



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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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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South Asia

India

[U.S.-India Relations: The Trump Administration's Foreign Policy Bright Spot](#)

Jan 24, 2019, War on the Rocks

It's customary these days to lament U.S. relations with allied countries like Germany and Canada, or to worry about warmth with unfriendly ones like Russia and North Korea. Ties with India, however, are a refreshingly positive outlier.

[PSLV-C44, Carrying India's Military Satellite Microsat-R and Students' Payload Kalamsat, Lifts off](#)

Jan 24, 2019, News 18

In its 46th flight, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C44) would place the 740-kg primary satellite Microsat-R, an imaging satellite meant for military purposes, in a 274-km polar sun synchronous orbit about 14 minutes after the lift-off.

[Indian Navy opens third base in Andaman and Nicobar islands to counter China](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Island

India's Navy opened a third air base in the far-off Andaman and Nicobar islands on Thursday to beef up surveillance of Chinese ships and submarines entering the Indian Ocean through the nearby Malacca Straits, military officials and experts said.

[China, Japan revive trade ties as India fades](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Business Standard

Amidst the frenzy of the US-China trade war, an important development has escaped attention. There is a perceptible thaw in the hitherto strained political relations between Japan and China and a parallel revival in their trade and economic relations.

[Lockheed sees potential exports of 200 F-16 jets from proposed Indian plant](#)

Jan 21, 2019, Reuters

Lockheed Martin sees a potential export market of more than \$20 billion for its F-16 fighter aircraft from an assembly line in India it has offered to set up in order to win a large Indian military order, a top executive said.

[Over 50% of Rs 59,000 crore Rafale price already paid amid political slugfest](#)

Jan 20, 2018, The Times of India

India has already paid more than half of the Rs 59,000 crore owed to France under the contract inked in 2016 for the 36 Rafale fighter jets which will be delivered between Nov 2019 and April 2022.

Pakistan

[Pakistan conducts training launch of ballistic missile 'Nasr'](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Pakistan Observer

Pakistan successfully conducted training launch of surface to surface ballistic Missile "Nasr" to enhance the operational efficiency of Army Strategic Forces Command besides re-validating the desired technical parameters.

[UAE transfers \\$1bn to boost Pakistan's liquidity, reserves](#)

Jan 24, 2019, DAWN

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government transferred a tranche of US\$1 billion to State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) account, Radio Pakistan reported.

[The increasing Chinese footprint in Islamabad](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Herald

Around 10,000 Chinese live in Islamabad, according to figures provided by diplomatic officials. Another 35,000 or so live in other parts of Pakistan. Most of them are working on projects linked to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

[Water scarcity a massive challenge for Pakistan: President Arif Alvi](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The News

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that water scarcity is a massive challenge for the country, as it is a matter of life and death for our coming generation.

[Russia Pakistan Economic Corridor](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Daily Times

Finally, the talks have started about the Russia Pakistan Economic Corridor (RPEC) together with Saudi Pakistan Economic Corridor (SPEC). Perhaps the centuries old Russian dream of reaching warm waters will be finally fulfilled, unfortunately, a lot of blood has been spilt for its fulfillment.

[Pakistan believes in friendly relations with all countries: Asad](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Pakistan Observer

Foreign Service Attaches from different countries along with their spouses called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser in the Parliament House. The matters related to important regional and international issues and Pakistan's relations with different countries of the world were discussed in the meeting.

['Pivot' to project, explore various dimensions of Pak-China relations](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Pakistan Observer

Pakistan and China are linked in perennial bond of friendship and the friendly relations between these two all weather friends are passing from generation to generation.

Afghanistan

["Trilateral peace deal needed between US, Afghanistan, Taliban"](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Afghanistan Times

In the midst of the Afghan peace journey and US envoy's negotiations with Taliban in Qatar, the High Peace Council says that peace process is in need of a trilateral agreement between the United States, Afghanistan and the Taliban.

[China Recognizes Afghan Taliban as Political Force](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

China recognizes the Taliban as a "political force" amid its participation in the Afghan peace process, said its envoy to Pakistan, according to local media.

[Russia airs optimism as Taliban return to talks with US](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Russia expressed optimism about resumption of peace negotiations between the US and Taliban to help in bringing the conflict to a peaceful resolution.

[Pakistan offered FTA in return for helping US in Afghanistan](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Pajhwok Afghan News

During his recent visit to Islamabad, an influential US lawmaker is believed to have discussed with Pakistani leaders a proposal for a free trade agreement (FTA) in return for assistance in ending the Afghan war.

[Afghanistan Key to South Asia Economic Potential: CEO](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

'Unacceptable for South Asia (home to 35% of global poverty) to remain world's least integrated region, the CEO said countries should not have to bulk-trade through air corridors or circuitous routes when cheaper alternatives were there.

[Afghanistan: Democracy and Political Participation](#)

Jan 19, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Popular participation by citizens in political decision-making is one of the most important aspects of a functioning democracy. In other words, the active and meaningful participation of citizens in public affairs is the distinguishing feature of democratic societies, which are judged by the extent to which governments open up to citizen involvement in public affairs and the space they give for citizens to hold the government accountable.

Bangladesh

[Cooperation is crucial](#)

Jan 25, 2019, The Daily Star

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed the need for collaboration and cooperation among neighbouring countries to minimize damages caused by natural disasters.

[Dhaka urges global leaders to mount pressure on Myanmar](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Asian Age

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen urged the global leaders for creating pressure on Myanmar for the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland.

[Dynamics of Bangladesh-China ties](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Asian Age

Bangladesh and China have maintained close defense ties. China not only is a reliable and affordable source of weapons and equipment for Bangladeshi armed forces, but also provides military technology and training.

[Japan to bankroll Bangladesh's first underground railroad](#)

Jan 24, 2019, BDnews24.com

A stretch of 26.6-kilometre rail line will be constructed in Dhaka in two phases under the Mass Rapid Transit project.

[Afghan for reopening Bangladesh mission in Kabul](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The Independent

Newly appointed Afghanistan's ambassador in Dhaka Abdul Qayoom Malikzad requested Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to reopen Bangladesh's diplomatic mission in Kabul saying that Afghanistan is keen to promote trade and business relations with Bangladesh.

[Afghanistan keen to import pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh](#)

Jan 23, 2019, BDnews24.com

Afghan Ambassador Abdul Qayoom Malikzad discussed the trade prospects and opportunities between the two countries when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Ganabhaban, said Ihsanul Karim, her press secretary said.

Nepal

[Japan urged to invest in Nepal's hydel sector](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barsha Man Pun, has urged the Japanese government to increase investment in the energy and hydropower sector.

[Nepal to seek more energy from India](#)

Jan 22, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Due to an increase in the domestic electricity demand, Nepal will again formally propose to India for import of more electricity from the southern neighbour.

[Nepal's central bank announces ban of Indian notes above Rs 100](#)

Jan 21, 2019, The Times of India

Nepal's central bank has banned the use of Indian currency notes of Rs 2000, Rs500 and Rs 200 denominations.

Bhutan

[Bhutan's hydro has a future provided it can stay competitive against India and Nepal: Hydro Report](#)

Jan 19, 2019, Kuensel Online

As Bhutan develops multiple hydro projects an important question to ask is not only on the price of the projects or its loan component and tariff rates, but more importantly, on the future power market scenario for Bhutan's existing and upcoming projects.

[Government signs project with World Bank to create jobs, diversify economy](#)

Jan 24, 2019, BBS

The US\$ 1.25 M project aims to bring innovation in youth employment approaches in the country. Based on the principles of social enterprise, the project aims at creating 400 direct new jobs for the out-of-school and unemployed young people in six dzongkhags in the southwestern part of the country.

Sri Lanka

[Draft Constitution weakens Parliament and strengthens PCs: MR](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Daily Mirror

Opposition Leader Mahinda Rajapaksa has said in a statement on the constitutional reforms, said that the draft constitution seeks to weaken Parliament and immeasurably strengthen the provincial legislatures, and it will compromise the unitary character of the Constitution.

['South Asia can enjoy considerable upside by promoting regional integration'](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Daily News

South Asia, the least integrated region in the world can enjoy considerable upside by promoting regional integration at a time when the Doha round multilateral trade negotiations are at an impasse, according to Central Bank governor Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy.

[Sri Lanka, Singapore leaders discuss strengthening bilateral relations](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, who is on an official visit to Singapore to attend the Asia Pacific Forum of Environment Ministers and Heads of

Environment Authorities held a meeting with President of Singapore Halimah Yacob.

[70 Years Of Australia And Sri Lanka Diplomacy – Analysis](#)

Jan 22, 2019, Times Online

In reinforcing Seventy years of bonds, Sri Lanka enjoys closer foreign relations with Australia than ever before. This bilateralism is an emerging strategic choice, their ties focusing on economic integration. The short and long term engagement of the South Asian Island and the Asia Pacific nation can be a basis for opening opportunities for other neighboring economies.

[US Navy conducts temporary cargo transfer initiative in SL](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Daily Mirror

The US Navy will perform a transfer operation to move cargo between planes at Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA), outside Colombo, from January 21 to 29, the US Embassy.

[Sri Lanka Air Force, Ministry of Power & Energy to launch first ever Cloud Seeding Project](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's Air Force and the Ministry of Power, Energy and Business Development have agreed to launch the first ever Cloud Seeding Project in a bid to address the issue of impact of dry weather on power generation in Sri Lanka.

Maldives

[Maldives to get major military push after President Ibrahim Solih's visit to India](#)

Jan 22, 2019, Times Now

In wake of the recent visit of the President of Maldives, Ibrahim Solih, to India and his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, closer military ties between the two countries are in the offing.

[Maldives on track to rejoin Commonwealth, says pres](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Avas.mv

The government is in the process of rejoining the Commonwealth, president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih said adding that the it would be completed next month.

East & South East Asia

China

[West should report detention professionally](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Global Times

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson confirmed that Chinese-Australian Yang Jun – or Yang Hengjun, as reported in Western media – was detained for engaging in activities undermining China's national security. His legal rights are protected when he is under investigation.

[Prepare for protracted game over Meng](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Global Times

The US Department of Justice confirmed that it will "meet all deadlines" to seek extradition of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, signaling an extraordinarily high probability of the US filing a formal extradition request before January 30.

[Canada must not extradite Meng Wanzhou](#)

Jan 22, 2019, Global Times

Canadian Ambassador to the US David MacNaughton has told Canadian media that his country was already informed by Washington that a formal request would be made to extradite Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou. It can be seen that he has been pushing for US extradition of Meng so as to get Canada out of the awkward situation between China and the US.

[How to correctly read China's GDP figure](#)

Jan 21, 2019, Global Times

China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced that China's GDP was 90.03 trillion yuan (\$13.26 trillion) in 2018, posting a 6.6 percent growth rate for the year. China's GDP has reached 90 trillion yuan for the first time, but 6.6 percent is the lowest annual growth rate since 1990.

[US signals optimism on trade talks](#)

Jan 20, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump and his economic advisor Larry Kudlow have sent positive signals on trade talks between China and the US these past two days. Trump said that the talks were "going well" and a deal "could very well happen."

[US missile defense plan reveals illusion disguised as safety net](#)

Jan 18, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump laid out his administration's Missile Defense Review during a speech at the Pentagon local time, declaring the US will develop a more advanced defense system to counter hypersonic and cruise missile threats from competitors and adversaries.

[Huawei victim of high-tech McCarthyism](#)

Jan 17, 2019, Global Times

The Wall Street Journal reported that US Federal prosecutors are "pursuing a criminal investigation of China's Huawei Technologies Co. for allegedly stealing trade secrets from US business partners, including technology used by T-Mobile US Inc. to test smartphones," according to people familiar with the matter.

[US mind-set can never comprehend PLA](#)

Jan 16, 2019, Global Times

The 2019 China Military Power report, released by the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) affiliated to the US Department of Defense, provided an overall description of the status quo and development of China's military power.

[Chinese vice president says economic globalization an inevitable trend](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Xinhua

China's interests and future are closely linked to those of the world, and it wishes to work with all countries for common development and a community with a shared future for mankind, Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan has said.

[Xu Qiliang meets with Australian defense minister](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Xinhua

Xu Qiliang, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, said that China and Australia should further strengthen their strategic communication and exchanges between the two militaries at all levels.

[China, France ready to steadily boost ties: Chinese FM](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Xinhua

China and France are willing to steadily promote the Sino-French comprehensive strategic partnership, visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

[China ready to promote bigger WTO role in global economic governance: FM](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Xinhua

China sticks to multilateralism, and supports a rule-based multilateral trading system which puts the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its heart, visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said .

[China voices support for Venezuela's efforts in safeguarding sovereignty, stability](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Xinhua

China on voiced support for Venezuela's efforts in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and stability as well as opposition to foreign interference in the South American country's internal affairs.

[Chinese premier pledges to promote ties with Cambodia to new high](#)

Jan 22, 2019, Xinhua

Premier Li Keqiang held talks with visiting Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, pledging to forge ahead the friendship and cooperation with Cambodia to a higher level.

Japan

[Japan's top diplomat Taro Kono meets South Korean counterpart amid widening rift over 'provocative' SDF flights](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Japan Times

The foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea exposed a deepening rift between the two countries despite agreeing on the need to maintain close communication, as Seoul made fresh accusations over allegedly provocative flights by the Self-Defense Forces.

[Japan and China to hold security dialogue on Feb. 1 in Beijing, sources say](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Japan Times

Japan and China are set to hold a security dialogue on Feb. 1 in Beijing in a bid to narrow differences over defense issues, as their relations have been improving, according to bilateral sources close to the matter.

[South Korea threatens 'strong action' in response to alleged buzzing of its naval vessels by Japan SDF planes](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The Japan Times

The South Korean military accused Japan of clear provocations, alleging Japanese patrol planes deliberately flew at low altitudes recently near South Korean naval vessels, a claim immediately denied by Tokyo.

[Historic deal on Russian-held islands looks no nearer after Abe and Putin's fruitless 25th meeting](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's attempt to quickly settle a decadeslong territorial dispute with Russia, and thus boost his political legacy, appears unlikely to bear fruit, with no substantive progress announced after his talks in Moscow with President Vladimir Putin.

[Abe to put trade, climate at top of G20 to-do list](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he will seek to use his chairmanship of the Group of 20 leading economies to rebuild trust in the global trade system and foster consensus on ways to address climate change.

[Stronger economic ties eyed to ease Russia negotiations](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to seek "mutually acceptable solutions" in peace treaty negotiations, during talks that included the northern territories issue in Moscow.

[Abe to propose creating global rules on data flow in Davos speech](#)

Jan 20, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to propose creating international rules on the movement of personal and corporate data in a Wednesday speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, it has been learned.

[As Next Trump-Kim Summit Nears, Japan Worries U.S. Will Leave It in the Dark](#)

Jan 20, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

A month before President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet for a second time with Kim Jong Un of North Korea, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan appealed to Trump to keep him in the loop as he seeks a disarmament deal with the North.

Korea

[Korea, Britain to open hotline for Brexit consultations](#)

Jan 20, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea and Britain have agreed to establish a diplomatic hotline to share information on London's preparations for an exit from the European Union, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

[South Korea-US military cost-sharing deadlock drags out as US demands \\$1 billion](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's struggle to reach an agreement with the US for the cost of maintaining US troops here intensified when the gap between the total amount of Seoul's contributions demanded by the US and that which Seoul was able to accept, as well as differences over the contract period, widened in December as a result of instructions from the very top in Washington, sources said.

[S. Korea voices "deep regrets" over Japan's announcement on radar dispute](#)

Jan 21, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's defense ministry expressed "deep regrets" Monday over Japan's disclosure of new evidence related to a military radar dispute and its decision to halt bilateral consultations.

[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.

[Amb. Harris risks tainting public diplomacy with image of pressure](#)

Jan 22, 2019, The Korea Times

Harry Harris, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea, has apparently come to the fore in Washington's call for more money from Seoul for its troops here, potentially taking a toll on Washington's public diplomacy with its key regional ally.

[PM stays silent over Seoul-Japan relations](#)

Jan 18, 2019, The Korea Times

Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon stayed silent Thursday over the strained relations between South Korea and Japan likely implying that the government is maintaining a firm stance against Japan.

Southeast Asia

[Cambodian PM Hun Sen welcomes extra US\\$600 million in aid during visit to Beijing, hails 'very special relationship'](#)

Jan 22, 2019, South China Morning Post

China has pledged 4 billion yuan (US\$588 million) in aid to Cambodia from 2019 to 2021, Prime Minister Hun Sen said, highlighting strong ties between Beijing and Phnom Penh amid a European Union threat of trade sanctions.

[Vietnam says it has no information on any second Trump-Kim summit](#)

Jan 22, 2019, The Straits Times

Vietnam has not been informed about any time or venue of a possible second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but is confident in its ability to host such a meeting, it said (Jan 24).

[In a first, Philippines to send warship to China fleet review](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The Straits Times

For the first time, the Philippines is sending one of its warships to a fleet review hosted by China in April, in a marked shift in ties between the two former sea rivals.

[Trump's 'Asia pivot' a well-timed move: Jakarta Post contributor](#)

Jan 22, 2019, The Straits Times

United States President Donald Trump's Dec 31, 2018 signing of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) is a robust statement of America's commitment to the Indo-Pacific and should be applauded.

Central & West Asia

[Geopolitics in the Era of Connectivity: Beijing and Brussels Compete for Central Asia](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Global Security Review

Primarily funded by private investors, State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and China's Exim Bank, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is China's flagship of foreign policy and investment.

[ADB grant to help develop railways in CAREC countries](#)

Jan 25, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$2 million regional technical assistance grant to support the development of railways in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries, ADB's country office in Tajikistan said on January 25.

[To attract foreign investment, Central Asia countries introduce open skies policy](#)

Jan 20, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The Kyrgyz President has signed a relevant law on amendments to the country's Air Code. The law aims to develop civil aviation, increase passenger and cargo air traffic, and make international air routes and air tickets more accessible for Kyrgyz citizens and foreign tourists.

[Zim, Kazakhstan deepen ties](#)

Jan 22, 2019, The Herald

Presidents Mnangagwa and his Kazakhstan counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev laid a firm foundation for a productive relationship between Zimbabwe and the emerging Eurasian industrial and petrochemical giant following talks at the Presidential Palace in Astana.

[Kazakhstan and its rapidly emerging role as a global conduit](#)

Jan 21, 2019, The Astana Times

Infrastructure has been the key to turning the geographical advantage of location into spurring progress and prosperity. There is, naturally, the hard infrastructure: pipelines, railways, highways, and communication networks. These are being buttressed by soft infrastructure, which comprises legal, regulatory and fiscal components.

[Uzbekistan and the Netherlands discuss prospects for development of cooperation in the oil and gas field](#)

Jan 24, 2019, UzDaily

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to the Benelux countries Dilyor Khakimov met in Rotterdam (Netherlands) with the leadership of the Association of Dutch suppliers IRO to discuss prospects for developing cooperation in the oil and gas field, Dunyo news agency reported.

[Satellite images show Saudi Arabia constructs missiles factory](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia has constructed its first known ballistic missile factory, a move analysts say could allow the kingdom to manufacture its own ballistic weapons.

[UN expert to lead international inquiry into Khashoggi murder](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has said she will travel to Turkey next week to head an "independent international inquiry" into the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

[Hamas rejects Qatari aid over conditions laid down by Israel](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Gaza's rulers Hamas have rejected a fresh tranche of Qatari funds, accusing Israel of imposing new conditions on the money entering the blockaded Palestinian territory.

[Erdogan and Putin vow closer cooperation on Syria at Moscow talks](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Arab News

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a meeting in Moscow vowed to coordinate their actions more closely in Syria.

[Israel Is The First Country To Finalize Post-Brexit Trade Deal With UK](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The UK agreed in principle to a post-Brexit free trade agreement with Israel, the two sides revealed at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

[New US sanctions target Iran-backed fighters in Syria](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States has announced new sanctions on two Iran-backed militias fighting in Syria in a move aimed at raising pressure on Tehran and the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as Washington prepares for a military withdrawal from the war-torn country.

[The Middle Eastern Origins Of Support For Venezuela's Maduro](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

As Venezuela's crises unfolds Iran, Turkey, the Palestinians and Russia stand behind Maduro as US, Canada and other countries support interim President Guaido.

United States

[Pelosi rejects 'big down payment' for Trump wall](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Associated Press

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is rejecting the idea of providing “some big down payment” for President Donald Trump’s border wall as part of a solution to the partial government shutdown.

[“Federal workers are people, not pawns”: hundreds protest shutdown in Senate building](#)

Jan 24, 2019, VOX

Hundreds of furloughed federal workers and contractors crowded a Senate office building to protest the government shutdown, urging Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to stop playing politics with their paychecks.

[United States and China are 'miles and miles' apart from trade deal: US official](#)

Jan 25, 2019, ABC News

US President Donald Trump has vowed to increase tariffs to 25 per cent (up from 10 per cent) on \$US200 billion worth of Chinese imports on March 2, unless Beijing takes steps to protect US intellectual property as part of the deal.

[US offers to hold arms control talks with Russia](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Euractive

The United States has offered to hold arm control talks with Russia during a United Nations meeting in Beijing next week that would almost certainly cover a long-running feud over a Cold War-era treaty, a senior State Department official said on Thursday (24 January).

[U.S. Strategy Towards Afghanistan and Central Asia](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The American Interest

This rethinking might usefully begin by assessing U.S. objectives in the geographic heart of the Eurasian continent, Central Asia, through a different set of strategic optics. As part of a larger shaping strategy, the U.S. could benefit from an approach which envisions strategy outward from Central Asia rather than through the traditional and exclusive analytical lenses of Russian or Chinese interests.

Europe & Russia

[Theresa May's Brexit Deal Causes Uproar](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Newsweek

Theresa May's government didn't just lose a crucial vote on January 15. It also suffered the biggest defeat by a sitting administration in British history. Her Brexit deal, which set out the terms under which Britain was supposed to leave the European Union on March 29, was rejected by a majority of 230 MPs. That's more than a third of the membership of the House of Commons. The word catastrophe barely covers it.

[Central Bank warns of stark impact of no-deal Brexit](#)

Jan 25, 2019, RTE

The Central Bank has warned that a no-deal Brexit could reduce the growth rate of the Irish economy by up to 4% this year.

['Very difficult' to avoid border infrastructure under no-deal Brexit](#)

Jan 22, 2019, The Irish Times

Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney has admitted it would be "very difficult" to avoid border infrastructure in Ireland under a no-deal Brexit.

[Angry Greeks take to the streets over deal to rename Macedonia](#)

Jan 25, 2019, The Guardian

MPs in Greece are preparing to ratify a historic pact that will allow Macedonia, the country's northern neighbour, to change its name.

[France, Italy ratchet up rhetoric amid migration dispute](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Deutsche Welle

France and Italy are no strangers to a diplomatic war of words. However, a dispute over migration, against the backdrop of rising nationalism, has driven modern ties between two of the EU's biggest members to a new low.

[Germany approves export of weapons systems to Qatar](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Reuters

Approval of the sale comes amid a halt in all weapons sales to Qatar's rival Saudi Arabia imposed by Berlin after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

[Trust in Putin falls to an all-time low](#)

January 21, 2019, The Times

Public trust in President Putin has slumped to an all-time low according to polls, as Russians struggle to swallow a new year tax rise amid mounting economic woes.

[Russia Shows Off New Cruise Missile and Says It Abides by Landmark Treaty](#)

Jan 23, 2019, The New York Times

Senior Russian officials put their new cruise missile on display for a foreign audience for the first time, in an attempt to rebut American accusations that the weapon violates a key nuclear arms accord.

[Russia exhibits missile U.S. cites as reason for leaving key arms treaty](#)

Jan 23, 2019, ABC News

Russia sought to publicly contest U.S. claims that it is violating a key arms agreement by exhibiting a missile at the center of the dispute.

[Ukraine's Foreign Intel Service: Russia to spend US\\$350 mln for meddling in Ukraine elections](#)

Jan 25, 2019, UNIAN

Chief of Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Service Yehor Bozhok says that the Russian authorities have additionally allocated US\$350 million for destabilization scenarios in Ukraine, and their major goal is to meddle in Ukrainian presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019.

[Putin Says Turkey and Russia Ready to 'Stabilize' Syria's Idlib - 'Liquidate' Terrorists](#)

Jan 24, 2019, HAARETZ

Putin said the Russian and Turkish defence ministers had already held talks on specific action that the two countries would take in Idlib and that the measures, which he didn't describe, would now be implemented.

Africa & Latin America

[Venezuela's Military Backs Maduro, as Russia Warns U.S. Not to Intervene](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The New York Times

The embattled government of Venezuela struck back against its opponents on Thursday, winning strong support from the country's armed forces and the solid backing of Russia, which warned the United States not to intervene.

[Maduro says Venezuela is breaking relations with US, gives American diplomats 72 hours to leave country](#)

Jan 23, 2019, CNBC

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido declared himself interim president on Wednesday, winning over the backing of the Washington and many Latin American nations and prompting socialist Nicolas Maduro to break relations with the United States.

[Regional powers recognise Maduro opponent as interim president](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States, Canada and major South American nations recognised the head of Venezuela's opposition-controlled legislature, Juan Guaido, as the country's interim leader on Wednesday, leaving President Nicolas Maduro increasingly isolated.

[Bolsonaro to promote 'new Brazil' at Davos](#)

Jan 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

Skirting the first political scandal of his new presidency, far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro will tout a "new Brazil" when he addresses the world's business elite in Davos.

[President Trump's 'Remain in Mexico' plan for asylum-seekers set to start](#)

Jan 24, 2019, USA Today

The Trump administration expects to launch a policy as early as Friday that forces people seeking asylum to wait in Mexico while their cases wind through U.S. courts, an official said, marking one of the most significant changes to the immigration system of Donald Trump's presidency.

[Biggest protests 'in living memory' hit Sudan](#)

Jan 25, 2019, BBC News

Security forces have clashed with demonstrators in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, as anti-government protests take place across the country.

[Tshisekedi is sworn in as DR Congo president](#)

Jan 24, 2019, BBC News

The new president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Félix Tshisekedi, has been sworn into office.

[Kenya's leaders face a new dilemma in fighting al-Shabab](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

With the armed group recruiting Kenyan nationals to carry out attacks in their own country, the tactics must be reevaluated.

[South Africa's president calls for lifting of Zimbabwe sanctions](#)

Jan 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for international sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe to be lifted.

[Zimbabwe soldiers 'beating' protesters as crackdown continues](#)

Jan 23, 2019, Al Jazeera

Zimbabwe government-appointed rights group says soldiers used 'systematic torture' during crackdown on protests.



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