told Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury in an email interaction said that the island nation would not allow any anti-India activities from its soil and exhorted that Male would play the role of a stabiliser in the Indian Ocean Region.

[Over 60,000 undocumented expats in Maldives, says immigration](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Avas.mv

Maldives' new immigration chief said the estimated number of undocumented expatriates in the archipelago was over 60,000.

[Independent candidates for parliament sign agreement](#)

Jan 18, 2019, The Edition

A main pre-election limitation states that candidates can only accept donations up to MVR 100,000 for their campaigns. The independent candidates also agreed to publicize financial statements regarding election expenses.

East & South East Asia

China

[Don't sell sub tech to Taiwan: China warns India, other nations](#)

Jan 15, 2019, The Times of India

China is opposing efforts by India and other countries to sell submarine technology to Taiwan. Countries that supply technology to Taiwan-run the risk of harming their diplomatic relations with China, Beijing said.

[The Chinese military's five biggest leaps forward in modern weapon systems](#)

Jan 16, 2019, South China Morning Post

Beijing's enormous military strides in recent years were in part achieved by laws that required foreign companies to share technological know-how in exchange for access to China's vast market, the Defence Intelligence Agency, a Department of Defence combat support agency, said in a report.

[China urges US to stop suppressing Chinese telecom companies](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Global Times

China expressed firm opposition to the abuse of export control measures of the United States and urged US lawmakers to stop the proposed bill targeting Huawei, ZTE and other Chinese telecommunications equipment companies.

[FM: US most unqualified country to criticize China](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Global Times

US Vice President Mike Pence's criticism of China was an act of libel and the US is the most unqualified country to wag a finger at China when it comes to international rules, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Thursday.

[Poland is getting closer to US, but should China be worried?](#)

Jan 15, 2019, Global Times

Though more and more European countries are getting prudent, or divided, on their alliance with the US after President Donald Trump took office with controversial policy shifts, Poland seems less hesitant in following its ally's strategy. The question is: should China be worried about Warsaw joining Washington's containment of Beijing?

[Upgraded J-20 fighter jet 'overwhelmingly superior' to US F-35: analysts](#)

Jan 15, 2019, Global Times

As South Korea became the latest country to buy and deploy US F-35 stealth fighter jets, Chinese military observers asserted that an upgraded Chinese J-20 fighter will gain overwhelming superiority over the F-35 in future and that China can fend off all potential threats from what media dubs the "US F-35 friends circle" in the Asia-Pacific region.

[China's surplus with the US at highest level since 2006, casting shadow on future talk](#)

Jan 14, 2019, Global Times

Despite a volatile 2018, China achieved record-high foreign trade worth \$4.62 trillion in the last year and a reduction in its trade surplus to the lowest since 2013, which highlights its optimized trade structure and its economy's vitality and resilience despite the lingering trade frictions with the US.

[Chinese vice premier meets German counterpart](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Global Times

Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng met with German Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Olaf Scholz.

[Tesla's first overseas plant in Shanghai heralds China's further opening up: FM spokesperson](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Global Times

China welcomes more foreign enterprises to engage in its new round of high-standard opening up and continues to share benefits from its development opportunities, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said.

[China's Hong Kong, Japan set to enhance arbitration cooperation](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Global Times

The Department of Justice of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government and the Ministry of Justice of Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to strengthen Hong Kong-Japan collaboration on international arbitration and mediation.

[China urges U.S. to stop damaging China's interests](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Global Times

China urged the United States to stop interfering in China's internal affairs and damaging China's interests, and to do more things that are conducive to mutual trust and cooperation.

[China-Vietnam ties maintain sound momentum of development: Chinese envoy](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Global Times

The China-Vietnam relations have maintained a sound momentum of development with complementary advantages and huge potential for enhancing cooperation, Chinese Ambassador Xiong Bo said here.

[China, Russia to strengthen cooperation in economic and social areas](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Xinhua

China's top political advisor Wang Yang called for enhanced cooperation between China and Russia in economic and social areas

[China among top five bilateral donors to Nepal: Nepali finance ministry](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Xinhua

China is among top five bilateral donors in disbursing highest amount of foreign aid to Nepal in the last fiscal year 2017-18 that concluded in mid-July 2018, Nepal's Finance Ministry said.

[Senior CPC official meets Afghan president's national security adviser](#)

Jan 12, 2019, Xinhua

Guo Shengkun, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met with Afghan president's national security adviser Hamdullah Mohib in Beijing.

[Xi's special representative to visit four countries](#)

Jan. 11, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping's special representative Yang Jiechi will pay an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon from Jan. 13 to 19, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang announced.

Japan

[Japan and U.S. vow to cooperate on North Korea and in space and cyber domains](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Japan Times

Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya and acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan agreed to cooperate in new domains of warfare like outer space and cyberspace in a veiled response to China's quest for military supremacy in such areas.

[Defense Ministry protests to S. Korea for disclosing content of radar lock-on talks](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The Defense Ministry lodged a protest against its South Korean counterpart for the unilateral disclosure of the content of their talks on the recent radar lock-on incident involving a Japanese patrol plane and a South Korean naval ship.

[ROK hints at making flight near Japan ship](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

South Korea has recently warned Japan that it may conduct a flight at a threateningly low altitude near a Japanese vessel, the Chosun Ilbo reported.

[S. Korea: Japan's demand rude](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

South Korea criticized Japan for making a rude demand during talks on Tokyo's claim that a South Korean warship directed a fire-control radar at a Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force patrol plane.

[Japan, Russia vice ministers follow up on territorial talks](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Vice ministerial officials from Japan and Russia held a meeting in Moscow after their foreign ministers failed to narrow gaps on the two countries' row over the northern territories.

[Abe, Putin to meet Jan. 22](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The foreign ministers of Japan and Russia kicked off talks on a bilateral peace treaty under a new negotiation framework, agreeing that a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin will take place in Moscow on the afternoon of Jan. 22.

[Japan aims to start next round of landfill work for U.S. base in March](#)

Jan 14, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Another round of landfill work for the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station within Okinawa Prefecture, from Ginowan to the Henoko district of Nago, is planned to start as early as March, The Yomiuri Shimbun has learned.

[Japan, France to cooperate on security in Indo-Pacific](#)

Jan 12, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Foreign Minister Taro Kono and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed that their countries will strengthen security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

[Russia urges Japan to accept isles' 'fate'](#)

Jan 12, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Russia urged Japan afresh to recognize the results of World War II, including Moscow's sovereignty over the northern territories, ahead of a closely watched meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers.

[Japan abandons 'international law' reason for SOFA exemption](#)

Jan 13, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

A decades-long argument why Japanese law is not applied to the U.S. military under the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) has been abandoned by the government.

[British foreign secretary: Japan trade talks on table post-Brexit](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Britain's foreign secretary said his country plans to pursue a bilateral free trade agreement with Japan and concurrently participate in the 11-member Asia-Pacific free trade agreement after it withdraws from the European Union at the end of March.

[Russia's strict stance remains as new peace treaty talks start](#)

Jan 15, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

While Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hoped to speed up the conclusion of a peace treaty with Russia, the first meeting under a new framework between the foreign ministers of the two nations dashed those hopes.

[Russia calls on Japan to recognize outcome of World War II](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denied that Moscow was imposing an ultimatum on Japan in talks to end a decades-long territorial dispute, but called on Tokyo to recognize the results of World War II.

[South Korea's defense white paper takes swipe at Japan](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

South Korea's Ministry of National Defense has made subtle changes in its view of Japan in its latest white paper, reflecting strains in relations that continue to plague the two countries.

Korea

[Korean firms in India expresses concern over trade regulations](#)

Jan 18, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korean companies operating in India have cited various trade barriers, including tariffs, as major hurdles of doing business there, industry sources said.

[No Davos meeting for Pompeo, Foreign Minister Kang as Trump calls off US delegation](#)

Jan 18, 2019, The Korea Herald

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha's planned meeting with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the sidelines of the upcoming World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, will not materialize as US President Donald Trump called off his delegation to the forum, citing the partial government shutdown.

[Foreign minister: South Korea and US share common goal of complete denuclearization](#)

Jan 18, 2019, The Korea Herald

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa reaffirmed that the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is a shared goal of South Korea and the US, stressing close cooperation between the two countries.

[Korea vows to take pre-emptive steps over Brexit](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea pledged to take pre-emptive steps to counter possible worse case scenarios after the British Parliament voted down Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal.

[Korea voices 'deep regrets' over Tokyo official's criticism of Moon amid forced labor dispute](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's foreign ministry expressed "deep regrets" over a senior Japanese official's criticism of President Moon Jae-in's remarks this week regarding an escalating diplomatic dispute over Japan's wartime forced labor.

[No breakthrough from Korea-Japan military talks over radar tussle](#)

Jan 15, 2019, The Korea Herald

Despite having held military talks, South Korea and Japan failed to narrow differences in stand-offs over a recent radar incident, an informed source said.

[PM calls for efforts to build future-oriented relations with Japan](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's prime minister called for government efforts to build a future-oriented relationship with Japan, separately from the task of addressing bilateral historical issues.

Southeast Asia

[Xi and Mahathir have a 'very special understanding', Malaysia's trade minister says](#)

Jan 18, 2019, South China Morning Post

All doubts about Malaysia's ties with China would dissipate if naysayers were privy to what was said between the two country's leaders at their summit in Beijing last year, the Southeast Asian country's trade minister – present at that event – has said.

[Will Jokowi win the 2019 race or will it be Prabowo?: Jakarta Post columnist](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Straits Times

The presidential election in April looks like a rematch of the 2014 encounter with the same two candidates bidding for the right to lead Indonesia for the next five years.

[Vietnam preparing for visit by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Straits Times

Hanoi is preparing to receive North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for a state visit, two sources told Reuters, while officials and diplomats said Vietnam is keen to host a second summit between Mr Kim and US President Donald Trump.

[US, Britain conduct first joint drills in contested South China Sea](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Straits Times

The United States and Britain have conducted their first joint naval drills in the disputed South China Sea since China built island bases there, the two navies said as Washington seeks help from allies to keep pressure on Beijing.

Central & West Asia

[What benefits can Azerbaijan get from Free Economic Zone?](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Azer News

The creation of the Free Economic Zones (FEZ) can help to attract foreign investors, create new jobs, increase the labor force capacity, increase the economy not only of the country, but also of the region, President of the World Free & Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA).

[Armenia in serious crisis as result of Azerbaijan's policy to isolate it](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Azer News

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has always considered the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a number one problem and pays attention to this issue, Azerbaijani MP Elman Mammadov.

[Uzbekistan eyes to emerge as India's gateway to Central Asia](#)

Jan 15, 2019, The Economic Times

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev will attend Vibrant Gujarat international investment summit as a key.

[India proposes a development group with Central Asia](#)

Jan 14, 2019, The Economic Times

India has proposed setting up of an 'India-Central Asia Development Group' at the maiden India-Central Asia dialogue in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

[The dynamics of Pakistan-Central Asia engagement](#)

Jan 14, 2019, Daily Sabah

The emergence of the energy-rich but landlocked Central Asian Republics (CARs) has attracted Pakistan's interest to develop closer sociopolitical, cultural and particularly commercial ties with the region.

[Kazakh FM supports stronger regional relationship with India at India-Central Asia-Afghanistan Dialogue](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Astana Times

Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Beibut Atamkulov stressed the need to establish a closer relationship between India and Central Asia during the Jan. 13 India-Central Asia-Afghanistan Dialogue in Samarkand. The event included the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the host nation, Uzbekistan.

[Lebanon summit reveals Arab divisions over Syria, Iran](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

Several heads of state have pulled out of an Arab economic summit in Beirut this weekend.

[Manbij attack 'calls for better US-Turkey cooperation' in Syria](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Al Jazeera

The deadly suicide attack in northern Syria targeting the US forces highlights the urgent need for closer military cooperation with Turkey to secure the restive region, analysts say.

[Yemen's Hodeidah truce: UN observers to monitor ceasefire](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Al Jazeera

The ceasefire has been extremely fragile and shaky with numerous violations reported.

[Qatar-Turkey trade surges to \\$2bn amid Gulf tensions](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Al Jazeera

Ankara has emerged as one of Doha's most important trade partners since Saudi-led blockade was imposed in June 2017.

United States

[China expanding access to strategic foreign ports: Pentagon](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Times of India

China is expanding its access to strategic foreign ports like Pakistan's Gawdar and Sri Lanka's Hambantota to pre-position the logistic framework necessary to support the growing presence of its military in the Indian Ocean and beyond, Pentagon said.

[US sounds alarm about China's military and economic inroads in Indo-Pacific](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Times of India

After establishing its first overseas naval base at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa in August 2017, which now also hosts marines, infantry combat vehicles and helicopters, China is now looking at Pakistan, Cambodia, Vanuatu and other countries for additional military bases to enhance its strategic footprint and emerge as the pre-eminent power in the crucial Indo-Pacific region.

[US opened criminal probe of Huawei for trade secret theft: report](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Asia Times

The US campaign against Huawei continues unabated, with news breaking that federal prosecutors in Washington are pursuing a criminal case against the Chinese telecom giant.

[US secretly tested new naval weapon](#)

Jan 15, 2019, 9news

Hyper Velocity Projectiles (HVP) were fired from a warship's standard five-inch gun during war games off Hawaii last year, reports US Naval Institute News. The previously unannounced test shots are a major advancement for the US military as it competes with China's navy to develop hypersonic weaponry.

[Drone warships to be part of revamped US Navy](#)

Jan 17, 2019, 9news

Autonomous drone ships will form part of the US Navy's revamped fleet to challenge the maritime power of rivals such as China.

[What to look for in the upcoming Missile Defense Review](#)

Jan 12, 2019, Defense News

The review, a congressionally mandated document looking at the status of America's missile defense capabilities, could be unveiled as soon as the next week, although it has yet to be briefed to Congress, sources say.

[India, US Hold Talks to Expand Cooperation on Defence, Foreign Policy](#)

Jan 12, 2019, NDTV

The inter-sessional meeting was set up to follow up on the decisions taken during the India-US Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue.

[US Admiral John Richardson to hold talks with China's top military leaders](#)

Jan 12, 2019, South China Morning Post

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson will meet his counterpart, Vice-Admiral Shen Jinlong, and other members of China's Central Military Commission during a visit to Beijing and the eastern city of Nanjing, which runs through, the US navy said in a statement.

[U.S. trade chief saw no progress on key issues in China talks: Senator](#)

Jan 15, 2019, Reuters

United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer did not see any progress made on structural issues during U.S. talks with China last week, Republican U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley said as plans emerged for higher-level discussions at the end of January.

[U.S. Increasingly Concerned About a Chinese Attack on Taiwan](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Foreign Policy

The Pentagon says reunification is the primary driver of China's military modernization.

[Japanese Defence Minister Takeshi Iwaya, in visit to Washington, seeks US help to combat Chinese cyberattacks](#)

Jan 17, 2019, South China Morning Post

As Japan seeks the United States' help to bolster its cyberwarfare capabilities amid what it says are continuing cyberattacks from China, the Japanese defence minister travelled to Washington to urge greater cooperation.

Europe & Russia

[May suffers heaviest parliamentary defeat of a British PM in the democratic era](#)

Jan 16, 2019, The Guardian

MPs vote down EU withdrawal agreement in resounding defeat for prime minister.

[France pledges 1B euros in aid to rebuild Iraq](#)

Jan 14, 2019, AP

France is committing \$1 billion euros (\$1.15 billion) to help Iraq rebuild after its war against the Islamic State group, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

[German economy posts weakest growth in five years](#)

Jan 15, 2019, CNBC

Germany's economy witnessed lackluster growth in 2018, according to flash data released, in line with expectations.

[Germany's China Problem](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The New York Times

Berlin is walking a thin line between its strongest ally and its biggest trading partner.

[Huawei employee reportedly arrested for spying in Poland](#)

Jan 11, 2019, NBC News

A Chinese businessman and a Pole have been arrested by Poland's Internal Security Agency on suspicion of espionage, an official said.

[Macron's open letter on a 'grand debate' comes under fire from rivals, yellow vests](#)

Jan 14, 2019, France 24

French President Emmanuel Macron announced a three-month "grand debate" in an open letter to the French, hoping to quell "yellow vest" unrest by promising to listen to new ideas but vowing to proceed with economic reforms.

[Russia's Vladimir Putin Travels to The Balkans to push against NATO Membership, Slams U.S. Interference](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Newsweek

Russian President Vladimir Putin is making a high-profile trip to the Balkans, where he appears poised to pressure local governments to turn their backs on the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and embrace their relationship with Moscow.

[US rejects Russia's offer to save key missile treaty](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Al Jazeera

Washington is set to withdraw from the 1987 accord that keeps nuclear missiles out of Europe in February as talks fail.

[Ukraine could soon cease to exist, Russia's top security official has warned](#)

Jan 18, 2019, AFP

Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of Russia's Security Council, said authorities of the former Soviet republic are being "controlled" by the West, warning it stands to lose its independence and identity as a consequence.

[Russia Says It Will Soon Have More Than 30 Nuclear Apocalypse Torpedoes: Report](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Rt

Russian state news media is reporting that the country's armed forces will receive more than thirty, long-range nuclear-tipped super-torpedoes. Named Poseidon, the super-torpedoes will be armed with thermonuclear warheads designed to obliterate coastal cities and other targets and spread lethal radioactive fallout.

[China, Russia Keen on Progressive Relations Gets India Concerned](#)

Jan 16, 2019, EurAsian Times

Russia and China have common interests to make the global trade system more controlled, clear and less subjected to unilateral fancies of any state, says Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. He also said Russia's friendship with China is not directed against any 'third state'. Both countries have in fact drawn closer following US trade sanctions, and this hasn't worried Washington, not even a bit.

Africa & Latin America

[Vibrant Gujarat Global Investment Summit 2019 to celebrate Africa Day on January 19](#)

Jan 15, 2019, Financial Express

In an effort to further deepen India-Africa trade ties, the 9th ninth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investment Summit 2019 will celebrate Africa Day on Jan 19, marking the trade ties between India and Africa.

[India- South Africa to enhance trade and military ties later this month](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Financial Express

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will be the chief guest at India's 70th Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

[India to Host 'First Ever' Military Exercises with Several African Countries](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Breitbart

India's army is expected to participate in military training exercises in March with a few African countries including Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, and Tanzania, various news outlets reported Wednesday, as regional rival China expands its military footprint across the continent.

[As gold trade booms, Venezuela eyes stronger Turkey ties](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

Facing multiple domestic crises and international isolation, Venezuela has found an unlikely ally in Turkey.

[Cuba, Iran agree to expand cooperation](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Xinhua

Cuba and Iran on Wednesday signed a series of agreements to boost cooperation in such fields as medical biotechnology, trade, sports and agriculture. After two days of work, the 17th Session of the Cuba-Iran Intergovernmental Commission was concluded with several memoranda of understanding between institutions of both nations.

[Argentina ends 2018 with second highest inflation in Latin America](#)

Jan 15, 2019, France 24

Argentina ended 2018 with the second-highest inflation figure in Latin America, behind only crisis-wracked Venezuela, the national statistics institute said on Tuesday. Argentina's inflation rate of 47 percent was also the highest the country

recorded since 1991, when inflation hit 84 percent as lawmakers fixed the peso to the dollar.

[South America creating regional bloc to counter Venezuela: Colombia](#)

Jan 14, 2019, Reuters

South American countries are developing a new diplomatic group to replace the Unasur regional bloc that is heavily influenced by increasingly isolated Venezuela, Colombian President Ivan Duque said on Monday.

[Statement from National Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton on Venezuela](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The White House

The United States does not recognize Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro's illegitimate claim to power. His "election" in May 2018 was viewed internationally as not free, fair or credible.

[Venezuela goes to WTO to contest Colombia fuel import rules](#)

Jan 14, 2019, Reuters

Venezuela has launched a complaint at the World Trade Organization to challenge Colombia's restrictions on the distribution of liquid fuels imported from Venezuela, a filing published by the WTO showed on Monday.

[What is behind Jack Ma's footsteps in Africa?](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Khmer

The beginning of the year 2019 has seen exchanges between the Rwandan government and China's Alibaba Group, as the two sides discussed agro-products exports in Rwanda and a dozen Rwandan officials visited Alibaba's headquarters in China.

[The importance of the sanctions regime in Sudan](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Gov.UK

Statement by Ambassador Jonathan Allen, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN at the Security Council briefing on the 1591 Committee.

[Rwanda-Burundi tension hampers regional trade](#)

Jan 12, 2019, The East African

Increasing political tension between Rwanda and Burundi, which started in 2015 when political unease in Bujumbura saw its citizens cross over to Kigali, has disrupted cross-border trade between the two countries leaving traders counting their losses.

[Why is Kenya an al-Shabab target?](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Al JAzeera

Al-Qaeda-linked group has carried out more than 20 attacks in Kenya in the past five years.

[Somalia President calls Uhuru, offers support in fight against al Shabaab](#)

Jan 17, 2019, The Star

Somalia President Mohamed Farmaajo has said his government is ready to cooperate with Kenya to eliminate terrorism.



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