



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

[China signals it will continue to block India from NSG](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Times of India

China signalled that it would continue to block India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group despite the special rapport struck between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the past three meetings starting with the Wuhan talks in April last year.

[India warns Pakistan envoy on phone call to Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Indian Express

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale told Pakistan High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood that New Delhi expects Pakistan to 'desist' from such actions and 'cautioned that (the) persistence of such behaviour... will have implications'.

[Test for India's diplomacy: First shipment via Chabahar Port from Afghanistan to arrive in a month's time](#)

Jan 28, 2019, Financial Express

First cargo of five containers weighing 22 tons each and carrying Moong Beans from Afghanistan through Chabahar Port in Iran is expected to reach India in a month or so. The delivery of these five container cargos will be carried out under the International Road Transports' TIR system.

[Eye on China, government finalises Rs 5,000-crore defence plan for Andamans](#)

Jan 27, 2019, Indian Defence News

India has virtually finalised an exclusive Rs 5,650-crore military infrastructure development plan spread over 10 years for the strategically located Andaman and Nicobar archipelago – which will allow stationing of additional warships, aircraft, drones, missile batteries and infantry soldiers there – against the backdrop of China's rapidly expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean region.

[India one of the most important strategic partners, says a top US Senator](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Financial Express

India remains one of the most important strategic partners of the United States, a top American senator said. Mark Warner from the Democratic Party and Republican senator John Cornyn met the new Indian Envoy to the US, Harsh V Shringla, at the US Capitol here.

[Proud to be 1st Hindu-American to run for president: Tulsi Gabbard](#)

Jan 28, 2019, The Economic Times

Democratic presidential aspirant Tulsi Gabbard has alleged that she had become a victim of "religious bigotry" and some media outlets were targeting her and accusing her supporters, who have Hindu names, of being Hindu nationalists.

[Defence Ministry clears Rs 40,000-cr project for 6 advanced submarines](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Business Standard

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) cleared the procurement of six advanced submarines for "over Rs 40,000 crore". This acquisition, codenamed Project 75-I, has been in the pipeline for a decade.

Pakistan

[Pakistan facing 'most difficult period of its history' but course correction underway: PM Khan](#)

Jan 31, 2019, DAWN

Prime Minister Imran Khan said that while Pakistan was currently facing the "most difficult period of its history", the PTI government was taking course correction measures to stabilise the economy and make institutions stand on their feet.

['Pakistan Banao' bond for Pak expats](#)

Feb 1, 2019, The News

While granting an exemption from paying the withholding tax and no compulsory deduction of Zakat, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday launched the much-awaited Pakistan Banao Certificate to provide opportunity to overseas Pakistanis with minimum investment requirement of \$5,000 and without having any upper limit.

[Pakistan conducts another successful test launch of ballistic missile Nasr](#)

Jan 31, 2019, DAWN

Pakistan has conducted another successful launch of the tactical ballistic missile Nasr as part of the Army Strategic Forces Command training exercise, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said

[Some 'regional actors' out to ruin Pak efforts for Afghan peace: FO](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Daily Times

Pakistan dismissed allegations of maneuvering the Afghan peace process, saying it was facilitating talks between Taliban and the United States (US) in 'good faith' despite attempts by some regional actors to ruin the efforts.

[Pakistan urges India to stop anti-Pakistan rhetoric in its domestic politics](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Daily Times

Pakistan has urged India to stop using anti-Pakistan rhetoric in its domestic politics and conduct elections on its own internal policies.

[Pakistan rejects India's objections to FM Qureshi's call to Mirwaiz](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan rejected India's objections to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's phone call to All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Radio Pakistan reported.

[India and Pakistan need to engage](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Express Tribune

Ever since PM Imran Khan has assumed office he has made several statements and sincere overtures to normalise relations with India. The previous PML-N government was equally keen to improve relations.

[A conundrum called Gilgit-Baltistan](#)

Jan 1, 2019, The Express Tribune

We could begin with understanding that G-B's status should never have been mixed with Kashmir. Blessed with their own rich individual identity – independent from that of Kashmir – the people of G-B deserve to celebrate their autonomy.

[Aasia Bibi free to go wherever she wants, says information minister](#)

Jan 31, 2019, DAWN

A day after the Supreme Court rejected a review petition against Aasia Bibi's acquittal in a blasphemy case, the government said she was free to go wherever she wanted.

Afghanistan

[An Afghan trifecta](#)

Jan 29, 2019, The Indian Express

At last week's talks with the Taliban in Doha, the US reportedly put the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan on the table. America may pull out over an 18-month period after an agreement is signed with the Taliban. In return, the Taliban has apparently assured that Afghanistan will not be used for attacks against America and its allies.

[US-Taliban talks: what's on table, why it is being greeted with caution](#)

Jan 29, 2019, The Indian Express

Afghanistan has known so many false starts that when US Special Envoy to Kabul Zalmay Khalilzad declared that a six-day round of direct talks between the US and Taliban in Doha has led to a "framework" for a peace agreement, there was more caution than optimism all around.

[Peace talks must be Afghan-led; says Rasoul](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The Moderation and Equality team, led by presidential hopeful Zalmay Rasoul says it fully supports the ongoing efforts in bringing peace after nearly a two-decade war, emphasizing that it should be an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process.

[Taliban says 'not seeking monopoly on power' in Afghanistan](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The Taliban has said they are not seeking a monopoly on power in a future administration in Afghanistan, and rather are looking for ways to co-exist with Afghan institutions.

[Taliban: US to Help in Afghan Reconstruction After Troop Withdrawal](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Afghan Online Press'

The United States and the Taliban have agreed to establish two "technical teams" to determine details for the eventual withdrawal of all American and NATO troops from Afghanistan and for preventing terrorists from using Afghan soil against America and its allies, the insurgent group said.

["Afghanistan's stability is directly linked to settlement of migration problems,"
President Ghani](#)

Jan 30, 2019, The Kabul Times

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani attended and delivered speech at the conclusion of a symposium on migration management entitled 'Learning from the world best practices' here, a statement from the presidential press office said

[Qatar pledges to host further talks in support of Afghan peace process](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Khaama Press

Qatar has pledged to host further talks in support of the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, days after comprehensive, six-days talks ended between the United States and Taliban in Doha.

[Pakistan, Russia Agree to Coordinate Efforts for Afghan Peace](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Pakistan and Russia agreed to continue coordinating their positions on efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

[Afghanistan, Iran agree to advance telecom ties](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Pajhwok Afghan News

Afghanistan and Iran have agreed on fiber optic connectivity to help reduce Internet and other telecom services' prices in the country, a statement said

[Half Of Barmal District Residents 'Hold Pakistani ID Cards'](#)

Jan 28, 2019, Afghan Online Press

The population of Barmal is Pashtun, predominantly from the Kharoti and Wazir tribes. Barmal lies in an area of particularly rugged terrain. Barmal District Governor Rahmatullah said the issue is "concerning" and that it requires a "thorough investigation".

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh needs \\$24 b infrastructure spending to join middle income club: AIIB report](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Independent

Bangladesh's "Vision 2021" road map, planning to join the middle-income countries, requires 24 billion U.S. dollars worth of investments in infrastructure per year, according to an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) report.

[USA offers to sell military hardware](#)

Feb 1, 2019, The Independent

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday that the United States (US) government has proposed to the Bangladesh government purchase of military hardware from them.

[US envoy discusses ways to build strong partnership with foreign minister](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller and Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen discussed ways to build strong partnership on all fronts, including trade and economic partnership in their first meeting.

[Myanmar's utter failure to honour deal responsible, say top officials](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

More than a year has gone past the deadline for the Rohingya repatriation in accordance with the deal signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar; but no signs of any development steps can be seen to the return of hundreds of thousands of persecuted people to their homes in Rakhine.

[Bangladesh sues Philippine bank over cyberheist at New York Fed](#)

Feb 1, 2019, bdnews24.com

In a complaint filed with the US District Court in Manhattan, Bangladesh Bank accused Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) and dozens of others, including several top executives, of involvement in a "massive" and "intricately planned" multi-year conspiracy to steal its money.

Nepal

[Chinese government hands over Koteshwor-Kalanki road](#)

Jan 29, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The widening of the road section under the Kathmandu Ring Road Improvement Project was carried out through the Chinese government's aid. The road widening project had begun five years ago and was completed in December.

[Minister urges China to provide more quota for Nepali students](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Online Khabar

Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Chakrapani Khanal has urged the Government of the People's Republic of China to increase the quota for Nepali agriculture students in Chinese universities.

[Oli accuses UN, EU and western powers of holding ideological bias against Nepal](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Online Khabar

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has objected to a joint statement issued by the United Nations, the European Union and Kathmandu-based diplomatic missions of eight western countries, claiming they held an ideological bias against Nepal.

[Finnish ambassador hands over water supply project to Gorkha locals](#)

Jan 30, 2019, The Himalayan Times

A water supply project constructed in cooperation with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has been handed over to the locals of Rangrung in Barpak Sulikot Rural Municipality-2 of Gorkha district.

[EDITORIAL: Diplomatic immaturity](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The government has shown diplomatic immaturity by making a statement on Nepal's position on the Venezuelan crisis and antagonising the United States, with which Nepal's relations date from 1947.

[Graph keeps falling](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

Despite tall claims by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli of fighting corruption, Nepal slipped two places to 124 on the latest Corruption Perceptions Index released by Transparency International. Last year, Nepal was in the 122nd position.

Bhutan

[Bhutan moves a rank up in Corruption Perceptions Index](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Kuensel Online

Bhutan has moved to the 25th place in the Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2018, a notch up from the 26th place in the previous year.

[Japanese government donates medical equipment to Bhutan ENT hospital](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Northeast Now

The Japanese government donated medical equipment to the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) of Bhutan.

[We Will Not Measure Bhutan's Progress Only By GDP: Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering](#)

Jan 27, 2019, Daily Bhutan

In response to criticism from the opposition that the government has not set ambitious Gross Domestic Product (GDP) target, Lyonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering said that GDP is not a good way to measure the progress of Bhutan.

[Strengthen local governments first](#)

Jan 29, 2019, Kuensel Online

The success of Bhutan's democratisation process hinges on the success of the local governments. The evolution of local governance system so has been at the centre of our development planning. Consequently, programmes were initiated that were geared towards greater and deeper decentralisation.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka supplies logistics to US aircraft carrier in Indian Ocean Region; balances ties with China](#)

Jan 25, 2019, The Economic Times

Sri Lanka, notwithstanding its ties with China, in a major step emerged as logistics supply hub for a US warship in the Indian Ocean Region indicating that Colombo is willing to balance its ties with Beijing.

[Next choice of Sri Lanka, a People's Constitution](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Daily FT

At a meeting convened by the Punarudaya Movement, which was attended by 46 people's organisations on 19 January at Kobbekaduwa Institution, Colombo, the topic of making a new constitution for the country was discussed at length reaching a consensus on as to how the proposed new constitution should be framed.

[Sri Lanka-China FTA expected to be signed in 2019](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Daily Mirror

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Sri Lanka and China is expected to be signed in 2019, China Daily reported quoting the Sri Lankan Embassy in China.

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

Jan 16, 2019, Al Jazeera

Bank of China, one of the country's biggest lenders, has offered a loan of \$300m to Sri Lanka's government, with the option of increasing the amount to one billion dollars.

[Could a Sri Lankan port help integrate the Indian Ocean economy ?](#)

Jan 25, 2019, Times Online

Sri Lanka, at present, is rebounding from an unprecedented political crisis. The episode, in part, brought into focus the country's debt crisis. While Colombo has never defaulted on a loan, it owes billions of dollars to foreign lenders that are coming due by 2023.

[SC issues interim order to prevent functioning of private Chinese law firm in Sri Lanka](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Times Online

The Supreme Court today (Jan 31) issued an interim injunction to bar Baqian Law Group Lanka Pvt. Ltd. from functioning as a private law firm in Sri Lanka following a petition that was filed to this effect.

Maldives

[Maldives Defence Minister: No Need for Close Military Ties With Countries Other Than India](#)

Jan 25, 2019, The Wire

Stating that Maldives does not require close military cooperation with other countries besides India, Maldivian defence minister Mariya Didi said that discussions with Indian counterparts focused on implementing previously stalled projects, including the development of coast guard facilities.

[Maldives govt says bond with India is beyond bilateral ties](#)

Jan 27, 2019, All India Radio

Vice President of Maldives, Faisal Naseem said in a programme to mark India's Republic day celebrations at Dharubaaruge last evening that bilateral relationship is forged through years of acquaintance, shared traditions and aspirations.

[Maldives seeks to renegotiate with China over Belt and Road debt](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Financial Times

The Maldives is to ask Beijing to reduce the debt it accrued during a recent Chinese investment boom, according to its new finance minister who claims that large-scale graft inflated the value of contracts under the previous government.

[Maldives asks China to reduce debt repayments linked to scandals](#)

Feb 1, 2019, China Economic Review

The Maldives will appeal to Beijing to make concessions on repayments of debt clocked up during the previous administration, which the current government says is tied to illicit activity that ramped up contract costs.

East & South East Asia

China

[China, US make 'important progress' in trade negotiations, eye talks in mid-February](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Global Times

Chinese and US officials said that they have made "important progress" in addressing their differences over trade at the latest round of negotiations, but they left the task for a final deal to further talks, including a possible meeting between the leaders of the two countries.

[Trump meets Chinese vice premier at White House](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Xinhua

U.S. President Donald Trump met with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He at the White House, saying major progress was made in the latest round of U.S.-China trade talks.

[China slams US for using national power to tarnish Chinese companies](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Global Times

China urged the US to stop its unjustifiable crackdown on Huawei and urged Canada to immediately drop the arrest warrant for Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou after the US Justice Department formally filed criminal charges against the Chinese company and Meng and sent the extradition request to Canada for Meng.

[China urges non-nuke states to join NPT](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Global Times

China called on countries that have not yet joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to join as non-nuclear-weapon states as soon as possible, China's Foreign Ministry said in response to questions on India's application to the NPT treaty.

[China, Qatar agree to deepen strategic partnership](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani in Beijing, and they agreed to deepen the bilateral strategic partnership featuring mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and common development.

[China, Japan to hold security dialogue in Beijing](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Xinhua

China and Japan will hold the 16th security dialogue in Beijing, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced.

[China-India border affairs meeting held in New Delhi](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Xinhua

The 13th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on China-India Border Affairs was held here and Wednesday.

Japan

[Japan and Qatar agree to launch strategic ministerial talks](#)

Jan 29, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met and agreed on the launch of a "strategic dialogue" under which their foreign ministers will regularly discuss a range of topics as part of efforts to lift bilateral ties to a higher level.

[Japan Foreign Minister Taro Kono urges Seoul to keep promises as historical flashpoints fray ties](#)

Jan 28, 2019, The Japan Times

Foreign Minister Taro Kono urged South Korea to make good on promises made in bilateral pacts related to the issues of wartime labor and "comfort women," as diplomatic relations between the neighbors become increasingly frosty.

[In annual policy speech, Abe omits passage on ties with South Korea](#)

Jan 28, 2019, The Japan Times

Breaking with precedent, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe removed from his annual policy speech a paragraph outlining his vision for Japan's ties with South Korea, in a possible reflection of the neighbors' increasingly tumultuous relationship.

[Amid deteriorating ties, Japan plans to cancel participation of Izumo carrier in South Korea joint exercise](#)

Jan 24, 2019, The Japan Times

The Defense Ministry plans to cancel a port call by its Izumo helicopter carrier in South Korea this spring amid growing tensions between the two countries over alleged risky moves by each of their militaries, a Japanese government source said.

[Seoul reportedly rejects proposal for joint fund to support Korean wartime laborers taken to Japan](#)

Jan 27, 2019, The Japan Times

The South Korean presidential office has vehemently opposed an internal plan to set up a fund to support people who were requisitioned from the Korean Peninsula by Japanese companies to work in Japan during World War II, the ChosunIlbo has reported.

[2020 Games to cost govt ¥219.7 bil. over 7 years](#)

Jan 30, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government spending related to the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will total ¥219.7 billion over the seven years from fiscal 2013, Yoshitaka Sakurada, minister for the 2020 Games, said.

[Merkel plans visit in February](#)

Jan 30, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will make an official working visit to Japan on Feb. 4-5, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said. It will be Merkel's fifth visit to Japan as Germany's leader.

[S. Korea releases photo evidence of SDF aircraft's close flight](#)

Jan 25, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The South Korean National Defense Ministry on Jan. 24 released photographic evidence to back its claim that a Japanese patrol aircraft conducted a "threatening flight" by flying dangerously close to its Navy vessel.

Korea

[S. Korea, Iraq agree to expand substantive ties in infrastructure, energy](#)

Jan 30, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's special envoy met with top Iraqi leaders this week, reaching an agreement to expand substantive cooperation in infrastructure, plant construction, the defense industry and energy sectors, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

[Leaders of S. Korea, Qatar hold summit over bilateral ties](#)

Jan 28, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in and Qatar's emir held a summit to discuss ways to expand economic ties and promote bilateral cooperation, the presidential office Cheong WaDae said.

[Japan's minister repeats Dokdo sovereignty claim in parliamentary speech](#)

Jan 28, 2019, The Korea Herald

Japan's top diplomat stated again that Dokdo, a pair of rocky islets in the East Sea over which Seoul maintains effective control, belongs to his country, a remark Koreans regard as reckless.

Southeast Asia

[Bangladesh sues Philippine bank over US\\$81 million cyberheist from New York Federal Reserve](#)

Feb 1, 2019, South China Morning Post

Bangladesh's central bank sued a Philippine bank to recoup losses it suffered when unidentified hackers stole US\$81 million from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York nearly three years ago.

[Myanmar next stop in China-Japan rivalry as frontier market opens doors to yuan and yen payments](#)

Feb 1, 2019, South China Morning Post

Myanmar has officially permitted the use of the Chinese and Japanese currencies in cross-border payments, as the Asian giants vie for dominance in one of the region's last frontier markets.

[Malaysia's ECRL: officials flip-flop over future of us\\$20 billion China-backed project](#)

Jan 30, 2019, South China Morning Post

Is the East Coast Rail Link on or off? Malaysians are none the wiser on the future of the controversial China-backed US\$20 billion rail project after days of contradictions on the matter by top officials, and the finance minister suggested a definitive answer is unlikely any time soon.

[China offered to nearly halve cost of Malaysia's US\\$20 billion East Coast Rail Line project: Sources](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Straits Times

China offered to nearly halve the cost of a US\$20 billion (S\$27 billion) rail project to save the centrepiece of its infrastructure push in South-east Asia, two sources said but contradictory remarks by Malaysian ministers leave the outcome uncertain.

[Aung San SuuKyi's party clashes with military over proposal to change Myanmar's charter](#)

Jan 30, 2019, South China Morning Post

Myanmar's ruling party clashed with military lawmakers as it proposed steps towards changing the constitution, its biggest challenge in nearly three years to the army's power over politics as enshrined in the charter.

[Muse: Myanmar's militia-run, billion-dollar gateway to China](#)

Jan 31, 2019, South China Morning Post

With tinted windows and their militia name emblazoned on the side of their Ford truck, "Pan Say" fighters cruise the sleazy streets of Muse, Myanmar's main gateway to China and awash with weapons and cash from casinos, drugs and sex.

Central & West Asia

[Eurasian Economic Union countries could benefit through business integration](#)

Jan 26, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Success of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) in achieving its ambitious goals will depend on business. To this end, it is necessary to strengthen the relationship between government agencies, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and the business community, Kyrgyz Deputy Prime Minister Jenish Razakov said at the Business Eurasia economic forum, held on January 24 in Bishkek.

[Kazakhstan as an Arctic state and a maritime power](#)

Jan 28, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The potential use of the Ob'-Irtys' river, which originates in Kazakhstan and runs through Russia, may give Kazakhstan the possibility of gaining maritime access to the Arctic Ocean with further transport links to Europe and the world.

[Kazakhstan and European Union review cooperation](#)

Feb 1, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The EU is Kazakhstan's first trade and investment partner, representing over one third of Kazakhstan's external trade and over a half of total foreign direct investment in Kazakhstan.

[US investors to create intensive gardens, modern greenhouses in Uzbekistan](#)

Feb 1, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

A delegation of Hosiyatli Bog Plus farm from Uzbekistan's Jizzakh region, with the assistance of the Embassy of Uzbekistan in the United States, recently held a meeting and established partnership with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), the Jahon information agency reported with reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan.

[Saudi Arabia says 'anti-corruption' campaign ends after netting billions](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia announced it has ended its self-proclaimed crackdown on corruption, which it says has boosted state coffers by more than \$100bn. Dozens of the kingdom's most powerful citizens are still detained.

[Saudi-Led Coalition Tells Houthis 'Leave Hudaydah or Else'](#)

Jan 31, Al Bawaba

The Saudi-led coalition waging war on Yemen has threatened to use "force" to push the country's Houthi Ansarullah movement to withdraw from the Yemeni

Red Sea port city of Hudaydah under a UN-brokered ceasefire in the flashpoint area.

[Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan hold Arab security talks](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Arab News

Top diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan concluded talks aimed at coordinating policy on the multiple conflicts gripping the region.

[Lebanon forms government after nine months of bickering](#)

Jan 31, 2019, An-nahar

Extended negotiations between the major political players finally came to halt with neither party securing veto power.

[Iran's Strategy For Control Of Syria](#)

Feb 1, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

One way Iran's efforts are taking place are below the official Syrian state structures – in the arming and sponsoring of Iran-controlled paramilitary formations on Syria soil.

United States

[To Slow U.S. Exit, Afghanistan Leader Offers Trump a Cost Reduction](#)

Jan 30, 2019, The New York Times

Unnerved by fears of a rushed American deal with Taliban insurgents, President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan sent a letter to President Trump offering him reduced costs for keeping United States troops in the country.

[U.S. Plans to Withdraw From Nuclear Arms Treaty With Russia, Source Says](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump will suspend U.S. obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a 1987 pact with the former Soviet Union that became a pillar of international arms control, as it prepares to pull out entirely, two people familiar with the matter said.

[US charges Chinese tech giant Huawei with fraud and stealing trade secrets](#)

Jan 28, 2019, VOX

US federal prosecutors went after Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei for financial fraud in a sweeping 13-count indictment unsealed, and announced 10 additional charges against Huawei and its US subsidiary for allegedly stealing trade secrets. Both indictments could escalate tensions between Washington and Beijing – right as the two try to sort out their trade war.

[Trump Says No Final China Trade Deal Until He Meets With Xi](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump said negotiations are going well on the last day of high-level trade talks between the U.S. and China but that no deal will be final until he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

[U.S. wants Western tech to be used instead of Huawei kit](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Reuters

The United States wants to steer people away from Huawei towards Western products because of its concerns over the security of the Chinese company's technology, the U.S. envoy to the European Union said.

[Senate rebukes Trump's plan to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria, Afghanistan](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Washington Post

The vast majority of Senate Republicans backed Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in a rebuke of President Trump's rationale for withdrawing U.S. troops from Syria

and Afghanistan, voting to declare that the Islamic State's presence and activity in both countries continue to pose a serious threat to the United States.

[Lawmakers look to block US support for Saudi-UAE war on Yemen](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Al Jazeera

Legislators say the war was never approved by Congress, argue US should halt its support for Saudi-UAE offensive.

[Florida Cabinet Recognizes Jerusalem as Israel 'Eternal and Undivided' Capital](#)

Jan 31, 2019, CBS News

The Florida Cabinet officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's "eternal and undivided capital," a step beyond what even the Trump administration has said about the holy city.

[Twitter registers attempts to influence US mid-term elections from Russia, Iran, Venezuela](#)

Feb 1, 2019, TASS News Agency

The administration of social network Twitter announced in its statement that it registered attempts to influence mid-term elections in the United States in 2018 by means of accounts, which allegedly originated from Russia, Iran and Venezuela.

[Trump's Treasury Department Just Lifted Sanctions on Three Businesses Linked to a Russian Oligarch](#)

Jan 28, 2019, Fortune

The Trump administration lifted sanctions on three Russian firms controlled by Oleg Deripaska, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Europe & Russia

[Theresa May ordered to renegotiate Brexit deal](#)

Jan 29, 2018, CNN

Theresa May will go back to Brussels and plea for meaningful changes to the Northern Ireland backstop. If she can get concessions from the EU, then it looks like we have a deal.

[European countries set up trade channel with Iran to bypass US sanctions](#)

Jan 31, 2019, CNN

The three signatories of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal have been working for months to establish a measure allowing payments between Europe and Iran to continue, in the wake of the US withdrawal from the agreement in May.

[Cooperation with Turkey must continue: European leaders](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Yeni Safak

Leaders of southern EU countries reiterate commitment to maintaining 'open dialogue' with Turkey in joint declaration.

[Italy plunges back into recession: statistics agency](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Euro News

Italy has fallen back into recession according to official figures from the Italian statistics agency. Statistics show that Italy's economy contracted for the second consecutive quarter at the end of last year. This decline intensified concerns about the Eurozone economy.

[German NGO sues Italy at EU rights court over stranded migrants](#)

Jan 29, 2019, France 24

German aid group Sea Watch said it has filed a case at the European Human Rights Court against Italy for refusing to allow its ship carrying 47 rescued migrants to dock.

[Italy to open port only if Netherlands, Germany accept migrants](#)

Jan 29, 2019, UC News

Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said he'll allow 49 migrants on board a rescue vessel into the country on condition they will immediately be transferred to the Netherlands.

[Macron calls for inter-religious dialogue at end of Egypt visit](#)

Feb 1, 2019, News 24

French President Emmanuel Macron met with Egypt's top clerics and called for inter-religious dialogue at the end of a three-day visit aimed at boosting ties while raising human rights concerns.

[US right to expect Russian 'progress' in air defense, subs & electronic warfare in 2019](#)

Jan 29, 2019, RT

US intelligence chief Daniel Coats was not mistaken to say that Russia will keep modernizing its military this year, an expert told RT, expanding on the country's newest developments in air defense, submarines and electronics.

[Kremlin affirms no meetings ever held between Putin, US National Rifle Association](#)

Jan 31, 2019, TASS News Agency

The Kremlin receives many requests from various organizations, including foreign ones, for meetings and interviews with Russian President Vladimir Putin but the head of state is unable to meet with members of all those organizations, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, when asked to comment on a request from the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) the Kremlin had allegedly received in 2015.

[Japanese PM vows to find acceptable solution to peace treaty issue with Russia](#)

Feb 1, 2019, TASS News Agency

Japan will try to achieve as much progress as possible in the search for a solution to the peace treaty issue that would be acceptable for both Tokyo and Moscow, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said during parliamentary debates

[Moscow vows to put global spotlight on Germany's crusade to demonize Russian media](#)

Jan 31, 2019, TASS News Agency

Moscow intends to solicit international structures, responsible for protecting freedom of the press in order to shed light on the crusade launched by Germany to smear Russian and Russian-language mass media, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

[Russia registered most powerful cyberattack from abroad on presidential election day](#)

Jan 31, 2019, TASS News Agency

The most powerful cyberattack from abroad was launched on the day of Russia's presidential elections in March 2018 to discredit the election results, Deputy Director of the National Coordination Center for Computer Incidents Nikolai Murashov said at the National Information Security Forum, Infoforum-2019

['Novaya Gazeta' reports Russia helped sell Venezuelan gold. Russia's Central Bank denies it.](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Meduza

On January 31, Novaya Gazeta reported that Russian agencies may have assisted in the liquidation of Venezuelan gold. The previous day, a Boeing 757 owned by the Russian company Yerofei flew from Moscow to Caracas through Dubai, increasing speculation among journalists and anti-Maduro politicians that the jet was to remove \$840 million, or 20 tons of gold, from Venezuela's national bank.

[Putin on Ukraine schism: Russia reserves right to defend people's freedoms, incl. religious beliefs](#)

Jan 31, 2019, RT

While Russia doesn't seek to meddle in Ukraine's church affairs, it reserves the right to do "everything" to defend people's freedoms, including religious beliefs, President Vladimir Putin warned at a meeting with Orthodox clergy.

Africa & Latin America

[Venezuela is the new theater for major powers' rivalry](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Asia Times

Venezuela, the most oil-rich state on earth, is becoming the new theater – the first one being Syria – for the rivalry between the US and Russia. Several analysts and scholars perceive the modern geopolitical conflict between Washington and Moscow as the new Cold War; however, as a matter of fact, the first one never ended – only the players have changed.

[European Parliament recognizes Venezuela's Guaido as interim president](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Anadolou Agency

The European Parliament recognized Venezuela's self-declared interim president Juan Guaido in an official vote.

[Western coup taking place in Venezuela: Russian envoy](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Anadolou Agency

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido's claim to the presidency is "illegitimate" and part of a "Western-backed coup," said Russian's ambassador to Turkey.

[Indigenous Peoples Denounce Bolsonaro Government Threats](#)

Feb1, 2019, Prensa Latina

Brazilian indigenous peoples are holding demonstrations in several regions of the country to denounce the growing threats they suffer in their territories due to President Bolsonaro speeches and actions.

[Sudan's Bashir opens border with Eritrea as protests continue](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Middle East Eye

Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, apparently searching for regional friends amid weeks of protests against his 30-year rule, announced he was reopening the border with neighbouring Eritrea, which has been shut for a year.

[Sudan's army says it will 'not allow state to fall' amid protests](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The East African

The Sudanese army issued a statement saying it would not allow the state to collapse, following weeks of mass protests demanding an end to President Omar al-Bashir's 30-year rule.

[UN Diplomats See Hope for End to Western Sahara Conflict](#)

Jan 31, 2019, Morocco World News

UN diplomats are hoping that Kohler's work in the UN-led process in the Western Sahara dispute can help bring the conflict to an end.

[30,000 fled Nigerian town in two days amid Boko Haram threat: UN](#)

Jan 29, 2019, The Citizen

A Boko Haram attack on January 14 left 14 people dead and created a mass exodus from the town of Rann to Cameroon. Over 30,000 people fled the Nigerian town of Rann and across the border to Cameroon over the weekend amid fears of renewed attacks by Boko Haram jihadists, the UN said.

[The Struggles for Liberian Citizenship](#)

Jan 30, 2019, Liberian Daily Observer

It has been exactly one year since newly inaugurated Liberian President George Manneh Weah sparked controversy by declaring staunch support for enacting dual citizenship and repealing a constitutional "Negro clause", which prohibits non-blacks from obtaining citizenship by birth, ancestry or naturalisation.

[China to set up explosives firm in Zimbabwe to help mining industry](#)

Feb 1, 2019, Global Times

China will soon set up an explosives manufacturing firm in Zimbabwe that will boost the southern African country's mining industry, China's charge d'affaires Zhao Baogang said

[Zimbabwe Rights Violations Raise Fear of Return to Authoritarian Rule](#)

Jan 31, 2019, The Epoch Times

The ZHRC's allegations and reports of soldiers beating random people in the streets have raised fears that Zimbabwe is backsliding toward the rights abuses that were common during the authoritarian rule of Robert Mugabe, Mnangagwa's predecessor.



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