



Delhi Policy Group

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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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Delhi Policy Group

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South Asia

India

[Anti-India violence not conducive to peace, PM Modi tells Donald Trump over phone call](#)

August 19, 2019, India Today

Without naming Pakistan, PM Narendra Modi said that extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence by "certain leaders" in the region was not conducive to peace.

[Kashmir, a matter of India's sovereignty: France, US corner Pakistan ahead of G7; bat for 'bilateral solution'](#)

August 23, 2019, Times Now

India continued to receive support from the international community on the Jammu and Kashmir matter after France President Emmanuel Macron on Friday categorically stated that there should not be any "third-party interference" in the issue and solutions to the tussle with Pakistan must be resolved only bilaterally.

[Jammu and Kashmir: Ready to tackle Pakistan in any arena it wants, says India's envoy to UN](#)

August 21, 2019, The Scroll

India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Syed Akbaruddin said the country was ready to fight Pakistan in any arena of its choice. He was responding to Pakistan's comments that it would approach the International Court of Justice against the Narendra Modi-led administration's decision to revoke Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

[US offers to mediate on Kashmir issue again, says Trump willing to assist India, Pakistan if asked](#)

August 23, 2019, India Today

Ahead of the bilateral meeting between Trump and PM Modi in France, a White House official said US President Donald Trump is ready to assist India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue if both sides ask for it.

[Jaishankar: India committed to solving Teesta issue](#)

August 20, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The visiting Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said that India continues to be committed to solving the Teesta issue along with 53 other common rivers.

[S Jaishankar to visit Nepal to participate in Nepal-India Joint Commission](#)

August 19, 2019, Money Control

The meeting is taking place in Kathmandu from August 21 to 22, a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nepal has said.

[The important role of Indian diaspora in country's Gulf policy](#)

August 22, 2019, Financial Express

Indian diaspora is emerging as a vital factor in our foreign policy which was not the case in the 1950s and the 1960s. The Gulf is one of the strategically important regions where more than 8 million Indian diaspora community lives.

[Tri-nation tour: PM Modi to visit France for G7 Summit; extend partnership with UAE, Bahrain](#)

August 20, 2019, Money Control

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a tri-nation tour between August 22 and August 26. This includes an official visit to France and state visits to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain.

[India, France likely to finalise roadmap for digital, cyber security cooperation](#)

August 20, 2019, The Economic Times

The two sides will also explore new areas of cooperation such as artificial intelligence, super computing and developing digital technology among others, informed sources said.

[At solar alliance summit, Delhi to propose global power grid](#)

August 22, 2019, Live Mint

The global grid will aim to connect countries like Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The proposals will be presented at the second general assembly of ISA to be held in New Delhi from 30 October to 2 November.

[PM Modi In France Highlights: India Will Receive 1st Of The 36 Rafale Fighter Jet Next Month: President Macron](#)

August 23, 2019, NDTV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the strong strategic and economic partnership is complemented by a shared perspective on major global concerns such as terrorism and climate change.

[Defence Minister to induct Apache attack choppers at Pathankot Air Base](#)

August 22, 2019, The Economic Times

Boosting the firepower of India's defence forces, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will officially induct the first batch of Apache attack helicopters into the Indian Air Force on September 3 in Pathankot.

[Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invites foreign companies to invest in India's defence manufacturing](#)

August 20, 2019, All India Radio

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has emphasized the need for indigenization of defence equipment to reduce dependence on imports and improve the operational capability of the armed forces. Mr Singh was speaking at a seminar of Modernization and Indigenization Plans of the Indian Air Force in New Delhi.

[Rajnath Singh approves committee to review defence procurement procedure to strengthen Make in India](#)

August 17, 2019, India Today

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the setting up of a Committee under the chairmanship of Director General (Acquisition) to review the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 and Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2009 to strengthen the 'Make in India' programme. The Committee will revise and align the procedures with the aim of ensuring a seamless flow from asset acquisition to life cycle support.

[Chinese telecom firms 'unacceptable security risk' for India: RSS affiliate](#)

August 18, 2019, Business Standard

The RSS's economic wing has been campaigning to keep Chinese telecom equipment maker Huawei Technologies out of India's plans to install the next-generation 5G cellular network. But now it is extending the campaign to other Chinese telecom equipment makers.

Pakistan

[Pakistan Put On "Enhanced Blacklist" By Terror Watchdog FATF's Sub-Group](#)

August 23, 2019, NDTV

Pakistan has been put in an "enhanced blacklist" by global financial watchdog Financial Action Task Force's Asia-Pacific division for its failure to meet global standards, officials said.

[Gen Bajwa to remain Army chief till 2022](#)

August 20, 2019, The News

General Qamar Javed Bajwa will continue as the Pakistan Chief of Army Staff (COAS) for another three years from the date of completion of his current tenure.

[Global economic slowdown feared to hurt Pak exports, remittances](#)

August 20, 2019, The News

Troubled Pakistan's economy is feared to face a shockwave as most global economic data harbouring an undercurrent recession shows it could hurt the country's export sector and impede remittance inflows.

[Govt mulls over different options to set up CPEC Authority](#)

August 20, 2019, The News

The government is contemplating different options including promulgation of a presidential ordinance for establishment of the CPEC Authority to make this entity functional as soon as possible.

[1,320MW coal-fired Hub power plant commissioned](#)

August 19, 2019, Dawn

Successful commercial operations of a \$2 billion 1,320MW coal-fired power plant set up by the China Power Hub Generation Company (CPHGC) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has begun.

[200 accounts suspended over Kashmir reported to Twitter](#)

August 20, 2019, Dawn

Over the last one week, a large number of Pakistanis have taken to Twitter to report that accounts were being suspended after they posted in support of Kashmir. The claim came from journalists, activists, government officials and fans of the military tweeting in support of Kashmir freedom.

[Three reviews to determine Pakistan's place on FATF list](#)

August 21, 2019, Dawn

Three separate evaluations currently in progress will determine Pakistan's possible exit from the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) by the mid of October.

[China welcomes Bajwa's appointment for another term](#)

August 22, 2019, Dawn

While welcoming the extension tenure Pakistan COAS Gen Bajwa Chinese Foreign Ministry, 'Pakistan Army under the leadership of Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa will continue to make contributions to upholding Pakistan's sovereignty and security interests as well as peace and stability in the region'.

[POL discovers new oil, gas deposits in K-P](#)

August 23, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan Oilfields Limited (POL) had discovered new oil and gas deposits in development well Makori Deep-02 located in Tal block in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Well test shows the flow of 1,844 barrels of oil per day and 18.25 mmscf (million standard cubic feet) of gas per day.

[Pakistan gets \\$440m worth of fresh loans in July](#)

August 23, 2019, The Nation

Pakistan received \$440 million in fresh loans last month amid a gradual shift in the financing source from China to multilateral creditors due to completion of many China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. The borrowing of \$440 million in July 2019 included \$173.3 million in commercial loans from Dubai Bank and a consortium of Credit Suisse, said sources in the Ministry of Finance.

Afghanistan

[Pak-Afghan transit trade to continue](#)

August 17, 2019, The Nation

Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade would continue as it has nothing to do with Islamabad's decision to suspend bilateral trade with New Delhi. The Ministry of Commerce has asked Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to take necessary steps to prevent mis-declaration and smuggling.

[Brother of Afghan Taliban leader killed in Pakistan mosque blast](#)

August 16, 2019, Al Jazeera

The brother of Afghan Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhunzada has been killed in a powerful bomb blast at a mosque in southwestern Pakistan. Hafiz Ahmadullah was the imam of the Khair Ul Madarais mosque in the town of Kuchlak, on the outskirts of Quetta, that came under attack during on August 16.

[Bomb blast at wedding party in Kabul, Afghanistan kills 63 and injures 182 more](#)

August 18, 2019, Sky News

Sixty-three people have died and 182 are injured after an explosion ripped through a wedding hall in the Afghan capital of Kabul. The blast happened at the Dubai City venue in the west of the city, which is home to many members of the Shiite Hazara community, with hundreds thought to be inside.

[2 U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan](#)

August 21, 2019, Khaama Press

Two U.S. soldiers lost their lives in Afghanistan on August 21. The latest deaths bring the tally of US soldiers' deaths in Afghanistan to at least six in 2019 and a total of at least 65 US military deaths since January 2015, according to US government and NATO reports.

[U.S., Taliban Kick Off Ninth Round Of Afghan Peace Talks In Qatar](#)

August 22, 2019, RFERL

U.S. and Taliban negotiators have resumed 9th round of peace talks in Qatar on August 22 in the Qatari capital of Doha. Previous rounds of U.S.-Taliban negotiations have focused on issues including a U.S. troop withdrawal, a cease-fire, intra-Afghan negotiations to follow, and guarantees by the militant group not to harbor terrorist groups.

Bangladesh

[Delhi asks Dhaka to use defence loan](#)

August 20, 2019, New Age Bangladesh

Indian external affairs minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar requested Bangladesh to utilise a line of credit extended by India for purchasing military equipment. He made the request in a meeting with his Bangladesh counterpart AK Abdul Momen in Dhaka.

[Bangladesh, UNHCR to survey Rohingyas regarding return to Myanmar](#)

August 19, 2019, Bd news 24

Bangladesh will work with the United Nations refugee agency to determine if more than 3,000 Rohingya refugees will accept Myanmar's offer to return home, an official said, nearly a year after a major repatriation plan failed.

[Dhaka, Washington seek partnership on counter-terrorism initiatives](#)

August 21, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

US Department of State's Deputy Coordinator for Counter-terrorism John T Godfrey visited Bangladesh from August 18-19 and discussed the issues with senior government officials in Dhaka. Topics such as counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism (CT/CVE) in Bangladesh and the region, and cooperation with the United States in these areas, came up in the discussions.

[India's ties with Bangladesh today better than ever: Indian envoy to UN Syed Akbaruddin](#)

August 22, 2019, The Hindu

India's ties with Bangladesh today are better than ever and this is a tribute to the legacy and belief of Bangladesh's Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman that ties between neighbours should be exemplary, New Delhi's envoy to the UN said.

[India Looks Forward to Hosting Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina in October, Says Jaishankar](#)

August 20, 2019, News 18

Speaking to the media after the bilateral discussions, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that he had a fruitful interaction with Foreign Minister his counterpart A K Abdul Momen.

Nepal

[S Jaishankar meets Nepal president Bidya Devi Bhandari to review trade, transit, culture and education relations](#)

August 22, 2019, First Post

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is in Kathmandu for a two-day visit, met Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The minister also chaired the Fifth

Joint Commission Meeting held in Kathmandu MoU between Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and DFTQC Nepal was also signed on food safety.

[Nepal, India agree to enter new era of partnership](#)

August 22, 2019, The Weekend Leader

The Kathmandu Post, quoting people familiar with the talks said Jaishankar paid a courtesy call on Oli to convey Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message of "seeking a new perspective on bilateral ties since both countries had gained political stability".

[Representatives from Asia-Pacific region meet in Nepal to discuss civil aviation](#)

August 20, 2019, Xinhua Net

KATHMANDU, Aug. 19 (Xinhua) -- The 56th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation in Asia and Pacific Regions kicked off in Nepal's capital city on Monday with the participation of heads of civil aviation bodies of over 40 countries and regions. The event, attended by around 400 high-level delegates, was inaugurated by Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.

Bhutan

[PM lists space, education as new areas of cooperation with Bhutan](#)

August 18, 2019, Live Mint

The Prime Minister invited more students to visit India for studies in traditional areas such as Buddhism. One of the key outcomes of the visit was Modi and Bhutanese prime minister Lotay Tshering inaugurating the 720 megawatts Mangdechhu hydel power project.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka President Denies Backing UN Resolution on Kashmir, Advocates 'Regional Cooperation' Instead](#)

August 23, 2019, News 18

The Pakistani High Commissioner was told by the President's Office that it was Sri Lankan policy to see this dispute resolved through regional cooperation as both countries enjoyed a high level of friendship.

[Sri Lanka Prime Minister aims to modernize and transform Colombo to be best in South Asia](#)

August 22, 2019, Lanka Page

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe says Colombo, which had been built without a proper plan is now being transformed with ongoing development into a beautiful city in the world as Singapore.

[Alert in Tamil Nadu following intelligence of Lashkar terrorists' intrusion via Sri Lanka](#)

August 23, 2019, Business Line

Security has been tightened across Tamil Nadu following intelligence inputs that members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba had infiltrated into the state.

[High-level meeting held between Indian, Sri Lankan Coast Guards over security concerns](#)

August 21, 2019, All India Radio

The Indian Coast Guard held a High-Level Meeting (HLM) with the Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi yesterday. The Indian side was led by Director General, Coast Guard K Natarajan, while the Sri Lankan delegation was headed by Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge.

[Term of Chief of Defense Staff extended](#)

August 23, 2019, Colombo Page

The term of Chief of Defense Staff Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne has been extended by President Maithripala Sirisena.

[President commissions P625 ship gifted to Sri Lanka Navy by China as SLNS Parakramabahu](#)

August 22, 2019, Colombo Page

The OPV gifted by China for the expansion of the Sri Lanka Navy's operations was commissioned ceremoniously by the President at the Eastern Container Terminal of the Colombo Port.

[SAARC Development Fund meeting in Colombo on Aug 23-24](#)

August 21, 2019, Colombo Page

The CEO of SAARC Development Fund Dr Sunil Motiwal called on the Sri Lankan Finance Minister of Mangala Samaraweera in his office for discussions prior to the meeting.

East & South East Asia

China

[US missile deployment plan a dangerous miscalculation: China Daily editorial](#)

August 22, 2019, China Daily

The Pentagon announced on Monday it had successfully tested an intermediate-range missile, the first such test since the United States formally withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty signed with the Cold War-era Soviet Union.

[Deal-making art that's leading US into recession: China Daily editorial](#)

August 21, 2019, China Daily

The US leader may deserve a pat on the back, at least for having the courage to eat his own words. For the first time rather than dismissing fears the US is heading for a recession, he has acknowledged that his trade attack on China may also mean economic pain for his country.

[Three neighbors show shared intent: China Daily editorial](#)

August 21, 2019, China Daily

The ninth China-Japan-Republic of Korea foreign ministers' meeting was an inspiring sign that the three Northeast Asian neighbors share a common will to maintain regional stability.

[China eyes closer communication with Japan as FMs meet in Beijing](#)

August 20, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met here Tuesday with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, who was here to attend the upcoming ninth meeting of foreign ministers of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK).

[India and Pakistan have to find a way out of security dilemma](#)

August 21, 2019, China Daily

India and Pakistan have locked horns again, exchanging fire across the Line of Control on Saturday, one day after the United Nations Security Council convened an unofficial meeting on the dispute over Kashmir between the two neighbors.

[China urges U.S. to "walk the walk" on easing restrictions on Huawei](#)

August 19, 2019, Xinhua

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Monday called on the United States to "walk the walk" on easing restrictions on U.S. companies' sales to Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

[Spokesperson slashes foreign meddling in Russia, Hong Kong affairs](#)

August 21, 2019, Xinhua

The activities of some external powers in Russia are exactly the same as what they have done in Hong Kong, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Tuesday.

[Egypt, China conduct joint naval drill in Mediterranean Sea](#)

August 21, 2019, Xinhua

Joint naval forces from Egypt and China have carried out a drill on Wednesday in the Mediterranean Sea, Egyptian armed forces said in a statement.

[Tsai's ploys doomed to failure: China Daily editorial](#)

August 22, 2019 China Daily

Of all the issues that threaten to derail the relationship between China and the United States, the US arms sales to Taiwan have stood out as being the most contentious. That explains why the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council on Thursday expressed strong opposition, a second time within the week, to the US' planned \$8 billion sale of F-16V fighter jets to Taiwan.

[US arms sales to Taiwan will lead to serious consequences](#)

August 21, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump confirmed Sunday that he has approved the sale of \$8 billion worth of F-16V fighter jets to Taiwan. According to reports, the arms sales involved 66 fighters of this type, and it was believed that the deal will pass smoothly in US Congress.

[U.S. told to immediately stop Taiwan arms sales](#)

August 22, 2019, Xinhua

A spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council on Thursday once again urged the United States to immediately cease arms sales to Taiwan and stop its support for "Taiwan independence" separatist forces.

[Using China as excuse for U.S. leaving INF Treaty unacceptable: envoy](#)

August 23, 2019, Xinhua

A Chinese envoy said Thursday that it is unacceptable to use China as an excuse for the United States to leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which ended on Aug. 2 after the United States formally withdrew from it.

[Russia, U.S. trade barbs over INF collapse, China says no interest in trilateral treaty](#)

August 23, 2019, Xinhua

Russia and the United States on Thursday blamed each other for the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, while China said it has no interest in trilateral arms control talks that Washington wants.

[Pence's threat on HK affairs outrageous](#)

August 21, 2019, Global Times

US Vice President Mike Pence said in a threatening tone on Monday that for the US to make a trade deal with China, Beijing needs to honor its commitments, including China's commitment to respect the legal integrity of Hong Kong in keeping with the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration. He also said it would be much harder for the US to reach a trade deal if there was violence in Hong Kong. Pence's use of the Sino-British Joint Declaration in this way is deceptive.

[White paper exposes lies on Xinjiang training centers](#)

August 16, 2019, Global Times

China on Friday released a white paper on vocational education and training in Xinjiang. For the past two years, the vocational education and training centers have been the focus of debate on Xinjiang affairs. Western countries have been fiercely critical, while developing countries, including Islamic nations, have shown a general understanding and support.

[US can't influence Beijing's decision on HK](#)

August 19, 2019, Global Times

If Washington wants to link trade talks with Hong Kong under such circumstances, it so flatters itself.

Japan

[Japan Inc backs Abe's tough trade stance toward S Korea](#)

August 21, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese companies broadly support Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's tough trade stance against South Korea, a Reuters poll found.

[Despite subtle overtures, Japan-South Korea dispute likely to drag on](#)

August 22, 2019, The Japan Times

Recent signs that Japan and South Korea are making subtle overtures to each other have raised hopes that they are moving toward de-escalating their diplomatic feud.

[China urges Japan, S Korea to resolve dispute through dialogue](#)

August 21, 2019, Japan Today

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi asked Japan and South Korea to resolve their differences "through dialogue," amid concern that worsening relations between Tokyo and Seoul may threaten regional economic stability down the road., S Korea to resolve dispute through dialogue.

[Japan, S Korea agree on need for dialogue to repair frayed ties](#)

August 22, 2019, Japan Today

Japan and South Korea agreed on the need for dialogue to resolve a feud over compensating Korean wartime workers that has spilled over into trade, and put a deep chill on ties between Washington's two Asian allies.

[China instructs fishermen to stay clear of Senkakus](#)

August 16, 2019, Japan Today

China has instructed its fishermen to stay away from waters surrounding the disputed Senkaku Islands, possibly to remove an irritant in ties with Japan ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's planned state visit there next spring.

[Chinese, Japanese foreign ministers meet amid calming ties](#)

August 21, 2019, Japan Today

The foreign ministers of China and Japan met Tuesday amid an unusually lengthy stretch of calm in their countries' often turbulent relationship.

[Japanese report says N Korea has miniaturized nuclear warheads: paper](#)

August 22, 2019, Japan Today

Japan has upgraded its estimate of North Korea's nuclear weapons capability in an upcoming annual Defense White Paper, saying it seems Pyongyang has achieved the miniaturization of warheads.

[Abe becomes longest-serving postwar Japanese leader, tying great-uncle Sato at 2,798 days](#)

August 23, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday became the longest-serving leader in the country's post-World War II era, tying his great-uncle, Eisaku Sato, with 2,798 days in office.

Korea

[South Korea decides to exit intelligence-sharing pact with Japan](#)

August 22, 2019, The Japan Times

Seoul announced that it would scrap a key intelligence-sharing pact with Tokyo, with the South's presidential Blue House saying in a statement that it did not meet Seoul's "national interests" to maintain the deal amid the intensifying spat between the two neighbors.

[US expresses 'strong concern,' 'disappointment' at termination of Seoul-Tokyo intel pact](#)

August 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

The United States expressed "strong concern" and "disappointment" Thursday after South Korea withdrew from a military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan.

[Kang says decision to end military pact with Japan separate from S. Korea-US alliance](#)

August 22, 2019, The Korea Herald

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said that South Korea's decision to terminate a military pact with Japan is separate from the Seoul-Washington alliance, amid concerns that it could erode cooperation among the three countries for regional security.

[Seoul to minimize economic fallout from looming trade row with Japan](#)

August 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

A day after South Korea announced its decision to scrap a military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki said Friday that the government would minimize any negative impact this might have on the economy.

[North Korea prepared for dialogue, confrontation](#)

August 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho said Friday the regime is ready for both dialogue and confrontation with the US, criticizing Washington for using sanctions as leverage in denuclearization talks.

[N. Korea hopes for more investment, economic cooperation with foreign countries](#)

August 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

A senior North Korean official said that Pyongyang is making active efforts to create a business-friendly environment to attract investment and foster economic cooperation with foreign countries.

[Korea, U.K. Sign Post-Brexit FTA](#)

August 23, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Korea and the U.K. signed a free trade agreement on Thursday that will go a small way to propping up Britain if it leaves the EU without a deal.

[Trump Vows Again to Help Apple Against Samsung](#)

August 23, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

U.S. President Donald Trump reiterated he will help Apple "short term" because the American company claims it has to pay hefty U.S. tariffs while Samsung does not.

Southeast Asia

[First Asean-US maritime exercise set for Sept in Thailand](#)

August 22, 2019, Bangkok Post

The first maritime drill between the navies of the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will kick off on Sept 2 off the coast of the Gulf of Thailand, an Asean source said.

[U.S. Says China Is Blocking Trillions In Oil And Gas, Will Send Navy For Asia Drills](#)

August 22, 2019, Newsweek

The United States has accused China of preventing Southeast Asian countries from accessing trillions of dollars worth of untapped oil and gas reserves in the South China Sea as the Pentagon planned to hold its first exercise with regional powers near the strategic region.

[People-to-people exchanges fortify Asean-China ties](#)

August 22, 2019, Phillippine News Agency

The 10 member-states of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China shall continue people-to-people exchanges to strengthen relations for further cooperation, Asean-China Center Secretary General Chen Daihe said.

[Rohingya refugees refuse to return to Myanmar without rights guarantee](#)

August 21, 2019, The Guardian

Plans to begin repatriating the thousands of Rohingya Muslims who fled ethnic cleansing in Rahkine state in 2017 look likely to fail once again, with the refugees refusing to go back to Myanmar voluntarily.

[India, Myanmar Likely to Set up 4 Border Haats to Boost Local Trade](#)

August 20, 2019, india.com

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga in his Independence Day speech had said that the proposed Border Haats would become important trade points between India and Myanmar.

[Bangladesh seeks to repatriate 3,000 Rohingya to Myanmar](#)

August 20, 2019, Al Jazeera

Bangladesh will work with the United Nations refugee agency to determine if more than 3,000 Rohingya refugees will accept Myanmar's offer to return home, officials said, nearly two years after a military crackdown sparked their exodus.

[U.S. power waning in Pacific, warns top Australian think tank](#)

August 20, 2019, Japan Today

The United States no longer has military primacy in the Pacific and could struggle to defend allies against China, a top Australian think tank warned.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakh Village Under Quarantine After Tests Confirm Anthrax](#)

August 19, 2019, RFE/RL

A village near the Kazakh capital, Nur-Sultan, is under quarantine after lab tests confirmed anthrax infections in several people. The Health Ministry said that five residents of the village of Olginka, 100 kilometers east of Nur-Sultan, have been hospitalized in recent days with anthrax symptoms, four of whom tested positive for *Bacillus anthracis* -- the bacteria that causes the infectious disease.

[Former Kyrgyz Prosecutor-General Under House Arrest On Corruption Charge](#)

August 22, 2019, RFE/RL

Former Kyrgyz Prosecutor-General Indira Joldubaeva has been placed under house arrest on a corruption charge. The Interior Ministry said that Joldubaeva was suspected of involvement in the illegal early release of a criminal boss, Aziz Batukaev, from prison in 2013 when she led the presidential office's department for judicial-system reform.

[Tajikistan: Authorities to monopolize money transfer system](#)

August 20, 2019, Eurasianet

In Tajikistan's latest attempt to keep its disastrous banking industry afloat, money transfer companies may be forced to keep billions of dollars in local accounts. The proposed system will generate a new source of income for the Tajik National Bank, which will be in a position to charge its own commission on transfers. Money transfer companies will also be unable to provide cast-iron pledges that the money gets to its intended recipient since it will no longer be in charge of the whole chain of operations.

[Tashkent Moves To Floating Exchange Rate For Uzbek Currency](#)

August 20, 2019, RFE/RL

Uzbekistan announced it will no longer restrict citizens from purchasing foreign currencies and will end a cap on the som's daily fluctuations, removing the last roadblocks to a fully floating currency. The announcement was the latest in a series of liberal economic policies that are attracting foreign investors to the once-closed Central Asian nation.

[Iran, Turkmenistan to establish direct shipping route](#)

August 20, 2019, Tehran Times

Iran and Turkmenistan have reached an agreement for establishing a direct shipping route between the two countries, as per Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami. The agreement, along with several others, will be discussed comprehensively in the upcoming weeks and will be officially signed in the end of the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr in Ashgabat.

West Asia

[Bahrain welcomes Narendra Modi's historic visit](#)

August 20, 2019, Gulf News

The Bahrain cabinet has welcomed the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the kingdom, saying it will provide a strong impetus to the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries. The visit comes after Bahrain's King Hamad Bin Eisa Al Khalifa visited India in February 2014 – during which the two countries signed agreements worth \$450 million of bilateral trade and investment.

[Yemen separatist chief in Saudi Arabia for talks on Aden standoff](#)

August 21, 2019, Reuters

The leader of southern Yemeni separatists has arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks aimed at ending a standoff in Aden port between the separatists and Yemen's Saudi-backed government, who had been nominal allies under a Sunni Muslim military coalition. The standoff has complicated efforts to end the ruinous war and has exposed differences between regional allies Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

[Turkey removes pro-Kurdish mayors, arrests more than 400](#)

August 19, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Turkish government has removed three mayors from office over alleged links to a Kurdish armed group as authorities arrested more than 400 people amid a deepening crackdown on a pro-Kurdish party. The mayors of Diyarbakir, Mardin and Van provinces in eastern Turkey - all members of the People's Democratic Party (HDP) elected in March - were suspended on Monday.

[Iraqi militias blame US and Israel for attacks on bases](#)

August 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iraq's paramilitary groups backed by Iran have blamed a series of recent blasts at their weapons depots and bases on the United States and Israel, vowing to defend themselves against any future attack. The statement came from the Popular Mobilisation Forces, or Hashd al-Shaabi, the umbrella grouping of Iraq's mostly Shia militias, saying the US had allowed four Israeli drones to enter the region accompanying US forces and carry out missions on Iraqi territory.

[Netanyahu hints at Israeli involvement in Iraq blasts](#)

August 23, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted on Thursday of possible Israeli involvement in attacks against Iranian-linked targets in Iraq. A series of blasts in the past few weeks have hit weapon depots and bases belonging to paramilitary groups in Iraq, many of them backed by Israel's regional foe Iran. The groups blamed the United States and Israel for the blasts.

[Iran says top waterways won't be as safe if its oil exports cut to zero](#)

August 21, 2019, Middle East Monitor

If Iran's oil exports are cut to zero, international waterways will not have the same security as before, its president said, cautioning Washington against raising pressure on Tehran in an angry confrontation between the longtime foes. The comment by President Rouhani coincided with a remark by Iran's Foreign Minister that Tehran might act "unpredictably" in response to "unpredictable" US policies.

[Syria opens 'humanitarian corridor' for civilians to leave Idlib](#)

August 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

Syria's Foreign Ministry has said it is opening a "humanitarian corridor" for civilians to leave the rebel-held northwestern region of Idlib and northern Hama, where the army has advanced against armed fighters with fierce air and ground attacks. The ministry said that the corridor was opened in the village of Soran on the southern edge of the rebel-held area, which Syrian troops laid siege to earlier.

[Turkey, US agree to launch first phase of Syria safe-zone plan](#)

August 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

Turkey and the United States have agreed to launch the first phase of putting in place a safe zone in northern Syria after months of dispute over the depth of the

zone and who would control it. Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar and his US counterpart Mark Esper agreed to flesh out the first phase of implementing the zone. Delegations from both sides are expected to meet in Ankara soon.

[UAE to honour Modi just weeks after Kashmir 'annexation', sparking outrage](#)

August 22, 2019, TRT World

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in the UAE where he will be awarded the country's highest civil honour - the Order of Zayed. The move comes just weeks after the Indian government announced controversial changes to Article 370 of the Indian constitution. The bestowing of such a prestigious award on Modi by the UAE given that context has sparked outrage online.

[Israeli press review: New policy seeks to have Palestinians leave Gaza forever](#)

August 21, 2019, Middle East Eye

A senior Israeli official said that a new Israeli policy would allow Palestinians to leave the besieged Gaza Strip on the condition that they will emigrate to another country and will never be allowed to return. The official said that Israel may finance travel costs in order to encourage emigration, however he added that Israel had reached out to various countries in the Middle East, which refused to accept Palestinian immigrants from Gaza under these conditions.

United States

[Greenland tells Trump it is open for business but not for sale](#)

August 16, 2019, Reuters

Greenland on Friday dismissed the notion that it might be up for sale after reports that U.S. President Donald Trump had privately discussed with his advisers the idea of buying the world's biggest island.

[Trump Dials Modi, Imran Khan; Wants India And Pakistan To 'Reduce Tensions' In Kashmir](#)

August 20, 2019, Huffington Post

US President Donald Trump spoke with the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, Narendra Modi and Imran Khan, on Monday, discussing prospects for improved trade ties with Washington and stressing the need to reduce tensions over Kashmir between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

[Trump To Discuss Kashmir With PM Modi At G7 Summit In France](#)

August 21, 2019, Bloomberg

U.S. President Donald Trump has said that he would discuss with Prime Minister Narendra Modi the situation in Kashmir and help ease the Indo-Pak tensions when they meet at the G7 Summit in France this weekend.

[US President Trump reiterates call for Russia to re-join 'G8'](#)

August 20, 2019, France24

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump noted that his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama, had wanted Russia out of what used to be the G8 "because Putin outsmarted him".

[GOP fundraises off Greenland flap: 'Support President Trump and his efforts to help America grow!'](#)

August 22, 2019, Politico

The National Republican Congressional Committee began running a promotion in which donors contributing \$25 or more receive a limited-edition T-shirt depicting the semiautonomous Arctic island, part of the Kingdom of Denmark, as part of the U.S.

[Trump Administration Drops Proposal to Cut Foreign Aid After Intense Debate](#)

August 22, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump on Thursday rejected a proposal from budget hawks in the administration to curb foreign aid spending after objections from Secretary of

State Mike Pompeo and lawmakers from both parties, officials briefed on the decision said.

[As economy flashes warning signs, Trump suggests remedies, then argues they're not needed](#)

August 22, 2019, ABC News

As the economy flashed warning signs of a possible downturn, President Donald Trump, with his political future potentially at stake, spent this week suggesting a variety of remedies -- even as he argued they were unnecessary.

[It's Time for a NATO-China Council](#)

August 21, 2019, Defense One

On a recent visit to Australia, NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg said that China is a growing concern for NATO not because NATO wants to go to the Pacific but because China is coming to Europe.

[Pakistan Leader Vents Frustration at India: 'No Point in Talking to Them'](#)

August 21, 2019, The New York Times

Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan intensified his criticism of India on Wednesday over its Kashmir crackdown, saying he would no longer seek dialogue with Indian officials and raising the threat of a military escalation between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

[Economic Antidote for a Shrinking America: Immigrants](#)

August 22, 2019, The New York Times

As unemployment rates nationwide have sunk to record lows, filching workers — from kitchens and construction sites, warehouses and Walmarts, truck cabs and nursing homes — has become routine. In cities like Miami that are magnets for immigrants, newcomers have filled some job openings, but employers across several industries and states insist that many more are needed for their businesses to function, let alone grow.

[Russia, China request UNSC briefing on US missile development — diplomat](#)

August 22, 2019, Tass

Moscow, backed by Beijing, has requested the United Nations Security Council to hold a briefing on the United States' development of intermediate-range missiles, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Macron meets with Modi under shadow of India's Kashmir clampdown](#)

August 22, 2019, France24

More than a year after their last summit, Macron and Modi are meeting again Thursday ahead of the weekend's G7 summit in Biarritz, to which Modi has been invited although India is not a formal member of the grouping.

[Macron dampens Johnson's plan to renegotiate Brexit](#)

August 22, 2019, Deutsche Welle

French President Emmanuel Macron put the brakes on British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's bid to reopen Brexit negotiations, saying on Thursday that there was not enough time to find a new withdrawal agreement by the October 31 divorce deadline.

[Iran ready to work on French nuclear deal proposals, does not want war: foreign minister](#)

August 22, 2019, Reuters

Iran is prepared to work on French proposals to salvage the international nuclear deal that Tehran signed with world powers in 2015 but it will not tolerate U.S. interference in the Gulf, its foreign minister said on Thursday.

[Italy's president holding talks to find new government after Conte quits](#)

August 21, 2019, Euronews

Italy's president, Sergio Mattarella, is beginning two days of consultations with political parties in the hope of finding a majority for a new government. The country was plunged into a fresh political crisis on Tuesday after Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte quit as head of the ruling coalition.

[European officials draft radical plan to take on Trump and U.S. tech companies](#)

August 22, 2019, Politico

European Union officials have drawn up an aggressive 173-page plan to counter both President Donald Trump's trade moves and American tech giants including Google, Apple, Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook.

[Italy crisis: Centre left and Five Star set tough coalition demands](#)

August 22, 2019, BBC

Two days after Italy's populist government collapsed, the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) leader has told the president he will try to reach a deal with the populist Five Star party.

[Germany Will Now Work To Meet NATO Obligations After U.S. Ambassador Calls Out Their Deficiency](#)

August 20, 2019, The Daily Wire

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has announced that Germany will work to meet its obligations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), just a week or so after the U.S. Ambassador to Germany called the country out for ducking its responsibilities.

[Trump or Europe – Boris Johnson's G-7 balancing act](#)

August 22, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Against the backdrop of the Brexit impasse and a brewing political crisis at home, this weekend's G-7 summit will offer little respite for the new British prime minister. Boris Johnson's baptism of fire has left him squeezed and increasingly isolated on the one side by European partners and on the other by a temptation to align the UK more closely with the US with all the potentially negative baggage that entails.

[Debt and doom loops: The eurozone's Italian nightmare](#)

August 22, 2019, Deutsche Welle

With new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson having apparently scheduled a no-deal Brexit for October 31 this year, Halloween is already shaping up to be more ghoulish than usual for the EU. But there's an even more terrifying story spooking Eurocrats in 2019, and it comes from Italy.

Russia

[Russia Rejoices Over Trump's G7 Readmission Offer](#)

August 23, 2019, The Moscow Times

President Trump's suggestion that Russia should be readmitted to the Group of Seven industrialized democracies and his no less extravagant proposal that the U.S. should purchase the island of Greenland have two things in common.

[World on verge of 'uncontrolled arms race' because of US – Russia's UN envoy](#)

August 22, 2019, RT

The US ambitions have put the world on the brink of a new arms race that can easily spiral out of control, warned the Russian envoy to the UN. Washington responded by blaming Moscow for the INF treaty's collapse.

[Russia in contact with Turkey on situation in Syria's Idlib – Russian diplomat](#)

August 22, 2019, Tass

Russia is in contact with the Turkish side on the situation in Syria's Idlib, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing.

[Russia and China's Cosplay Alliance](#)

August 22, 2019, The Moscow Times

Much is made of the supposed Sino-Russian alliance, and Beijing's denunciation of Western "interference" behind the Moscow protests appears to give more evidence of an axis of authoritarianism. And yet a shared desire to blame the West for their problems and to undermine what they see as U.S. global hegemony cannot obscure the very real tensions in this relationship.

[New START Treaty under risk after collapse of INF Treaty – Russian diplomat](#)

August 23, 2019, Tass

Russia's acting UN envoy Dmitry Polyansky said that key figures in the current US administration have repeatedly said that they are not interested in keeping the New START Treaty in its current format.

[Russia Says U.S. Missile Deployments in Asia Would Be a Threat](#)

August 23, 2019, Reuters

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that a possible U.S. deployment of missiles in the Asia-Pacific region would pose a threat to international security.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Amazon burning: Brazil President tells rest of world not to interfere](#)

August 23, 2019, The Hindu

Amid growing international criticism over the wildfires raging through the Amazon, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday admitted farmers could be illegally setting the rainforest ablaze but told foreign powers not to interfere.

[Brazilian minister booed at climate event as outcry grows over Amazon fires](#)

August 22, 2019, The Guardian

The environment minister of Brazil, where wildfires have been sweeping the Amazon rainforest, was booed at a climate event on Wednesday as celebrities including Leonardo DiCaprio and Ariana Grande joined an international chorus of criticism.

[Canada FM to press Cuba on its support for Venezuela's Maduro](#)

August 22, 2019, France 24

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland will travel to Havana next week to press Venezuela's top ally Cuba to stop propping up President Nicolas Maduro's regime and to help bring an end to the Venezuela crisis.

[U.S. and Venezuela Hold Secret Talks](#)

Aug 21, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

Powerful lieutenant of President Nicolás Maduro discussing elections in return for safety guarantees.

[Mexico again rejects 'safe third country' proposal by U.S. on migration](#)

August 23, 2019, Firstpost

Mexico reiterated its opposition to becoming a safe third country for asylum seekers, with the foreign minister on Thursday endorsing the senate leader's declaration that the legislature would never pass the measure requested by the United States.

[Tomato Truce: U.S. And Mexico Strike A Deal On Imports](#)

August 21, 2019, NPR

The Trump administration struck a tentative deal to lift tariffs on imported tomatoes from Mexico. But importers warn the agreement could still put protectionist roadblocks in the path of \$2 billion worth of the produce.

Africa

[African Union Picks Kenya as Its UN Security Council Candidate](#)

August 21, 2019, Bloomberg

Kenya beat Djibouti to become Africa's candidate in the selection of a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in June.

[Burkina Faso troops killed in 'major attack' by 'terrorist armed groups'](#)

August 20, 2019, France 24

Unidentified militants killed more than a dozen soldiers in northern Burkina Faso in what the army described as a "major attack" by "terrorist armed groups".

[Rwanda-Uganda relations: What next after Angola pact?](#)

August 22, 2019, The New Times

All Rwandans who were arbitrarily arrested in Uganda should be freed in the spirit of the agreement signed Wednesday in Angola before the government of Rwanda lifts the travel advisory on Rwandans travelling to Uganda.

[How Sudan's Army Will Share Power Following Violence](#)

August 22, 2019, The Washington Post

Under the deal signed Aug. 17, the military has ceded some of its powers to a civilian coalition. A so-called sovereign council made up of civilian and army figures is assuming presidential-type duties for three years until elections are held.

[Sudan's new rulers promise 'justice' for civilian deaths and economic growth](#)

August 22, 2019, Middle East Eye

Fresh from being sworn in as one of the six civilians making up Sudan's new Sovereign Council, Hassan Idriss says he's got one major priority as a member of the ruling body: justice.

[Qatar, Saudi Arabia rift in a new stage over Somalia](#)

August 23, 2019, Daily Sabah

While Saudi Arabia has de facto recognized Somaliland, a tiny region within Somalia, Qatar has increased its financial and infrastructural aid for Somalia.

[Court Limits Display Of South Africa's Old Apartheid Flag, Citing Hateful Legacy](#)

August 21, 2019, NPR

A South African court is restricting gratuitous displays of the country's old apartheid-era flag, calling the banner "a vivid symbol of white supremacy and black disenfranchisement and suppression."

[Corruption and terrorism: The case of Kenya](#)

August 22, 2019, Brookings

Research has shown that high levels of corruption increase the number of terrorist attacks originating in a country. This impact has been felt in key battlegrounds against extremism, including Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq, and Kenya, at times derailing efforts to defeat terrorism.

[Ghana draws African-American tourists with 'Year of Return'](#)

August 22, 2019, Yahoo News

The West African nation is banking on the commemorations to give a major boost to the number of tourist arrivals as it encourages the descendants of slaves to "come home".



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